

Decision, 1946 – Part 2 of 2

Man: In other words, if the War Department tells you that the body of a soldier is Private John Smith, then you can rest assured it is Private John Smith. There's absolutely no chance of a slip-up.

Woman 1: I think a lot of people will be relieved to hear that.

Woman 2: Indeed they will.

Man: Some people wonder just who the government recognizes as next of kin. Yesterday while I was having heels put on my shoes, I was explaining next of kin to Tony Corelli and his wife.

Mrs. Corelli: Mamma mia!

Man: Here, I'll show you how it works. You see when men enter the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard they name their next of kin. But the Army has a definite order of next of kin. Here it is: if the soldier was not married, then the first person who'd have the right to choose would be the father; if there's no father, then the mother; if there's no mother, then brothers over 21 years of age – the oldest one first; if there're no brothers, then sisters over 21; if there're no sisters, then relatives – the closest relative coming first.

Tony Corelli: No, these are not there.

Man: Okay, let's look at the rest. Now if the soldier was married, the first person who would have the right to choose would be the widow; then would come sons over 21 years of age [...]