

# *purple heart*

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## *brief*

The Military and Veterans Law Clinic serves low income former servicemembers who are seeking upgraded discharge status. Students represent clients before military administrative boards and the VA. The story of client Mr. John Spencer is one of many successes from the clinic. In the students' research, they discovered not only did Mr. Spencer deserve a discharge status upgrade, he deserved a Combat Infantryman Badge and a Purple Heart. The school hosted a proper Purple Heart ceremony for Mr. Spencer 40 years after his discharge from the Army. Leading up to the ceremony, we made a video of his story.

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## *goals*

- Create an engaging and shareable video to promote the Purple Heart Ceremony.
- Take photos for use in news stories.
- Create an alternate edit for use in promoting the work of the clinics.

## *process*

I had the honor and privilege of traveling to Winston-Salem to film an interview with Mr. Spencer. While on location, we took a few photos for event promotion. When we returned to Chapel Hill, we interviewed the director of the clinic and a student that was integral in Mr. Spencer's case. In this process, discretion was vital. All parties involved signed non-disclosure agreements.

My job was to edit the footage to tell Mr. Spencer's story in an emotional, engaging, and succinct way. The final video, which promotes the Purple Heart Ceremony scheduled around Veterans Day, is linked below.

Different edits of the video have been used to promote the work of the clinics to prospective students, donors, and the UNC Board of Trustees.



## *results*

Around 50 friends, family and members of the press attended the Purple Heart Ceremony (which was held outside on an unfortunately cold and rainy day).

Since this video, I have worked with the clinic to produce two similar videos involving interviewing and telling the story of clients. These have been submitted to the Army Advisory Board as part of the client's discharge status appeal. This is the first time video has been used in an Army discharge status appeal application.