



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
UNDER SECRETARY FOR MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON DC 20420

DEC 05 2006

Ms. C. Leigh McGinley
President
The Henge of Keltria
P.O. Box 4305
Clarksburg, WV 26302

Dear Ms. McGinley:

I am replying to your letter regarding your request to have the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) add the tri-line "Awen" symbol, the Druid emblem of belief, to the National Cemetery Administration's (NCA) list of emblems of belief for inscription on Government-furnished headstones and markers. I am responding because I oversee the operation of VA's Headstone and Marker program. Please accept my apology for the delay in responding to your inquiry.

I understand your desire to have the NCA expeditiously process pending applications for headstones or markers inscribed with the "Awen" symbol. The VA General Counsel has advised us that NCA must defer making decisions on such applications until we publish in a regulation, issued under appropriate procedures, the criteria and procedures we will apply.

A notice of proposed rulemaking has been prepared and is currently undergoing review within the Executive Branch. Once approved, the proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register, and the public will be invited to comment before the rule is finalized. I am unable to give you a definite time frame within which rulemaking proceedings will be complete, but I encourage you to comment on the rule during the applicable public comment period.

I hope that this information is helpful to you. We appreciate your interest in our Nation's veterans.

Sincerely,


William F. Tuerk