



**O.S. Hawkins**  
 President – Chief Executive Officer

August 12, 2008

The President  
 The White House  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

Greetings from Dallas. I trust that simple greeting causes you to have as much anticipation about your return here as it does so many of us. I look forward to visiting with you at a baseball game before too very long.

I'm joining many others who are writing you in support of a posthumous pardon application for Charles "Charlie" Winters. As you may remember, Charlie, although not Jewish, provided desperately needed B-17's to aid in Israel's war of independence and took great risks helping to get those planes out of the United States. As we have discussed before, there might not even have been a State of Israel had our Southern Baptist President Truman and a few others not made available support and the airplanes that they needed back in 1948. Unfortunately, for his efforts, Charlie was sentenced in federal court in Florida and served time in prison. There were others who were convicted of similar crimes but who served no time. There are many of us who are staunch supporters of Israel who believe that Charlie Winters should be remembered as a hero rather than forever being marked as an ex-convict. I believe his pardon is important not only for his legacy in our own history but also for his family.

Mr. President, as you know, I do not speak for 16 million Southern Baptists across America. Even if I could, I would not due to our own ecclesiology. However, the overwhelming majority of those who worship in our churches Sunday by Sunday are deeply appreciative of you and hold you on their hearts and in their prayers and are also strong supporters of the State of Israel. I am beseeching you that before you leave office you will give Charlie Winters serious consideration for the pardon which we believe is just.

Blessings upon you always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "O.S. Hawkins", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right across the signature.

O. S. Hawkins