

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am [REDACTED]. I have been asked to write a statement in support of the aforementioned veterans claim.

I have personally reviewed her medical history; to include her service medical records, [REDACTED] medical records, a private Podiatrist that was treating [REDACTED], and I have also reviewed all X-rays and MRI's. I have also reviewed and have noted the circumstances and events of her military service in the years 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994, pertaining to her feet and ankle issues while she served during her military service from 1990-1996. [REDACTED] has suffered numerous fractures and sprains to her feet and ankle's while on active duty.

[REDACTED] is a current patient under my care since 2014. She has suffered for decades due to her chronic issues with her feet and ankles. She has been diagnosed with Neuroma 2nd Intermetatarsal space to the left foot, ankle synovitis bilateral, and most recently, another 5th metatarsal fracture to the right foot. There was a prior fracture to the right foot, 5th metatarsal that was noted from previous podiatrist, [REDACTED]. I reviewed his findings as well as I reviewed the MRI results from June 23, 2013. [REDACTED] had another MRI here at the [REDACTED] August 7, 2014 confirming the prior fracture to the right foot. Additionally, [REDACTED] had a Hawkins type I talar fracture to the left ankle in 1991/1992, which was noted in her service medical records. [REDACTED] also suffered sprain to her right ankle while on active duty in 1993 as noted in her service medical records.

I am familiar with her history and have examined [REDACTED] often while she has been under my care. While under [REDACTED] care, [REDACTED] was getting bi-weekly injections to her right ankle, as well as to her left foot and ankle to reduce the pain in her ankle and Neuroma 2nd Intermetatarsal space to the left foot and ankle. She was wearing a ritchie brace on her left foot when we had our first initial meeting. I ordered a new ritchie brace for the left foot and ankle in 2014. On May 29th, 2015 I proposed surgery to the left foot excision of steida's process & weil osteotomy. On June 3rd, 2015 I performed a steidas process excision of the talus and plantar plate repair with weil osteotomy to the left foot and ankle. Her left foot and ankle had numerous injuries during her military career. Most recently, [REDACTED] fell due to her left foot and ankle weakness causing fractures to her right foot. X-ray was performed on December 28th, 2015 and findings showed spiral midshaft 5th metatarsal fracture with 3mm separation and 5th metatarsal avulsion of styloid. On January 6th, 2016 I performed surgery to repair the fractures. I also ordered an Osteogenesis stimulator for her left ankle, which she is currently using.

[REDACTED] has no other known risk factors that may have precipitated her current condition.

Based on the MRI's of June 23, 2013 and August 7, 2014 of the right foot, which indicates a healed fracture, it is least as likely as not this injury was sustained during her military service. Additionally, I have reviewed her service medical records regarding her Hawkins type I talar fracture to the left ankle from 1991 & 1992, and it is in my opinion that the Neuroma 2nd Intermetatarsal space to the left foot is a direct result of the Hawkins type I talar fracture.

[REDACTED]

After a review of the pertinent records it is my professional opinion that it is more than likely that [REDACTED] feet and ankle conditions are a direct result of her numerous falls and accidents due to her military service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]