



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

2 NAVY ANNEX

WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

MEH:ddj

Docket No: 8749-98

23 March 1999

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the United States Code, section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 23 March 1999. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies. In addition, the Board considered the advisory opinion furnished by BUPERS memorandum of 16 February 1999, a copy of which is attached.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. In this connection, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the advisory opinion. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously 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,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director

Enclosure



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND  
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE  
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000**

16 Feb 99

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF  
NAVAL RECORDS (BCNR)

Via: Assistant for BCNR Matters (NPC-00ZCB)

Subj: COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION ICO [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ref: (a) BCNR Pay memo of 27 Jan 99

1. Per reference (a), recommend the BCNR not correct [REDACTED] record to reflect he changed his election under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) from no beneficiary to former spouse coverage after more than one year of his divorce.

2. This recommendation is based on the following:

a. [REDACTED] transferred to Retired List on 1 September 1988.

b. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were divorced on 23 December 1996.

c. Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1448(f)(3), requires that SBP participants with spouse coverage who become divorced and desire to maintain their former spouses as their beneficiaries specifically elect such coverage within one year after the date of divorce.

d. Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1450(f)(3), permits former spouses to have court-ordered SBP elections deemed on members' behalf if members do not voluntarily change their elections during the one-year timeframe. To do so, a former spouse must submit a written request to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Cleveland (DFAS-CL) within one year of the date of the court order. A former spouse must submit the request before the deadline by which the member may make the change voluntarily.

Subj: COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION ICO [REDACTED]

3. The National Defense Authorization Act of FY 1999 provides for an SBP open enrollment period. It offers retirees who have missed their eligible enrollment period an additional opportunity to enroll in this program. The open enrollment period runs from March 1, 1999 through February 28, 2000. [REDACTED] is eligible and may apply for SBP former spouse coverage during this timeframe. Application forms and eligibility information will appear in the Spring 1999 Shift Colors (the quarterly newsletter for retirees). Additionally, fraternal organizations will advertised this opportunity both prior to and during the open season.

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Head  
Retired Activities Branch  
(NPC-622)