

The Ouachita CITIZEN

Alexander awards veterans (12/01/2005)

By JOE DURHAM JR
The Citizen

United States Congressman Rodney Alexander awarded medals to six northeast Louisiana veterans Wednesday in ceremonies at his Monroe office.

"These veterans have fought and made sacrifices to protect America," Alexander said. "By holding these medal ceremonies, we are able to thank them for a job well done."

Wayne Moore of Monroe received the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam service Medal with Triple Bronze Star Attachment, the Combat Infantryman Badge First Award, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device (1960), the Expert Badge and Rifle Bar, the Sharpshooter Badge and Auto Rifle Bar. Moore served in the Army from October of 1968 to July of 1970 and was in Vietnam most of this time.

"I didn't want to get the medals at first because there was a lot of controversy about Vietnam at the time," Moore said. Moore was flying supplies by helicopter when it was shot down and was hit by shrapnel.

Frank Phillips earned the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with Triple Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal and Triple Bronze Star Attachment, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait, the Expert Badge with Auto Rifle Bar and Grenade Bar, and the Driver and Mechanic Badge with Driver 'W' Bar.

Phillips served in the Operation Desert Storm in Iraq and Kuwait.

"I didn't want the medals at first," Phillips said. "But I decided to get the medals for my little girl when she started asking questions about them."

Phillips, who now lives in West Monroe but is originally from Baskin, earned the Corporal rank at the time of his discharge. Others receiving medals included Walter Springfield, who received the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze service star, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with device (1960) and the Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Bar.

W. R. Matheny earned the Bronze Star medal, the Prisoner of War medal, the Army Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with one bronze star, the Good Conduct medal, the World War II Victory medal, the American Defense Service medal, with clasp, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign medal with one bronze star, the Honorable Service Lapel Pin and the discharge button.

Matheny served in the Marine Corps from 1940 to 1946 and was a prisoner of war in Japan during WWII.

James Thomas earned the Bronze Star medal, the Army Commendation Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with device (1960) and the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar.

Thomas served in the Army in Vietnam from 1968 to 1971.

Cecil Manning of Lake Providence earned the Distinguished Flying Cross with one bronze oak leaf cluster, the Air Medal with three bronze oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the Presidential Unit

Citation, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze service stars, the WWII Victory Medal, the Prisoner of War Medal and the Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Manning served in the Air Force from March 1943 to January, 1946. He was a fighter pilot and was captured near the Germany-Holland border when his plane, a P-51 went down.