**An Explanatory List Of All The Medals And Ribbons That Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) Presented To Veteran James “Moe” Armstrong**

* **Navy Commendation Medal With Valor Device:** The Navy Commendation Medal is a mid-level U.S. military decoration which is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service. For valorous actions in direct contact with an enemy force, but of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Bronze Star Medal, the "V" device or Combat "V" may be authorized for wear on the service and suspension ribbon of the medal. Each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces issues its own version of the Commendation Medal, with a fifth version existing for acts of joint military service performed under the Department of Defense.
* **Navy Good Conduct Medal:** The Navy Good Conduct Medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the U.S. military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service." During times of war, the Good Conduct Medal may be awarded for one year of faithful service. The Good Conduct Medal may also be awarded posthumously, to any service member killed in the line of duty.
* **National Defense Service Medal:** The National Defense Service Medal is awarded to anyone who serves on active duty in the U.S. military during the following time periods: June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1954 for service during the Korean War; January 1, 1961 to August 14, 1974 for service during the Vietnam War; August 2, 1990 to November 30, 1995 for service during the Gulf War; or September 11, 2001 to a date to be announced for service during the War on Terrorism.
* **Vietnam Service Medal (With 2 Bronze Stars):** The Vietnam Service Medal is presented to anyone who served on temporary duty for more than 30 consecutive days, or 60 non-consecutive days attached to or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting ground (military) operations, or attached to or regularly serving for one or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations in the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos within the defined combat zone between the dates of November 15, 1961 to March 28 1973, and from April 29, 1975 to April 30, 1975. The Department of Defense established thirty military campaigns during the Vietnam War. For those service members participating in one or more campaigns, a 3/16 inch campaign star is now authorized to be attached on the Vietnam Service Medal for each campaign participated in.
* **Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon:** Originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon is awarded to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and allies for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after December 7, 1941 – the date of the Attack on Pearl Harbor and the start of American involvement in World War II. The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions so as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign.
* **Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon:** The Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon is an award that was established by order of the Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal on December 18, 1944. This commendation is awarded by the Navy Secretary to any ship, aircraft, detachment, or other unit of the United States Navy or Marine Corps which has since December 6, 1941 distinguished itself in action against the enemy with outstanding heroism but not sufficient to justify award of the Presidential Unit Citation (United States).
* **Combat Action Ribbon:** The Combat Action Ribbon is a personal decoration of the Department of the Navy and U.S. Coast Guard that may be awarded to those who, in any grade including and below that of a Captain in the Navy and Coast Guard (or Colonel in the Marine Corps), have actively participated in ground or surface combat.
* **Vietnam Campaign Medal:** The Vietnam Campaign Medal is a military campaign medal of the former country of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam). Established in 1966, it was awarded to members of United States, Australian, and New Zealand military forces serving six months or more in support of Republic of Vietnam military operations. The medal was the most commonly bestowed foreign military award to U.S. Armed Forces personnel prior to the Gulf War.