

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

Mr. Kevin L. Bryant
Lt. Governor

Dear Sir

I'm writing 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 reservist with not enough active duty 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 receive the same benefits as my fellow active duty ~~soldiers~~ ^{soldiers}. I ^{request} ~~employee~~ that this rule or law be changed. I left my family and education to aid 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 recieve. Paid into the same SGLI AS
Army soldiers etc. etc. etc. To now be told
I have no benefits. 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 Force man George
Guster Smith. Next to him if at all possible
in section E, Beaufort Memorial ^{Cemetery} ~~hospital~~.
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're 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, women 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 ^{people} 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 aide 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, 77th 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 a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

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