

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00074

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be corrected to reflect:

1. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal. **(ADMINISTRATIVELY CORRECTED)**
 2. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (BSM).
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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He received these medals after he was placed on the Temporary Disability Retired List. He was recently informed he could request the correction by a Veteran's representative.

In support of his appeal, the applicant provides copies of his DD Form 214, Special Order GB-749, and a copy of his Bronze Star Medal Certificate.

The applicant's complete submission, with attachments, is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant served in the Regular Air Force from 30 November 1965 through 4 April 1969. He was honorably discharged and credited with serving 3 years, 8 months and 11 days of active duty service.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial of the Bronze Star Medal. The BSM is awarded to a person in any branch of the military service who, while still serving in any capacity with the Armed Force of the United States on or after 7 December 1941, shall have distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or

service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

The applicant provided a BSM certificate for meritorious service from 1 March 1968 to January 1969, however, special orders were not located or provided verifying the applicant was submitted for or awarded the BSM.

They were, however, able to verify the applicant's entitlement to the Purple Heart and his records were administratively corrected.

The complete DPSIDR evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant states he sent a copy of his Bronze Star certificate to Randolph, yet, they could not find proof of him receiving the medal. He now submits the original citation that accompanied the award. He realizes it has been a long time since he received the medal, however, he served faithfully and has no reason to lie at the age of 68.

The applicant's complete response, with attachment, is at Exhibit E.

THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
2. The application was not timely filed; however, it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.
3. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of error or injustice. We note the recommendation of denial by the Air Force office of primary responsibility due to the lack of a special order verifying the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. However, based on his submission of the original signed citation, we believe reasonable doubt has been established that he was awarded the medal. Accordingly, we elect to resolve any doubt in this matter in favor of the applicant. With regard to the award of the Purple Heart Medal, we agree with the administrative remedy provided. Therefore, we recommend the records be corrected to the extent indicated below.

THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT, be corrected to show that Item 24, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, of the DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge* issued in conjunction with his 4 April 1969 retirement, be amended to include the Bronze Star Medal.

The following members of the Board considered BCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00074 in Executive Session on 17 July 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair
Member
Member

All members voted to correct the record, as recommended. The following documentary was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 5 Jan 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 29 Feb 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 21 Mar 12.
- Exhibit E. Applicant's Response, dated 26 Mar 12, w/atchs.

Panel Chair