The Honorable (your Congressman’s full name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

 today’s date

Dear Representative (your Congressman’s surname):

I am the family member of a WWII veteran of the 7th Armored Division. 82 men of the Division lost in WWII have never been identified. Many probably now lie among the 8,300 Unknowns buried in US WWII military cemeteries. I am very sad to learn (see URL below) that there are no efforts in progress nor any efforts planned to identify those Unknowns. This is tragic.

I urge you to support the efforts of Congressman Joe Wilson and Congresswoman Susan Davis as the House Armed Services’ Sub-committee on Military Personnel continues hearings on the failure to account for our WWII Unknowns.

Specifically, I urge you to support the following.

1. Systematic DNA testing of the remains of all Unknowns, so that the DNA families provide can be compared to the Unknowns. Family members are now going to their own graves with no real hope of their soldier ever being identified. They provide their own DNA in a cruel hoax, an illusion that something is being done to identify their soldier when in fact nothing is being done nor is planned to be done.
2. Transfer of Individual Deceased Personnel Files to the National Archives and Records Administration, to provide organization, safe storage and public access. The IDPFs are crucial for families and historians of their units. The Army currently stores them in great disarray in poor storage conditions and makes them available – when they can even find them – only to some, despite the Freedom of Information Act. The National Archives has sought for years to store the IDPFs in their state-of-the-art storage and organize them and make them truly accessible.
3. Civilian responsibility for prior-conflict accounting. Let the Army do their mission in current and future conflicts. Just as civilians take over the political and administrative matters after a conflict, so too should a high-level fully-empowered civilian agency – akin to the Consumer Protection Agency – bear the burden of accounting for those lost in prior conflicts. The agency should be fully accountable to review by the families of the missing each year, with close Congressional oversight to assure accountability to the families.

Sincerely,

(your name)

(your street address)

(your city, state and zipcode)

Cc: Congressman Joe Wilson; 2229 Rayburn Office Building; Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Susan Davis; 1526 Longworth Office Building; Washington, DC 20515

[www.dtic.mil/dpmo/personnel\_accounting/documents/policy\_guidance\_on\_prioritizing\_remains\_recovery\_and\_identification.pdf](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/personnel_accounting/documents/policy_guidance_on_prioritizing_remains_recovery_and_identification.pdf)