



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

█
Docket No. 7500-22
Ref: Signature Date



Dear Petitioner:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552. After careful and conscientious consideration of relevant portions of your 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 three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 13 March 2023. 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, 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).

In addition, your application was reviewed under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, and the Under Secretary of Defense Memo of 20 September 2011 (Correction of military records following repeal of 10 U.S.C. §654). Under the guidance, the Board can grant a request to upgrade a discharge that was based on homosexuality when two conditions are met: (1) the original discharge was based solely on "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT) or similar policy, and (2) there were no aggravating factors such as misconduct.

You enlisted in the Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 18 March 1958. On 10 February 1960, you were arrested by civil authorities for acts of sexual perversion and held in confinement by civil authorities. On 23 February 1960, you were convicted by civil court and charged with sexual perversion. Subsequently, the court denied probation and referred you to a █ Youth Authority for the time prescribed by law. On 1 April 1960, your commanding officer recommended that you were administratively separated from the Marine Corps with an

Other Than Honorable (OTH) characterization of service by reason of misconduct due to civil conviction. On 20 April 1960, you were discharged in absentia.

Post-discharge, you applied to the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB) for a discharge upgrade. The NDRB denied your request, on 14 June 1961, after determining your discharge was proper as issued.

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 for a discharge upgrade and contentions that there has been a change in the homosexual policy which should apply in your case. For purposes of clemency consideration, the Board noted you did not provide supporting documentation describing post-service accomplishments or advocacy letters.

After thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your civil conviction, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the likely negative impact it had on the good order and discipline of your unit. Further, the Board concluded the DADT repeal policy was inapplicable in your case since you were discharged for a civil conviction involving sexual perversion. As a result, the Board concluded your conduct constituted a significant departure from that expected of a Marine and continues to warrant an OTH characterization. After applying liberal consideration, the Board did not find evidence of an error or injustice that warrants upgrading your characterization of service or granting clemency in the form of an upgraded characterization of service. 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 the 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,

3/30/2023

