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Chief  
Soldier Programs and Services Division  
U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC)  
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue  
Fort Knox, KY 40122

Subject: Letter of Justification for Late Submission of Medal of Honor Recommendation for  
Sergeant Marquees Antwon Quick (Posthumous)

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am Command Sergeant Major Daniel Lee Pinion, U.S. Army (Retired). As the former First Sergeant of F Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Brigade Reconnaissance Troop (BRT), 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, I served during the intense combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq, in 2006. I submit this letter of justification in support of the recommendation for the Medal of Honor (Posthumous) for Sergeant Marquees Antwon Quick, based on his extraordinary heroism on August 19, 2006. This submission is made under the provisions of Title 10 U.S.C. § 1130, which authorizes congressional review of award recommendations outside the standard time limitations established in Title 10 U.S.C. § 7274 and AR 600-8-22, paragraph 1-14.

The delay in submitting this recommendation is attributable to the operational demands of the deployment, subsequent unit deactivation, and post-deployment challenges. During the intense combat operations in Ramadi in 2006, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division faced an average of 46 enemy attacks daily. Brigade Reconnaissance Troop suffered nearly 50% casualties during a 45-day period. These circumstances, combined with the personal challenges many of us faced in the years following, contributed to the delay in fully recognizing the extent of SGT Quick's valor. This initial Medal of Honor submission is based on new evidence obtained in 2023, providing a compelling basis for this initial submission and justifying review outside standard time limits.

On August 19, 2006, in the highly contested P-8 sector of Ramadi, SGT Quick's small kill team established a rooftop observation post to identify and eliminate insurgents emplacing improvised explosive devices (IEDs) along key supply routes. At approximately 1015 hours, enemy fighters initiated a coordinated grenade attack, hurling four grenades onto the rooftop. Positioned on the northeast corner of the roof, SGT Quick was closest to the stairwell which provided a clear and immediate path to safety. Eyewitness accounts confirm that SGT Quick deliberately moved **away** from this clear escape route and **toward** the grenades, placing himself between the blasts

and his three teammates. The explosions inflicted mortal wounds on SGT Quick, but his selfless action shielded his comrades from the full force of the blasts, saving their lives and enabling the team to maintain mission integrity.

While SGT Quick's actions were recognized with the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart at the time, new evidence obtained in 2023 reveals a critical detail that was not fully documented or emphasized in the initial reports. Updated sworn statements, including that of MAJ Regan Barr (then SGT), provide a clearer account of SGT Quick's deliberate movement. MAJ Barr stated that SGT Quick was "**moving towards the grenades, even though he could have jumped down the stairs as he was closest to them**". This new, substantive information, combined with corroborating statements from SFC Michael Olienyk, LTC Vincent Tedesco, SFC Matthew Herrud, SPC Juan Ruiz-Soto, and SGT David Wall, demonstrates a conscious decision to sacrifice himself to protect his fellow Soldiers. This deliberate action, exceeding the call of duty and involving exceptional risk, meets the criteria for the Medal of Honor as outlined in DoD Manual 1348.33, Volume 1, and AR 600-8-22. SGT Quick's deliberate and immediate sacrifice mirrors that of CPL Jason Dunham.

The initial award recommendation did not fully convey the deliberate nature of SGT Quick's actions due to the intense operational tempo and subsequent deactivation of the unit. The focus remained on immediate mission sustainment and supporting surviving soldiers. As outlined in the Medal of Honor Standard Operating Procedure, this new, substantive, and material evidence supports waiving the time limitations under Title 10 U.S.C. § 7274, as permitted by § 1130, to enable a thorough review.

The enclosed packet includes the executive summary, proposed citation, mission storyboard, sworn statements (including updated statements), and DA Form 638. The proposed citation emphasizes the actions of SGT Quick. I am committed to ensuring SGT Quick receives the recognition his actions deserve and am available for any further clarification or coordination at (703) 399-1259 or [daniel.lee.pinion@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.lee.pinion@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Pinion  
Command Sergeant Major, USA (RET)  
1SG, F Troop, 1 Cav (BRT), 1st BDE, 1AD (2005-2007)