

April 12, 1995

Mr. John Thomas  
Joseph Gawler's Sons, Inc.  
5130 Wisconsin Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. Thomas:

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 of 1992, 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 Gawler's because your firm was involved in the embalming services for President John F. Kennedy at Bethesda Naval Hospital on the night of November 22-23, 1963. In that context we are seeking any records you may hold that relate to the death of President Kennedy. These would include, but would not be limited to, any records presently held in the files at Gawler's regarding the services you performed for the late President Kennedy in 1963. These might include, for example, any handwritten notes or log of events that evening, or any summary report which may have been prepared subsequent to the preparation of President Kennedy for burial, or perhaps individual accounts of events that night which may have been prepared afterward by Mr. Thomas Robinson, Mr. John Van Haeson, Mr. Edwin Stroble, or Mr. Hagen of your staff, all of whom reportedly assisted in President Kennedy's preparation for burial. Your cooperation in helping the Review Board complete the record of events which transpired on November 22-23, 1963 at Bethesda Naval Hospital, to the fullest extent possible, would be appreciated.

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Please contact the Review Board, either in writing or by telephone, so that we can discuss these matters with you. Please contact either Mr. Timothy A. Wray, our Chief Analyst for Military Records, or Mr. Douglas Horne, a Senior Analyst working with military and medical records, in regard to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David G. Marwell  
Executive Director

Enclosures