

The Honorable Gordon England
Secretary of the Navy
The Pentagon #4E686
Washington, DC 20350-1200

RE: Navy ship named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Hershel Woodrow Williams

Sir:

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider naming a U.S. Navy ship in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Hershel W. Williams.

Mr. Williams received the Medal of Honor for his gallant actions on Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, "... at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty..." and, to this day, has served his fellow veterans and the citizens of West Virginia, and our nation, in that same spirit.

Mr. Williams resides in Milton, West Virginia and is very active in veterans' issues. He was director of the W.Va. Veterans Home in Barboursville, WV and retired from the Veterans Administration. He was State Commandant of the Marine Corps League and has served for several years as Judge Advocate & Legislative Chairmen for our Marine Corps League Detachment.

Woody, as we like to call him, is constantly in demand as a speaker at patriotic rallies, dinners, conventions and gatherings of all types. He is an outspoken supporter of veterans' rights and the right for our American Flag to be treated with respect at all times.

We believe this honor should be bestowed upon Mr. Williams while he is still living to appreciate it. To many times we pay tribute to our heroes after it is too late. Please do not let this happen to Mr. Williams because he has not only earned this honor on the battlefield but has earned it by setting an example for all Americans his whole life.

He is an asset to our community, our State and our Nation. We cannot say enough about Mr. Williams and without reservation recommend him for consideration to have a U.S. Navy ship named in his honor.

Sincerely,
