

George W. Bush Wore a Ribbon He Did Not Earn

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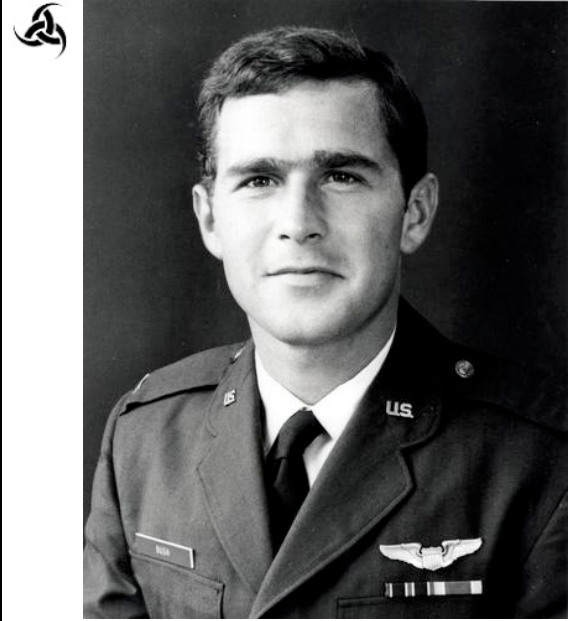
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Original message

Walt Starr (1000+ posts) Thu Aug-26-04 07:50 PM
Original message

George W. Bush Wore a Ribbon He Did Not Earn

Edited on Thu Aug-26-04 08:03 PM by Walt Starr

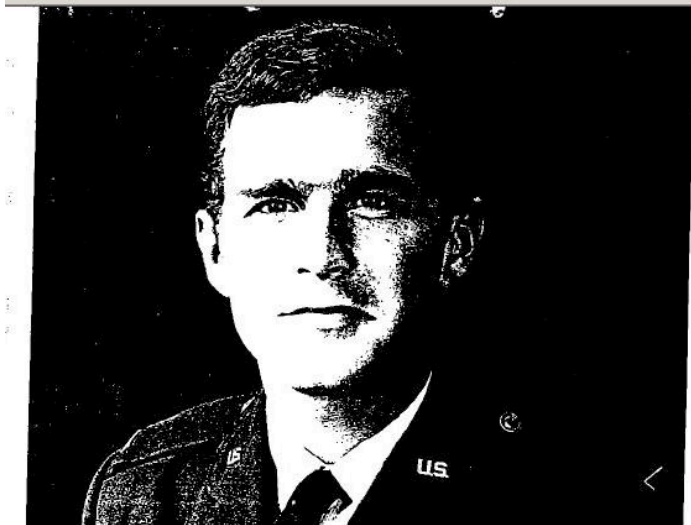


This is a photograph published on the Presidential Library site of George H.W. Bush. We can clearly see that in this photograph, George W. Bush is wearing an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) and a Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR) just below his pilot wings, however, on line 24 of his NGB22 National Guard discharge form dated October 1, 1973, George W. Bush has no awards listed:

24. DECORATIONS, CITATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED
(This period of service)

TAFMS TAFCS

The photograph above was also included in the information released by the Bush administration:





He is listed as a second lieutenant in this photograph, and we know for a fact he earned the wings as he graduated from Undergraduate Pilot Training according to the record. As far as the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon is concerned, he obviously earned that ribbon while he was an Airman prior to his commission as evidenced by line 24 of the NGB22 filed when he was discharged as an Airman:

24. DECORATIONS, CITATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED
(This period of service)
 SAE:R

25. PRIOR SERVICE *(Branch of service, inclusive dates, and primary duty with MOS)*

The Bush administration has also provided a military biography:

OFFICER APPOINTMENT: Discharged from enlisted status 3 Sep 1968 and commissioned in the Texas Air National Guard on 4 Sep 1968.

PROMOTIONS: First Lieutenant effective: 7 Nov 1970.

Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC):

70230 - Apr Administrative Specialist (Enlisted)
 1125D - Pilot, Fighter Interceptor

PAST DUTY ASSIGNMENTS and LOCATIONS:

27 May 68 - 13 Jul 68	147 th Cmbt Spt Sq	Ellington AFB TX
14 Jul 68 - 25 Aug 68	3724 BAMILTRARON	Lackland AFB TX
26 Aug 68 - 3 Sep 68	147 th Cmbt Spt Sq	Ellington AFB TX
4 Sep 68 - 20 Nov 68	111 th Ftr Intcp Sq	Ellington AFB TX
21 Nov 68 - 29 Nov 69	Pilot Trainee, 3550 Stu Sq,	Moody AFB GA
30 Nov 69 - 1 Oct 73	111 th Ftr Intcp Sq	Ellington AFB TX
2 Oct 73 - 21 Nov 74	HQ ARPC (ORS)	Denver CO

INITIAL ACTIVE DUTY: 14 Jul 1968 - 25 Aug 1968

PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION: Basic Military Training, Undergraduate Pilot Training

DATES OF SERVICE: 27 May 1968 to 21 November 1974

MILITARY AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
 National Defense Service Medal

PLACE OF INDUCTION: Ellington AFB Texas

PLACE OF SEPARATION: Denver Colorado

The awards listed here are the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal, but no mention is made of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. It also lists his dates of service with units. Other than his time training, he was assigned to the 111th Fighter Intercept Squadron and its parent organization, the 147th Fighter Intercept Group. His discharge date from the Texas National Guard was October 1, 1973.

The above photograph had to have been taken some time between his qualifying as a pilot in 1969 and his promotion to First Lieutenant on November 7, 1970.

So what about the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award? In the United States Army, unit awards can be worn on a temporary basis. If you are transferred into the unit that has received an award, you wear that award until you transfer out of that unit. I contacted the Air Force Personnel Center and asked whether the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award was ever authorized for temporary wear. This was their answer:

IAW AF Instruction 36-2803, THE AIR FORCE AWARDS AND DECORATIONS PROGRAM

All assigned or attached people who served with a unit during a period for which a unit award was awarded are authorized the appropriate ribbon if they directly contributed to the mission and accomplishments of the unit.

Additionally, there isn't a "temporary" wear of AF Outstanding Unit Awards for AF personnel.

So to finally solve the mystery of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, I contacted the Air Force History support Organization. I requested all dates of all awards of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award received by the 147th Fighter Intercept Group and the 111th Fighter Intercept Squadron. The answer I received was shocking. This unit had received this award only once. The dates of the award are as follows quoting directly from the source at the AFHSO:

147th Fighter Interceptor Group AFOUA 1 Oct 73-30 Sep 75 DAFSO GB 164/77

111 Fighter Interceptor Squadron AFOUA 1 Oct 73-30 Sep 75 DAFSO GB 164/77

This states explicitly that the units received the Air force Outstanding Unit Award for the time period from October 1, 1973 to September 30, 1975. George W. Bush's discharge date from the 111th FIS and the 147th FIG was October 1, 1973. Clearly, these units did not receive an award of the AFOUA until after George W. Bush had been discharged, and well after the date the photograph in question was taken.

This means, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that George W. Bush was photographed wearing a ribbon he clearly did not earn.

Webliography:

Source of the photograph: bushlibrary.tamu.edu/photos/photos.php?file=HS502.jpg
Air Force Personnel Center: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>
Air force History Support Office: <http://www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil/>
USA Today source of documents used in this report: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/2004-02-14-bush-docs.htm>
Source for ARG22: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/bushdocs/2-Discharge.pdf>
Source for NGB22: http://www.usatoday.com/news/bushdocs/11-2_2004_Personn...
Source for copy of photograph: http://www.usatoday.com/news/bushdocs/11-2_2004_Personn...
Source for "military biography": http://www.usatoday.com/news/bushdocs/11-1_2004_Personn...

