



For Immediate Release

**FORMER US ARMY CHEF THAT COOKED AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS A GUEST
CHEF TOOK GOLD MEDAL AWARDED TO ANOTHER PERSON – THEN WEARS IT
HIMSELF, ILLEGALLY, RIPPING OFF DISABLED AND INJURED VETERANS**

Washington, DC (April 27, 2026) --- The United States Presidential Service Center® (USPSC) would like to clarify recent media reports involving Andre Rush, a known public figure and television chef and his inappropriate wearing of a gold medal that does not belong to him across television and the media as well as ripping off the owners, disabled and injured veterans, of Martin and Stormy Mongiello who designed and created the medal. Mr. Rush wore the medal illegally in violation of the protections afforded under The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on the front cover of his book – a medal that was never awarded to him. He stole from the Mongiello's and profited off of their backs in wearing another man's gold medal.

During the USPSC's roughly four-month relationship with Chef Rush, some years back, he had at that time asked for one of our USPSC Distinguished Service Medals™ (DSM) to be awarded to Mr. Acun Ilicali of Turkiye for humanitarian work <https://indigodergisi.com/en/2020/01/Acun-II%C4%B1cal%C4%B1-donated-73-million-lira/>, which we own the invention of and paid for. Mr. Rush agreed to deliver the gold USPSC Distinguished Service Medal™ assigned as serial number 1808 <https://theinnofthepatriots.com/the-ds-medal-1> to Acun Ilicali, the owner of TV8 in Istanbul, Turkiye, in an award ceremony he would arrange during a trip to Istanbul. This is confirmed in numerous legal emails protected under the **Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act** (ESIGN). The medal was in recognition of Ilicali's efforts in raising nearly millions of dollars for earthquake and disaster victims. Such efforts align with the USPSC's goals of supporting those in need worldwide and service to humanity. These were shipped, all-

expense paid, with a gold certificate for Mr. Illicali matching the gold medal of #1808, after Chef Rush signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) and exchanged an initial, very positive set of emails and talks with our team. These are all on file with our attorney and General Counsel.

He additionally asked for two large Presidential coins, one for himself and one to present to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in blue and gold velvet boxes. All three of these items were paid for and shipped by Martin and Stormy Mongiello and Mr. Rush wrote that he was all set for his trip to Turkiye' and to present the single medal on stage during a formal presentation in Istanbul. We never heard from him again and his conduct in these matters was unprofessional and irresponsible with our gold medal #1808 in jewel box. He later claimed that Mr. Illicali was a criminal and never went on the trip to be featured in Survivor Turkiye' or MasterChef Turkiye. It was then that we demanded he return the gold medal and gold certificate to Mr. Illicali.

Instead, recent photos showed Chef Rush wearing Mr. Illicali's gold medal with red, white, and blue ribbon around his own neck on TV, in magazines, and in promotional efforts for his recently published book, *"Call Me Chef, Dammit!"* *"It is not his gold medal to wear another man's award as the world considers this to be outrageous and fake. People do not take others' medals and wear them,"* stated then Co-CEO Doctor Miguel Rodriguez, retired US Army. The United States Presidential Service Center®, a federally registered mark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (www.uspto.gov) (USPTO) and Library of Congress (LOC) governed by a 47-member board and trustees that includes attorneys and medical doctors, has published this formal statement and documentation concerning our multi-year dispute involving its serial numbered and publicly issued, die-struck, USPSC Distinguished Service Medal™ (USPSC DSM). We have never claimed to be a Federal or State entity and operate as a non-profit museum and service center to our 50,000+ alumni members as well as offer scholarships to students and tours of the facilities located inside The Inn of the Patriots, LLC™. This has been an often-mentioned game and technique used by Mr. Rush when illegally wearing his Legion of Merit and Bronze Star US Army medals on working chefs' uniforms in violation of US Army Uniform Regulations. For a former service member, the primary governing documents are Army Regulation (AR) 670-1 and Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 670-1. Chef Rush is subject to the Uniform Code

of Military Justice (UCMJ) and AR 670-1 and DA PAM 670-1 specify that miniature or full-size medals may be worn on civilian clothes, but only under strict conditions:

- **Formal Attire Only: Medals are authorized for wear on the left lapel of formal civilian attire (such as a suit jacket or tuxedo) when wearing a military uniform is inappropriate or not authorized.** His working chefs coat in kitchens with stoves and grills is not formal attire.
- **Occasions of Ceremony: Wear is limited to patriotic or military-themed events, such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, military funerals, weddings, or inaugurations.** Not Chef Rush jumping around on camera and TV or to work in the kitchen.

