IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

by <u>/s/ A. Fulwood</u> Deputy Clerk

JOHNNY R. MARTINEZ,

Appellant,

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Vet. App. No. 19-4135

ROBERT L. WILKIE, Secretary of Veterans Affairs,

Appellee.

APPELLEE'S MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO RESPOND TO APPELLANT'S INFORMAL BRIEF UNTIL JANUARY 23, 2020

Pursuant to U.S. Vet. App. R. 26(b), Appellee, Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs ("Secretary"), respectfully moves the Court for a 45-day extension of time within which to respond to Appellant's Brief. If not for this motion, the Secretary's response would be due on December 9, 2019.

This additional time is needed because Appellee's Attorney's current deadlines and workload considerations in other cases pending before the Court as well as previously scheduled holiday leave precludes completion of Appellee's response at this time.

Accordingly, Appellee respectfully submits that good cause for this motion exists and requests that the Court grant a 45-day extension of time until January 23, 2020. Appellee has been previously granted 0-days of extension in the case thus far and Appellant has been granted 0-days of extension in the case. On behalf of the Secretary, counsel expresses regret to the Court and Appellant for any inconvenience caused by the delay in filing the Secretary's response. However, in view of the aforesaid circumstances, an extension of 45 days, until January 23, 2020, is requested.

Appellant is pro se.

WHEREFORE, Appellee Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of Veterans Affairs,

respectfully moves the Court for an extension of time to file a response to

Appellant's Brief, until January 23, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM A. HUDSON, JR. General Counsel

MARY ANN FLYNN Chief Counsel

<u>/s/ Shereen M. Marcus</u> **SHEREEN M. MARCUS** Senior Appellate Attorney Office of the General Counsel (027F) U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20420 (202) 632-6802

Attorneys for Appellee Secretary of Veterans Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On the 4th day of December, 2019, a copy of the foregoing was mailed, postage prepaid, to:

Johnny R. Martinez 16861A W. FM 117 Dilley, TX 78017

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

> <u>/s/ Shereen M. Marcus</u> SHEREEN M. MARCUS Counsel for Appellee