

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD AWARDS COLORADO SPRINGS' CAPT. RICHARD L. LANGE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

DENVER, CO - U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) awarded Capt. Richard L. Lange of Colorado Springs with the Air Force Commendation Medal in a ceremony held in the Colorado State Capitol on Wednesday.

"I am proud to present Captain Lange with this long-awaited award," said Senator Allard. "He is a true American hero."

Capt. Lange was honored by Senator Allard for his exceptional service as Chief of the Defense Communication System's Operations Branch of the 1957th Communications Group. According to the Air Force, "His professional experience in the communications field resulted in vastly improved communications facilities and services..."

Capt. Lange has been the recipient of numerous other awards, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. He earned his Distinguished Flying Cross for his service in World War II as a tail gunner. On May 29, 1944, he participated in a mission to destroy a vitally important target in Austria. En route, his B-24 was attacked by over 100 enemy aircraft. Despite being wounded and blown from his turret by cannon fire during his skillful defense, he returned to his post and tracked his attackers with his inoperative guns, simulating his readiness to fire. Because of his valiant effort, his plane completed its mission and returned home safely.

Joining Senator Allard in presenting the Air Force Commendation Medal to Captain Lange was Col. Richard Moss, commander of 302nd Reserve Airlift Wing, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado.

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