

City of Fresno
City Clerk
c/o Chief Administrative Officer
2600 Fresno Street
Room 2133
Fresno, CA 93721

RECEIVED

2019 JUL 18 P 4: 23

CITY OF FRESNO
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

RE: Continual desecration of my younger brother; USMC Cpl Farrell Gilliam's burial site at Mountain View Cemetery.

Dear Fresno City Council,

My younger brother fought for his country. He fought for his country in Afghanistan. He fought for it here at home. His fight was... and always will be... an example to us all... A lesson in humility & a profile in courage... His memory should always be a blessing. The sacred ground at Mountain View where Farrell was laid to rest, one in which we thought would be his final resting place is beginning to seem like it will not be.

Every Sunday of every week (sometimes mid-week) without fail... is littered with trash, drug paraphernalia such as needles, alcohol and beer bottles constantly on my brother's bench, all coupled with an unprecedented vagrant population. My brother memory bench spray-painted on with bright blue paint, the bench stone this last visit now with a massive chip missing out of the stone... and beyond all of this, even more heartbreaking.

Upon arrival this past weekend was the final straw. A vagrant urinating over the top of my brother's headstone. Over the rocks that Jewish members often leave out of respect, as well as 3 small flags (us, usmc, & ca), that are inserted at the top of his headstones display. It is unacceptable. My brother's best friend and battle buddy for several tours in AFG and off the coast of Somalia was Jim McCain. Son the late Senator from Arizona, John McCain. His wife Cindy and my mother remain very close to this day. Upon hearing such shocking news, and Cindy already having voiced concern the first time my brother's grave site was anything less than respected at Mountain View, are both now adamant Farrell to be exhumed, and immediately moved to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) to be laid (back?) to rest, next to Senator McCain.

I asked my mother for a reprieve. Just a little time to at the very least address the issue with our city. My city. My brother's city. Where I grew up. Where my brother grew up. To give an opportunity to see what immediate steps can be taken not just for my brother, but for all who have past-on at Mountain View who all at the very least deserve respect and dignity.

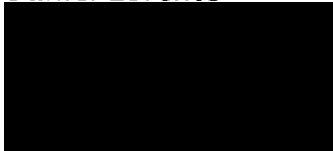
I want to be proud of my Fresno. When I graduate Fresno State next Spring I want to work here. Stay here. Create my family here. I want to keep my brother on hallowed ground in my hometown. Right here. Fresno. To someday take my children out to Mountain View tell them how awesome an Uncle they had. I do not want him moved anywhere. We can do so much better. We have to. I will feel utterly defeated if our national headlines read that a fallen USMC

warrior is being exhumed from a cemetery in Fresno and moved to ANC because Fresno and the cemetery are unable to secure their hallowed ground. We're so much better than this. I'd like that, to be the focus of any story.

My intention is 100 percent constructive and focused on what can be immediately done with an eventual ultimate resolution to these issues. My plea comes within your 10-day mark and I hope late additions are amenable under the circumstances.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Lorente





The Fresno Bee







Sept. 26
1988

In Loving Memory Of
FARRELL ASHTON GILLIAM

Jan. 9
2014