



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE MILITARY PERSONNEL CENTER  
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, TEXAS

HQ AFMPC/DPMCB  
550 C Street West, Ste 15  
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4717

13 MAY 1993

Mrs. Ruth Coder Fitzgerald

Fredericksburg VA 22401

Dear Mrs. Fitzgerald

This is in reply to your letter of 5 May 1993 regarding your brother, John Keath Coder, and the possibility of adding his name to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC.

Memorialization criteria established by the Department of Defense and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., requires the death to have occurred in the combat area (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia) or while the member was participating in a direct combat mission or in direct support of a combat mission immediately enroute to or returning from a target within the combat area.

Members who served in Southeast Asia and subsequently died of possible Agent Orange related illnesses have not been approved for name inscription on the Memorial. This issue has been under consideration by the Department of Defense and other government agencies for a number of years and we see no future forecast for its approval.

I know this is not the answer you hoped for and I regret I cannot furnish you a more positive reply.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George A. Ward, Jr.".

GEORGE A. WARD, JR., Colonel, USAF  
Chief, Casualty Matters