

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY****NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000**

5720

Ser 00J6/0400J60415

September 15, 2004

Mr. Christopher J. Farrell
Judicial Watch, Inc.
501 School Street, SW, Suite 725
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Farrell:

This is in final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of August 2, 2004. You seek a copy of the U.S. Navy service record pertaining to former Lieutenant John Forbes Kerry, as outlined in your letter. Your request was received in this office (PERS-OOJ) on August 20, 2004, from the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (DNS-36) and the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). Your request has been assigned FOIA case file number 0400J60415.

A copy of a biography containing releasable service record information and a copy of accompanying responsive award documents are released to you under the FOIA. Numerous responsive U.S. Navy service record documents, as well as service record documents not subject to disclosure requirements under the FOIA, may be accessed at:
http://www.johnkerry.com/about/john_kerry/military_records.html.

Remaining service record documents or portions of service record documents, including those provided with excised social and service number information, clearly falls within the FOIA statute's (b)(6) exempt material contained in a "personnel or medical file". As such, the remaining responsive service record documentation is denied under exemption under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), since release of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the former U.S. Navy member's personal privacy.

Because your request has been denied in part, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination in writing, to the Office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-5066.

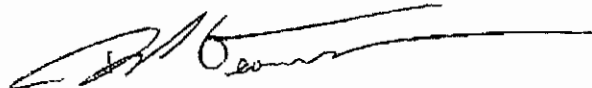
5720

PERS 00J6/0400J60415

Should you deem the submission of an appeal necessary, it must be postmarked within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter to be considered. A statement as to why your appeal should be granted should be included and an enclosed copy of this letter should be attached. Both appeal letter and the envelope should bear the notation, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I am the official responsible for partial denial of your request. Should you wish to discuss this matter, you may contact the undersigned at (901) 874-3165.

Sincerely,



D. P. GERMAN
FOIA/PA Officer

Enclosure

BIOGRAPHICAL DATAName: John Forbes KerryHome of Record: Groton, Mass.Date Commissioned in U.S. Navy: December 16, 1966 (OCS)Date Enlisted in U.S. Navy: February 18, 1966Date Ordered to Active Duty: August 19, 1966 (Officer Candidate)Date Separated from U.S. Navy: January 3, 1970Date Discharged from U.S. Navy Reserve: February 16, 1978Designator: General Unrestricted Line Officer

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Detached</u>
Naval Officer Candidate School, Newport, RI	081966	121566
Naval Schools Command Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif.	010367	032167
Fleet Anti-air Warfare Training Center, San Diego, Calif.	032267	060767
USS GRIDLEY (DLG 21)	060867	072068
Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif.	072168	111668
Commander Coastal Squadron ONE, Republic of Vietnam	111768	032669
Military Sea Transportation Service, Atlantic	032769	010270

Rank: LTDate of Rank: - January 1, 1970Awards and Decorations:

Silver Star	Navy Unit Commendation
Bronze Star w/Combat 'V'	National Defense Service Medal
Purple Heart (3)	Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
Combat Action Ribbon	Vietnam Service Medal
Presidential Unit Citation	
Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross Medal Color with Palm	
Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Civil Action Medal Color with Palm	



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
SILVER STAR MEDAL to

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) JOHN F. KERRY
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Coastal Division ELEVEN engaged in armed conflict with Viet Cong insurgents in An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam on 28 February 1969. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry was serving as Officer in Charge of Patrol Craft Fast 94 and Officer in Tactical Command of a three-boat unit engaged in inserting Vietnamese regional force troops on a reconnaissance in force mission. As the force approached the target area on the narrow Dong Cung River, all units came under intense automatic weapons and small arms fire from an entrenched enemy force less than fifty feet away. Unhesitatingly, Lieutenant (jg) Kerry ordered his boat to attack as all units opened fire and beached directly in front of the enemy ambushers. This daring and courageous tactic surprised the enemy and succeeded in routing a score of enemy soldiers. The PCF gunners captured many enemy weapons in the battle that followed. On a request upon U.S. Army advisors ashore, he ordered PFCs 94 and 23 further up river to suppress enemy sniper fire. After proceeding approximately eight hundred yards, the boats were again taken under fire from a heavily foliated area and a B-40 rocket exploded close aboard PCF 94. With utter disregard for his own safety and the enemy rockets, he again ordered a charge on the enemy, beached his boat only ten feet from the VC rocket position, and personally led a landing party ashore in pursuit of the enemy. Upon sweeping the area, an immediate search uncovered an enemy rest and supply area which was destroyed. The extraordinary daring and personal courage of Lieutenant (jg) Kerry in attacking a numerically superior force in the face of intense fire were responsible for the highly successful mission. By his brave action, bold initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty, Lieutenant (jg) Kerry reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy



