



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

ES  
Docket No: 6782-21  
Ref: Signature date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER [REDACTED], USN,  
[PRESENTLY [REDACTED]]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552  
(b) OSD/DOD Name Change Provisions/Guidance

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments  
(2) Case Summary

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 a name change on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).

2. The Board consisting of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 22 December 2021 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of Petitioner's application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include reference (b).

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy.

b. Although enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, it is in the interest of justice to waive the statute limitation and review the application on its merits.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 4 March 1996. At the time of enlistment, Petitioner's name was [REDACTED]. On 5 September 1996, Petitioner was discharged with a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. At the time of his discharge, he was issued a DD Form 214 with the name used in service, [REDACTED].

d. After Petitioner's discharge from the naval service, Petitioner who is transgender,

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[PRESENTLY [REDACTED]]

legally changed his name from [REDACTED]" to [REDACTED]," then again on 19 December 2016 to [REDACTED]" to align with his gender identity.

e. Petitioner states that because he identifies himself as a transgender male and has legally changed his name, a correction of the name as it appears his DD Form 214 is requested to reflect his gender identity and current legal name to allow him access to applicable veteran's benefits and veteran status.

f. Based on the guidance reflected in reference (b), from the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Department of Defense (DOD), former military personnel who have legally changed their name and sex, or are the subject of gender reassignment, may have their DD Form 214 changed to accurately reflect their present name and sex/gender. In this regard, the change may allow them to obtain various benefits, services, employment, etc., without being subject to otherwise invasive questions. However, the provisions/guidance only apply to the service-member's DD Form 214, and as such, no further changes will be made to the record.

#### CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes Petitioner's request warrants favorable action.

The Board noted Petitioner has provided legal evidence (specifically, a Certificate of Change of Name from the Probate Court of the town of [REDACTED] supporting his request. The Board found the legal actions taken by civilian authorities to change Petitioner's name to align with his gender identity, along with the provisions/guidance of reference (b), support a change to his DD Form 214.

In this regard, the Board noted that normally a DD Form 215 would be issued to correct the record, however, the Board concluded a new and updated DD Form 214 is warranted to eliminate the possibility of invasive questions. The Board further concluded that no other changes should be made to Petitioner's record, and that the previously issued DD Form 214 bearing the name [REDACTED] and the new DD Form 214 bearing the name [REDACTED] should remain in the record for historical purposes. In accordance with the foregoing, the Board concluded the DD Form 214 should be corrected to reflect Petitioner's legal name and that Petitioner be issued an updated DD Form 214.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action.

Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214 that reflects the name [REDACTED] vice [REDACTED]

That no further changes be made to the record.

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[PRESENTLY [REDACTED]]

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record, along with the previously issued DD Form 214 which reflect the name [REDACTED] and the updated DD Form 214, which reflects the name [REDACTED]

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 Regulation, 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 reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

1/16/2022

[REDACTED]

Executive Director

[REDACTED]