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CONFERRING U.S. CITIZENSHIP POSTHUMOUSLY UPON GUY ANDRE BLANCHETTE

April 30, 1970.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. Eastland, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3136]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (S. 3136) to confer U.S. citizenship posthumously upon Guy Andre Blanchette, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to confer U.S. citizenship posthumously upon Guy Andre Blanchette.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Guy Andre Blanchette was born on November 30, 1946, in Canada and was admitted to the United States for permanent residence on September 4, 1962. He was a member of the U.S. Army and was killed in action in Vietnam on August 26, 1969. His widow, a U.S. citizen, resides in Manchester, N.H. His parents, brother, and sister also reside in Manchester.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated December 18, 1969, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization with reference to the bill reads as follows:

37-007

U.S. Department of Justice,
Immigration and Naturalization Service,
Washington, D.C., December 18, 1969.

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Hon. James O. Eastland,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (S. 3136) for the relief of Guy Andre Blanchette, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary.

The bill would provide that the beneficiary, who served honorably as a sergeant in the U.S. Army from May 13, 1968, until his death on August 26, 1969, in Vietnam, shall be held and considered to have been a citizen of the United States at the time of his death.

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Farrell, *Commissioner.*

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE S. 3136

Information concerning this case was obtained from Mrs. Lise D. Blanchette, the beneficiary's widow and interested party in this case.

The beneficiary, Guy Andre Blanchette, formerly a native and citizen of Canada, was born on November 30, 1946. He was married to a U.S. citizen and resided with her in Manchester, N.H. The late beneficiary's father and brother are natives of Canada and naturalized U.S. citizens. His mother and sister are citizens of Canada. His widow, parents, brother, and sister are residents of Manchester.

The beneficiary was admitted to the United States for permanent residence on September 4, 1962. He resided in Manchester, until May 13, 1968. He completed 10 years of formal education and was employed as a draftsman by a granite corporation in Manchester.

The beneficiary enlisted in the Army National Guard at Manchester, in an inactive duty status on September 16, 1965. On May 13, 1968, he was activated as a member of Battery "A," 3d Battalion, 197th Artillery of the New Hampshire Army National Guard, which was subsequently assigned to Vietnam in September 1968. In November 1968 the beneficiary forwarded his application for naturalization from Vietnam to the Immigration and Naturalization Service Office in Boston, Mass. He was notified that there was no provision in the immigration law for his naturalization outside the United States, and was advised that his application would be processed and completed when he returned to the United States. On August 26, 1969, the beneficiary was killed in action at Binh Duong Province, Vietnam. Prior to his death he had been awarded the National Defense Service Metal, Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon and had been promoted to the rank of

sergeant. He also was awarded, posthumously, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and the Good Conduct Medal. The body was returned to Manchester, N.H. where it was buried with full military honors.

Senator Thomas J. McIntyre, the author of the bill, submitted following information in connection with the case:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, D.C., November 14, 1969.

HON. JAMES O. EASTLAND,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR EASTLAND: I am writing in behalf of S. 3136, a bill to confer U.S. citizenship posthumously upon Guy Andre Blanchette, a native of Canada who resided in Manchester, N.H., introduced on November 12, 1969, and referred to your committee.

Guy joined the New Hampshire National Guard in 1965. His unit was activated on May 13, 1968, at which time it was sent to Fort Bragg, N.C. for active duty training in the Army and on September 14, 1968, he, with his unit departed for Vietnam. The 197th Field Artillery of which Guy was a member returned to the United States and to New Hampshire on or about September 4, 1969, minus the presence of this young man who was killed in Vietnam on August 26, 1969, while still on active duty. Guy entered on active duty as a private first class and was promoted to sergeant on August 25, 1969.

I am attaching pertinent information to support S. 3136 and I believe that Mrs. Blanchette's letter will attest to her husband's feelings and attitude concerning this country and his desire to become a citizen of the United States. I am hopeful that favorable consideration will be shown at an early date.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. MCINTYRE,
U.S. Senator.

[News release from Senator McIntyre]

WASHINGTON.—Senator Thomas J. McIntyre will introduce a bill to grant posthumous American citizenship to a New Hampshire Army National Guardsman of Canadian citizenship who was killed in action in Vietnam on August 26.

