

June 27, 2008

Al Schwimmer

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Tel Aviv, Israel

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear President Bush and Attorney General Mukasey:

I am writing in support of the posthumous pardon application for Charles "Charlie" Winters. Even though Charlie was not Jewish and had no personal connection to Israel at the time, he provided desperately needed B-17s to aid in Israel's War of Independence and took great risks helping to get the planes out of the United States. Charlie was at first reluctant to get involved, but he came to appreciate the urgency with which aid was needed to defend Israel's borders.

For his efforts, Charlie was sentenced in a federal court in Florida and served time in prison. Others, including myself, convicted of similar crimes were treated more leniently by the justice system, as we were assessed fines and did not serve any jail time. Nevertheless, Charlie's belief in the cause continued as evidenced by his wish - ultimately fulfilled -- to make Israel his final resting place.

I knew Charlie personally and feel he should be remembered as a hero for his contribution to the creation and preservation of the State of Israel rather than forever being marked as a ex-convict. Several, including myself, have received Presidential pardons for similar convictions. Charlie's pardon is important for history, for his legacy, and for his son.

Sincerely,



Al Schwimmer