

CARPENTER AND CARPENTER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

707 BROADWAY

P.O. BOX 772

BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY 07002

(201) 436-1444

FRANK T. CARPENTER III
CHRISTINE A. CARPENTER

FAX NO. (201) 436-7940
E-MAIL: carplaw@msn.com

August 10, 2022

Honorable Gloria M. Navarro
United States District Judge
District of Nevada
333 Las Vegas Blvd South
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Re: *United States v. Carpenter*, 2:22-cr-00022-GMN-NJK

Dear Judge Navarro,

I am the father of defendant Scott Carpenter. You can't imagine the pain, to refer to my son that way -- as a defendant.

Let me first say that what my son did was wrong. WRONG. And I am heartbroken, as I know he is too, that his name is tarnished and, more important, that his ability to serve and protect his country came to such a screeching halt.

I have been a lawyer for 48 years and a municipal judge for 32 years. In my almost half a century in those roles, and the tens of thousands of cases I've been involved with, I've never seen a case like this, that has gone on for so long when the mitigating circumstances are so overwhelming. The same country that exposed my son to PTSD is now punishing him for exhibiting a symptom of PTSD.

When I asked him why he made that choice, he gave a response that left me speechless (and I am never speechless). His response was, "You and Mom need to be protected. Who do you want to protect you?" I had no response but supported his decision, and couldn't argue with his logic.

As a top Military Science graduate, he had first choice of the different areas in the Army. His selections were frightening and breathtaking. Each of his choices was one of the most dangerous military areas: infantry, 82nd Airborne (40 jumps from a perfectly functioning aircraft), Ranger School.

After training, he did two tours in Iraq. On one tour, he was a platoon leader of a "Scout Platoon." Everyone knows that the Infantry is the "tip of the sword." The Scout Platoon's job is to go out in front of the Infantry to draw fire and locate the enemy. He didn't have to put himself in that danger, but he chose to out of love for his country.

Although he never complained, it was clear he was exposed to a lot in Iraq. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, along with various other awards.

When he came back to the States, I had a number of friends on Wall Street, all of whom wanted Scott to work for them. He turned them down. He wanted to be a Special Agent for the FBI.

At this time he lived alone, not with us. For a time, he lived on our sailboat in New York Harbor. He then moved to an apartment in Hoboken, NJ with friends. This is when I first noticed his excessive drinking. Up to his second deployment, he would drink socially, a beer at a barbeque or wine at dinner. However, he had started to become reliant on vodka. Whenever I saw him, he either had a drink or I could smell it on his breath. I still did not connect this to bigger mental health issues or the symptoms of PTSD that I learned about later.

During the time he was a rookie FBI Agent, he was assigned to various units. His stellar reputation spread, and many unit supervisors wanted him. He was excellent. If you review his FBI record, you will see this. For example, he was the chief investigator in the worldwide and very successful FIFA (professional soccer) investigation.

Subsequently, he was assigned to the NCAA investigation as the lead investigator, resulting in ten convictions. The last part of this investigation required an undercover operation in Las Vegas. When asked to go to Las Vegas to conduct the undercover operation, he initially declined because a good friend of mine, Dr. Anthony Caputo, had died. He was the closest thing to an uncle Scott had. But the FBI twisted his arm, and he agreed to go despite the fact that he would miss Tony's funeral.

After the last meeting, all the Agents celebrated and drank. I now know that Scott himself drank a whole bottle of vodka, and then he used some of the undercover money to play blackjack, losing \$13,500.

When he came back to New Jersey, he asked me for \$15,000 in cash from his money, which was being managed by his mother. He didn't explain what it was for. We were in the dark, but still relatively unconcerned.

At the recommendation of the FBI, we then hired an attorney who represented many FBI Agents, Larry Berger of Long Island. We gave attorney Berger a \$15,000 check made payable to his Trust Account, advising him to notify the FBI or the Federal Government that he had the money in his Trust Account. Although he endorsed the check with his signature, he never deposited the check in his Trust Account, nor did he notify anyone in the Federal Government that he had the money. I kept calling him to inquire why he hadn't deposited the check or notified anyone in the Government, and he kept telling me he would do it. I finally told him he

was fired and to return the check, which he did, a year later. A copy of the check is attached, dated August 15, 2017. His return envelope with the check, but no letter, dated July 11, 2018 is attached also.

The prosecution has taken over 5 years. That mystifies me; it is a case where the defendant voluntarily admitted his misdeed to all his supervisors on day one.

The FBI kept him at his job after he had admitted his guilt, for almost five years. The FBI changed his job by assigning him to secure an FBI construction site for three years. He showed up every day to guard lumber and bricks. A straight-A student in high school, a Dean's list student in college, an Army Captain who did two tours in Iraq, won the Bronze Star Medal and developed symptoms of PTSD did this job for three and a half years without complaint. Incidentally, while on the job at the construction site, he singlehandedly put out a fire and saved an electrician's life.

For his last year and a half, he was assigned to one of the most secretive units in the FBI: foreign counterintelligence. He didn't seek the position; the position sought him.

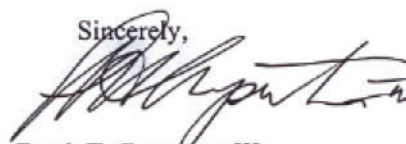
During the last five years, he and his wife of seven years, Beth, discussed having children. Although they both want children, they decided to wait until this nightmare ended, thinking it might take a few months, not five years. Now they are confronted with the likelihood of growing old without children.

Why did all this happen? It happened because Scott so badly wanted to serve his country. And when he developed symptoms of PTSD and a drinking problem as a result, he did something wrong and stupid.

I am sad and disappointed by what my son did, but at the same time I couldn't be prouder of how he has behaved in the aftermath. As a judge myself (albeit a municipal judge) and as a

father, I urge you to look at Scott with compassion and empathy. In my view, he has been punished and has suffered enough.

Sincerely,



Frank T. Carpenter III