Under these regulations, wearing military medals on a chef's coat while working in a kitchen, especially for commercial purposes, is a violation of Army standards. Mr. Rush often states, *“Well, that gold medal from the United States Presidential Service Center® is a medallion and commemorative medal – it’s not from the military.”* These comments made under oath and in the California Courts (Case number 25STCV34713 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (Central District – Stanley Mosk Courthouse), have included him perjuring himself in testimony by fooling many about the theft of our protected USPTO items, illegally and immorally wearing another man’s medal to profit off of the backs of disabled and injured veterans, never returning the gold certificate for Mr. Icalli, illegal wear of US Army military medals, improper representation of the White House and the White House Military Office. Additionally, this case is noted with publicly available and publicly downloadable filings and statements of testimony (<https://www.lacourt.ca.gov/pages/lp/access-a-case/tp/find-case-information/cp/os-civil-case-access>) from his previous girlfriend of D Maude Amme D’Onut and Chef Andre Rush – who remains a married man under law, despite allegations that she made that he has had several girlfriends. The United States Presidential Service Center® is fully cooperating with law enforcement agencies in North Carolina and California regarding multiple formal complaints of serious misconduct and aggressive behavior reported by third parties. As a matter of organizational integrity and in compliance with state laws regarding the reporting of alleged criminal acts, the Center has turned over all relevant written and verbal evidence to the proper authorities. We will

not provide further comments on active investigations to ensure the integrity of the legal process. Mr. Mongiello has reported them to the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, NC and the Studio City, CA branch of the Los Angeles Police Department, CA. **Affirmative Acts under North Carolina law** show that taking any **affirmative act to conceal** any alleged crime, or helping someone evade authorities can lead to charges of **obstruction of justice** or being an **accessory after the fact**. Mr. Mongiello and the United States Presidential Service Center® will not engage in any of these items to protect or hide any of the allegations made about Chef Rush. Especially when they are laced in unfounded and unconfirmed allegations of multiple girlfriends and written statements that Chef Rush does not do 2,222 pushups per day. North Carolina is one of the few states that still aggressively prosecutes **Common Law Obstruction of Justice**.

The USPSC's Board of Directors and Trustees do not wish to diminish ourselves as disabled and injured veterans or any of our tens of thousands of veteran members and alumni along with Chef Rush's contributions to the military, nor his contributions to veterans' charities, as we have numerous board members that speak on stage and television for PTSD ourselves, suicide prevention, and our long careers in combat zones and wars like Doctor Miguel Rodriguez, USA, Orlando Herrera, Jr., USMC, Desiree Perham, USAF, Stormy L. Mongiello, and Martin CJ Mongiello, USN. Mr. Rush often attempts to hide behind his charity functions and pretends that no other veterans and board members have experienced PTSD and suicide. By proclaiming such loudly or crying in front of people to attain great exposure to a convincing act he has practiced as an actor in Hollywood, he often confuses the court of public opinion, reporters, the press, and investigators – purposefully, away from his illegal acts of stealing from disabled and injured veterans. He will often convince people, in his letters on file, about the terrible murders of his own family, a step-father, and his own daughter – or the suicide of his personal trainer that he has lived through open horror and does not want people to know about anyone else's struggles, as we ourselves are disabled and injured veterans dealing with having been homeless, divorced, bankrupt, considering suicide, PTSD, repeated tours into the desert wars, and our struggles with anxiety and near death operations from military service. We are compassionate, caring, loving, and kind people who seek not to be taken advantage of and ripped off while dealing with suicide and PTSD ourselves as military veterans. He proposes false narratives that are fake, fraudulent, and deceptive. But as an organization that prioritizes the values of integrity, honesty, ethics, truth,

honor, and accountability, we demanded for years that Chef Rush return the USPSC Gold Distinguished Service Medal and issue a public apology for its use in his promotional activities where he illegally made money wearing another man's gold medal, worldwide on television and on the front cover of his book being sold across the earth.

