



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

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 2803-25
Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] XXX XX [REDACTED] USMC

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. 1552
(b) DoD Manual 1348.33 (Manual of Military Decorations and Awards)
(c) SECNAVINST P1650.1C, Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual of 16 Aug 1963

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments
(2) Case summary

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioners, the surviving son of a former [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ("Marine"), filed enclosure (1) with this Board requesting a change to his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or its [REDACTED] War era service equivalent ("DD Form 214"), to reflect the Marine's entitlement to a Purple Heart Medal ("PHM").

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 20 June 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of the Marine's naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, policies, to include references (b) and (c).

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy and, although enclosure (1) was not filed by Petitioner in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider his application on its merits.

b. The Marine served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 24 October 1966 to 3 November 1969 and earned an Honorable discharge upon his release from active duty and transfer to the Marine Corps Reserve. The Marine's USMC service number was [REDACTED]

c. Petitioner arrived in [REDACTED] on 20 March 1968. Petitioner was wounded in action against the enemy on 14 May 1968. Petitioner departed the [REDACTED] Theater of operations on

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9 April 1969.

d. Reference (c) lists the eligibility requirements for the PHM. Within the Department of the Navy, to qualify for the PHM the wound received has to be the direct or indirect result of enemy action, and such wound required treatment by a medical officer at the time of injury. Both criteria must be met to be awarded the PHM.

e. The Military Awards Branch of Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC), reviewed the Marine's official military personnel file and informed the Petitioner by letter, on 8 December 2008, that he was entitled to receive the PHM for wounds received in action against enemy forces on 14 May 1968.

f. HQMC mailed the actual PHM and accompanying certificate to Petitioner's home address. However, HQMC failed to subsequently annotate in Petitioner's service record or on his DD Form 214 that he was entitled to the PHM.

g. The Board concurred with the HQMC December 2008 letter and determined that the Marine is entitled to the PHM. The Board concluded that their decision was consistent with current awards guidance as outlined in references (b) and (c).

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, especially in light HQMC's awards verification as detailed in their December 2008 letter, and the Board's own independent analysis, the Board determined that Petitioner's request warrants relief.

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Marine be issued a "Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" (DD Form 215), for the period ending 3 November 1969, to indicate the additional entitlement to the following decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons:

- 1) Purple Heart Medal.

That HQMC review the Marine's service record to determine any and all additional decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons that Marine may be entitled to receive based on his [REDACTED] era service, and to document any necessary changes via the DD Form 215, as well as issue to Marine any corresponding decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and/or campaign ribbons, as applicable.

Following the corrections to the DD Form 214 indicating the revised additional entitlement to Petitioner's decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons, that all other information currently listed on such DD-214 remain the same.

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That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above entitled matter.

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)) and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

7/2/2025

