



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jackson Law Group Wins Landmark Case Against Dept. of Veterans Affairs

(Wytheville, VA) – A Wytheville law firm has won a court case against the Department of Veterans Affairs in Roanoke. The [Jackson Law Group](#) won more than \$793,000 on behalf of the estate of William Lovell, due to medical malpractice that stemmed from a routine surgery.

Lovell was a Vietnam veteran whose helicopter was shot down three times while serving our country in the line of duty; he survived each time. But when he went in for gallbladder surgery on January 30, 2012, his life would change in ways he and his family never expected.

“He went in for surgery at the VA hospital in Salem, Virginia,” explained attorney Tom Jackson. “There were no indications anything went wrong, and he was discharged.”

When Lovell arrived home, he began having problems. He went to the hospital twice, and medics transferred him to Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital. He died 10 days later from what doctors there say were complications from the surgery he’d had in Salem.

“His female companion, Joyce Wertman, was devastated,” Jackson said. “She came to us and asked what could be done. She wanted the VA’s doctors to be responsible for what happened.”

Joyce sued the VA on behalf of Lovell’s estate. He has two surviving sons.

After four years of litigation, the family got the closure they’d been looking for on January 24, 2017, when U.S. District Judge Michael Urbanski issued an opinion in Roanoke federal court in favor of Lovell’s estate. Judge Urbanski held the United States liable for medical malpractice in the amount of \$793,428.78—the amount requested by the plaintiff. The court ruled that the VA’s surgeons violated the standard of care in causing the injuries that were the proximate causes of Lovell’s death.

“It’s vital our veterans receive quality healthcare considering the sacrifices they made for our country,” Jackson said. “We are pleased with the judge’s decision to hold the VA accountable for Mr. Lovell’s death.”

The Jackson Law Group^{PLLC}

The U.S. Government had 60 days to appeal the case, but never did. That appeal process expired late last week.

Jackson Law Group worked in conjunction with Roanoke-based Cranwell & Moore PLC on the case.

[About The Jackson Law Group, PLLC](#)

The Jackson Law Group, PLLC is a full-service law firm dedicated to helping its clients reach their goals by the most efficient, cost-effective means. Each of the attorneys have extensive trial experience with a diverse practice which includes Estate Planning, Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Medicaid Planning, and Estate Probate; Corporate Formation and Litigation; Condemnation/Eminent Domain/Land Owner's Rights; Real Estate, including residential and commercial closings and Title Searches; Personal Injury; Wrongful Death; Products Liability; Social Security Disability; Civil Litigation; and Criminal Defense, Traffic/DUI Defense.

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