

## **Medal Wearer Admits He Didn't Earn It**

A California man has pleaded guilty to wearing a military medal he was never given. This is a crime under a law passed in 2006.

Kenneth Nelson had claimed he won the Silver Star for bravery in Vietnam. He also said he had been given three Purple Hearts for being wounded. But Nelson never really served in combat.

He did take care of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He was in news stories that repeated what he said.

U.S. Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner says, "He received years of praise and admiration from the public that he did not deserve."

The penalty can be up to a year in prison and a fine of \$100,000. However, in other cases like this, people have been sentenced to community service (helping with work that needs to be done in their towns, like cleaning the streets). One man had to pay a fine of \$500.

Nelson will be sentenced in March. He also has to give up his medals.

Source:

<http://sacramento.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel09/sc120709.htm>

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08/12/2009