COMMANDER IN CHIEF
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to

*Lieutenant (junior grade) John Forbes KERRY
United States Naval Reserve*

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Coastal Division ELEVEN engaged in armed conflict with Viet Cong insurgents in An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam on 28 February 1969. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY was serving as Officer in Charge of Patrol Craft Fast 94 and Officer in Tactical Command of a three-boat unit engaged in inserting Vietnamese regional force troops on a reconnaissance in force mission. As the force approached the target area on the narrow Dong Cung River, all units came under intense automatic weapons and small arms fire from an entrenched enemy force less than fifty feet away. Unhesitatingly, Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY ordered his boat to attack as all units opened fire and beached directly in front of the enemy ambushers. This daring and courageous tactic surprised the enemy and succeeded in routing a score of enemy soldiers. The PCF gunners captured many enemy weapons in the battle that followed. On a request from U. S. Army advisors ashore, Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY ordered PCFs 94 and 23 further up river to suppress enemy sniper fire. After proceeding approximately eight hundred yards, the boats were again taken under fire from a heavily foliated area and a B-40 rocket exploded close aboard PCF 94. With utter disregard for his own safety and the enemy rockets, he again ordered a charge on the enemy, beached his boat only ten feet from the VC rocket position, and personally led a landing party ashore in pursuit of the enemy. Upon sweeping the area, an immediate search uncovered an enemy rest and supply area which was destroyed. The extraordinary daring and personal courage of Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY in attacking a numerically superior force in the face of intense fire were responsible for the highly successful mission. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President

John J. Hyland
JOHN J. HYLAND

Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet

Finished File ForB 1042



COMMANDER
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES
VIETNAM

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal to

JOHN FORBES KERRY
LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE)
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For heroic achievement while serving with Coastal Division ELEVEN engaged in armed conflict with Viet Cong communist aggressors in An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1969. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY was serving as Officer-in-Charge of Inshore Patrol Craft 94, one of five boats conducting a SEA LORDS operation in the Bay Hap river. While exiting the river, a mine detonated under another Inshore Patrol Craft and almost simultaneously, another mine detonated close aboard his Inshore Patrol Craft knocking a man into the water and wounding Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY in the right arm. In addition, all units began receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire from the river banks. When Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY discovered he had a man overboard, he returned upriver to assist. The man in the water was receiving sniper fire from both banks. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY directed his gunners to provide suppressing fire, while from an exposed position on the bow, his arm bleeding and in pain and with disregard for his personal safety, he pulled the man aboard. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY then directed his boat to return and assist the other damaged Inshore Patrol Craft. His crew attached a line and towed the damaged boat to safety. Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY's calmness, professionalism and great personal courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Lieutenant (junior grade) KERRY is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

For the President

E. K. Zumwalt, Jr.
E. K. ZUMWALT, JR.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) JOHN F. KERRY
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement while serving with Coastal Division ELEVEN engaged in armed conflict with Viet Cong communist aggressors in An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam on 13 March 1969. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry was serving as Officer in Charge of Inshore Patrol Craft 94, one of five boats conducting a SEA LORDS operation in the Bay Hap River. While exiting the River, a mine detonated under another Inshore Patrol Craft and almost simultaneously, another mine detonated close aboard his Inshore Patrol Craft knocking a man into the water and wounding Lieutenant (jg) Kerry in the right arm. In addition, all units began receiving small arms and automatic weapons fire from the river banks. When Lieutenant (jg) Kerry discovered he had a man overboard, he returned upriver to assist. The man in the water was receiving sniper fire from both banks. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry directed his gunners to provide suppressing fire, while from an exposed position on the bow, his arm bleeding and in pain and with disregard for his personal safety, he pulled the man aboard. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry then directed his boat to return and assist the other damaged Inshore Patrol Craft. His crew attached a line and towed the damaged boat to safety. Lieutenant (jg) Kerry's professionalism, great personal courage under fire, and complete dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy

S-2

EX/REPLY
1650
SER 12/ 1654
28 FEB 1969

From: Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
To: RADM John E. HENRY, RADM, [redacted] 1105 6(6)
Via: Commander Coastal Division CMC 028

Subj: Purple Heart Award; presentation of

Re: (1) Purple Heart Medal, Ribbon and Lapel Pin

1. On behalf of the Chief of Naval Personnel, the Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon hereby awards you the Purple Heart for injuries received on 2 December 1968.

