



A Vet's Honor Delayed – But Not Denied



We had the privilege of presenting Joel Heller from Duluth – and his son Noah – with three medals and a ribbon that he had earned during his service but never received. Thank you for your service and sacrifice, Joel.

When deserving Veterans don't receive medals they have earned in service to our nation due to mistake or an oversight at the Pentagon, our office is honored to step in – **and that's exactly what we did for former U.S. Army Private First Class Joel Heller**, who had been waiting for more than 10 years to be recognized for his service and sacrifice in Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia and immediately following the events of September 11, 2001. What an honor it was to invite Joel and his family – **including his parents, his brother, his wife and his young son Noah and so many other friends** – to our office last week for the official presentation of four medals in addition to his Purple Heart: The Army Service Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

In his eloquent acceptance, **Joel said he's most proud of the Expeditionary Medal because it's reserved for an operation for which no other U.S. campaign medal is approved** – and where foreign armed opposition or imminent threat of hostile action was encountered. Noah, a second grader in Duluth, helped pin the medals on his dad's chest –

and there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

Presidents Washington and Lincoln were both fond of pointing out that how we treat today's Veterans will determine how willing future generations will be to step up when they are called upon to defend our nation. **If you believe you have earned a military medal or recognition but haven't received it, please feel free to call our office at 218-464-5095. We're happy to help.**

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