

**U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security**

**United States  
Coast Guard**  
United States Coast Guard  
Sector Humboldt Bay



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5360  
April 20, 2016

City Commissioners of Griffin  
100 S. Hill St.  
Griffin, GA 30223

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to request that you consider accepting the remains of my Uncle, Senior Master Sergeant Jimmy D. Bowen, USAF, Retired, into the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Griffin. I have attempted to research the eligibility requirements for a Veteran to be interred in the Veterans Memorial Cemetery and while I couldn't find an official list of requirements I did find a dated draft copy of the requirements.

I acknowledge that my Uncle, Senior Master Sergeant Jimmy D. Bowen, USAF, Retired does not directly meet the requirements set forth: 1) being born in Spalding County, 2) dying a resident of Spalding County, 3) being the son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father or spouse of a veteran meeting requirements one or two. However, I would like to ask that the board of commissioners please consider the following facts that I would hope might encourage your consideration of his interment into the Veterans Cemetery.

Shortly after retiring from the Air Force, Uncle Jimmy moved to Griffin to be with the rest of his family and was a resident of Griffin for a number of years living at 838 East Maddox Rd. However, years later he moved out of the state to live near one of his children in Kentucky and to be closer to a specialized health care provider who could attend to his medical needs. He died there on April 12, 2016 and before his death specifically asked to have his remains cremated and returned to Georgia to be near family. Uncle Jimmy served twenty years in the Air Force and then spent another full career as an Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms agent. These careers don't allow a sacrificing service member to lay permanent roots at any one location, making it difficult for him to quantify his residency at any one location, including Griffin.

Foremost, Uncle Jimmy's immediate family including his two sisters, both his parents and a number of his nieces and nephews all consider Griffin their home. His parents, James and Myrtle Bowen both passed away in Griffin after spending more than 25 years as residents. His sisters Ann Imes and Jeanie Jones Wilson were Griffin residents for more than a combined 100 years. His brother in law, Carlton Imes, a life time Griffin resident and Navy Veteran and was laid to rest in Griffin. His father in law, Tom Jones of Griffin is also laid to rest in Griffin.

While I know eligibility requirements must be set forth to properly manage cemetery space, I would like to point out that the requirements for eligibility may be too stringent. I consider my home Griffin, GA as I spent nearly my entire adolescent years there, from age 2 until age eighteen. Other than my attendance at North Georgia College I have only been separated from Griffin due to my Active Duty stationing requirements. Of concern to me is that if I died today

Subj: REQUEST FOR INTERMENT IN GRIFFIN, GA  
VETERANS CEMETERY

while on Active Duty, though Griffin is the only place I've ever called "home" and it is listed as the home of record on my military records, per the requirements set forth I would not be eligible for burial in the Griffin Veterans Cemetery.

Due to his extensive service to our nation Senior Master Sergeant, Jimmy D Bowen, USAF retired, never had the opportunity to spend a considerable portion of his life in any one community. However, he always considered Griffin a significant part of his life, establishing residency there after departing the service and often returning to visit his parents, sisters, brother in laws, nieces and nephews. In addition, he felt so strongly about his service ties to Griffin that he sustained his American Legion membership with the Griffin post up until his death. I respectfully ask for your consideration in allowing our Griffin family to lie to rest the remains of one of our own in the Griffin Veteran's Memorial Cemetery.

Sincerely,

Tombo Jones  
Lieutenant Commander  
U. S. Coast Guard