



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

[REDACTED]
Docket No: 5493-22

Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED], AND
[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), Petitioner, a former member of the Navy, filed enclosure (1) with this Board requesting a change to his naval record, specifically, to correct the record to reflect a name and gender change. Enclosures (1) and (2) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 3 October 2022, 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 the naval records, 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 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 interests of justice to waive the statute of limitations and review the application on its merits.

c. At the time of Petitioner's entrance into the U.S. Marine Corps, Petitioner's legal name was [REDACTED].” On 13 July 1979, Petitioner was discharged from the USMC with an honorable characterization of service. In this regard, Petitioner was issued a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) based on the name used while serving in the Navy, specifically, [REDACTED].”

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
[REDACTED]

d. On 8 February 1985, Petitioner entered the U.S. Navy Reserve as an officer candidate. At the time, Petitioner's legal name was [REDACTED]. On 19 February 1985, Petitioner was discharged from the Navy Reserve with an honorable characterization of service. In this regard, Petitioner was issued a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) based on the name used while serving in the Navy, specifically, [REDACTED].

e. After discharge from the Navy and on 21 March 1997, Petitioner, who is a transgender man, had his name legally changed from "[REDACTED]" to "[REDACTED]" to align with his gender identity.

f. On 6 January 1999, Petitioner again had his name legally changed from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to align with his gender identity.

g. 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, including changing gender identifiers.

CONCLUSION:

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

The Board noted Petitioner has provided sufficient legal evidence (specifically, the "Order for Change of Name" from the State of [REDACTED] Probate Court or [REDACTED], dated 6 January 1999) 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 to reflect Petitioner's legal name.

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 both the previously issued DD Form 214, and the new DD Form 214 bearing the name [REDACTED] [REDACTED] should remain in the record for historical purposes.

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 to reflect Petitioner's legal name.

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
[REDACTED]

In regard to Petitioner's request that his gender be changed on all of his military documents, the Board found the provisions/guidance of reference (b), does not support Petitioner's request to have his gender changed on all of his military documents and determined relief is not warranted.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

CNP:

Petitioner's naval record, specifically, Block 1 of DD Form 214, be corrected to reflect the name [REDACTED],” instead of [REDACTED].”

Petitioner be issued new DD Form 214, which reflect the name [REDACTED].”

Petitioner be issued a new discharge certificate which reflects the name “[REDACTED].”

That no further changes be made to the record.

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

HQMC:

Petitioner's naval record, specifically, Block 1 of DD Form 214, be corrected to reflect the name [REDACTED],” instead of [REDACTED].”

Petitioner be issued new DD Form 214, which reflect the name [REDACTED].”

Petitioner be issued a new discharge certificate which reflects the name [REDACTED].”

That no further changes be made to the record.

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval records, along with the previously issued DD Form 214 which reflects 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.

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
[REDACTED]

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

10/25/2022

