



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION  
WASHINGTON DC 20420**

OCT 04 2005

Ms. Ellen Evert Hopman, Druid Priestess  
Order of the Whiteoak (Ord na Darach Gile)  
P. O. Box 219  
Amherst, MA 01004

Dear Reverend Hopman:

I am replying to your letter addressed to Ms. Lindee Lenox, the previous Acting Director for Memorial Programs Service. Recently, you wrote to Ms. Lenox as a follow up to your original request for the Druid emblem to be included on the Department of Veterans Affairs list of available emblems for Government-furnished headstones and markers. Included in your recent letter was an attached email from SPC Brock Silverhand, which states his concerns regarding religious practices in the military.

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) maintains a list of emblems of belief that can be inscribed on Government-furnished headstones and markers at no cost to the applicant. We are in the process of revising our procedures for evaluating requests to add new emblems of belief to our current listing. No requests are being processed until these new procedures are finalized.

We hope to have our revised procedures completed in the near future. At that time, we will provide you with complete instructions on how to proceed with a request to add an emblem of belief to the NCA listing. Once these new procedures have been adopted, we will process any applications meeting the revised procedures.

For information on religious practices in the military, please contact Chaplain Richard K. Hum, Director, Armed Forces Chaplains Board, Department of Defense at (703) 697-9015.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Headstone and Marker program administered by NCA on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Corsoro", is written over the typed name.

*for* George Corsoro  
Acting Director  
Memorial Programs Service