



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

SEP 02 2025

The Honorable Vicente Gonzalez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gonzalez:

Thank you for your inquiry of July 10, 2025, concerning the recent tragic death of Petty Officer Third Class Angelina Petra Resendiz and specifically your inquiries concerning the chain of command's response to her absence prior to her death, the protocols implemented in the preservation of her remains for return to Texas in June 2025 and facts and circumstances related to the alleged offender.

The Navy mourns the loss of our shipmate. Petty Officer Resendiz's death remains under investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). The Navy is committed to examining the circumstances of and organizational response to her absence. The Navy's actions in response to Petty Officer Resendiz's disappearance and death were in accordance with current U.S. law and Navy Regulations and policy. On June 30, 2025, the Navy convened a review into four specific topics: the Navy's response to the initial report of Petty Officer Resendiz's absence; the casualty program response when Petty Officer Resendiz was determined to be involuntarily absent and ultimately deceased; the dignified transfer of Petty Officer Resendiz's remains to her mother; and the circumstances of how and why the suspect in Petty Officer Resendiz's death was transferred to the USS JAMES E. WILLIAMS (DDG 95).

Subject matter experts from multiple disciplines are participating in the review to assess the effectiveness of current policy and identify areas that may require increased attention, support or resources. Once the review and the NCIS investigation are complete, we will pursue any necessary policy improvements to respect and honor our Service Members, our most precious resource.

If you should need any further assistance regarding this matter, please contact CAPT Mary Murphy, JAGC, USN, who may be reached via telephone at (757) 836-3047 or via e-mail at [mary.r.murphy.mil@us.navy.mil](mailto:mary.r.murphy.mil@us.navy.mil).

Thank you again for your concern. Your attention to this matter is truly appreciated. Answers to your specific questions are enclosed. Similar letters have been sent to the other signatories of your letter.

Sincerely,

  
John C. Phelan

Enclosure:  
As stated