

Dr. Dennis Stevens has been honored by Senator Mike Crapo with The Spirit of Freedom: Idaho Veterans Service Award.

Excerpts of the press release are below. The complete article can be found at <https://www.crapo.senate.gov/media/newsreleases/crapo-honors-22-idaho-veterans-and-volunteers-with-spirit-of-freedom-award>

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CRAPO HONORS 22 IDAHO VETERANS & VOLUNTEERS WITH SPIRIT OF FREEDOM AWARD

NOMINATED BY MEMBERS VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS, AWARD HONORS THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE IDAHO'S GREATER VETERANS COMMUNITY

WASHINGTON - Idaho Senator Mike Crapo will recognize 22 Idahoans nominated by veterans' organizations for serving our nation and military veterans through The Spirit of Freedom: Idaho Veterans Service Award.

The award, began by Crapo in 2002, is a small way to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of Idaho's veterans and volunteers to the wider Idaho veterans' community. Each Spirit of Freedom Award recipient will receive a certificate for their service as well as a United States flag that has been flown over the U.S. Capitol building. The nominations for the Spirit of Freedom Award are made by a number of veterans' organizations, including the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, the Idaho State Veterans Homes, the VA Regional Office, the VA Medical Center in Boise, and the commanders of various veterans service organizations.

"The Spirit of Freedom Awards recognize our veterans and the volunteers who set an example of leadership and service in our communities and across our state," said Crapo. "Often, these veterans and volunteers humbly serve others without seeking recognition or praise. With the Spirit of Freedom Award, we, as a community, come together to collectively say 'thank you' to the women and men who continue to serve their fellow Idahoans."

Dennis L. Stevens, Boise: The Boise Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) nominated Dr. Dennis Leroy Stevens to receive the 2017 Spirit of Freedom Award. Dr. Stevens, who served as a Major in the U.S. Army, is Chief of Infectious Diseases at the Boise VA Medical Center, and he also serves as the Boise VAMC's Associate Chief of Staff for Research. He leads a team of biomedical research scientists and clinician-researchers conducting research relevant to the special needs of the veterans population. When nominating Dr. Stevens for this recognition, Boise VA Medical Center Director David Wood wrote, "The Boise VA and the Treasure Valley are fortunate to have a physician-researcher as accomplished and dedicated as Dr. Stevens here in our community."

Dr. Stevens grew up on a farm in Fort Benton, Montana, and earned a Ph.D. in Microbiology at the University of Montana before attending medical school and completing his residency at the University of Utah. From 1960-1964, he participated in ROTC, then served as a medical research technician at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. He served at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii and Fort Lee in Virginia followed by his service as assistant chief of infectious diseases at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas before completing his military service in 1979. Dr. Steven's honors for his military service include the U.S. Army Meritorious Service Award. He has also earned many honors for his work on infectious diseases, including the Infectious Disease Society of America's 'Society Citation Award' in 2000, for lifetime achievement in research, medicine and teaching. He also serves on many medical and research boards and committees, teaches Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho (WWAMI) medical students and residents at the Boise VA and mentors many junior researchers. He was the founding Executive Director of the Idaho Veterans' Research and Education Foundation. He and his wife, VA Career Research Scientist Dr. Amy Bryant, live on a farm in Meridian. He has a daughter, Marisa, and five grandchildren. Thank you, Dr. Dennis Stevens for your exemplary work on behalf of veterans. I welcome the opportunity to honor Dr. Stevens with the 2017 Spirit of Freedom Award.