



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

██████████
Docket No. 1782-25
Ref: Signature Date

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██████████
██████████

Dear Petitioner:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552. 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 case on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 16 June 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, applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

You enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 8 February 1966. From 8 October 1966 to 17 January 1967, you were deployed to Vietnam in support of combat operations during the Vietnam conflict. On 26 July 1967, you were Honorably discharged and placed on the Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL). On 9 February 2011, you submitted a request to Headquarters United States Marine Corps' Manpower Management Divisions Military Awards Section (HQMC MMMA-3) regarding your desire to be awarded the Purple Heart Medal (PH) for your actions during the Vietnam conflict. MMMA-3 denied your request on the grounds that there is no evidence supporting your eligibility for the PH Medal. On 26 October 2011, MMMA-3 responded to your follow-up inquiry regarding your awards entitlement; providing a list of authorized awards which did not include the PH Medal. On 26 April 2017, you again submitted a request to MMMA-3A for the PH Medal and were denied for the same reason.

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interest of justice warrant relief in your case. These included, but were not limited to, your request to be awarded the Purple Heart Medal and your contentions that: (1) you should have

received the Purple Heart for treatment rendered aboard a Naval Hospital Ship by a Medical Officer for two separate combat-related injuries and wounds; which you believe meet the eligibility criteria, (2) you were informed that your combat injuries and shrapnel wounds qualified you for the award, (3) your commanding officer advised you that you would receive the PH and a promotion to LCpl prior to your medical evaluations, (4) you received the promotion while hospitalized at the █, (5) you believe HQMC viewed your request as stemming from mental health issues, and (6) you acknowledge that your PTSD resulted from close combat, injury, and shrapnel wounds that prevented your return to your unit, and you assert the evidence supporting your claim is more than adequate.

After a thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, in reviewing your record, the Board concurred with the assessments of HQMC MMMA-3/3A that your record does not support the awarding of the PH Medal and there is no evidence of material error or injustice. While the Board carefully considered your contentions, it relies on the presumption of regularity to support official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties. Ultimately, the Board determined the evidence you submitted was insufficient to overcome this presumption. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined your request does not merit relief.

The Board acknowledges your heroic, selfless, and Honorable service to our country and wishes you continued success.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon the 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 is attached 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,

7/7/2025

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Executive Director

Signed by: █