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Replies to this thread:

Original Air Force Personnel Center Email w/headers	Walt Starr	Aug-26-04 07:51 PM	#1
first	trumad	Aug-26-04 07:51 PM	#2
Haha! Trumad, you sound like those yahoos on Yahoo that	cat_girl25	Aug-26-04 08:00 PM	#18
Well, they do it on arios too...	gristy	Aug-26-04 08:29 PM	#56
I learned it from Atrios...	trumad	Aug-26-04 08:35 PM	#65
I think it came from slashdot	Must_B_Free	Aug-26-04 10:49 PM	#120
Kick kick kick!	plastic_turkeys	Aug-26-04 07:52 PM	#5
Who in the media has this been sent to?	mzmolly	Aug-26-04 07:52 PM	#3
What network or cable do you believe will broadcast this?	wurzel	Aug-26-04 07:57 PM	#11
Provided the documentation is legit, most.	mzmolly	Aug-26-04 09:01 PM	#84
They love money more than ratings. n/t	wurzel	Aug-26-04 10:21 PM	#101
Ratings bring \$\$	mzmolly	Aug-26-04 11:53 PM	#167
Advertisements bring \$\$\$	wurzel	Aug-27-04 08:39 AM	#208
Ratings = Advertising = \$\$\$\$	Walt Starr	Aug-27-04 09:23 AM	#213
Sponsorship = Advertising = \$\$\$\$	wurzel	Aug-27-04 11:37 AM	#225
Not to enable, but	Pot Kettle Black	Aug-27-04 09:26 AM	#214
Kerry should support the elimination of regulation of broadcasting?	wurzel	Aug-27-04 11:41 AM	#227
Ratings bring in advertisements and \$\$\$	mzmolly	Aug-27-04 11:52 AM	#233
Print outlets are good choices	Karla in Ohio	Aug-27-04 12:39 AM	#187
Original Air Force History Support Organization Email w/headers	Walt Starr	Aug-26-04 07:52 PM	#4
great work	Ducks In A Row	Aug-26-04 07:56 PM	#8
Great work, Walt!	mgdecombe	Aug-26-04 07:54 PM	#6
go for it Walt,	stellanoir	Aug-26-04 07:55 PM	#7
This was a 100% Internet based Story	Walt Starr	Aug-26-04 07:56 PM	#9
No, Walt, you and you alone	PDittie	Aug-26-04 10:50 PM	#121
Walt---been lurking mostly along with you guys since your first	RevRussel	Aug-27-04 12:44 AM	#190
Walt Starr - shining brightly!	merh	Aug-26-04 07:57 PM	#10
sent to hardball and countdown	Ducks In A Row	Aug-26-04 07:57 PM	#12
What would be the PENALTY for doing this??? n/m	Rosco T.	Aug-26-04 07:58 PM	#13
Not meaning to be a wet sponge here...	SotarrTheWizard	Aug-26-04 10:49 PM	#119
Then you could provide documentation you served in that unit	Walt Starr	Aug-26-04 10:54 PM	#124
It doesn't matter	Moonbeam_Starlight	Aug-26-04 11:15 PM	#135
Which cable news network will break this story?	cat_girl25	Aug-26-04 07:58 PM	#14
One tiny thing, and please prove me wrong here...	Chichiri	Aug-26-04 07:58 PM	#15
The award would not have been given out until after September 30, 1975	Walt Starr	Aug-26-04 08:00 PM	#20
Thank you.	Chichiri	Aug-26-04 08:02 PM	#21
The picture itself predates the legitimate award anyway	Tansy_Gold	Aug-26-04 08:25 PM	#52
How do you know that?	Bleachers7	Aug-26-04 10:15 PM	#98
GW was nowhere near his unit on 1 October 1973...	Willy Mugobeer	Aug-26-04 08:26 PM	#53
The Chicago Tribune is aware of this	Walt Starr	Aug-26-04 07:58 PM	#16
Great work, Walt.	DesertDem	Aug-26-04 08:03 PM	#24
They are vetting it	Walt Starr	Aug-26-04 08:05 PM	#27
Keeping fingers crossed.	DesertDem	Aug-26-04 08:07 PM	#30
oh yeah, NOW they're being ethical and vetting a story	Ducks In A Row	Aug-26-04 08:17 PM	#40
Woo-hoo!	senseandsensibility	Aug-26-04 08:23 PM	#47
GO WALT!	Feanorcurufinwe	Aug-26-04 08:00 PM	#17