

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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Assurance No. 16-171

In the Matter of the

**Investigation by Eric T. Schneiderman, Attorney General  
of the State of New York, of**

JOHN THOMAS BURCH, JR.

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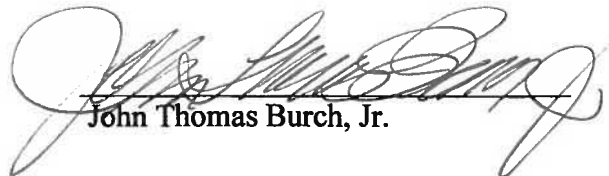
**EXHIBIT A**

I was founder, President and Chairman of the Board of the National Vietnam Veterans Foundation. This letter is my apology to the millions of individuals that donated to the National Vietnam Veterans Foundation, which also solicited money using the name the American Veterans Support Foundation. As donors, you put your trust in me to make sure that your donations helped veterans, not to pay professional fundraisers and finance my personal entertainment pursuits. You sent in millions of checks -- \$10.00, \$15.00 and \$25.00 at a time. That is real money from real people who sacrificed those amounts so that a veteran would have a meal, be able to call home or have a place to sleep for at least one night. Those checks added up, and in 2014 we had a record year for donations reaching nearly \$9 million. About 90% of your money went to our fundraisers; that is unacceptable. Much of the rest was not spent in the manner that we described when we solicited money from you.

This letter is also my apology to the people that we used as a prop in order for our fundraisers to collect money -- the veterans of the Vietnam War. These veterans are one of the most overlooked and underappreciated group of veterans in United States' history. My actions as President only added another insult to these heroes. As a Vietnam Veteran, I should have known better.

As a Vietnam Veteran and as a human being I am ashamed of my actions. The National Vietnam Veterans Foundation has shut down, I have agreed never again to handle charitable funds, and I am repaying what I can to the New York Attorney General. I know that I can never repair the damage my organization has inflicted on donor confidence, but I urge you to continue supporting our veterans, and the worthy charities out there who are assisting them. Mine, however, was not one of them.

Dated: Alexandria, Virginia  
November 2, 2016

  
John Thomas Burch, Jr.