



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

September 23, 2008

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada
Rideau Hall
1 Sussex Drive
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A1

Your Excellency:

I write today on a matter of particular concern to the people of Saskatchewan, asking for your immediate review.

This matter is the case of Master Corporal Jeffrey Scott Walsh, formerly of Regina, who died on August 9th, 2006 while on patrol near Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Corporal Walsh's father, Ben, inquired of Canadian military officials if his son would be eligible for the recently announced Sacrifice Medal.

Mr. Walsh was told his son would not be eligible, since it was intended for soldiers killed or wounded as a direct result of hostile actions. Cases like Corporal Walsh, it was argued, did not qualify since he died as a result of an accidental shooting involving one of his comrades, not from enemy fire.

I would argue that the origin of the fatal wound is entirely irrelevant. Master Corporal Walsh had put himself in harm's way in a field of battle in response to a direct order from his military superiors.

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I note your own comments in a recent Canadian Press story highlighting the medal, where you state:

"Our soldiers deserve the utmost respect and deepest gratitude. This medal recognizes the valued contribution of those who sacrificed their health or their lives, while serving Canada."

Clearly, Master Corporal was where he was because he was serving his country. His sacrifice stems from that service. Had he been killed by a bullet from an enemy rifle, there would be no question of his eligibility for this honour.

To my mind, the origin of the fatal bullet is in no way germane to the one central fact: Master Corporal Walsh died serving his country in a combat theatre. He made the ultimate sacrifice for you and me, for our country and in the selfless service of others. He should be eligible for the Sacrifice Medal.

I respectfully request on behalf of the Province of Saskatchewan, the Walsh family and in the memory of this Canadian hero, this decision be reversed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brad Wall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brad Wall
Premier