

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2003

Mr. Alan J. Weiss, President
Marine Helicopter Squadron 361
Veterans Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 429
Cutchogue, NY 11935

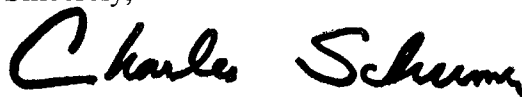
Dear Mr. Weiss:

I am pleased to write in support of the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association's quest to purchase and restore a UH-34D helicopter. The helicopter would become part of an educational and living history exhibit, not only honoring the hundreds of thousands of Long Island veterans who served their country, but also reminding the public of the men and women who lost their lives in service to this country.

The UH-34D helicopter played a vital role in American history. It performed a variety of duties, including the retrieval of astronauts from the ocean upon their return to Earth, and troop insertion and resupply missions in the Vietnam War. When the restoration is complete, the helicopter will be flight ready and flown at air shows, possibly by some of the same pilots and crew who flew her in Vietnam.

Projects such as this one are essential to keeping our military history alive. The UH-34D will serve as a living memorial to all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I applaud the Marine Helicopter Squadron 361 Veterans Association in its foresight, and wish them well in successfully bringing this worthwhile project to fruition. If I may be of any further assistance, please contact me or Robin Chappelle in my Manhattan Office at (212) 486-4430.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate

CES/ap

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