

## **Privacy Release Form**

The Privacy Act of 1974 prohibits the government from revealing any information from personal files of individuals without the express written permission of the person involved. Disclosure of personal records to a Senator who is acting on behalf of a constituent is prohibited, unless the individual to whom the record pertains has consented.

I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the release of all pertinent information to U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock to make an inquiry on my behalf to the following Federal agency: VETERANS AFFAIRS
(Name of Federal Agency) Name: <u>Eugene</u> G. MAURICE

Address: <u>61 SHOCKEG</u> WAY City, State, Zip Code: DALLAS, GA 30157 Social Security #: <u>339-42-1524</u> Other ID #: Telephone #: 678-910-2298 Email: GENE, MAURICE & SGMSERVICE

Signature: Date: 7-30-21

(Signature is required) Please give a brief description of your problem below: (include a second sheet if needed) PLBASE SEETHE ATTACHED: LETTER DESCRIBING THE ISSUE Copy of DD-214

Please return the signed and completed form to:

Office of U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock 3625 Cumberland Boulevard, Suite 970 Atlanta, GA 30339-6406 Or Fax: 770-612-2471 The Honorable Raphael Warnock United States Senate 825 B&C Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510

-Dear Senator Reverend Warnock:

My name is Eugene G. Maurice, I reside at 61 Shockley Way, Dallas, Paulding County, Georgia 30157, phone: 678-910-2297.

I am writing to seek your assistance in regard to a claim I submitted to the Veterans Administration on February 26, 2020, VA File Number 26251678, for service-related disabilities as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. The medical conditions that I suffer from as a probable relation to Agent Orange are hypertension, coronary artery disease, prostate cancer, and carotid stenosis. The exposure to Dioxin occurred during my service with the United States Marine Corps in the Republic of Viet Nam from September 1967 to October 1968.

For your information I served in the Marine Corps from March 17, 1966 to August 8, 1969, Service Number: 2250251.

Since submitting this claim to the VA, they have repeatedly requested several documents that I have tried to satisfy to the best of my ability. These records include medical records, proof that I served in Viet Nam, scientific evidence that exposure to Agent Orange can result in specific diseases, etc.

As proof of service, I submitted my "Notice of Separation, Form DD-214" (attached) along with an affidavit (attached) stating that certain awards and medals that I received and that were specified on the DD-214: Vietnamese Service Medal (3), Vietnamese Campaign Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Purple Heart (2), could only have been received as a result of combat service in Viet Nam.

In addition, I requested a copy of my service records from the Nation Personnel Records Center on March 19, 2020, Service Request Number 2-23883508505. On May 10, 2021, I received a notice from NPRC that my request was "completed". The document attached to the completion notice stated that "Due to Covid-19 protocols, we are unable to process non-emergency related requests at this time". I have tried to call NPRC in St. Louis, MO more than 20 times and only get a busy signal. Yet the VA continues to ask for "proof of service in Viet Nam".

I have submitted almost 3,000 pages of medical records covering the last 12 years of medical treatment. The VA did schedule a hearing exam last August which was completed. I have yet to have the C&P Exam scheduled to confirm the medical condition that I claim. Again, I do not have access to my military medical records so I cannot supply those.

As for the scientific evidence of the connection between Agent Orange and certain diseases, I have submitted a copy of the "Consensus Study Report of National Academy of Sciences, Veterans and Agent Orange Update 11

(2018)" issued by the Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides, the Board on Population Health, and the Public Health Practice Health and Medicine Division. This document was contracted for and accepted by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This study confirmed the relationship between Agent Orange exposure and Heart Disease, Prostate Cancer, and Hypertension. These are all the condition for which I am submitting this claim. One could only assume that a document which categorically states that exposure to these toxins can be considered a presumptive cause of theses specific diseases, produced for and accepted by the VA would be sufficient evidence for the VA.

The latest request from the VA dated May3, 2021 includes the following:

- Statements from military medical personnel (nurses, medics, corpsmen, doctors)
- "Buddy" certificates or affidavits (A "buddy" certificate or affidavit is a statement by a person who knew you when you were in service and knows of any disability you had while on active duty. The statement should state the dates and places they saw the condition(s) and should describe what they saw. If the person making the statement was on active duty at the time, they should show their service number and unit of assignment.)
- State or local accident and police reports
- Employment physical examinations
- Medical evidence from hospitals, clinics and private physicians by which or by whom you may have been treated after separation
- Letters written during service
- Photographs taken during service

My service in Viet Nam was 53 years ago, I doubt that I would be able to locate medical personnel that treated me at the time. Unfortunately, I never kept track of anyone that I served with and I do not understand why a "buddy's" statement would carry any more weight than my affidavit of service. I also do not understand how police rereports or employment physicals relate to my service.

As I stated, I have responded to the VA to the best of my ability. I have called the VA on numerous occasions and have been unable to get a clear understanding of what needs to be done to move this process forward. The hold up, as best I can determine, is my service records. As previously stated, I, and the VA, have been trying to get these records from the Nation Personnel Records Center to no avail. I seem to be caught in the proverbial Catch-22. The government has the records, and the government can't get these records.

Any help you can give me in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Eugene G. Maurice

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