2. A certificate of this award will be forwarded directly to you by the Chief of Naval Personnel.

DONALD A. STILL
Chief Staff Officer

Copy to:
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] CMC
[redacted] CMC 7002



S-2

SS/ST/STDP

1650

Mar 12/ 1754

5 MAR 1958

From: Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
Re: MSG John Foster BERRY, USN, [redacted] 1100 6(6)
Via: Commander Naval District USN, CEN

Subj: Purple Heart Award; presentation of

Encls (1) Gold Star

1. On behalf of the Chief of Naval Personnel, the Commander U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon hereby awards you a Gold Star in lieu of a second Purple Heart Award for injuries received on 20 February 1969.

2. A certificate of this award will be forwarded directly to you by the Chief of Naval Personnel.

DONALD A. STILL
Chief Staff Officer

Copy to:
SECNAV
CENRACFLT
CENRACFLT
CENRACFLT CEN

32

RE/RETRAC
1968
Ser 12/ 2868

17 APR 1968

From: Commander, U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon
To: MR2 John Forbes 1968, MR [redacted] 1968 2(6)
Via: Commanding General, Division 001-001

Subj: Purple Heart Award presentation of

Ref: (a) MEMORANDUM for MR-1 1968 Ser 21/pt-210 of 12 January 1966

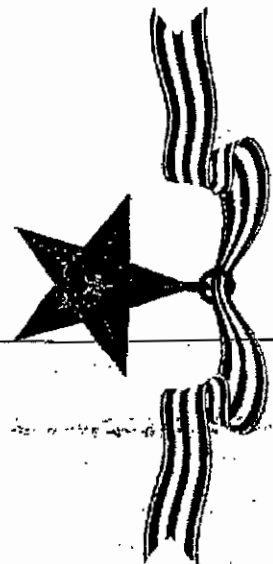
Re: (b) Gold star

1. In accordance with the authority delegated by reference (a), the Commander, U. S. Naval Support Activity, Saigon takes pride in presenting to you a Gold Star in lieu of a third Purple Heart for injuries received on 13 March 1966.

2. A permanent certificate of this award will be issued to you by the Chief of Naval Personnel upon your request. It is recommended that you make application for this certificate upon your return to the continental United States.

DONALD A. STILL
Chief Staff Officer

Copy to:
COMNAVSTA
COMUSMACV
NAVSTA



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

SILVER STAR MEDAL

TO

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) JOHN F. KERRY, UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

FOR
GALLANTRY IN ACTION

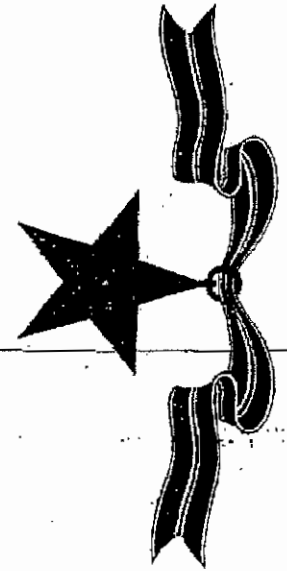
ON 28 FEBRUARY 1969

GIVEN THIS 4TH DAY OF JUN 19 85



John F. Kerry
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FORM 1000 (REV. 10-67)



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS AWARDED THE

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

(WITH COMBAT ^(U))

TO

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) JOHN F. KERRY, UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

