



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

█
Docket No. 3994-21
Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD ICO █
XXX XX █ USMC RET

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) DODFMR, Vol 7B, Chp 43

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments
(2) Subject's naval record

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting that his naval record be corrected to reflect declined participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

2. The Board, consisting of █, █, and █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 15 December 2021 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice, found that, before applying to this Board, he exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy. The Board made the following findings:

a. In accordance with reference (b), SBP elections must be made prior to retired pay becoming payable and the election to participate in or decline SBP is irrevocable. Additionally, written spousal concurrence is required when the member elects to decline coverage or provide the spouse with less than the maximum SBP coverage available, to include electing child-only coverage. The signature of the spouse must be notarized. The requirement to have spouse's signature notarized provides certification that the spouse signed the form and acknowledged the election made on the form. Furthermore, if not all requirements for an election needing the spouse's concurrence have been satisfied prior to retirement, for whatever reason, full spouse costs and coverage will be implemented, regardless of any request by the member to do otherwise.

b. Petitioner married █ on 11 June 1995.

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c. On 1 May 2020, Petitioner signed DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel electing to decline participation in SBP; however, the form was not signed by his spouse.

d. Petitioner transferred to the Retired List effective 1 July 2020 and was automatically enrolled in SBP Spouse coverage as a result of the abovementioned error.

e. On 30 November 2021, Petitioner and spouse signed SBP Affidavit before a notary witness electing to decline SBP coverage.

CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following corrective action. The Board concluded Petitioner provided sufficient evidence to reflect his and spouse's desire to decline SBP coverage prior to transferring to the Retired List. Although Petitioner did not complete the proper administrative requirements, the Board felt that under these circumstances, relief is warranted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner's naval record be corrected, where appropriate, to show that:

Petitioner elected to decline participation in SBP with spouse concurrence prior to transferring to the Retired List effective 1 July 2020.

Note: Defense Finance and Accounting Service will complete an audit of Petitioner's pay records to determine the amount of premium refund.

A copy of this Report of Proceedings will be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)), and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of the reference, has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

[REDACTED] 1/14/2022

Deputy Director
Signed by: [REDACTED]