

§ 1440-1. Posthumous citizenship through death while on active-duty service in armed forces during World War I, World War II, the Korean hostilities, the Vietnam hostilities, or in other periods of military hostilities

(a) Permitting granting of posthumous citizenship

Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide, in accordance with this section, for the granting of posthumous citizenship at the time of death to a person described in subsection (b) if the Secretary of Homeland Security approves an application for that posthumous citizenship under subsection (c).

(b) Noncitizens eligible for posthumous citizenship

A person referred to in subsection (a) is a person who, while an alien or a noncitizen national of the United States—

- (1) served honorably in an active-duty status in the military, air, or naval forces of the United States during any period described in the first sentence of section 1440(a) of this title,
- (2) died as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by that service, and
- (3) satisfied the requirements of clause (1) or (2) of the first sentence of section 1440(a) of this title.

The executive department under which the person so served shall determine whether the person satisfied the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) Requests for posthumous citizenship

(1) In general

A request for the granting of posthumous citizenship to a person described in subsection (b) may be filed on behalf of that person—

- (A) upon locating the next-of-kin, and if so requested by the next-of-kin, by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary's designee with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Department of Homeland Security immediately upon the death of that person; or
- (B) by the next-of-kin.

(2) Approval

The Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services shall approve a request for posthumous citizenship filed by the next-of-kin in accordance with paragraph (1)(B) if—

- (A) the request is filed not later than 2 years after—
 - (i) November 24, 2003; or
 - (ii) the date of the person's death;
 whichever date is later;

whichever date is later;

(B) the request is accompanied by a duly authenticated certificate from the executive department under which the person served which states that the person satisfied the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b); and

(C) the Director finds that the person satisfied the requirement of subsection (b)(3).

(d) Documentation of posthumous citizenship

If the Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services approves the request

referred to in subsection (c), the Director shall send to the next-of-kin of the person who is granted citizenship, a suitable document which states that the United States considers the person to have been a citizen of the United States at the time of the person's death.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title III, ch. 2, §329A, as added Pub. L. 101-249, §2(a), Mar. 6, 1990, 104 Stat. 94; Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title I, §1103(b), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1836; Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title XVII, §§1703(g), 1704, Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1695, 1696.)

CODIFICATION

November 24, 2003, referred to in subsec. (c)(2)(A)(i), was in the original "the date of enactment of this section", which was translated as meaning the date of enactment of Pub. L. 108-136, which enacted subsec. (c) of this section, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-136, §1703(g)(2), substituted "Secretary of Homeland Security" for "Attorney General" in two places.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-136, §1704(1), added heading and text of subsec. (c) and struck out former subsec. (c) which related to procedures for approval by the Attorney General of a request for the granting of posthumous citizenship.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 108-136, §1704(2), added heading and text of subsec. (d) and struck out former subsec. (d) which read as follows: "If the Attorney General approves such a request to grant a person posthumous citizenship, the Attorney General shall send to the individual who filed the request a suitable document which states that the United States considers the person to have been a citizen of the United States at the time of the person's death."

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 108-136, §1703(g)(1), struck out heading and text of subsec. (e). Text read as follows: "Nothing in this section or section 1430(d) of this title shall be construed as providing for any benefits under this chapter for any spouse, son, daughter, or other relative of a person granted posthumous citizenship under this section."

2002—Subsec. (c)(1)(A). Pub. L. 107-273 substituted "November 2, 2002," for "March 6, 1990,".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-136 effective as if enacted Sept. 11, 2001, see section 1705 of Pub. L. 108-136, set out in a note under section 1439 of this title.

§§ 1440a to 1440d. Omitted

CODIFICATION

Sections, act June 30, 1953, ch. 162, §§1-4, 67 Stat. 108-110, which authorized naturalization of persons who served in the Armed Forces after June 29, 1950, and not later than July 1, 1955, were omitted as obsolete, since the provisions of section 1 of act June 30, 1953, required the petition for naturalization to be filed not later than December 31, 1955. See sections 1440 and 1440e of this title.

