

Colonel and Mrs. Earl P. Hopper, Sr.

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9 July 2003

Mr. Marshall A. Blair
Air Force Mortuary Affairs Division
9504 IH 35 North, Suite 320
San Antonio, TX 78233-6635

Dear Mr. Blair,

After considering all options available to us, we have determined the best course of action for our son, Lt. Col. Earl P. Hopper, Jr., is to accept **under protest** those teeth and bone fragments identified as Refno 0981-0-01. Understand that we are accepting these items because, under no circumstances, will we allow them to be buried in any federal cemetery as Earl.

While we acknowledge that 4 of the 5 teeth/tooth fragments match his radiographs, we do not accept them and the 23 unidentifiable bone fragments as his total mortal remains. Because of this, we do not wish a casket, uniform or funeral service with full military honors at this time, but reserve the right to them at a later date.

If and when we are convinced that we are in possession of Earl's remains, we will contact your office to coordinate a military funeral service for Earl, as it is our desire that he be buried in the family plot at a local cemetery here in Glendale, Arizona.

We will provide an appropriate container to house these items that are currently in CLI-HI's possession at the time we transport them from Hawaii to CONUS. Arrangements for us to transport these items will be made at a later date and will be coordinated with you through your office. We understand that the Air Force will pay for one person's airfare to transport these items and that it is our responsibility to pay for the other.

We want to take this time to thank you and your staff for your invaluable assistance over the years. Because of your care and consideration, each of you has contributed to making a very difficult situation more bearable.

Sincerely,

Earl P. Hopper, Sr.
Colonel, US Army, Retired

Patricia B. Hopper