

Official Notification of Award

The official notifications of award for John P. Murtha's Bronze Star and Purple Hearts are linked below.

People who question these awards might consider them in the context of the following statements, excerpted from "Purple Heartbreakers," a column by James Webb published in the New York Times on Jan. 18, 2006. Webb was a secretary of the Navy in the Reagan administration and a Marine platoon and company commander in Vietnam. Webb is currently a U.S. Senator from Virginia.

"It should come as no surprise that an arch-conservative web site is questioning whether Representative John Murtha, the Pennsylvania Democrat who has been critical of the war in Iraq, deserved the combat awards he received in Vietnam.

"After all, in recent years extremist Republican operatives have inverted a longstanding principle: that our combat veterans be accorded a place of honor in political circles. This trend began with the ugly insinuations leveled at Senator John McCain during the 2000 Republican primaries and continued with the slurs against Senators Max Cleland and John Kerry, and now Mr. Murtha....

"The accusations against Mr. Murtha were very old news, principally coming from defeated political rivals. Aligned against their charges are an official letter from Marine Corps Headquarters written nearly 40 years ago affirming Mr. Murtha's eligibility for his Purple Hearts - 'you are entitled to the Purple Heart and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Purple Heart for wounds received in action' - and the strict tradition of the Marine Corps regarding awards. While in other services lower-level commanders have frequently had authority to issue prestigious awards, in the Marines Mr. Murtha's Vietnam Bronze star would have required the approval of four different awards boards....

"A young American now serving in Iraq might rightly wonder whether his or her service will be deliberately misconstrued 20 years from now, in the next rendition of politically motivated spinmeisters who never had the courage to step forward and put their own lives on the line."

[Click here to see the Official Award Notifications of Congressman John Murtha's Bronze Star](#)

[Click here to see the Official Award Notifications of Congressman John Murtha's Purple Hearts](#)