



Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers

Office of the President, Greg Peterson

2/11/2021

Honorable Representative Mike Sundin
Labor, Industry, Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy
417 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Sundin,

I am an honorably discharged, 23-year Veteran of the US Air Force, and President of the Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers. Our organization trains and certifies the 145 County Veterans Service Officers who are appointed under the provisions of MS 197.60. We exist to aid residents who served in the US Armed Forces in securing benefits provided by law. We are experts in reviewing military discharge documents to determine if an individual meets statutory requirements for state or federal entitlements. We are also authorized by the US Department of Veterans Affairs to "certify" the DD214.

We oppose removal of existing statutory requirements that a person be defined as a veteran to receive the veteran designation on the state-issued identification cards as proposed in HF381 for MS 171.07 subdivision 15. Removing statutory requirements will allow persons expelled from the Armed Forces to receive the veteran designation which they are not entitled. We also oppose the added language that defines "other official documents" as criterion to grant the veteran's identifier on these cards. License center staffs cannot be expected to be the final authority for a myriad of other documents that exist throughout 6 branches of the Armed Forces.

I can best describe how the proposed changes will allow persons who do not deserve the veteran designation by using the attached two documents. Please refer to 1). Authentic DD214 and 2). Authentic other official documents from the official military personnel file of a person that describes his honorable service.

"James" is a 71 year old man from my county. He entered the US Marines on 6 October 1970 and was released on 5 November 1970 with 30-days service. Please notice that his DD214, block 13a. Character of Service states: Honorable. The proposed amendments in HF381 would grant James a veteran designation. As a DD214 expert I also call your attention to block 15, Re-Enlistment Code "RE-4" which is defined by USMC regulations as "a non-waiverable disqualification." James could not re-enter the Armed Forces. His other official document reflects an Honorable Discharge, which is the ideal paperwork, per HF381 to present at a license center and receive a veteran designation. James has never been considered a veteran by state or federal laws. He didn't get the GI Bill, or a Home Loan. He's not eligible for old-age pension, SSAP, veterans' homes, cemeteries, or a 21-gun salute. James is an honorably discharged person, he is not a veteran. If HF381 passes as written Minnesota will empower James to unknowingly violate provisions of the Stolen Valor Act.



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Half of our Association members served in the National Guard and Reserves and they must meet the statutory definition of "veteran" in order to qualify for their positions under MS 197.601. We hold all of our fellow service members who have worn the fabric of our Nation in the highest regard and greatly appreciate all of their sacrifices and willingness to selflessly serve our great nation. Therefore, we support adding language to HF381 that is inclusive of guard and reserve persons who may not meet the requirements of 197.447, and recommend this language:

"National Guard and Reserve Component personnel who have completed their first full term of service as reflected on their DD214, NGB Form22 or official orders shall receive these designations."

We further encourage stating in the Statute that "placing the veteran's identifier on state-issued identification cards shall not entitle the bearer to any state funded programs they are ineligible to receive."

Please feel free to call on me for assistance anytime.

Greg Peterson
MACVSO President

cc: Representative Rob Ecklund
Representative Ami Wazlawik
Representative Leon Lillie
MDVA Commissioner Herke
MN Commanders Task Force
United Veterans Legislative Council

Greg Peterson, Brown County CVSO
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PO Box 248, New Ulm, MN 56073

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THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD SAFEGUARD IT

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| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| PERSONAL DATA | 1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME JAMES E. | | 2. SERVICE NUMBER | | 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | | |
| | 4. DEPARTMENT COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS NAVY-USN | | 5a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK SR | b. PAY GRADE E-1 | 6. DATE OF RANK DAY: 06 MONTH: OCT YEAR: 70 | 7. U.S. CITIZEN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO | |
| | 8. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State or Country) MINNEAPOLIS, MN | | 9. DATE OF BIRTH DAY: 26 MONTH: MAR YEAR: 49 | | 10a. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER | | |
| SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA | 10b. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND ZIP CODE NEW ULM, MINN. | | c. DATE INDUCTED DAY: NA MONTH: NA YEAR: NA | | 11a. TYPE OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE DISCHARGED | | |
| | 11b. STATION OR INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED RTC, NTC, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | | c. REASON AND AUTHORITY BUPERSMAN 3420180.2F(1) & BUMED INST. 1910.1C CODE 261 | | d. EFFECTIVE DATE DAY: 05 MONTH: NOV YEAR: 70 | | |
| TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE DATA | 12. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND RTC, NTC, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA | | 13a. CHARACTER OF SERVICE HONORABLE | | b. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED DD FORM 256N | | |
| | 14. DISTRICT, AREA COMMAND OR CORPS TO WHICH RESERVIST TRANSFERRED NA | | 15. REENLISTMENT CODE RE-4 | | 16. TERMINAL DATE OF RESERVE/UMTS OBLIGATION DAY: NA MONTH: NA YEAR: NA | | |
| | 17. CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE OTHER THAN BY INDUCTION a. SOURCE OF ENTRY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED (First Enlistment) <input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED (Prior Service) <input type="checkbox"/> REENLISTED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER | | b. TERM OF SERVICE (Years) 02 | | c. DATE OF ENTRY DAY: 06 MONTH: OCT YEAR: 70 | | |
| SERVICE DATA | 18. PRIOR REGULAR ENLISTMENTS NONE | | 19. GRADE, RATE OR RANK AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SVC SR | | 20. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (City and State) COMFREY, BROWN, MINN. 56019 | | |
| | 21. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (Street, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code) COMFREY, BROWN, MN. | | 22. STATEMENT OF SERVICE | | YEARS MONTHS DAYS | | |
| | 23a. SPECIALTY NUMBER & TITLE 0000.0000 | | b. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER 000.000 | | a. CREDITABLE FOR BASIC PAY PURPOSES | | |
| | | | | | (1) NET SERVICE THIS PERIOD 00 01 00 | | |
| | | | | | (2) OTHER SERVICE 00 02 19 | | |
| | | | | | (3) TOTAL (Line (1) plus Line (2)) 00 03 19 | | |
| | | | | b. TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE 00 01 00 | | | |
| | | | | c. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE 00 00 00 | | | |
| | | | | 24. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED NONE X X | | | |
| | | | | 25. EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPLETED NONE X X X X X | | | |
| VA AND EMP. SERVICE DATA | 26a. NON-PAY PERIODS/TIME LOST (Preceding Two Years) TL NONE EXLV NONE | | b. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID THREE | | 27a. INSURANCE IN FORCE (NSLI or USGLI) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | | c. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED NA |
| | | | 28. VA CLAIM NUMBER NA | | 29. SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NONE \$15,000.00 | | |
| REMARKS | 30. REMARKS HIGH SCHOOL-04 X X X X | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| AUTHENTICATION | 31. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE (Street, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code) RR #1, COMFREY, MN. | | 32. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED <i>James E.</i> JAMES E. | | | | |
| | 33. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER A. S. HUDSON, LT, USN ASST TO PERS OFF, BY DIR OF THE CO | | 34. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN <i>A.S. Hudson</i> | | | | |

Honorable Discharge



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

James E. _____ Seaman Recruit, _____ USN

was Honorably Discharged from the

United States Navy

on the _____ day of _____ November 1970. *This certificate is awarded*

as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

A. S. Hudson

A. S. HUDSON, LT, USN

Assistant to the Personnel Officer

By direction of the Commanding Officer