

3/18/2005 Moran to Present Purple Heart to Vietnam Veteran in Hays

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Event to Honor Veteran's Service in Vietnam

HAYS - Congressman Jerry Moran announced today that he will present Darrell Loreg of Hays with a Purple Heart for his service during Vietnam. This ceremony will mark the first time that Loreg has received his medal.

"I am delighted to be able to present Mr. Loreg with the Purple Heart that he bravely earned and deserves," Moran said. "The men and women who have sacrificed greatly for our nation's future deserve the honors that they have earned. Correcting this oversight is important to demonstrate that America stands behind its veterans and is proud of them."

Mr. Loreg volunteered to join the Army in 1967. He was initially trained at Fort Huachuca, Arizona as a mechanic and later at Fort Benning, Georgia for jump school. Following this training, in 1968, Loreg was sent to Vietnam for 13 months. He earned his Purple Heart on March 14, 1969, when he was injured during a mortar attack on his base camp.

The award ceremony will take place on Saturday, March 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.) Post, 2106 Vine Street in Hays.

Moran will be joined by members of the V.F.W. Post and by members of the Loreg family. Mr. Loreg married Janice Schmidtberger of Hays on October 25, 1969 and have two children, Theresa of Savannah, Missouri and Anthony of Hays. Loreg continued serving in the Army until 1972, when he returned home. Since that time, he has worked for Ellis County running heavy equipment.

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