

The Honorable Chris Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
4th District, New Jersey

Congressman Smith,

I am RICHARD R. GREENE, SR., United States Army, Retired. I served in Vietnam from 1966/1967 and 1969/1970. One of my most memorable time was spent as the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the 79th Field Artillery Detachment, Team 100, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. I served in that capacity from late 1966 thru August, 1967. Again in 1969 for a brief period of time until that unit was deactivated.

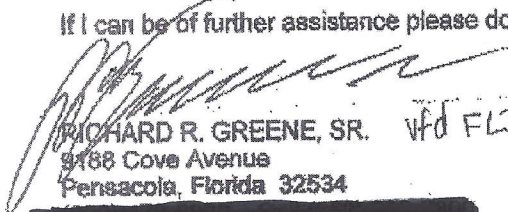
During my first tour, I was fortunate to have serve under me a fine citizen of the State of New Jersey, ~~Specialist~~ Fifth Class George J. Bednarski. One of the finest soldiers that I ever encountered during my Army career, to include my second tour of Vietnam and my tours of duty with the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions. If I were an elected official from any state in this country, I would gladly welcome George with open arms.

X
Even after all these years, I can still vividly recall recommending George for the Army Commendation Medal. I feel an injustice was done to this fine soldier. I can only speculate that the award was lost in Army channels and/or change of command. But I can assure you that this Soldier deserves this award as well as any that I received. Bar none!


Upon being alerted at the end of my first tour that I was selected to become a Army Drill Sergeant, I asked George to extend his tour as my being transferred left a void in leadership. He gladly accepted! MACV requested that I establish another detachment south of my home base. We were asked to provide Counter-Mortar support for a light infantry brigade. This we did! At that time, I placed one of my Staff Sergeants in charge of that satellite unit. After repeated problems with said NCO, I replaced him with Specialist Bednarski. I never made a finer decision; for George handled that position like a seasoned NCO. The problems he lifted from my shoulders are too numerous to mention in a letter, but be assured that he led. His command of the maintenance associated with this particular piece of equipment, and his leadership, helped my detachment run as smooth as silk. Although I had four Staff Sergeants serve under me during this time, I chose Specialist Bednarski to lead my satellite detachment.

I pray this letter is strong enough for the Army to correct this injustice and I hope you are successful in helping one of my fine Soldiers. If you are indeed able to help, and an award is forthcoming, I would like to attend said function. It's been 44 years since I visited my birth state and this would indeed be an event worth attending.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to ask. Until than, I remain:


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Comm. Exp. Oct. 02, 2008
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The Honorable Christopher H. Smith

Representative in Congress

1540 Kuser Road, Suite A9


Hamilton New Jersey, 08619

Dear Representative Christopher H. Smith,

the purpose of this letter is to try and correct an oversight that occurred in June of 1967, in the Republic of Vietnam where I submitted a recommendation for an award that the intended recipient never received. In an effort to right the wrong, I have reconstructed what I believe is an accurate copy of the DA Form 638. As the Commanding Officer of the 79th Field Artillery Radar Detachment, Advisory Team 100 was in my administrative chain of command, which included the Senior Advisors of CMD Advisory Detachment Team 100 that signed the endorsement for the recommended Bronze Star Medal. Before I left Vietnam in late June, 1967, I spoke with both Col. John Patrick and Col T. E. Watson, Jr, and both of them assured me they had indorsed the recommendation for SP5 Bednarski's Bronze Star, and forwarded it to HQ. USARV for final disposition.

SP5 George Bednarski truly deserves this award and thank you for helping to make it happen. I'm sure your office is aware of the hell that George has gone through as a result of serving in The Republic of Vietnam. If there is anything else you need from me, I can be reached at [REDACTED].

I would also appreciate it if I am given notice so that I might have the opportunity to attend the award ceremony.


Vernon L. DeBord,

CW4 US Army Retired

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