

February 1, 2024  
LD 2056

Senate Chair Chipman  
House Chair Representative Crafts and members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Walter Coombs and I'm here today to represent Private Merwin A. Delano, Jr.

Merwin grew up in his hometown of Arrowsic. We attended school together and after high school we went off to serve our country and joined the service. I joined the Navy and Merwin joined the Army.

Merwin was killed in Vietnam on March 17, 1966.

Merwin died a true hero and due to his courageous actions he received 'The Bronze Star with a V' for valor. Meaning his actions were extraordinary. I've included a copy of Merwin's Bronze Star award which describes his heroism! He also received a 'Purple Heart'.

In remembrance to Private Merwin A. Delano, Jr. we would like to propose a dedication to the five mile section of road on Rt. 127 between the Arrowsic Bridge and the Georgetown Bridge.

Merwin was well known and remains the subject of talk within the VFW and American Legion!

I believe Representative Allison Hepler ran into a person recently who spoke about Merwin! There are still family members today who reside in Arrowsic.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Walter Coombs



**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**

(POSTHUMOUSLY)

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

**PRIVATE MERWIN A. DELANO, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY**

**FOR WOUNDS RECEIVED**

**IN ACTION**

**REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM 17 MARCH 1966**

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON**

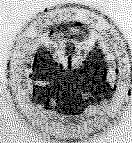
**THIS 29th**

**DAY OF July**

**19 67**

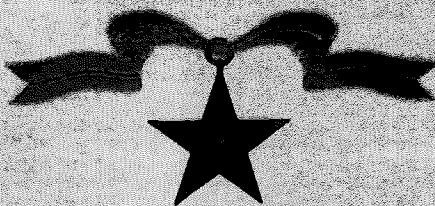
*Patricia P. Shibusawa*

**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**



*Gen. J.W. Clune*

**CHIEF OF STAFF**



## 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 AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, #4 AUGUST 1968 HAS AWARDED

## THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

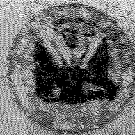
(POSTHUMOUSLY) WITH "V" DEVICE

TO  
PRIVATE MERWIN A DELANO, JR., UNITED STATES ARMY

FOR heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force. Private Delano distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 8 November 1965 while participating in a search and destroy operation in "War Zone D," Republic of Vietnam. Having made contact with an estimated regiment of hard core Viet Cong, Private Delano's platoon was pinned down by intense fire from Viet Cong weapons. Immediately, Private Delano engaged an insurgent machine gun single-handedly with his rifle. With complete disregard for his personal safety while exposed to the intense hostile fire, Private Delano crawled toward the machine gun, threw two grenades, and destroyed it and the crew. This enabled his platoon to continue their assault. Private Delano's outstanding aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON  
THIS 21st DAY OF August 1968

*Patricia P. Dickerson*  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



*Gen. J. W. Claus*  
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



## ▼ STATE OVERVIEW

Merwin A Delano Jr is among the 3,656 American Gold Star casualties recorded in our archive with close ties to Maine. This is a substantial number of individuals who gave their lives in service to their country.

[Read More](#)

Our core focus is on the decades spanning World War I through the Vietnam War. Generations of sacrifice and service. Many volunteered to serve. Others were asked to join. Each situation as unique as the individuals involved.

We have located images and some life stories for 651 of these Maine Gold Star veterans. That is a great start. However, our important work is not done.

With the help of our supporting organizations, and visitors like you, our research and public outreach continues. There is a worthy goal to place a face and some life story to these names.

Over time, more details will appear for the remaining 3,005 Maine Gold Star service members found in our archive. In fact, it's likely that even more names will be added.

It is our collective duty to ensure they are forever honored. Never forgotten.

[▲ Show Less](#)

## SERVICE OVERVIEW

Name Merwin A Delano Jr  
From Sagadahoc County, Maine  
Born December 25, 1947  
Death March 17, 1966  
War Vietnam War  
Rank Private  
Specialty Light Weapons Infantry  
Branch US Army