

Chair Hoagland, Vice Chair Johnson, Ranking Member Thomas, Distinguished Members of the Committee, I am Colonel Cavanaugh's youngest son John. I brought his cover back to the State House today. It was last worn at the Grand Opening of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum where we got to see the unveiling of my [grandfather's Naval officer's sword](#), one of the very first artifacts donated to the museum.

With permission, I would like to begin with a few excerpts from [an article](#) from the Veterans Memorial blog. The Navy Veterans on this committee might be especially interested to know that my Mom's family was stationed in Panama during the attack on Pearl Harbor. From there my Grandpa was ordered to the European theatre. He became a decorated WWII hero for a daring rescue of desperate sailors escaping from a burning munitions ship sinking off the coast of Italy.

In 1945, Lt. Cmdr. Huff's final tour of duty was Captain of the *USS Constitution* docked in Boston Harbor. By then, my Mom had joined the Women's Army Air Corps. With her top-secret security clearance, she was assigned to work on the *USS Nautilus* nuclear submarine research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

There, she fell in love and later married a handsome 2nd Lt. in Army Corps of Engineers William Joseph Cavanaugh. My Dad's own uniquely American story took him from the hard scrabble Boston public housing projects to MIT ROTC. Upon graduation, he went on active duty during the Korean War, teaching marksmanship and basic training to soldiers before they were shipped overseas.

My father faithfully remained in the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1982. When my Mom passed away Thanksgiving of 2010, we knew my Dad would have it tough during the Christmas season. So my wife Lilly and I started a new tradition of bringing him here to Columbus for holidays and other special occasions.

Before his visit in December of 2011, he asked me to arrange a trip to WPAFB so he could see a building he worked on, but had never actually seen in person. This didn't seem like a big deal at the time, because my Dad was always excitedly pointing out his consulting projects nearly everywhere we went.

For example, early versions of the highway sound barriers we drive by on the way to the Statehouse were his design. If you've seen *Top Gun: Maverick*, that incredible surround sound you experienced is based on his handiwork. I know at least one member of this esteemed committee is a proud Air Force Veteran. You will be pleased to know my father actually helped build the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

Even I did not fully appreciate his true brilliance and incredible professional impact until I was asked to sign off on his oral history transcript for the Niels Bohr archives of the American Institute of Physics. I was a bit surprised my father was being featured in the

library named after the Nobel Prize winning scientist who mapped the atom. I was further stunned to learn that AIP also houses Einstein's papers!

Let me close with a quick thank you to Col. Johnson for his service as our Army National Guard's state surgeon. As Fate would have it, I was diagnosed with colon cancer the same year we donated my Grandpa's sword. My Dad dropped everything and flew to Columbus to be by my side at Riverside Hospital. He even interviewed my doctor who happened to be a fellow Veteran. Without Lt. Col. Scott Brill's skill as an Army trauma surgeon, I would not be standing here today. Dr. Brill saved my life several times as I'm sure you did for many soldiers during your tours in Iraq and other combat zones.

I am living proof that cutting edge military medicine eventually finds its way into civilian medical facilities. Likewise, the research conducted in building 441 at Wright Patterson also saves countless airmen, soldiers, sailors, and Marines from hearing loss and other serious shock wave injuries.

Diagrams in chapter 1 of my father's book, *Architectural Acoustics: Principles and Practice*, show that jets top the charts when it comes to noise that can be painful or harmful. Explosions from artillery fire and other sources can damage ear drums and cause disorientation on the battlefield. That's the reason Navy SEALs like our chair use "flash bangs" upon entry during hostage rescues and other dangerous missions. Today sound canceling headphones top the list of supplies desperately needed for the children under siege in Ukraine during this horrific war.

Our military invests considerable resources for the research and development of the best equipment to protect our troops. The Air Force Research facility my Dad designed continues to contribute to our national security more than 65 years after construction. So please honor his life and service by endorsing this special recognition request.

On behalf of the Cavanaugh family, my parent's fellow Veterans, and his international network of professional noise control engineers, we appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration of HCR 32.