

May I reiterate that these proud men and women who fought in this campaign, which was not of their own making and in a country which was not theirs, still stand resolutely behind the idea that they served their country, loyally, bravely and with dignity.

It was the only war against communism which was actually won, and now, you have seriously injured our dignity. Which begs the question, will that snub of the veterans of that campaign, spill over onto the currently serving members of our armed forces in their daily duties.

There are those who served in the far east, under dreadful conditions without any recognition, not even a General Service Medal. It would then follow that any form of official recognition, however derived would be gratefully and proudly received.

I know of one soldier who was wounded in action, in the change over period of the old GSM, to the new. He regales his story to an incredulous audience at the annual remembrance parade, and was 'crushed', when a less than savoury individual pointed out that he couldn't have been there, because he had no medal to prove it.

He is now totally embarrassed and will not be attending any further memorial services. Which brings us nicely back to the award of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia. I seriously hope that your impending 'American' award will be refused by you, for the reasons that you so eloquently stated.

I am reminded of the short speech made by Thomas Jefferson, who stated that;

Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence, and deem them like the ark of the covenant, too sacred to be touched. They ascribe to the men of the preceding age a wisdom more than human, and suppose what they did to be beyond human amendment. I knew that age well; I belonged to it, laboured with it. It deserved well of it's country... But I know also, that laws and institutions go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times.

May I remind you that no law is so set in stone that it cannot be changed for the better; and is it too much for you to stand loyally and faithfully behind us, as we that did your bidding, without question, stood loyally and faithfully behind you?

Yours Sincerely

former Lieutenant (SCC) RNR
Recipient of the General Service Medal with Malay Peninsula clasp