

May 3, 1996

Ms. Isabel Starling  
148 Poca Fork Road  
Elkview, West Virginia 25071

Dear Ms. Starling:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Assassination Records Review Board, an independent Federal Agency established pursuant to the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, 44 U.S.C. § 2107 (Supp. V 1994). The Review Board, whose members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, is charged with the responsibility of collecting records related to the assassination of President Kennedy. The Review Board is not seeking to reach any conclusions regarding the assassination, but is primarily concerned with identifying, clarifying, locating, and making available assassination records. I am enclosing some explanatory material about the Review Board and its mandate.

We are contacting you because your late father, Vice Admiral George G. Burkley, Jr., as former Physician to the President, was present not only at Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Texas during emergency treatment of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, but also at Bethesda Naval Hospital during the autopsy on President Kennedy conducted November 22-23, 1963. Furthermore, Dr. Burkley was involved in the inventory and transfer of autopsy-related materials from U. S. Secret Service custody to Kennedy family custody in 1965. In that context, we are seeking to determine whether your father left behind any papers, reports, journals, logs, letters, or diaries which would reflect upon his service as Physician to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, or that would relate in any way to the assassination. If you are aware of the existence or whereabouts of any such items, we would appreciate your contacting us so that we can discuss the possibility of reviewing these materials.

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Someone from the Review Board will be contacting you within the upcoming two weeks to discuss this matter with you. We have also taken the liberty of sending a version of this letter to your siblings.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

Enclosure