(Date)

Lloyd J. Austin III

Secretary of Defense

1000 Defense Pentagon

Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Sir,

I’m writing you today to voice my displeasure and disagreement with the Military District of Washington Commanding General’s order to do away with all of the white horses of the U.S. Army Caisson Platoon.

The United States Army Caisson Platoon is the last Department of Defense unit with a full-time horse mounted mission. The Caisson Platoon’s white horse team has been a vital and quite visual part of that mission for well over 70 years.

The Caisson Platoon’s white horses have a long and prestigious history that dates back well before1948 when the 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) returned to Ft Myer, Virginia and became the official ceremonial unit of the U.S. Army and Escort to the President.

The white horse team has quietly taken part in countless funerals in Arlington National Cemetery and has been center to some of our country’s most high profile funerals that have been viewed by millions of people around the world. Those include the funerals of; Presidents John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Franklin D. Roosevelt, The Unknown Soldiers of the Korean and Vietnam wars, Douglas MacArthur, Colin Powell, and crew members of the space shuttles Challenger and Columbia disasters just to name a few.

Getting rid of the U.S. Army Caisson Platoon’s white horse team is totally unnecessary and unacceptable. It is not only extremely disrespectful to the military members that have served atop these mounts, but also to the family and friends of the deceased that these horses have carried to their final resting places in Arlington National Cemetery. I hope that you will do your part to help get this decision reconsidered and allow this long-standing military tradition to continue.

Sincerely,

(Your Name)