

June 10, 1980

U. S. O. Director  
1146 - 19th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Gentlemen:

On or about May 12, 1980, I had the pleasure of watching one of your USO shows at the West Side Veterans Hospital, at 820 S. Damen Ave. in Chicago, ILL. 60613.

This is without a doubt, the best show I have ever seen, and I've seen at least 30 USO Shows in the last 35 years. I applauded so hard, my hands were black and blue after the show. Never before has that happened to me.

On the day I came to the West Side VA hospital I came for a refill for all my medication, maybe half a dozen prescriptions: such as pain pills, tranquilizers, ulcer medicine and anti acids, as well as Lomotil for a severe case of diarrhea caused by a severe case of nervousness, caused by chronic pain from traumatic brain damage from a piece of shrapnel on the brain, that was overlooked when they put a Silver plate in my head in 1945 to repair skull damage. Among other things I have several types of arthritis that sometimes drives me up a wall. But after watching "The Duck Soup Players Present" THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO, I forgot all my hurts and even got along without my medication for about 48 hours. That's the first time that happened to me in 35 years. There was a veteran with his wife in back of me that enjoyed themselves as much as I did. As a matter of fact, the veterans wife told me that this was the first time in six months that she saw her husband laugh at some of the hilarious skits. Now that's what I call real therapy. That man was suffering from a severe case of mental depression, and the nostalgia of THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO by the Duck Soup Players snapped him out of his long standing depression. No medication was able to do that.

Among other things, this is the first time a show was composed of people who could ALL be called stars. They were all of excellent quality. And their talent is without a doubt of professional quality.

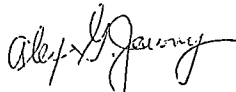
I'm sorry I waited for weeks to tell you about this, But subsequently I had some hospitalization, which prevented me from writing sooner. I will always remember you and your organization in my prayers; and implore the Good Lord to make it possible for you to continue the outstanding work of rehabilitating disabled veterans.

I go to Mass every day, now that I am retired, and it will be my fervent prayer, that every member of the Duck Soup Players cast will succeed in all their laudable undertakings, that good health and good fortune will stay with them for a long, long time. And that goes for all of your USO organization. And to paraphrase an old cliché, which is more than a figure of speech with your organization: You are the greatest."

God love and keep you, in the palm of his hand -- good luck -- and many, many, many thanks, for the good time I had on May 12, at the West Side VA Hospital, because you "cared enough" to show up. And to entertain us. If you ever find yourself low on funds, and have to go before the Congress of the United States or to the general public, feel free to use this letter to get your message across. Don't ever give up giving shows-- because they are just as important to the rehabilitation of disabled veterans as medications--and in many cases " the only therapy" that will help some people, without disabling side effects usually found in drugs.

With heartfelt thanks, I am

Sincerely,



Alex G. Jawny, (68) World War II Infantryman  
7405 Richmond Ave.  
Darien, Illinois 60559

PS: If necessary to telephone me, to verify the letter, call me at (312) 968-8914, any time, day or night.