

Susan D Smith  
215 Hayne Street  
Hampton, S.C 29924  
Sept 3<sup>RD</sup> 2017

Mr. Kevin L. Bryant  
Lt. Governor

Dear Sir

I'm writting to you in need of your assistance. I have recently Applied for permission for burial in the Beaufort Memorial Cemetery in Beaufort SC and was denied my request. I'm deeply troubled by this. The reason for denial was that I served my country as a reservists with not enough active dutie time. Sir I feel as if my country has betrayed me on so many levels.

I as a civilian worked in the home health field full time as I attended a community college in the evening to better myself and serve my community. When I enrolled, rather enlisted into the Army Reserves I wasn't told that I wouldn't recieve the same benefits as my fellow active duty <sup>soldiers</sup> ~~soldiers~~. I <sup>request</sup> ~~employee~~ that this rule or law be changed. I left my family and education to aide my country. I said the same



OATH AS my active duty counter part. Said good  
bye to those I loved. Processed in AS my  
active duty counter parts. Put on the same  
uniform, recieved the same physical training,  
basic training, MOS training, Ate the same rations,  
slop, the same MRE's, rose and sleep in the  
same barracks, qualified with the same  
equipment on the range, dug my own fox hole,  
froze my backside off, carried the same  
military issues and backpack, road marched, AS I  
earned my rank AS AN E-5. Which is  
equivalent to the rank of sargent. Awarded  
the Army Accommodation medal which I've  
yet to receive. Paid into the same SGLI AS  
Army soldiers etc. etc. etc. To now be told  
I have no benifits. I'm Appalled by this. I've  
I knew then what I've just recently been  
informed I ASSure you I would have never  
enlisted! Now I can sympathize with the Vietnam  
vets that returned home. America should be  
Ashamed of themselves both then and now.  
All I want from my government is permission  
to be buried in the same cemetery as my  
recently deaced Father. Air Forceman George  
Guster Smith. Next to him if at all possible  
in section E. Beaufort Memorial ~~hospital~~ <sup>Cemetery</sup>.  
Please excuse my white outs AS I write this



appeal to you emotionally. I have sacrificed a lot only to be told Thank You for serving.

Your time meant absolutely nothing. The Government and country can keep their medal. That to me means nothing. I would like for my fellow reservist and national guard soldiers to be seen for who we are. Real soldiers. What does our Pledge of Allegiance mean when we were not united in the United States. We aren't indivisible when there is division. Where is the liberty and justice for all?? I agree. justice is blind when it comes to servicemen, woman and their families. These policies and bills should be changed to include all branches of our armed service. To take a phrase from our President "That's fake news". Please introduce a new bill to include all who serve, in regards to military burial. All recruiters should make those aware of what benefits they are entitled to or not entitled to, in print before enlistment. All applicants should be required to sign a statement stating that they understand the terms. So that no one is blindsided. This deception just to have <sup>people</sup> ~~accountability~~ enlist and serve a country that won't serve them is a disgrace. A travesty. Enlistees should decide with all the facts in place if they want

to sacrifice their families and valuable time  
only to receive no benefits at the end of their  
(duty) time. National guards and reservists are called  
to duty. We need new bills. Always remember  
United we stand and divided we will fall.

Please intervene. I need your aid with the  
Beaufort Memorial Cemetery please act as my liaison,  
and advocate

Respectfully

Susan D Smith



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**National Cemetery Administration**  
**National Cemetery Scheduling Office**  
**PO BOX 510543**  
**St. Louis, MO 63151**

August 15, 2017

Ms. Denis Susan Smith  
215 Hayne Street  
Hampton, SC 29924

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am replying to your request for an eligibility determination, in advance of need, for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery. We understand that Veterans and their families may want to take steps in advance of their time of need to determine burial options. We have reviewed your pre-need claim and supporting documentation and we find no basis for eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery, as of the date of this letter.

Your request is denied because, under current law, your military service in Active Duty for Training (ADT) status with the United States Army Reserve (USAR) alone does not establish eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. See 38 U.S.C. § 2402, *Persons eligible for interment in national cemeteries*.

We carefully considered your application and the following evidence of record:

- DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States*, showing enlistment in the United States Army Reserve (USAR) on October 28, 1991 for an obligated eight years.
- DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, showing Active Duty for Training from December 26, 1991 to June 11, 1992.
- ARPC Form 249-2-E, *Chronological Statement of Retirement Points*, showing retirement points earned in the USAR between the dates of October 28, 1991 and October 27, 1999.
- Department of the Army, 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command, Building 200 Fort Totten, Flushing, New York, Order 00-249-006, showing an honorable discharge from the USAR effective September 5, 2000 under the authority of AR 135-178.

VA has exhausted all likely sources for evidence to substantiate your pre-need eligibility claim, to include the National Personnel Records Center. Please see the enclosed *Veterans Claims Assistance Act (VCAA) Notice for Service in the Reserves or National Guard*, which lists the specific evidence we would need to establish eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

If you do not agree with our decision denying your pre-need request, you have the right to appeal this decision. If you wish to appeal, you have one year from the date of this letter to file a notice of disagreement. If you do not file a notice of disagreement within one year, this decision will become final. You can submit additional evidence to support a claim whether or not you choose to appeal. The enclosed VA Form 4107, *Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision*, explains your right to appeal and how to submit additional evidence. Please submit any correspondence to this office at the address stated above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Wooldridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" and last name "Wooldridge" clearly distinguishable.

Kathy Wooldridge  
Director, National Cemetery Scheduling Office

Enclosures:    *VCAA Notice for Service in the Reserves or National Guard*  
                    *VA Form 4107, Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision*