



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

February 6, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office and Chairwoman of the Texas Veterans Land Board, I am responsible for serving the brave men and women who have valiantly defended our nation. I am requesting a joint investigation by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense to locate and return the remains of distinguished pilot and war hero Lieutenant Colonel George Andrew Davis, Jr.

This year, my office will open the fifth Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Lubbock, where Colonel Davis's family resides. To honor his heroism and sacrifice, we will commemorate the grand opening by holding a special internment ceremony for Colonel Davis. The return of his remains 73 years after being shot down near the Manchurian border would bring much-needed closure to his family and provide a dignified and honorable final resting place worthy of his service.

Aside from his courageous duty in the Korean War, Lieutenant Colonel Davis began his military career defending liberty in World War II. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in March of 1942 and was quickly sent to fight in the Pacific Theater in 1943, first with the 342nd Fighter Squadron, and later with the 348th Fighter Group of the Fifth Air Force. In three short years, Colonel Davis flew a total of 266 combat missions, accrued 705 combat hours, and was awarded numerous medals, including the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and nine Air Medals for acts of heroism.

Not long after the start of the Korean War, Colonel Davis was given command of the 334th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron at Kimpo Airfield, where he trained new pilots and flew multiple air-to-air combat missions over North Korea. His leadership and experience earned him the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in combat with an armed enemy force, and he became known as the war's *ace of aces*. However, on February 10, 1952, Colonel Davis flew his 59th and final combat mission of the Korean War. Colonel Davis was shot down 30 miles south of the Yalu

River while defending a group of F-84 Thunderjets conducting a low-level bombing mission over North Korea and was declared missing in action and presumed dead. Colonel Davis's valorous actions led to the United States awarding him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Some controversy surrounds the location of Colonel Davis's remains; it has been reported the Chinese military recovered Davis's body but never returned it to the United States. Furthermore, there have been reports that his dog tag and remains are possibly on display in a Korean War Museum in mainland China.

These rumors are extremely problematic, and if true, the flagrant disrespect shown to Colonel Davis is unacceptable. I'm calling on the United States to use all diplomatic means to demand the Chinese government permit United States investigators to explore the validity of these claims immediately.

To further strengthen our efforts, I am requesting Special Envoy Richard Grenell's involvement in this matter. You previously entrusted him with high-stakes negotiations, including those in North Korea, and he recently secured the release of six Americans from a Venezuelan prison. His expertise and proven track record in diplomatic negotiations will be invaluable in achieving a successful outcome.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, please help the loved ones of Lieutenant Colonel Davis finally find closure and allow us to provide him a dignified final resting place where the free men and women of our country can pay their respects to a hero who defended the freedoms we hold dear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Buckingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office