§ 1440e. Exemption from naturalization fees for aliens naturalized through service during Vietnam hostilities or other subsequent period of military hostilities; report by clerks of courts to Attorney General

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no clerk of a United States court shall charge or collect a naturalization fee from an alien who has served in the military, air, or naval forces of the United States during a period beginning

February 28, 1961, and ending on the date designated by the President by Executive order as the date of termination of the Vietnam hostilities, or thereafter during any other period which the President by Executive order shall designate as a period in which Armed Forces of the United States are or were engaged in military operations involving armed conflict with a hostile foreign force, and who is applying for naturalization during such periods under section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by this Act [8 U.S.C. 1440], for filing a petition for naturalization or issuing a certificate of naturalization upon his admission to citizenship, and no clerk of any State court shall charge or collect any fee for such services unless the laws of the State require such charge to be made, in which case nothing more than the portion of the fee required to be paid to the State shall be charged or collected. A report of all transactions under this section shall be made to the Attorney General as in the case of other reports required of clerks of courts by title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.].

(Pub. L. 90-633, § 3, Oct. 24, 1968, 82 Stat. 1344.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Immigration and Nationality Act, referred to in text, is act June 27, 1952, ch. 477, 66 Stat. 163, as amended. Title III of the Act is classified principally to subchapter III (§ 1401 et seq.) of this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1101 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Immigration and Nationality Act which comprises this chapter.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

§ 1440f. Fingerprints and other biometric information for members of the United States Armed Forces

(a) In general

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the "Privacy Act of 1974"), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall use the fingerprints provided by an individual at the time the individual enlisted in the United States Armed Forces, or at the time the individual filed an application for adjustment of status, to satisfy any requirement for background and security checks in connection with an application for naturalization if—

- (1) the individual may be naturalized pursuant to section 1439 or 1440 of this title;
- (2) the individual was fingerprinted and provided other biometric information in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Defense at the time the individual enlisted in the United States Armed Forces;
- (3) the individual—
 - (A) submitted an application for naturalization not later than 24 months after the

date on which the individual enlisted in the United States Armed Forces; or

(B) provided the required biometric information to the Department of Homeland Security through a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Application Support Center at the time of the individual's application for adjustment of status if filed not later than 24 months after the date on which the individual enlisted in the United States Armed Forces; and

(4) the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the biometric information provided, including fingerprints, is sufficient to conduct the required background and security checks needed for the applicant's naturalization application.

(b) More timely and effective adjudication

Nothing in this section precludes an individual described in subsection (a) from submitting a new set of biometric information, including fingerprints, to the Secretary of Homeland Security with an application for naturalization. If the Secretary determines that submitting a new set of biometric information, including fingerprints, would result in more timely and effective adjudication of the individual's naturalization application, the Secretary shall—

- (1) inform the individual of such determination; and
- (2) provide the individual with a description of how to submit such biometric information, including fingerprints.

(c) Cooperation

The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall determine the format of biometric information, including fingerprints, acceptable for usage under subsection (a). The Secretary of Defense, or any other official having custody of the biometric information, including fingerprints, referred to in subsection (a), shall—

- (1) make such prints available, without charge, to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the purpose described in subsection (a); and
- (2) otherwise cooperate with the Secretary of Homeland Security to facilitate the processing of applications for naturalization under subsection (a).

(d) Electronic transmission

Not later than one year after June 26, 2008, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, implement procedures that will ensure the rapid electronic transmission of biometric information, including fingerprints, from existing repositories of such information needed for military personnel applying for naturalization as described in subsection (a) and that will safeguard privacy and civil liberties.

(e) Centralization and expedited processing

(1) Centralization

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall centralize the data processing of all applications for naturalization filed by members of the United States Armed Forces on active duty serving abroad.