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Aug 15th 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: John Skahill Jr.

The above patient was recently diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma, a rare, and serious type of liver cancer, sometimes found in South East Asia, where it has been associated with endemic infestation of humans by the 'liver fluke' parasite, *O. viverrini*. Mr. Skahill tells me that his duties as a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Military during the period May 1969 and May 1970, necessitated the consumption of locally prepared food, as he was supplying medical care in the villages of the Mekong Delta. During that time, he recalls eating raw or undercooked fish which likely contained this liver parasite, which has since been classified as a Group 1 Carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Furthermore, Mr Skahill tells me he had significant exposure to Agent Orange, a defoliant used in the Delta area where his U.S. Naval vessel patrolled during the same time period. This substance has been linked to the development of type 2 Diabetes, with which he was, as my patient was diagnosed in 2010.

Mr Skahill has been well known to me as a regular patient over the last few years. He has been otherwise well, and to my knowledge, does not have any ongoing liver problems such as hepatitis C, which might be risk factors for liver cancer. As such, in my opinion, he may be a candidate for VA Benefits for these significant exposures

Sincerely yours

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