



News Release From . . .

Congressman Rodney Alexander

5th Congressional District of Louisiana

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ALEXANDER TO HOLD MEDALS CEREMONIES

CONGRESSMAN TO PRESENT THREE 5TH DISTRICT RESIDENTS, SERVICEMEN WITH MEDALS

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, will hold three medals ceremonies beginning at 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 5th, at his Monroe District Office located at 1900 Stubbs Ave.

The first presentation will honor Dr. Beryl C. Franklin.

Franklin will receive the following medals: the Bronze Star, Purple Heart w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal w/ Germany Clasp, Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, World War II Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Franklin served in the Army from July 28, 1943 to December 25, 1945. The Purple Heart was awarded for wounds received in Germany on March 3, 1945 and the Oak Leaf Cluster was awarded for wounds received on April 5, 1945. He was a staff sergeant and was honorably discharged.

The second presentation will honor Isaac B. Crocker, Jr.

Alexander will present the Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman Badge

Crocker, 94, will be awarded the CIB and Bronze Star for leading a 12 man combat squad across the Rhine River during WWII. Crocker was a staff sergeant.

The final presentation will honor Henry T. Everitt.

Alexander will present Everitt with the Purple Heart. This is a first time award, as Everitt was not ever recommended for the award by his command.

The Purple Heart has been awarded for injuries Everitt received on June 13, 1944 during WWII. Mr. Everitt was with the 450th Bomb Group, 721st Squadron in Italy. On his 26th combat mission, Everitt's fighter plane was shot down over Munich, Germany. Everitt was forced to bailout and upon landing was injured. He was captured and held as a POW for nearly one year.

Everitt first contacted Alexander for assistance in June 2004. Because the Army had no verification that Everitt's crash landing was due to enemy fire, Alexander had to contact the National Archives for documentation. The National Archives provided Alexander with copies of

ME 1414, Downed Allied Aircraft Reports, Records of Luftgaukommandos. These records are actually German military records that were seized by American troops. Because these records were in German, RA contacted Dr. Jim McKeithen at the University of Louisiana at Monroe Foreign Language Department. McKeithen was able to translate the documents and verify that German forces did in fact shoot down Mr. Everitt's plane.

With this information, Alexander contacted the Department of the Army a second time and was able to secure Everitt's Purple Heart.

For more information on the upcoming medals ceremonies, contact Sarah Warren at 318-322-3500.