



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FAYETTE COUNTY VETERAN HONORED WITH MEDAL CEREMONY**

**Uniontown, PA** – More than 65 years after Edward Stanley Discovich returned from the Korean War, the Fayette County veteran received some unexpected recognition.

In January, Discovich, 89, of Uniontown was finally presented with multiple medals he unknowingly earned while serving in the United States Army Reserve.

Fayette County Veterans Affairs Director and U.S. Marine Master Sgt. Brian Bensen donned his dress blues and ventured to the Discovich home for an official ceremony, at the family's request.

"About a year and a half ago, Ed and (wife) Martha needed to downsize and move from their home of 58 years. They were going through paperwork, came across his discharge papers and went to see Madonna (Nicklow)," Bensen said. "Madonna told him she never knew he had so many medals, and Ed said, 'What medals?'"

Bensen, who took over the VA director position from Nicklow following her retirement last year, said he continued the investigative process she started before her departure. After applying through the national military archives in Washington, D.C., the medals took more than one year to arrive.

Born in Uniontown on Dec. 31, 1931, Discovich grew up playing baseball throughout Fayette County before being drafted into the military in 1952. As part of the 24th Infantry Division, he rose to the rank of corporal, before being discharged in 1954.

He spent most of that time overseas, as North Korea had invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, following a series of conflicts along their border.

Upon his return to the United States, he met his wife, Martha Mesaros Discovich, with whom he recently celebrated 62 years of marriage. The couple enjoy watching all sporting events, especially Pittsburgh Penguins hockey games, and spending time with their daughters, Arlene McCormick and Lisa Mercadante, and grandchildren, Christine Procratsky, Katie Clymer, Michael Mercadante and Mario Mercadante.

Discovich worked as a draftsman for Allegheny Power for 30 years and never missed a day of work. In retirement, he remained active by doing 50 pushups and situps every day until he was 75 years old.

In 1995, a mini-stroke became the first in a long list of health problems he would endure, including skin cancer, implantation of a pacemaker, and injuries from a fall down church steps. Despite his struggles, Bensen said Discovich is still healthy and "very agile."

With Bensen's wife, Jennifer, serving as photographer and Discovich's entire family in attendance, the medal ceremony was yet another milestone in the veteran's storied life.

“Presenting those medals was another highlight of my career,” Bensen said. “It was truly my honor to help bring recognition to one of our country’s patriots.”

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org).

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