

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

Docket No. 6926-24 Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER

USN, XXX-XX-

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552

(b) 10 U.S.C. 654 (Repeal)

(c) UNSECDEF Memo of 20 Sep 11 (Correction of Military Records Following Repeal

of 10 U.S.C. 654)

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 characterization of service be upgraded consistent with references (b) and (c).
- 2. The Board, consisting of ______, _____, and ______, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error on 21 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 his naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b) and (c).
- 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 Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider the case on its merits.
- c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active service on 7 October 1965. On 22 June 1967, Petitioner was interviewed by the Naval Investigative Service, and after waiving his Miranda rights, Petitioner admitted to two instances of homosexual conduct prior to enlisting and two instances of homosexual conduct during service. On 12 July 1967, the Petitioner's Commanding Officer recommended Petitioner be administratively discharged by reason of unfitness due to homosexual acts.

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- d. Unfortunately, the remaining documents related to Petitioner's separation from the Navy are not present in his Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), however, his DD Form 214 indicates he was discharged on 21 August 1967, with an OTH characterization of service, under "BUPERS MANUAL=ART.C-10311-253" which corresponds to "homosexuality," with an "RE-4" reentry code.
- e. Petitioner has no history of misconduct in his official naval record. His military bearing and overall trait averages exceed those required for an Honorable discharge at the time of service.
- f. Petitioner contends the incident which caused his separation occurred when he was an 18-year-old immature person, that he is now 76 years old and has 6 children and 10 grandchildren, that he has been living with this shame for 68 years, always avoiding conversations about his service, even with his children who also served. For purposes of equity and clemency consideration, he did not provide any evidence of post-discharge accomplishments or advocacy letters.
- g. Reference (c) sets forth the Department of the Navy's current policies, standards, and procedures for correction of military records following the "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) repeal of 10 U.S.C. 654. It provides service Discharge Review Boards with the guidance to normally grant requests to change the characterization of service to "Honorable," narrative reason for discharge to "Secretarial Authority," separation code to "JFF," and reentry code to "RE-1J" when the original discharge was based solely on DADT or a similar policy in place prior to enactment of it and there are no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct.

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes Petitioner's request warrants relief. The Board reviewed the application under the guidance provided in references (b) and (c).

The Board noted Petitioner was discharged based solely due to a homosexual admission and found no evidence of aggravating factors in his record. Therefore, the Board found that Petitioner merits full relief under reference (c).

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), for the period ending 21 August 1967, indicating a characterization of service of "Honorable," a narrative reason for discharge of "Other good and sufficient reasons (non-derogatory) when determined by proper authority," authority of "BUPERS Manual Art. C-10306," separation code "21L," and a reentry code of "RE-1J."

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That Petitioner be issued an Honorable Discharge Certificate.

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

- 4. It is certified a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and 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.

