



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

█  
Docket No. 6716-24

Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF █  
█

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. § 1552

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

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner (wife), filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) requesting a correction be made to her husband's race on his Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States (DD Form 214). Enclosures (1) and (2) apply.
2. The Board, consisting of █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 7 October 2024 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined 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 SM's naval service 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, the statute of limitation was waived in the interests of justice.
  - c. Service member (SM) enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 21 August 1953 and completed his service honorably on 30 December 1955. He was issued a DD Form 214 that documented his race as "Negroid."
  - d. The Petitioner contends SM was proud of his family's history and heritage and wished to have his race accurately reflected on his DD Form 214. Unfortunately, SM passed away before making this change. Petitioner and her family now seek to honor his expressed wishes by having his race changed to "Native American/Black" on his DD Form 214.

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e. Petitioner submitted a personal statement, copy of SM's remembrance card, DD Form 214, and certificate of death that indicates his race as "Black, Native American."

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of the evidence of record, the Board determined Petitioner's request warrants full relief. Specifically, as previously discussed, SM's race is inaccurately documented on his DD Form 214 and requires correction.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

That Petitioner be issued a Correction to Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 215), indicating her husband's race as "Native American/Black."

No further changes be made to Petitioner's record.

A copy of this report of proceedings 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 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.

10/31/2024

