May 17, 2024

Dear Mr. President:

For your highest consideration, The American Legion asks that you award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Diane Carlson Evans. Our organization unanimously passed Resolution No. 14 at our recent Board of Directors meeting on May 8, 2024, to support this request.

Ms. Carlson Evans served her nation in the Army Nurse Corps during the height of combat in 1968-1969. She volunteered for wartime duty in the United States Army upon completion of nursing school. She is also the Founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation and through her military service and civilian life, she has served this nation with great honor and distinction.

Ms. Carlson Evans served honorably for six years and rose to the rank of captain while serving in the United States Army. She served in the burn unit of the 36th Evacuation Hospital in Vung Tau and at Pleiku in the 71st Evacuation Hospital eventually returning home and facing issues with post traumatic stress.

Just this past year, this great nation commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. Without the passion, dedication, and resiliency displayed by Ms. Carlson Evans, this memorial may have never come into existence. Thus, not giving the proper respect due to these women veterans who served alongside their male counterparts.

Your resounding message of "celebrating the courageous women who helped our Nation build a fairer and just society" during Women's History Month in March would make it tremendously fitting to recognize Ms. Diane Carlson Evans. She is a benevolent woman who was driven by a passion to honor her fellow Vietnam War combat nurses and all women veterans who served during that time.

This is a great opportunity to recognize someone whose commitment and selfless service to recognize the more than 265,000 women who served during the Vietnam War with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Thank you for your consideration for this truly deserving individual.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Seehafer
National Commander