

Gresham Veteran Receives Long-Lost Vietnam Medals

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Portland, Ore. — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today that Vietnam Veteran and Gresham resident James Houser has received several service medals, including the prestigious Army Commendation Medal. Houser had been waiting over 30 years to receive the misplaced awards, which he earned during service in the Vietnam War.

“These medals are recognition of the great sacrifices Mr. Houser has made for our nation,” Blumenauer said. “I’m honored to have been able to assist such an decorated soldier.”

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service. Houser earned his medal for meritorious service leading the entire security platoon for the U.S.-controlled airfield in Long Thanh North, Vietnam. The airbase was roughly the size of the Portland International Airport.

Due to paperwork and administrative errors, Houser was never given the awards he earned while in service. At a May 17 Veteran’s Forum hosted by Blumenauer, Houser and his wife, Diane L. Houser, asked Blumenauer for assistance with the situation. Blumenauer was able to expedite the process, and the medals arrived within 3 weeks.

Along with the Army Commendation Medal, Houser also received the Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, and the Expert Badge and Auto Rifle Bar.

Houser, a resident of Aurora when he joined the U.S. Army, served from 1969 to 1977 and reached the rank of Specialist 5 (SP5). Houser served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970.