

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scranton, Pennsylvania – August 4, 2010 – President Obama has nominated General John Daniel Lavelle for posthumous restoration to the grade of General (four stars), United States Air Force. General Lavelle was accused in 1972 of violating the rules of engagement and creating false reports when he ordered air strikes into North Vietnam. Recently declassified evidence, including the Nixon White House tapes and top secret messages which changed the rules of engagement, fully exonerates General Lavelle.

The President's nomination is a major milestone in the effort to publicly restore General Lavelle's outstanding record of military service, his honor and his good name. The new evidence conclusively proves that General Lavelle's actions were authorized.

General Lavelle's widow, Mary Jo Lavelle (91 years of age), is profoundly grateful that President Obama, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, and Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley acted favorably on her request to restore General Lavelle's record. The Lavelle family thanks all those who assisted with this effort, especially United States Senators Jim Webb and Bob Casey, Jr., who conscientiously advanced the justness of this cause.

When the Secretary of the Air Force advised Mrs. Lavelle of the President's nomination, Mrs. Lavelle was thrilled. She expressed her family's gratitude, and stated "Jack was a good man, a good husband, a good father, and a good officer. I wish he was alive to hear this news."

Mrs. Lavelle and her seven children —Barbara L. Foster, Geraldine L. Enloe, John D. Lavelle, Jr., Patricia L. Evans, Michael J. Lavelle, Timothy W. Lavelle, and Dennis K. Lavelle—thank the President for his action. The Lavelle family eagerly awaits prompt confirmation by the Senate that will restore General Lavelle's grade and honor.

Mrs. Lavelle is represented by Patrick A. Casey, Daniel T. Brier, and John B. Dempsey of the Scranton, Pennsylvania law firm of Myers, Brier & Kelly, LLP

(www.mbklaw.com), and Edward F. Rodriguez, Jr., and Gordon Wilder, both of Fairfax, Virginia.

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