

From: Congressman Bob Latta <boblatta@mail.house.gov> To: Craig.Wheeler@mail.house.gov Subject: TEST Honored to help award the Bronze Star to Vietnam Veterans Date: Tue, 08 Aug 2023 10:59:42 -0400 Honored to help award the Bronze Star to Vietnam Veterans for their service in the U.S. Army
Image: Bronze Star Ceremony , Caption: Congressman Bob Latta presents the Bronze Star to Mr. Jim Sanders from Wauseon, Ohio. Dear friend, Recently, I had the true honor of helping award 35 Vietnam Veterans of the "B" Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade with Bronze Stars for their meritorious service in the U.S. Army. These heroes have been waiting decades for this recognition, and I was humbled to play a small role in helping secure these Bronze Stars on their behalf through a ceremony in the United States Capitol. Each of these men were called upon by their nation to perform duties outside of what they signed up for, and they more than rose to the occasion. Their sacrifices, and those of their families, will never be forgotten. While our nation continues to owe these veterans – and all those across our country – a larger debt of gratitude, my sincere hope is that receiving the Bronze Star will be a step in the right direction in acknowledging their brave actions. Read more about these heroes in the following published articles: 56 Vietnam-Era MPs Receive Bronze Stars Amid Army Review of Past Honors(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.military.com/daily-news/2023/07/25/56-vietnam-era-m-)
) 'Out of the shadows': Military police from Vietnam War receive long-awaited awards(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2023-07-25/army-military-police-)
) Wauseon veteran receives Bronze Star 53 years after Vietnam War(https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.wtol.com/article/news/local/wauseon-veteran-bronze-star-)
) Continue reading below to view photos from the ceremony and to learn more about the process of securing Bronze Stars for their service in the U.S. Army. Bronze Star Ceremony Bronze Stars Bronze Star Award Bronze Star Bronze Star Ceremony Bronze Star Ceremony Two years ago, I received a copy of a book written by Robert Bogison, entitled Up Close & Personal, that detailed the service and history of "B" Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade during the Vietnam War. The book came with a letter appealing for assistance with their effort to obtain either the Army's Combat Action Badge (CAB) or Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) to recognize their unique service during the Vietnam War. While they were classified as military police during their service, the Battalion unofficially performed infantry missions on the front lines. After contacting the U.S. Department of Defense and the Department of the Army to inquire as to the possibility of the group receiving the CIB or CAB recognition, officials within the Defense Department undertook an extensive search at multiple personnel records facilities to locate official documentation that could back up claims that the company performed infantry actions. The veterans group also provided documentation for the Army to consider. After the Department of the Army concluded "B" Company performed actions essential to the success of the entire 720th MP Battalion during the Vietnam War, it was announced these individuals would be recognized with Bronze Stars for their service. The veterans group began collecting applications from individual members and submitting them to my office. We transferred these through the Army Liaison's office, who then submitted them to Army Human Resources Command. This application process began in January of 2023 and is ongoing. To date, my office has received 56 out of 56 medals and 56 out of 56 certificates. 4 additional applications are still under consideration by Human Resources Command. *** It's an honor to serve you in Congress. For timely

updates on my work on behalf of Ohio's Fifth District, follow me on

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). As always, if you have any comments, questions, or ideas for me and my

team, please do not hesitate to call, write, or click here(

<http://latta.house.gov/contact>) to send a direct message.