Dr. Isabelle Shizue
123 Elm Street,
Resident Services Building
Los Angeles, CA 90001

August 6, 2024

VA Medical Center
789 Veterans Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear VA Medical Center Team,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of Sergeant Tom Nook, a veteran who is seeking disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I am a Primary Care Physician at New Horizons Clinic, I have had the privilege of providing medical care and support to Sergeant Tom Nook.

My patient has a unique medical history that includes:
Chronic lower back pain, PTSD, hearing loss.

Over the course of our medical interactions, I have carefully reviewed the patient's medical records including the following:
Service records combat exposure, MRI scans showing lumbar disc degeneration, psychiatric evaluations documenting PTSD symptoms, audiology reports confirming hearing loss, physical therapy notes.

I am writing to express my professional opinion that the following conditions are directly related to the patient's military service:
Lumbar disc degeneration, PTSD, bilateral hearing loss

In my assessment, these conditions are more likely than not associated with the patient's military service. This is based on a thorough evaluation of the available evidence:
Service records indicating exposure to combat and loud noise environments.
Medical literature combat-related stress to PTSD.
MRI evidence of service-related physical strain on the lumbar spine.
Audiology findings consistent with noise-induced hearing loss in veterans.

If these conditions are indeed linked to the military service of Sergeant Tom Nook, it is my recommendation that they warrant a disability rating of 70%.

In closing, I want to emphasize that my assessment is based on a comprehensive review of medical history and service records. I firmly support my patient's claim for disability benefits, and I believe that the evidence strongly supports this.

Please feel free to reach out to me at isabelle.shizua.md@newhorizonsemail.com if you require any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Isabelle Shizue