



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS  
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001  
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

█  
Docket No. 6436-23

Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF █

█ USMCR

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments

(2) Case summary

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting that her husband, hereinafter referred to as SNM (Subject Named Marine), be awarded the Purple Heart (PH) Medal and that his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) be updated to reflect the PH.

2. The Board, consisting of █, and █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 18 December 2023, and, pursuant to its regulations, determined the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of his naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice, finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy.

b. Although enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, it is in the interest of justice to review the application on its merits.

c. SNM enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve on 3 January 1949. During SNM's enlistment he served in █ from 7 to 22 December 1950 and, on 8 December 1950, was diagnosed with frostbite on both feet. On 15 June 1951, SNM requested a hardship discharge to care for his elderly uncle and to assist with his uncle's ranch/business, adding his two brothers were serving in █ and unable to assist their uncle. SNM's request was subsequently approved and, on 12 July 1951, he was discharged with an Honorable characterization of service by reason of Dependency [Hardship].

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d. Upon his discharge, SNM was issued a DD Form 214 indicating he was issued a United Nations Medal.

e. On 2 November 2023, Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals (NDBDM) completed a review of SNM's record and provided an Advisory Opinion (AO) which determined SNM is not entitled to the PH but is entitled to the following awards: Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one bronze star device, United Nations Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (foreign award not available for issue by the U.S. Government). Although Petitioner was provided an opportunity to respond to the AO, she chose not to do so.

f. Petitioner contends that: (1) SNM received a PH that is not listed on his DD Form 214, (2) SNM's DD Form 214 only lists a United Nations Medal and he would like this corrected as SNM is 92-years-old, (3) SNM suffers from dementia, is chair bound, and in need of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.

g. For purposes of clemency consideration, the Board noted Petitioner provided a copy of her marriage license and VA documents.

#### CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes Petitioner's request warrants favorable action in the form of partial relief. Specifically, the Board relief heavily on the NDBDM AO to determine Petitioner is entitled to the addition of the following awards on SNM's DD Form 214: Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one bronze star device, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (foreign award not available for issue by U.S. Government).

In regard to Petitioner's request that SNM be issued the PH Medal, the Board concurred with the rationale of the NDBDM AO and determined SNM is not entitled to the aforementioned award. Specifically, the Board found that Petitioner's frostbite injury does not qualify for the PH Medal and there is no evidence he suffered any qualifying injury.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action:

Petitioner be issued a Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 215) for the period ending 12 July 1951 indicating the addition of the Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with one bronze star device, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation (foreign award not available for issue by U.S. Government).

No further changes be made to Petitioner's record.

A copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

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4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above entitled matter.

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulation, Section 723.6(e)) and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

1/11/2024

