

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 14 March 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230008655

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his father's DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show the Purple Heart.

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214
- The Military Order of the Purple Membership Certificate

FACTS:

1. The applicant, the son of a deceased FSM, states his father was wounded in Vietnam and he was medically retired due to the wounds he received.
2. The FSM was inducted into the Army of the United States on 17 January 1968. He was awarded military occupational specialty (MOS) 11B (Light Weapons Infantryman) upon completion of initial entry training.
3. The FSM's DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:
 - item 31 (Foreign Service), he served in Vietnam from 23 July to 21 October 1968
 - item 38 (Record of Assignments), he was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry, 5th Infantry Division during his service in Vietnam
 - item 38, he was in a patient status beginning on 23 September 1968
 - item 38, he received excellent conduct and efficiency ratings throughout most of his active service. He received ratings of "unknown" for the period 3-15 June 1968
 - item 40 (Wounds), he sustained a fragment wound to the right temple on 23 September 1968
4. The FSM's records contain a Western Union Telefax showing he was wounded in combat on 23 September 1968 when hit by a fragment from a hostile mortar round.

5. The Vietnam Casualty Roster contains an entry showing the applicant was "Hostile Wounded in Action: Not Serious," as a result of an artillery mortar, on 23 September 1968.

6. The FSM DD Form 214 shows he was honorably retired by reason of physical disability on 17 February 1969 after completing 1 year, 1 month, and 1 day of active service. His DD Form 214 also shows he was awarded or authorized the:

- Vietnam Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14 and M-16)

7. The FSM's records are devoid of any unfavorable information or a unit commander's disqualification that would have precluded him from being recommended for or awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal.

8. A search of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS), an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973, maintained by the Military Awards Branch of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, did not find orders for the Purple Heart pertaining to the FSM.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found relief is warranted.

2. The Board found the evidence confirms the FSM was wounded as a result of hostile action and is therefore entitled to the Purple Heart. The Board determined he should be awarded the Purple Heart and it should be added to his DD Form 214.

3. The Board found the FSM met the criteria for the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award). The Board determined he should be awarded this medal and it should be added to his DD Form 214.

4. Although the applicant did not request it, the Board found the evidence confirms the FSM also met the criteria for the Combat Infantryman Badge. The Board determined he should be awarded this badge and it should be added to his DD Form 214.

4. The Board concurred with the corrections described in Administrative Note(s) below.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

█	█	█	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by:

- Awarding him the Purple Heart for a wound incurred as a result of hostile action on 23 September 1968
- Awarding him the Combat Infantryman Badge effective 23 September 1968
- Awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for his service from 17 January 1968 through 17 February 1969
- Adding the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) to his DD Form 214
- Making the corrections described in Administrative Note(s) below

6/25/2024

X

CHAIRPERSON

I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S):

The FSM is authorized decorations that were not recorded on his DD Form 214. Please correct the DD Form 214 by adding one bronze service star with the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.

REFERENCES:

1. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states:

a. The Purple Heart is awarded for a wound sustained while in action against an enemy or as a result of hostile action. Substantiating evidence must be provided to verify that the wound was the result of hostile action, the wound must have required treatment by medical personnel, and the medical treatment must have been made a matter of official record.

b. The Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded to infantry officers and to enlisted and warrant officer persons who have an infantry MOS. They must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental, or smaller size.

2. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, states the Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940; for first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946; and, for the first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 3 years but more than 1 year. The enlisted person must have had all "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings. Ratings of "unknown" for portions of the period under consideration were not disqualifying.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//