

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

LAWRENCE M. WATSON,)	
)	
Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	Vet. App. No. 16-2035
)	
ROBERT L. WILKIE,)	
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,)	
)	
Appellee.)	

NOTICE TO THE COURT REGARDING SUBSTITUTION

On August 23, 2018, counsel for the Appellant informed the Court that the Appellant had passed away on May 27, 2018, and requested a 30 day stay of proceedings in which to determine if there were any eligible substitutes. *See Breedlove v. Shinseki*, 24 Vet. App. 7 (2010); *Reeves v. Shinseki*, 682 F.3d 988, 993 (Fed. Cir. 2012). On September 24, 2018, counsel requested an additional 30-day stay of proceedings to attempt to identify any eligible substitutes.

The undersigned counsel was advised by Appellant's daughter that her father had indeed passed away, and that the Appellant did not have a surviving spouse, dependent children, or dependent parents that would be eligible for accrued benefits upon Appellant's death. 38 U.S.C. § 5121(a). Since obtaining this information, the undersigned counsel has attempted to ascertain whether there are any parties that paid for the Appellant's last illness and burial expenses, but phone calls and emails to Appellant's daughter have gone unreturned. As such, the undersigned counsel has been unable to ascertain whether any eligible substitutes exist.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/24/18

/s/ Stacy A. Tromble

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