FOR

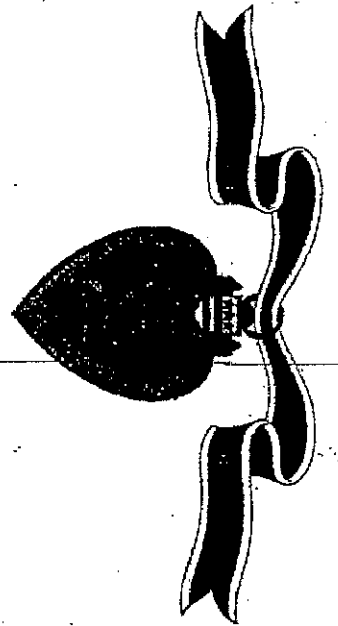
HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT ON 13 MARCH 1969

GIVEN THIS 4TH DAY OF JUN 10 85



John F. Kelly
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FORM 100-10 (Rev. 1-78)



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 2, 1782
TO

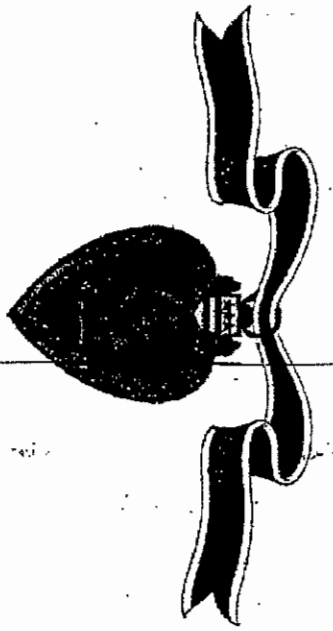
LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE)
JOHN F. KERRE
U.S. NAVY
FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN ACTION

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE 1985

COMMANDER, NAVAL MILENARY
PERSONNEL COMMAND

NAVRES 143051 REV 1179





THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 7, 1782
TO

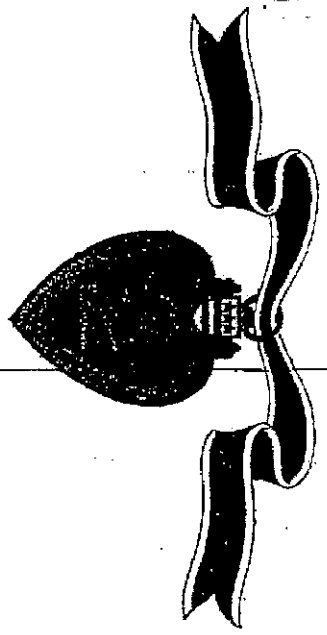
LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE)
JOHN F. KERRY
U.S. NAVY

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED

IN ACTION
20 FEBRUARY 1969
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE 19 85

COMBANDER, NAVAL MILITARY
PERSONNEL COMMAND

NAVPERS 1350/51 REV 12/78



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

PURPLE HEART

ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON
AT NEWBURGH, NEW YORK, AUGUST 2, 1782
TO

LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE)
JOHN F. KERRY
U.S. NAVY

FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED
IN ACTION

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 4TH DAY OF JUNE 19 85

David J. Walker

COMMANDER, NAVAL HEADQUARTERS
PERSONNEL COMMAND

NAVERS (ASOCS) REV 10/79

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND

5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE

MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000

5720

PERS 00J6/0400J60466

September 15, 2004

Mr. Christopher J. Farrell
Judicial Watch, Inc.
501 School Street, SW, Suite 725
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Farrell:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of September 8, 2004, in which you seek a copy of a discharge certificate, DD Form 256N, contained in the U.S. Navy service record pertaining to former Lieutenant John Forbes Kerry. Your request was received in this office on September 9, 2004, and has been assigned FOIA case file number 0400J60466.

A copy of an honorable discharge certificate (DD 256N) is not placed in the U.S. Navy service record when issued. As such, if issued the U.S. Navy would not maintain a copy of a discharge certificate that is responsive to your request.

If you believe an adequate search of our files was not conducted, you have the right to appeal this determination, in writing, to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, OJAG Code 14, 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066.

The appeal must be received in that office within 60 calendar days from the date of this letter in order to be considered. Please attach a copy of this letter and a copy of the original request. Include a statement regarding why you believe we may possess records responsive to your request. Please mark both the envelope and your appeal letter "FOIA/PA APPEAL."

Should you wish to discuss this matter, you may contact the undersigned at (901) 874-3165.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. P. German", is written over a horizontal line.

D. P. GERMAN
FOIA/PA Officer