



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Korean War Veteran to be presented the Bronze Star Medal for Valor

Knoxville, Tenn. - In September 1951, Kong-Dong, North Korea was not a very hospitable place for American Soldiers. One of those Soldiers serving with Company A, 72nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was Corporal Robert A. Marshall. Marshall, who now resides in Knoxville, led a small group of Soldiers assigned to retrieve an abandoned American tank in a river near enemy lines.

As Corporal Marshall waded through the river toward the abandoned tank, that was lodged against large rocks and partially submerged, he began receiving enemy automatic weapons fire and mortars began impacting all around him.

Despite the hostile fire, he was able to reach and enter the tank and start it by reaching under water to access the controls. Knowing that the tank could easily overturn or become further lodged against the rocks, Corporal Marshall was able to put the tank in reverse, lock the brakes and let out the clutch causing the tank to lurch backwards dislodging it from the rocks.

While still under heavy enemy fire, Corporal Marshall was able to extract the tank from the river and drive it to a friendly position. His quick thinking and gallant actions that day insured the tank was not captured by enemy soldiers and no friendly Soldiers were injured.

As in so many cases, Marshall's heroic actions were lost to memory during the chaotic actions of the Korean War.

Nearly sixty-three years later, primarily through the efforts of Senator Lamar Alexander and his staff, Corporal Marshall was recognized for his heroic deeds in 1951.

"Americans depend every day on the brave men and women of our Armed Services who sacrifice so much to protect our freedom and keep us safe, and Corporal Marshall's heroic actions on that day in September of 1951 exemplify that bravery," Alexander said. "I am pleased to congratulate Corporal

Marshall on this overdue and well-deserved honor, and I thank him for his dedicated service to our country."

Major General Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General presented Marshall the Bronze Star with "V" device for valor acknowledging his selfless service in Korea. The presentation was made on Monday, March 16th at 11:30 a.m.EDT in Senator Alexander's Knoxville Office, Suite 112 in the Howard Baker Federal Courthouse, 800 Market Street in downtown Knoxville.

"I am humbled to be a small part in this ceremony recognizing one of our forgotten heroes of "America's Forgotten War" in Korea. It is an honor and privilege for me to make this presentation," said Maj. Gen. Haston.

WHO: Mr. Robert H. Marshall, Major General Max Haston

WHAT: Presentation of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor to Mr. Robert H. Marshall, Korean Veteran

WHEN: 11:30 a.m., Monday, March 16th

WHERE: Senator Lamar Alexander's Knoxville Office, Suite 112 in the Howard Baker Federal Courthouse, 800 Market Street in downtown Knoxville.

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<http://www.tnmilitary.org/news.html>*