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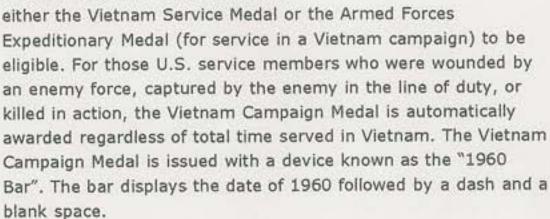
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Armed Forces Service Medal

Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Campaign Medal [189 ARRVCM]

Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Campaign Medal

Criteria: A military award of South Vietnam established in 1966. Awarded to any member of the United States military who completed at least six months of duty in the Republic of Vietnam between the dates of March 1, 1961 and March 28, 1973. The decoration may also be awarded to any service member who, while serving outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam, provided direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces for a period exceeding six months. In such cases, a service member must have been awarded



Attachments: n/a.

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Hantry Cross (Vietnam)

U.S. Armed Forces Name

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U.S. Army PT (Physical

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross is a military decoration of South Vietnam which was established in August 1950. Also known as the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, the Gallahers Cross is awarded to any military personnel who have accomplished deeds of valor or displayed heroic conduct while fighting an enemy force. It was modelled after the French Croix de guerre.



edal degrees

Gallantry Crossrise issued in four degrees, with a basic medal followed by higher degrees which are the equivalent personal citations on an organizational level (also known as having been "mentioned in dispatches"). The degrees of the Gallantry Cross are as follows:

Gallantry Cross with Palm (Individual Award) ["cited before the Army"]

 Gallantry Cross with Gold Star (Corps citation) ["cited before the Corps"]

 Gallantry Cross with Silver Star (Division citation) Milita ["cited before the Division"]

Afghanistan Campain Medal Swith Bronze Star (Regiment or Army AcBaignache Mitation) ["cited before the Regiment"] Army Commendation Medal

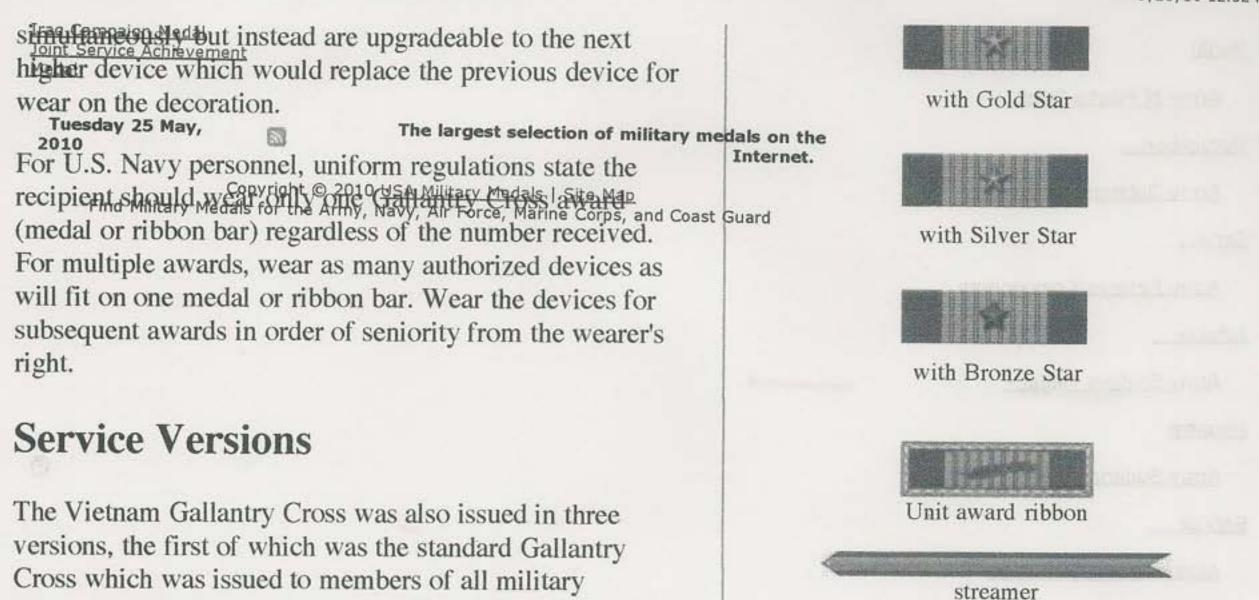
Global War on Terrorism

Exheditionaires to the Gallantry Cross are not worn

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Gallantry Cross Medal and Unit Citation Awarded by South Vietnam Four-degree military award. The Type four degrees are: Gallantry Cross with Palm Gallantry Cross with Gold Star Gallantry Cross with Silver Star Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star Awarded to military individuals, Eligibility corps, divisions, regiments, and brigades accomplishing deeds of valor or Awarded for displayed heroic conduct while fighting an enemy force. No longer awarded Status Statistics Established August 1950 Modelled after Croix de guerre Related

with Palm

branches, as well as service members of foreign and allied



The other versions of the Gallantry Cross were the Air Gallantry Cross and Navy Gallantry Cross. These decorations were awarded under a different authority than the standard Gallantry Cross and were considered separate decorations.

