



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

██████████
Docket No. 0476-25
Ref: Signature Date

████████████████████
████████████████████
████████████████████

Dear ██████████

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code. After careful and conscientious consideration of relevant portions of your naval record and your application, the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) found the evidence submitted insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. Consequently, your application has been denied.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 7 April 2025. The names and votes of the panel members will be furnished upon request. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of the Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of your naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

The Board determined that your personal appearance, with or without counsel, would not materially add to their understanding of the issues involved. Therefore, the Board determined that a personal appearance was not necessary and considered your case based on the evidence of record.

You enlisted in the Navy and commenced active duty on 8 May 1967. After a period Honorable service that totaled over 20 years, you were transferred to the Fleet Reserve on 31 January 1987.

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case. These included, but were not limited to, your desire to be issued the Navy & Marine Corps Medal for non-combat heroic specific achievement or an alternate form of recognition for your conduct. You contend that, while on active duty in ██████████, ██████████, on 12 April 1981, you rushed into a burning house and rescued two elderly residents. Based on your actions, you were recommended for a Navy & Marine Corps Medal for Specific Achievement. You further contend witness statements from those you rescued, who are all now deceased, were submitted with the original award recommendation but

the Navy has since lost those documents. However, you were told that you still require two witness statements to qualify for the medal. Because the original witnesses are now deceased¹ and the Navy lost their statements, you ask that the Board consider the current OPNAV 1650 signed by your former division officer, along with an additional witness statement you provided, as meeting the requirement for two witnesses so your award recommendation may be submitted. In support of your application, you provided one witness statement, your Congressional correspondence with Senator [REDACTED] and Representative [REDACTED], and the OPNAV 1650 form signed by your division officer at the time of the incident.

After thorough review, the Board concluded the information provided was insufficient to warrant relief. Although the Board carefully considered your contentions, and found your account to be truthful and laudable, the Board determined it needed more information to confirm the facts of what occurred. Examples of additional information that might be useful to the Board include a written statement, documenting knowledge of your conduct, from the individual from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] identified in the OPNAV 1650 and/or any newspaper articles or other sources of information about the fire.

Notwithstanding the Board's decision to deny your request, it thanks you for your selfless and faithful service to this country.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or 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,

4/22/2025

1 The OPNAV 1650 you provided identifies another individual from [REDACTED] who possesses knowledge of the fire.