He is not a member of the Presidential Service Center; he has never held any position in our structure nor at the US Presidential Culinary Museum, he does not have a Presidential Service Badge (PSB) with identifying serial number stamped into it on the back by the US military nor in the records at the White House awarded to him from the White House and the White House Military Office (WHMO) and does not have a record of being interviewed by the first ladies of the United States of America to hold what is loosely promulgated to the public of having worked for four first families of the USA spanning some private service inside the house of ten to 20 years as a full-fledged White House member and White House chef. The masquerade of allowing reporters and interviewers minds to ask questions about his intimate service often are always answered with randomly provided public knowledge responses that anyone could state. His recent anger-laced phone call and 15-minute rant to the United States Presidential Service Center® screaming and yelling while cursing was communication that contained unprofessional, improper, violent, vicious, aggressive and explicit language along with threats and statements of, *"I'm motherf*%^#&\$ black and you're god&am white – no one is ever going to believe you!*

Chronology of the Misappropriation

1. Pre-existing Knowledge Andre Rush specifically requested that the United States Presidential Service Center® (USPSC) award a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) to a third party, Acun Ilicali, #1808 for humanitarian efforts that Acun had completed in Turkiye during earthquakes. This establishes that Andre Rush was fully aware from the beginning that the honor was intended for another person and not himself, in writing.

2. The Fiduciary Agreement (Bailment) Andre Rush entered into a professional agreement to act as a courier. He accepted physical possession of Serial Number 1808 USPSC gold medal paid for by the USPSC, with the explicit and sole purpose of delivering it to Istanbul, Turkiye. Legally, this created a bailment, where Andre Rush had a duty to care for and deliver the property to its rightful owner.

3. The Act of Conversion Rather than delivering the property, Andre Rush retained the medal. He then "operationalized" this misappropriation by physically, and illegally, wearing the medal during promotional efforts on television and on the front cover of his book. This is a distinct act of Conversion—the wrongful exercise of dominion over the property of another.

4. Material Gain and Evidence of Malice Andre Rush featured himself wearing the misappropriated and stolen medal awarded to another man in promotional materials for his book, *"Call Me Chef, Dammit!"*.

- **Actual Malice: Andre Rush** knew the medal belonged to Acun Ilicali, yet he represented it as his own to enhance his personal brand and authority.
- **Fraud: Andre Rush** used a false representation—appearing as the recipient of a gold USPSC DSM to induce the public to perceive him as more highly decorated, directly benefiting his commercial book sales, wallet, and profits. He used disabled and injured veterans to steal from them.

5. Obstruction and Unprofessional Conduct When contacted regarding the return of the property, Andre Rush responded with a "15-minute rant" involving "filthy, denigrating, insulting, and obscene" language. This behavior demonstrates a willful disregard for the rights of the USPSC and confirms that the retention was not a good-faith mistake. This battle with him lasted for several years.

Strategic Legal Pillars

- **The Property Record:** The medal shipped to him is the foundation of this claim. It provides the "DNA" that proves the specific item in Andre Rush's possession is the same item designated for the Turkish recipient along with the emails of acceptance.
- **Commercial Exploitation:** The fact that the medal appears on a book cover for a for-profit venture is the "smoking gun" for punitive damages. It proves the misappropriation was done for financial gain.

The United States Presidential Service Center aggressively pursues false claims by any individual about awards and medals as well as stealing from us to ripoff money made on the backs of disabled and injured veterans in illegal ways that violate US and state laws. After years of battling with Chef Rush from 2020 to May 30, 2023, he made threatening statements to us via his then attorney

in Ohio. Our response to that attorney resulted in an immediate conclusion that his claims and any case were unwinnable and a violation of law. He was ordered to immediately return the gold medal with an apology letter by his then attorney (no longer represents him), which he did by overnight mail, even threatening and screaming that he would return it with his own fecal matter because, *“no one cares about your motherfu&^%\$* dumb, %^&*^& ^%\$\$\$# ^&*(***&^% gold medal and all of the people who have received them worldwide!!!”* Mr. Mongiello calmly asked him why he wore it for the front cover of his book, then, *“front and center on your pristine white chefs coat?”* We continue to have the shipping packaging, his apology letter, and more evidence available in a strong chain of events. We were not surprised to see that Gordon Ramsey and his studios did not renew Chef Rush and his first season of a TV show. He never returned our gold certificate for Mr. Illicali and never has made financial restitution for ripping Martin and Stormy Mongiello off by using their created and owned medal with USPTO legal protections

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About the USPSC: The US Presidential Service Center® is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of American Presidential Service. For more than 30 years, the Center has shared its vision, not just in the United States but also worldwide. We host the PRESENTS network and PRESIDENTIAL magazine and conduct other outreach that showcases the principles of democracy and the importance of always being ready to answer the call.

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