

Albert Z Lewis Jr.  
3511 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 20006  
(703) 522-1198

September 30, 2016

Mr. Eric K. Fanning,  
US Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Application - Special Exception  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Prior Application: Ref: #137348

Dear Secretary Fanning:

On this, what would have been my mother's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday, I request reconsideration of my application for a special exception to the policy of the Arlington National Cemetery, to enable my mother, Dorothy Swain Lewis, to be buried in the ground with full military honors as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, the rank she held at her honorable discharge on June 17, 1957, having served active duty as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots in World War II.

The original application, submitted in July 2014 (copy herewith), was denied when Army policy was unexpectedly being changed, excluding WASP from the ANC. That policy change, reversed this year by Congressional legislation introduced by Congresswoman McSally of Arizona, may have prevented full consideration of my application on its merits.

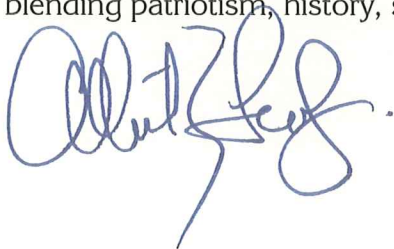
The reasons for this request have not changed, other than the fact that now, with so few WASP remaining, a similar request or opportunity is even less likely. Jackie Cochran and the 27 others who fully earned the right of interment are buried elsewhere, and unless Gertrude Tompkins Silver is discovered someday, this request will probably be unique.

Granting this request would symbolically honor all the WASP whose service was forgotten, ignored or minimized for so many years, and help remedy the past discrimination that denied and excluded the value of that service. It would affirm that, along with privates and generals, retirees and other medal recipients, the sacred ground of Arlington also harbors a WASP interred solely on her own merits, not as a wife or for subsequent USAF service, but for her own exemplary life of service in wartime, her creativity and achievement.

Enclosed please find two books, and one of the small statues she crafted for her fellow WASP, standing in for the full size statues of "the WASP Trainee" which stands in four points of our nation, an important national monument, inspiring remembrance of the 38 whose bodies will never be buried at Arlington, and all their sisters who did serve, survived, and then, disbanded but not disheartened, went on to serve their nation in so many significant and important ways.

My best wishes for your on-going stewardship of our military-civilian relations, and that most complex concept blending patriotism, history, science, and true courage into service.

Albert Z Lewis Jr.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Z Lewis Jr.", with a long, sweeping underline that extends below the name.