

2024-108 a

copy

Post Office Box 294
Worthington

September 6, 2002

Brian Dodge
Huntington Road
Worthington

Dear Mr. Dodge,

2024-108 |

My wife and I met you outside of church a few Sundays ago and we discussed my sister's property on Starkweather Road. We enjoyed meeting you then and our brief chat at the Corners Store a few days later. As an amateur military historian, I was dismayed to read your ad in the Country Journal which promoted the renaming of Ringville by means of your Dad's military "record," a series of claims which I believed to be impossible, and therefore demeaning both to your Dad and to your cause. I have a close friend who was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism at the Chosen Reservoir in North Korea, as well as the Purple Heart. He is in fact the past national commander of the Purple Heart Association and an active member of the Marine Corps League. I asked him to confirm your claims as he is a strong advocate for any Marine, living or dead, and also a former Marine sergeant. An internationally recognized authority on military medals, he has written around two dozen books concerning the Marine Corps, medals, medal winners, and other military affairs. His name is Ed Kerrigan.

I have enclosed Ed's letter to me because he has expressed better than I can, the respect owed to your father and the respect which must be accorded to the truth. His advice is clear, the accuracy of your claims for your Dad must be confirmed by the Marine Corps, something they will be happy to do for a Marine's son (they will not do this research for non-family). I know of no one in Worthington who would support your proposed name changes on the basis of your false information however innocently put forth. Only you can bring forward the true record, and be assured, that record will be respected.

This has been a difficult letter to write, but it is sent with the good spirit and fair-mindedness of our community, and I hope you will receive it in the same manner.

Sincerely yours,

Bob Randall