

Portland, Ore. -- Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) will present a Purple Heart to Harold J. Arendt, Jr. of East Portland's Hazelwood neighborhood on Friday, April 8, 2005 at 3 p.m. in his Portland Congressional office.

Mr. Arendt, age 81, earned the Purple Heart for severe hearing injuries he sustained while serving in Korea in August 1951, but was not given his award until 54 years later when Blumenauer's office intervened.

"I'm pleased and proud to help recognize the sacrifices that Mr. Arendt made for our nation," Blumenauer said. "He will finally have the medals he earned many years ago."

While in Korea, an explosion of an enemy artillery shell physically damaged Arendt's left ear. The explosion also gave him Tinnitus in both ears. Following his honorable discharge in December 1953, Arendt earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Oregon, studying History, English and Library Science.

Arendt worked at Pleasant Hill High School for two years before serving as head of the History/English Department for 28 years at Benson High. After three decades of teaching, Arendt retired in 1986.

In addition to Blumenauer, General Douglas Pritt of the Oregon Army National Guard, whose brigade of about 1,000 will leave for Afghanistan next March, will attend the ceremony honoring the Korean War veteran.

WHAT: Medal Presentation to Portland, Ore. Resident Harold J. Arendt,

WHERE: Congressman Earl Blumenauer's Congressional Office  
729 NE Oregon Street (Oregon Square Building—Lloyd District) Suite 115

WHEN: Friday, April 8th at 3 p.m.