Unit Award

militaries.

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross also is issued as a unit award which is an entirely separate decoration from the full sized medal. Known as the "Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm," the unit citation award was created in 1968 and was issued as the Gallantry Cross ribbon, with a metal palm device, enclosed within a gold frame. The unit citation was issued in the name of South Vietnam to any military unit which distinguished itself to the same level as would be required for the individual award. Regulations for the issuance of the Vietnam Gallantry Cross permit the wearing of both the individual and unit award simultaneously, since they both are considered separate decorations.

The Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm was issued to every Allied nation which provided military support to Vietnam between 1 March 1961 and the fall of Saigon in April 1975. The unit decoration thus became the most commonly awarded Vietnamese decoration to foreigners, second only to the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

United States issuance

The United States military began authorizing the Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961. In 1974, Army General Order Number 8 authorized the Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation to every military unit of the United States Army which had served under the The Vietnam Veterans Legacy---one to be proud of.
And one now, to be honored.

Hello my name is David Pollard and I'm a Vietnam Veteran and very proud of it. Until now I've never been able to say that because of the stigma The Vietnam Veteran has had to endure throughout his entire life since the war. There was a time when I was actually afraid to admit I was a Vietnam Veteran. Vietnam is something I've never really wanted to talk about much and no one really wanted to hear about. It was like a curse. They could not or would not understand How could you say you were proud to serve your country, and then be shunned by those very people, you were serving. Its difficult to put into words the nightmare and demons of The War In Vietnam. How much they gave and never received the recognition they deserved. We were demoralized to put it nicely. There was no justification for the way we were treated, being spit on, and called baby killers. There were no parades no hero's and no treatment for what I like to call "The Wounds That Do Not Bleed." and by that I'm talking about Mental Disorders such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Major Depression and the list goes on.

Collateral damage happens in every war and Vietnam was no different than any other.

After a couple of times that this happened to me I never let it be known I was there myself. The fight had left me.

Many mistakes were made both by the VA and the Military. But in recent years a lot of improvement has been made especially by the VA in admitting their part in the wrong that had been done to the Vietnam Veteran. A lot of those mistakes are now being corrected by the VA and they are welcoming the Vietnam Veterans, where as before we were shunned. The VA in Sioux Falls South Dakota is the

best and I've been to a few. They are doing all they can to get the Veterans who are hurting or need help into the Hospital and get them the help they need. I was kind of shocked by comparison to other Hospitals.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is now recognized as a seriously debilitating mental disorder affecting a big percentage of our combat Veterans. I like to refer to it as the wound that doesn't bleed. I've also heard that the AMA and accredited Psychologist are calling Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, if proven to be combated related, a Brain injury.

Psychologist Rebecca Watson believes the Vietnam Veteran has a legacy to be very proud of. It is because of the injustice and the demoralizing and disrespect the Vietnam Veteran suffered that the Military and the VA now understand how Post Traumatic Stress Disorder affects the Combat veteran.

I know now that the mental health professionals have made great strides and progress, especially in the last ten years. I thank god for that, because they literally saved my life. The VA is now encouraging the Veterans of today to come in where we were shunned in the passed. The treatment of the Veteran has improved immensely in recent years and continues to do so. All this change is due to the Vietnam Veterans plight.

My hope is that the hearts of the Vietnam Veterans will heal enough to be able to see their legacy they've left behind for all Veterans today. When I look at my self and all veterans today I'm very proud.

Veterans today are getting the respect, dignity, and the health care they so deserve. Because of the mistreatment and mistakes made with the Vietnam Veterans all Veterans are treated better today. For me, and I hope for all, that is our legacy. Written by David Pollard of Falls.

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National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5100

May 31, 2004

David K. Pollard 4309 Davis Road Lake Worth, FL 33461

RE:

Veteran's Name: POLLARD DAVID

SSN/SN:

Request Number: 1-86502253

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for contacting the National Personnel Records Center. We are pleased to respond to your request for Personnel Records by providing the enclosed document(s).

Separation documents may include the following information: the type and character of discharge, authority and narrative reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, and separation program designator/number. If you require a copy of the separation document that does not contain this information, a "deleted" copy must be requested from this Center. A seal has been affixed to the separation document to attest to its authenticity.

The enclosed DD Form 215, Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, shows correction(s) to the report of separation and should be filed with that document.

The original medical record needed to answer your inquiry is not currently in our files. The medical record has been loaned to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We suggest that you contact the nearest VA Regional Office to obtain copies of the records. If a claim has been filed with the VA it would be helpful to include the VA claim number 28181133 when contacting them. You may call 1-800-827-1000 to locate the VA office nearest you.

We are pleased to verify entitlement to the following awards:

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL with 1 bronze oak leaf cluster;

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL;

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL with 1 bronze service star;

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN RIBBON W/DEVICE (1960);

EXPERT BADGE with Auto Rifle Bar;

SHARPSHOOTER BADGE with Rifle Bar;

VietNam Gallentry Cross W/Palm unit CItation Your Awards Case Number is A4EUG1727HFMB.

National Applican and Danada Administration