

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011723

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of her father's, the deceased Service Member (SM), DD Form 214 (Armed forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show award of the Purple Heart.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record)
- State of Louisiana Certification of Vital Record – Certification of Death
- State of Oklahoma Department of Health Certificate of Live Birth
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), 8 November 1963
- DD Form 214, 5 December 1966
- DD Form 214, 3 September 1968
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214), 10 December 1966

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.
2. The applicant states all the SM's awards were not listed by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on case numbers 2-29962997987 and 2-29845303925. She contends more awards were earned by the SM; however, she has not been able to locate the documents.
3. A review of the SM's record shows:
 - a. Having had prior enlisted service, he was appointed as a Reserve commissioned officer and executed an oath of office on 6 December 1966.
 - b. His DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record) shows:

- Item 17 (Foreign Service)
 - Germany from 31 January 1964 to 17 April 1966
 - Vietnam from 3 October 1967 to 29 August 1968
- Item 18 (Record of Assignment) – HHB, 23rd Artillery Group, Vietnam
- item 21 (Awards and Decorations): National Defense Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award), Parachutist Badge, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16), Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960, Air Medal, Bronze Star Medal

c. His service record is void of documentation confirming:

- Any medical documents indicating he was injured while in Vietnam or qualified for the Purple Heart,
- It also did not contain a Department of the Army Message or Western Union Telefax indicating he was wounded

d. The applicant was honorably released from active duty on 3 September 1968. He completed a total of 7 years, 6 months, and 23 days of active service. His DD Form 214 shows he was awarded or authorized:

- Vietnam Campaign Medal with “60” Device
- 2 Overseas Service Bars
- Vietnam Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Air Medal
- Parachute Badge
- Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Machine Gun (2nd Class Gunner)

4. The SM's name is not listed on the Vietnam casualty roster, a compilation of most of those who were wounded in Vietnam, which is used to verify eligibility for the Purple Heart.

5. A DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) issued on 10 December 1996, amended the DD Form 214 to show the Air Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

6. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for awards and campaign credits that are not recorded on his DD Form 214. The entries will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the SM's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition, and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. The Board determined to be awarded the Purple Heart, the regulatory guidance requires all elements of the award criteria to be met; there must be proof a wound was incurred as a result of enemy action, that the wound required treatment by medical personnel, and that the medical personnel made such treatment a matter of official record. The Board did not find documentary evidence that clearly or explicitly shows criteria for award of the Purple Heart. Based on the evidence, the Board determined the SM does not meet the criteria for award of the Purple Heart.

2. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board noted and concurred with the administrative note below to more accurately depict the military service of the SM.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.


X //SIGNED//

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):

A review of the SM's service records show he is authorized additional awards not annotated on his DD Form 214 for the period ending 3 September 1968. As a result, correct his DD Form 214 to show the:

- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class
- two bronze service stars to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.

2. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after, being wounded:

- In any action against an enemy of the United States
- In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the U.S. are or have been engaged
- 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.
- As the result of an act of any such enemy of opposing Armed Forces
- As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force

3. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citations and Campaign Participation Credit Register) assist commanders and personnel officers in determining or establishing the eligibility of individual members for campaign participation credit, assault landing credit, and unit citation badges awarded during the Vietnam Conflict.

a. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 36, dated 1970, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 23rd Artillery Group, for service in Vietnam for the period of 1 January 1968 through 31 January 1969.

b. DAGO Number 51, dated 1971, awarded the Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class to Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 23rd Artillery Group, for service in Vietnam for the period of 22 March 1966 through 15 January 1971.

c. DAGO Number 8, dated 1974, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm to Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, for service in Vietnam for the period of 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//