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EDWARD R. ROYCE
Thirty-ninth District—California

February 23, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to nominate the late Colonel Young Oak Kim for the 2016 President Medal of Freedom. As Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I have consistently advocated for greater national recognition of our Korean War heroes. While Colonel Kim has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and two Silver Medals, I believe he is deserving of the President Medal of Freedom.

Colonel Kim served with exceptional valor in the European theater during the Second World War, including the liberation of Rome, for which he was awarded the Italian Military Valor Cross. He also received before he died, France's highest award, the Legion of Honor, for his efforts to liberate French towns during World War II. During the Korean War, Mr. Kim was the first Asian-American to command a regular U.S. combat battalion, leading forces which pushed the enemy back from the thirty-eighth parallel. In recognition of Colonel Kim's extraordinary service, the Government of the Republic of Korea awarded him the Taeguk Order of Military Merit.

After retiring from the military in 1972, Colonel Kim dedicated the remainder of his life to serving the people in his community. He founded numerous non-profit organizations to aid fellow Korean-Americans in Los Angeles, including the Korean American Museum, the Korean American Coalition, and the Korean Health, Education, Information and Research Center. He helped lead many organizations, such as the United Way Asian Center and the Center for Asian Pacific Women, through chairmanship or membership of the board.

Colonel Kim's honorable service has received the highest recognition worldwide, and it would be appropriate to bestow such added recognition here in the United States. I request your full and thorough consideration of awarding Colonel Young Oak the Presidential Medal of Honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce".

EDWARD R. ROYCE