

FILED

United States Court of Appeals
Tenth Circuit

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

July 8, 2025

FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

Christopher M. Wolpert
Clerk of Court

JOHN D. HORTON, Jerry Turrell,
deceased as of February 21, 2019,
located in Pecan Cemetery, Lawton,
Oklahoma, by his first cousin and
next of kin,

Plaintiff - Appellant,

v.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS; FEDERAL PERSONNEL
RECORDS CENTER; NATIONAL
GUARD BUREAU,

Defendants - Appellees.

No. 24-6176
(D.C. No. 5:22-CV-00452-JD)
(W.D. Okla.)

ORDER

Before **BACHARACH**, **McHUGH**, and **FEDERICO**, Circuit Judges.

This appeal involves burial benefits. A member of the military service died, and his cousin wants the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide funds for burial. The Department has not yet provided these funds, so the servicemember's cousin brought this appeal. We lack jurisdiction and dismiss the appeal.

Federal courts lack jurisdiction to review administrative decisions involving veteran benefits. *See* 38 U.S.C. § 511(a).¹ Because this case concerned an award of veterans’ benefits, the district court ruled that it lacked jurisdiction. The plaintiff doesn’t say why he thinks the court was wrong. We thus dismiss the appeal based on a lack of jurisdiction. *See Nixon v. City & Cnty. of Denver*, 784 F.3d 1364, 1369 (10th Cir. 2015) (affirming because the opening brief did not “challenge the basis of the dismissal”).²

Appeal dismissed.

Entered for the Court

Robert E. Bacharach
Circuit Judge

¹ Some exceptions exist. 38 U.S.C. § 511(b). But the plaintiff doesn’t invoke these exceptions.

² The defendants argue that other jurisdictional defects exist. But we need not address those arguments.