

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

> Docket No: 4252-21 Ref: Signature Date



Dear Petitioner:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your father's naval record pursuant to Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code. After careful and conscientious consideration of relevant portions of your father's naval record and your application, the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) found the evidence submitted insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. Consequently, your application has been denied.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your application on its merits. A threemember panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 17 November 2021. The names and votes of the panel members will be furnished upon request. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of the Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of your naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include the 25 July 2018 guidance from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness regarding equity, injustice or clemency determinations (Wilkie Memo).

The Board determined that your personal appearance, with or without counsel, would not materially add to their understanding of the issues involved. Therefore, the Board determined that a personal appearance was not necessary and considered your case based on the evidence of record.

You enlisted in the Marine Corps on 3 September 1986. On 19 August 1987, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for driving on a suspended license. On 22 March 1989, a special court-martial (SPCM) convicted you of 27 specifications of intent to defraud by wrongfully and unlawfully writing bad checks. You were sentenced to confinement for three months, forfeiture of pay, reduction to E-1 and a bad conduct discharge (BCD). After the BCD was approved at all levels of review, on 20 July 1990, you were so discharged. The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. These included, but were not limited to, your desire to upgrade your discharge and contentions that you were young and made some bad decisions, 30 years have passed since your discharge, and you have grown over the past 30 years and realized your mistakes.

The Board noted that the evidence of record did not show that you were not responsible for your conduct or should not be held accountable for your actions. The Board also noted that there is no provision in law or regulations that allows for re-characterization of a discharge automatically due solely to the passage of time. Lastly, the Board noted while commendable, your post service conduct does not excuse your conduct while enlisted in the Marine Corps or the basis for your discharge.

Based upon this review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your NJP and SPCM conviction outweighed these mitigating factors. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined that your request does not merit relief.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