"This is the least we can do to honor the memory of a man who died in the service of his adopted country," McIntyre said.

The guardsman, Sgt. Guy Andre Blanchette, of Manchester, N.H., had completed an application for naturalization while in Vietnam and had sent it to the Boston Office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service last November.

In a letter to Senator McIntyre, Sergeant Blanchette's wife wrote, in part:

"His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald J. Blanchette, and myself hope you will be able to help us obtain citizenship status for Guy * * * We know he loved his adopted country and had he lived would have become a citizen soon after his return from overseas.

"It would be a great source of consolation to have citizenship bestowed upon him as he was a good soldier and would have become a proud and patriotic citizen of the United States."

Senator McIntyre announced that he would introduce a private bill when he determined that citizenship for Sergeant Blanchette could not be obtained administratively.

MANCHESTER, N.H., *October 18, 1969.*

Mr. THOMAS J. MCINTYRE,
Federal Building,
Manchester, N.H.

DEAR SENATOR MCINTYRE: Please forgive the delay in answering your letter. It's just that I had a little hard time finding out about some of the information you asked me. Guy was a wonderful man and I'm sure that if you would ask any of his commanding officers here and in Vietnam that you would not hesitate to give him his citizenship.

Guy wanted so much to be a citizen, he loved his new country and was so proud of the uniform he wore. One day he wrote to me, "Honey, one day when we have kids, if we have boys they too will serve their time proudly like their dad." Guy tried very hard to have his citizen papers when he was here at Fort Bragg, they told him to wait till he was in Vietnam. There while in Vietnam, he started his papers all that was left for him to do was to be sworn in, so he was suppose to go to Saigon. Then something happened and Saigon was off limit so he had to wait again. Then we went to Hawaii on RNR and after he went back, they told him he could have become a citizen in Hawaii but again it was too late. "Then Guy was Killed," so I'm asking you Senator McIntyre "is it asking too much?" "He fought bravely, his biggest wish was to be a citizen especially now that he was in Vietnam and that I myself became citizen."

Guy gave his life for this country he loved so much. I feel this is the last thing I can do for Guy, and you alone can make Guy and his last wishes come true. I loved my husband, I always will.

I am now asking America for whom Guy died for. I'm asking America to welcome Guy André Blanchette, my husband, as one of her sons. God bless you, Gold bless America, and may my love rest in peace. Thank you so much.

Guy came to the United States September 2 with his family. He joined the National Guard September 16, 1965, was called for Vietnam May 13, 1968, left September 14, 1968, and died August 26, 1969. Guy was promoted to sergeant as of August 25, 1969. Guy's naturalization papers are at the Immigration Bureau on Beech Street at Manchester, N.H.

Sincerely,

LISE D. BLANCHETTE,
Wife of Sgt. Guy André Blanchette.

Statistics on Mr. Guy André Blanchette:

Wife's address: 758 Maple Street, Manchester, N.H.; wife's name: Lise D. Blanchette (nee Dezainde).

Place of birth: Ste. Gerard, Quebec, Canada.

Date of birth: November 30, 1946.

Date of marriage: April 29, 1967, in Manchester. Lise Blanchette was born June 15, 1950, in Magog, Quebec, Canada, naturalized September 5, 1968, Superior Court, Nashua, N.H.

Guy André Blanchette came to the United States with his mother on September 3, 1962, entering the United States at Derby Line, Vt. He resided in the city of Manchester, N.H., from September 3, 1962, until his death. He joined the U.S. Army National Guard and was sent overseas to Vietnam in September of 1968.

Gerard Blanchette, Guy's father, was naturalized in April 1968.

Marie Juliette R. Blanchette, Guy's mother, made application to file for naturalization in January 1969, but has not been accepted to date, because of her lack of knowledge of the English language.

Other members of the family are: Christian Blanchette, brother; Sylvia Blanchette, sister.

The alien registration number for Guy I do not have. His mother's number is [redacted] and Sylvia's is [redacted] therefore Guy's must have been a number similar to those.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case is of the opinion that the bill (S. 3136) should be enacted.

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