



GLOBAL SECURITY  
AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
2900 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2900

MAY 19 2008

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-4502

Dear Senator Leahy:

Thank you for your April 18, 2008, letter to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs regarding reimbursement for Clayton Kuhles. Mr. Kuhles provided the Department of Defense information that may relate to unaccounted for servicemen from World War II. Since my office, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, is the Department of Defense activity with policy, control and oversight of the personnel accounting issue, the Secretary asked that I respond to your letter.

We truly appreciate all individuals who voluntarily come forward with information that helps us to locate or recover the remains of a missing American, but we do not compensate them for that information. This is true of foreigners as well as American citizens. Paying for this information is counter to the humanitarian nature of our mission, and creates the impression that we are putting a price on the remains of Americans who have sacrificed for our country.

Thank you for your interest in this important humanitarian issue. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles A. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "C" and "R".

Charles A. Ray  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
POW/Missing Personnel Affairs