



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE RD
ARLINGTON, VA 22204

██████████
Docket No. 7528-25
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.

A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 31 March 2026. The names and votes of the members of the panel 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 this 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. In addition, the Board considered the advisory opinion contained in President, Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals letter ██████████ of ██████████ and your response to the opinion.

Personal Award recommendation (OPNAV 1650/3) for the Navy and Marine Corps Medal was submitted on 6 July 1994 with no recommendation for or against Extraordinary Heroism (EH). It was approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps on 24 January 1995 with no recommendation for or against EH.

On 31 January 1995, The President of the United States of America awarded you the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism on 5 September 1993.

In accordance with DoD 7000.14-R FMR Volume 7B, Chapter 1, HEROISM PAY. 010701. Entitlement. A. Service Retirement. Enlisted members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, retired after the completion of 20 or more but less than 30 years of active service for regular retired pay computation purposes, who are credited by the Secretary concerned with EH in the line of duty, shall receive a 10-percent increase to retired or retainer pay. Enlisted members of the Army and the Air Force, with 20 or more, but less than 30, years of service may not exceed a retired pay multiplier of 75 percent, including any heroism pay. Enlisted members

of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard with 20 or more, but less than 30, years of active service are eligible to have retired or retainer pay increased by 10 percent without restriction to a final multiplier of 75 percent.

Determination of Entitlement. The Secretary of the Military Department concerned (or designee) has the authority to grant 10 percent of additional retired pay to an individual who has performed an act of EH in the line of duty. The Secretary's determination as to EH is conclusive for all purposes.

You transferred to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve with an Honorable character of service and were issued a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) for the period of 26 January 1993 to 31 May 2015 upon having sufficient service for retirement.

On 8 July 2025, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps notified Secretary of the Navy via President, Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals that "I respectfully request a determination on Extraordinary Heroism (EH) for the Navy and Marine Corps Medal (NM) per Navy and Marine Corps Medal awarded to ██████████.

The NM was originally approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, ██████████, on 24 January 1995. ██████████ did not recommend approval of EH benefits at the time the NM was awarded.

The award was also reviewed by an awards board at Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps (HQMC) composed of officers in grades O6 - O8, and Senior Enlisted E9s. The HQMC awards board did not recommend approval of EH.

Although ██████████ displayed bold actions in the face of great personal risk, the Commandant of the Marine Corps does not recommend approval of EH benefits."

On 7 August 2025, President, Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals notified this Board that, "A search of all official records available to this office revealed no evidence that any prior EH determination had been made concerning the Petitioner's NM. Therefore, the case was brought before the voting board of the NDBDM, and a determination was made in the same manner as for all other EH cases. The Board determined the NM did not constitute credit by SECNAV for EH...

The Board noted that ██████████ USMC, then Commander, ██████████, endorsed the original NM nomination recommending approval of the lesser award of the NCM (i.e., "Navy Commendation Medal"). This is a clear indication the degree of heroism inherent in the act was on the lower end of the broad spectrum of heroism recognized by the NM. In other words, it did not clearly stand out above all other acts of heroism that have previously earned distinction.

When he awarded the NM in Jan 1995, ██████████ did not indicate his personal EH recommendation on the award form. Unfortunately, omission of the EH recommendation is not unusual on awards made under delegated authority. Nevertheless, the current Assistant

Commandant of the Marine Corps submitted a memo (see Encl (1)) recommending EH be disapproved in this case...

Conclusion and Recommendation. Under the process and criteria defined by law and Navy regulations, it was determined the NM awarded to the Petitioner for his actions on 5 Sep 1993 did not constitute credit by SECNAV for EH in the line of duty. By law such determinations are final and conclusive for all purposes. There is no evidence of material error or injustice, and we therefore recommend BCNR deny relief. Were BCNR to grant relief in this case, such action would be inconsistent with the criteria and standards applied to all other Service Members."

You requested that an EH determination be made for your Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism awarded on 31 January 1995. The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. You assert that an EH determination was never made prior to your retirement. The Board agreed that the Personal Award recommendation (OPNAV 1650/3) for the Navy and Marine Corps Medal was submitted without an EH recommendation and was signed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, also without an EH recommendation. However, the Board determined that the Navy and Marine Corps Medal awarded to you for your actions on 5 Sep 1993 did not constitute credit by SECNAV for EH in the line of duty and determined that no change to your record is warranted. In this connection, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the advisory opinion.

In the absence of sufficient new evidence for reconsideration, the decision of the Board is final, and your only recourse would be to seek relief, at no cost to the Board, from a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

4/17/2026

