

July 10, 2020

Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan
Judge, United States District Court
333 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Judge Sullivan:

Please accept the admiration, respect, and gratitude, of some old white men for your demonstration of steadfast moral courage and determination to see justice done. If our system of laws is to prevail, if we are to have a true Department of Justice, corruption in directing the Department cannot be accepted. It is more than disheartening to me as a citizen, retired lawyer and retired naval officer, to see the attempt. I believe that a substantial majority of our fellow Americans share my dismay. I am encouraged when thoughtful and principled judges give effect to the values we hear proclaimed so often, and so frequently see neglected. It is unfortunate that it often requires an act of courage to do the right thing, but in these turbulent times that seems to be the case. Perhaps it has always been so.

Fifty years ago I was back on patrol in South Vietnam following about two months in Cambodia. We heard on the radio a few days after crossing into Cambodia that four college kids in Ohio had been shot on campus. Discussions with some of my fellow swift boat officers made it clear we were worried about the condition of society back home. We often disagreed about the causes and proposed remedies to indisputable problems, but remained friends. Many of us are still friends, and are again very worried about the condition of our country. After months of discussing our growing apprehension over the direction of our government, we felt compelled to make a public statement as an exercise of true patriotism. We addressed it to We the People, on Washington's Birthday, and sent copies to our members of congress. I enclose a copy, believing that you will find it consistent with our expression of appreciation for your stand in these turbulent times.

Being naive in these matters, some of us thought our institutions would save us, that United States Senators would assert their independence, taking pride in acting on principle, refusing to be led by divisive words and actions of a malign president. We thought most would try to do the right thing, defending our well established principles and, therefore, the essence of our country. We expected strong men and women to preserve the status of Congress as a third, equal, branch of government, and ensure that democracy prevailed. Sadly we learned that we lack such leaders in today's senate.

Your principled stand against corruption in the Justice Department encourages me, and a great many of our fellow citizens, to maintain an uncertain hold on our belief that a government of laws is still functioning. We want to be "on the record" as ten old white men, representative of many, many more, who oppose Trump's corruption, racism, incompetence, indolence, and divisiveness. We aspire to realize our country's often proclaimed and neglected principles. If we tolerate Trump's attempt to corrupt our system of laws, he already has his knee on our neck. Please know you have support in upholding our honor, our values, and the independence of the judiciary. With great respect, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harry M. Cannon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Harry M. Cannon".