

S T E V E N S P I E L B E R G

August 6, 2008

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Mukasey
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear President Bush and Attorney General Mukasey,

I am aware that an application has been lodged seeking a posthumous pardon for Charles "Charlie" Winters.

Of course, I did not know Charlie Winters. But Mr. Winters, together with a few others, acted at their own personal risk and with a great deal of courage to assist the newborn state of Israel to survive the wars which followed its declaration of independence in 1948. Without these men, Israel would not have had the tiny air force it did and without which it may very well not have survived.

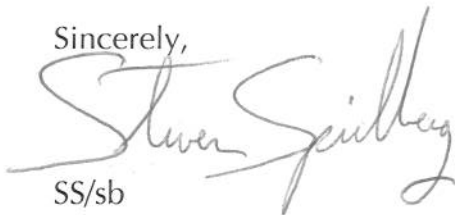
Winters was convicted, fined, and imprisoned. Two others who were similarly convicted, did not go to prison and were subsequently pardoned, one by President Kennedy and the other by President Clinton.

There are probably many unsung heroes of America and of Israel, but Charlie Winters is surely one of them. While a pardon cannot make Charlie Winters whole, and regrettably he did not live to see it, it would be a fitting tribute to his memory and a great blessing to his family if this pardon is granted.

There are some moral people in this world, many of whom never receive the credit they deserve. Winters was obviously one of those and deserves it.

Please grant this pardon.

Sincerely,



SS/sb