

NR_key_name: 6531F912B00FCF93852563100059898C
SendTo: CN=Eric Scheinkopf/O=ARRB @ ARRB
CopyTo: CN=Tim Wray/O=ARRB @ ARRB
DisplayBlindCopyTo:
BlindCopyTo: CN=R ecord/O=ARRB
From: CN=Douglas Horne/O=ARRB
DisplayFromDomain:
DisplayDate: 04/18/1996
DisplayDate_Time: 12:54:03 PM
ComposedDate: 04/18/1996
ComposedDate_Time: 12:17:59 PM
Subject: Letters of Silence to Autopsy Participants

Eric, I need your help on a project which will not take much time (perhaps 30 minutes of your time), but which is of great importance. If you can, please complete by April 26. In late November, 1963 (apparently on or about November 26, 1963) about 17 persons were issued letters signed by Navy CAPT (O-6) John Stover which ordered them to remain silent in regard to events they witnessed related to the President's autopsy. The military personnel who received the letters (the majority) were reminded, in writing, that "...infracton of these orders makes you liable to Court Martial proceedings...". The two civilians that we know of (Elsie Closson and John Stringer) received a stern warning, but with different wording which did not relate to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We do not hold any of these letters and need good copies of as many of the 17 original letters as you can locate. (If you find more than 17, we need those also, but I believe the number is only 17.) Later, during the HSCA hearings, the HSCA persuaded the military to rescind these directives so that these reluctant witnesses would then feel free to talk to the HSCA. The letters which rescinded the orders of silence were sent, I believe, from the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BMS), theoretically, to each individual who had received an order of silence in the first place...at least that was the HSCA's intent. The RIFS I have provided you appear to be for the letters which rescinded the orders of silence; we do not hold copies of these, either. They are vital, since they are reliable indicators of who originally received the orders of silence in the first place. Please remember, our goal is to obtain both the original letters from November, 1963 as well as the letters which rescinded the orders of silence in 1978. Please bring back all that you can. If you have any questions, please call me. The names we are looking for are (last names only): Humes, Boswell, Finck, Karnei, Ebersole, Custer, Reed, Stringer, Riebe, O'Connor, Jenkins, Metzler, Rudnicki, Rittmeyer, Boyers, Rydberg, and Closson. (Other possibles are Rebentisch, David, Benson, and Davis.) It's a very limited universe of people and the letters are only 1 or 2 pages long (including endorsements). Thank you very much, in advance.

Body:
recstat: Record
DeliveryPriority: N
DeliveryReport: B
ReturnReceipt:
Categories: