



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

TRG
Docket No: 8325-08
17 June 2009

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the United States Code section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 9 June 2009. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

You enlisted in the Navy Reserve on 23 December 1943 at age 17. On 17 April 1944 you reported aboard the Landing Ship Tank (LST) 553. During the period from 15 September 1944 you participated in five amphibious assaults in the Pacific Area of Operations. Subsequently, you volunteered to remain a member of the nucleus crew operating LST 553 while on "Guinea Pig" duty in the mine fields near the Japanese Islands during the period from 31 October to 26 December 1945. You were honorably discharged on 14 April 1946.

On 25 February 1947 you were awarded a Navy Commendation for your service on LST 553 in 1945. A copy of the examiner's case summary which includes a copy of the commendation citation is enclosed.

You are now requesting the award of the Silver Star Medal for your meritorious conduct while on board the LST 553. The Board believed that although your actions were commendable they clearly do not rise to the level of the strict criteria that must be met for the award of the Silver Star and this is especially true since all of the volunteers aboard LST 553 apparently received the Commendation.

Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,


W. DEAN PFEIFFER
Executive Director