

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2022-02844

Work-Product

**COUNSEL:** Work-Product

Work-Product

**HEARING REQUESTED:** Work...

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST**

The deceased service member’s record be corrected to reflect the following:

- a. Silver Star Medal.
- b. Distinguished Flying Cross with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.
- c. Air Medal with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.
- d. European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 1 Silver Star and 1 Bronze Star.
- e. American Defense Service Medal.
- f. American Theater Ribbon.
- g. Distinguished Unit Badge with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.
- h. Prisoner of War Medal. **(Administratively Corrected)**

**APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS**

He is putting together a display to honor his father and wants his record to reflect accurately. After his father left the United States Army Air Corps, he served in the United States Marine Corps and saw action in Korea and Vietnam. He only recently discovered the document after his mother passed.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is the son of a former Army Air Corps staff sergeant (E-6).

On 17 August 1942, according to WD AGO Form 53-55, *Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge*, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force and was discharged on 4 November 1945. He was credited with 1 year 8 months, and 21 days of continental service

and 1 year, 5 months, and 27 days of foreign service. He was awarded the Distinguished Unit Badge, Prisoner of War Medal, American Theater Ribbon, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

According to the NAVMC 118(2)-PD, *United States Marine Corps Enlistment Contract and Record*, the applicant served in the Marine Corps during the following dates:

Marine Corps Reserve: 30 December 1948 to 29 December 1951

Marine Corps Reserve: 26 March 1954 to 5 March 1955

Marine Corps: 6 March 1955 to 18 April 1960

Marine Corps: 19 April 1960 to 18 April 1966

On 25 January 2023, according to the memorandum from the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) Missing Persons Branch, they were able to confirm the service member's prisoner of war status from 11 January 1944 to 22 April 1945, based on information obtained from the Army Repatriation and Family Affairs Division.

On 21 December 2023, the AFPC Recognition Team notified the applicant the Silver Star Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak Leaf Cluster, American Defense Service Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Star and one Bronze Star could not be verified based on the documentation provided. The applicant was advised to provide specific source documents indicating the service member met the eligibility criteria based on Department of the Air Force Manual (DAFMAN) 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*.

On 21 January 2024, the AFPC Recognition Team, notified the applicant a second time that the aforementioned awards could not be verified based on the documentation provided. The applicant was advised to provide specific source documents indicating the service member met the eligibility criteria based on guidance in DAFMAN 36-2806.

On 2 April 2024, the AFPC Recognition Team advised the applicant after reviewing the service member's limited official military personnel records, they were unable to verify the requested awards. They indicated the document submitted did not provide verification of his specific request and there was no documentation of the awards located within the service member's official military personnel record.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B and the advisory at Exhibit C.

## **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

DAFMAN 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*. The Silver Star was established by Congress on 9 July 1918 and 10 U.S.C. § 9276. The medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force or the Space Force, distinguishes himself or herself by gallantry in action that does not warrant the Medal of Honor or Air Force Cross under any of the following circumstances: while engaged in an action against an enemy of the U.S.; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party. Eligibility: the required gallantry, while of a lesser degree than that

required for award of the Air Force Cross, must nevertheless have been performed with marked distinction.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was established by Congress on 2 July 1926 and is currently awarded pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 9279 (as amended by Executive Order 13830 (2018) and Executive Order 14085 (2022)). It is awarded to eligible persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force, distinguish themselves by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. Both heroism and achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine. Eligibility: the performance of the act of heroism must be evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty; the extraordinary achievement must have resulted in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from comrades or from other persons in similar circumstances. Decorations are made only to recognize single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement; they are not made in recognition of sustained operational activities against an armed enemy; civilians are not eligible for the Distinguished Flying Cross. The medal may be awarded to foreign military members in grades equivalent to U.S. pay grade of O-6 and below, in actual combat in support of operations.

The Air Medal was authorized by Executive Order 9158, 11 May 1942 (as amended by Executive Orders 9242-A (1942); 13830 (2018); and 14085 (2022)). The medal is awarded to those individuals who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force or Space Force, distinguish, or have distinguished, themselves by meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight. Eligibility: the Air Medal may be awarded for combat or non-combat action in recognition of single acts of valor, heroism, or merit while participating in an aerial flight. Both heroism and achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine. The Air Medal is not awarded for sustained operational activities and flights. The required achievement to warrant award of the Air Medal is less than that required for the Distinguished Flying Cross and is accomplished with distinction above and beyond that expected of professional service members. Crewmembers of remotely piloted aircraft are not authorized the Air Medal. However, they may be awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal. The Air Medal may be awarded to foreign military personnel in actual combat in support of operations. Members assigned to training positions (staff and faculty) are eligible for the medal; students of such training are not (except residency training). Requests for establishment and designation of mission profiles are submitted through command channels.

The American Defense Service Medal was established by Executive Order 8808, and announced in War Department Bulletin 17, 1941. It is awarded for service between 8 September 1939 and 7 December 1941 under orders to active duty for a period of 12 months or longer. Authorized Devices: "Foreign Service" Clasp, worn on the American Defense Service Medal to denote service outside of the continental limits of the U.S., to include service in Alaska, as a member of a crew of a vessel sailing ocean waters, flights over ocean waters, or as an assigned member of an organization stationed outside the continental limits of the U.S. A service star is worn on the service ribbon to denote possession of the "Foreign Service" clasp.

## **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognitions) recommends denying the applicant's request for award of the Silver Star Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak Leaf Cluster, American Defense Service Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star and one Bronze Service Star.

The applicant provided a Memorandum for Authorization of Awards dated 20 July 1945; however, there was no documentation of the awards located within the service member's official military personnel record. After collaboration with the Department of the Army they were unable to validate the requested awards. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by DAFMAN 36-2806.

Notwithstanding, they were able to verify the Distinguished Unit Badge, Prisoner of War Medal, American Theater Ribbon, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal were verified as annotated on the report of separation, dated 4 November 1945. The Prisoner of War status was also verified and the decedent's record has been administratively corrected.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

### **APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 17 May 24 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. While the applicant asserts a date of discovery within the three-year limit, the Board does not find the assertion supported by a preponderance of the evidence.
2. The applicant exhausted all other available administrative remedies before applying to the Board.
3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The applicant failed to provide sufficient evidence the decedent met eligibility criteria for the requested awards. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the decedent's records beyond that corrected administratively.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the Board will reconsider the application only upon receipt of relevant evidence not already presented.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2022-02844 in Executive Session on 27 February 2025:

**Work-Product**, Panel Chair

**Work-Product**, Panel Member

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2022-02844**

**Work-Product**

Work-Product, Panel Member

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 25 October 2022.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, w/atchs, dated 2 April 2024.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 17 May 2024.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

9/30/2025

X

Work-Product

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: USAF