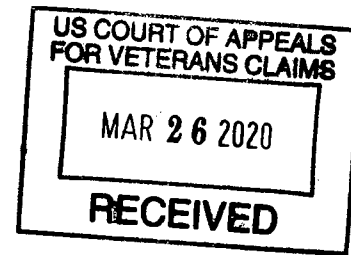


United State Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

625 Indiana Ave NW Suite 900

Washington, DC 20004

March 21, 2020



RE: No 19-6052 Margaret Mannino/Joseph Mannino

Dear Judge Falvey,

In receipt of your letter dated March 13, 2020 I wish to try to explain why we disagreed with the board's decision.

My husband was diagnosed with PTSD in, I believe, 2006 and hearing loss prior to that. In the beginning it was a condition I could handle with medication. As the years past he became more obsessed with memories from the war and the bailout. His physical condition also began to decline

During this time I reached out to the VA Office in Conway, SC who advised us to apply for aid and attendance. Joe was in need of my constant care whether it is physical or emotional. As I stated he was unable to remove, insert or change his hearing aid batteries. He would wake up sweating when he would sleep or I would have to wake him to assure him he is ok. In his visits in and out of the hospitals I stayed with him 24/7 knowing his situation. When a nurse or Doctor raised the bed to examine or change him and forget the put the bed down he would get very anxious. Even the height of the bed scared him. Knowing how he would yell out during the night I was afraid the staff wouldn't know what to do to calm him. Also, since his hearing wasn't too good even with the hearing aids (without them he couldn't hear) I could confer with the doctors and nurses.

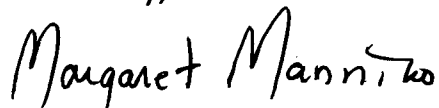
When the request for aid and attendance was first denied the VA advised we drop that case and start a new one because we would hear something sooner with a new case than wait on an appeal. We could then go back to the original denial date when it was approved. WE decided to continue with the original date.

I'm not sure what the deciding factor was that the board went back to 2017 and not to when we first filed in 2014. I'm not sure what changed their minds. Unfortunately, I did not read the letter I received granting the money but I got in touch with the VA Conway Office regarding the date. I asked how long I have to appeal and was told a year. All my energy was put into caring for my husband at that time. Thinking I had a year I did submit my appeal in that time period.

I really can't offer any more evidence in my defense. Joe survived Mrsa, Staph, Difficile, Cellulitis, Sepsis while having to live with PTSD. Under advice from the VA I thought what I did was the way it was supposed to be done. The only thing I can say is his physical condition needed my 24/7 attention as did his mental and hearing state. I realize my case is not unique and there are many more veterans dealing with worse condition then I had to.

I appreciate your taking time to review my case and await your decision.

Sincerely,

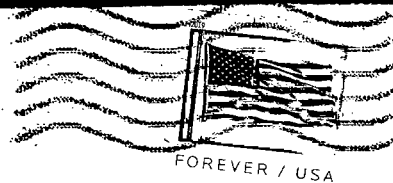
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Mannino". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Margaret Mannino

Manning
4263 Parkway Ln
29566

COLUMBIA SC 290

23 MAR 2003 PM 4:1



U.S. Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims
625 Indiana Ave NW Suite 900
Washington, DC 20004

Attn: Judge Falvey

20004-295099

