



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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May 2, 2020

To: President Donald J. Trump,
President of the United States of America

CC: Mr. Jared Kushner

Re: Personal appeal for Duncan Duane Hunter.

Dear Mr. President:

My name is Jim W. Baize and I am the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Coronado, CA. I have pastored in the San Diego area since 1973. (I had the honor of giving the benediction at President Ronald Reagan's final political rally in San Diego, CA, in 1988.) I am so thankful you are our President for such a time as this. My wife and I pray for you routinely.

I first met the Hunter family in 1980 when Duncan Hunter Sr. was a candidate for Congress. His son, Duncan Duane, attended our church and our elementary school. He was a personal friend of my son's. A few years ago, as a candidate for Congress, I had him speak at our high school graduation. He did an admirable job. The Hunter family is an incredible family filled with service to our nation in the military, civilian, and political realms. Duncan Duane served honorably in Iraq while in the US Marine Corps and represented his district well for the last ten years.

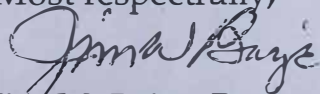
The purpose of this letter is to appeal to you to use your Executive powers to issue a pardon to Duncan D. Hunter in light of his recent conviction. There are numerous reasons why I believe it would be the right thing to do. First, Duncan served honorably in combat for this nation. His record speaks for itself. Duncan has had a heart for the military and has gone to bat for several of them, including Sgt. Charles Martland, Chief Petty Officer Eddie Gallagher, and Sgt. Rafael Peralta. In Sgt. Martland's case, Duncan not only came to the support of a decorated Green Beret, but he also led the battle to fight for putting an end to child rape by nomadic war lords on US bases. His was an honorable battle with a just outcome. Duncan also stood with Eddie Gallagher through his ordeal. Thank you, Mr. President, for your support of Chief Petty Officer Gallagher, as well. Sgt. Rafael Peralta was one of our own San Diegans. He immigrated from Mexico and enlisted in the US Marine Corps. He was a hero. Although wounded, he saved the lives of fellow Marines by covering a live grenade with his own body. The former administration refused to honor Sgt. Peralta's heroism, saying they weren't sure he threw himself on the grenade. Duncan did an investigation, finding Sgt. Peralta's bloodied body armor in a locker. Upon more investigation, the expended fuse of that grenade was found imbedded in Sgt. Peralta's body armor. Since then the USS Rafael Peralta, DDG 115, has been commissioned in his honor, following Duncan's request to the Secretary of the Navy.

As you know, Duncan was one of the first members of Congress to endorse you for the office of President of the United States. His prosecution was tainted with political retribution. Some of the prosecutors were lifelong Democrats and supporters of Hillary Clinton and should have recused themselves from this entire proceeding. But they did not. You know firsthand, Mr. President, how tenacious and vicious the opposition can be. Duncan has been victimized by his political enemies. (This factor is one of the main reasons we pray for you and your family so often.)

I have been in contact with the entire family ever since 1980. For many months I was calling Duncan weekly to check in with him and to pray with him. I know they have all paid a dear price through these present, difficult circumstances. I would beg you to give clemency to this amazing man and his family.

Thank you for your consideration. May God bless you, your family, and the United States of America.

Most respectfully,



Jim W. Baize, Pastor
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Psalm 37:3-5