

THE HEROES OF OUR PAST ARE THE

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR OUR FUTURE

“Time shall not dim the glory of their deeds.”

These were the words spoken by General John J. Pershing in recalling the heroism of the American men and women who served in World War One. General Pershing understood well that in recalling the deeds of heroes of the past, we provide examples and role-models to inspire the heroes of tomorrow. Indeed, within one generation, the glory of the Doughboys of whom General Pershing spoke became a needed inspiration to a new generation of Americans in a second world war.

Last year a memorial to heroes of the past was dedicated in Washington, D.C. It was a memorial to 16 million men and women who answered the call of duty in World War II and sacrificed much, and often gave all, to preserve freedom around the world. These men and women are often called *The Greatest Generation*, and the memory of their deeds serves to inspire us today.

There are few things more important for our heroes who survive than the role they play in teaching and inspiring the young by their words, deeds, and example. Though only 129 recipients of the Medal of Honor remain, and though most are over the age of seventy-five, these dedicated heroes continue their work in schools, parades, and other venues, to teach and inspire our young. Perhaps no better example of the importance of heroes of the past working to build a brighter future by their example to the young can be illustrated than in the words written by one young man following his opportunity at age twelve to see one of the great heroes of his own time, Charles Lindbergh. When writing of his own life that young man recalled.....

"When we learned (Lindbergh) was going to fly into Sioux Falls, Pop and I were like beavers after fresh timber. The whole family dressed up in our finest outfits, and Pop loaded us all into the car and drove us to Renner Field, five miles north of town, to see the new American hero and his airplane. Renner Field was little more than a hay patch, but it offered much more room for the crowd and the cars than did the Sioux Falls airport.

"The crowd went wild as soon as the silvery speck appeared on the horizon. It came closer and closer, finally setting down at the far end of the field. When the plane taxied to a stop, the crowd mobbed it. A tall, thin figure climbed out and everyone roared and cheered and whistled and applauded, while a band played patriotic and military music. I tried to get as close as possible to the platform draped with red, white, and blue bunting surrounded by hundreds of American flags.

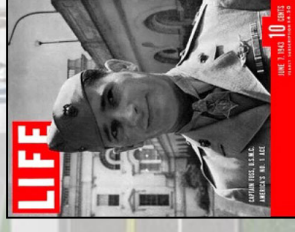
"Moments later an official party escorted Lindbergh up onto the platform, and the noise was enough to drown out the explosions in a dynamite factory. I broke through the edge of the crowd and climbed up to the platform, eager to shake hands with my hero. I was only a few feet away from Lindbergh when several men in military uniform grabbed me and threw me off the platform.

"I was too excited to be disappointed. In fact, I was so excited that I hardly heard a word Lindbergh said as he greeted the crowd and told about his historic flight. Instead of listening, I elbowed my way through the crowd to get over to Lindbergh's plane, which now stood majestically alone, totally ignored by the people crowding around the platform. That silver airship was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen. I dreamed of climbing inside and flying it away.

"All the way home I chattered excitedly. 'I'm going to be bigger than Lindbergh someday,' I vowed to my father, more determined than ever to become a flier."

Frank Foss simply looked at his 12-year-old son Joe, and smiled.

Foss, Joe and Donna, A Proud American, Pocket Books, 1992



The Congressional Medal of Honor Society is the organization, chartered by Congress, that is the official representative of the recipients of the Medal of Honor. You can contact individual recipients, ask questions, and obtain information directly from the CMOH Society.

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

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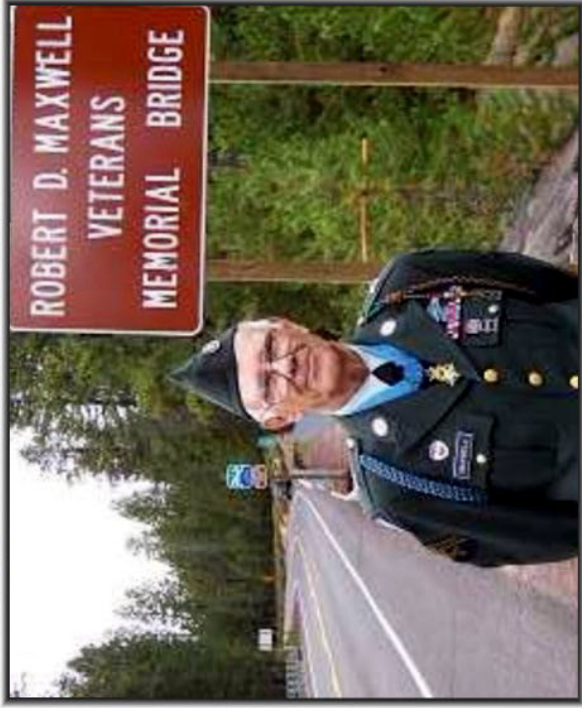
Phone: (843) 884-8862

Web Site: www.cmohs.org

Cover Photo: Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis visiting with Cindy Lemar's 5th Grade Class at Nodaway-Holt R-VII Elementary Class in Maitland, MO



Medal of Honor recipient Peter Lemon (Vietnam) visited with students at Pueblo's Central High School to give them copies of the recently released documentary *Beyond The Medal of Honor*. The 4-hour documentary details the story of Pueblo, Colorado's four Medal recipients, two of whom (Bill Crawford & Carl Sitter) graduated from Central High School. Photo Courtesy of Capture It Productions



Last year was a busy time for Bob Maxwell, Oregon's only living recipient of the Medal of Honor. On Memorial Day he addressed the large crowd of children and adults in his home town of Bend. On National Patriot's Day (September 11) he led a parade in his honor following which a local bridge was named for him.

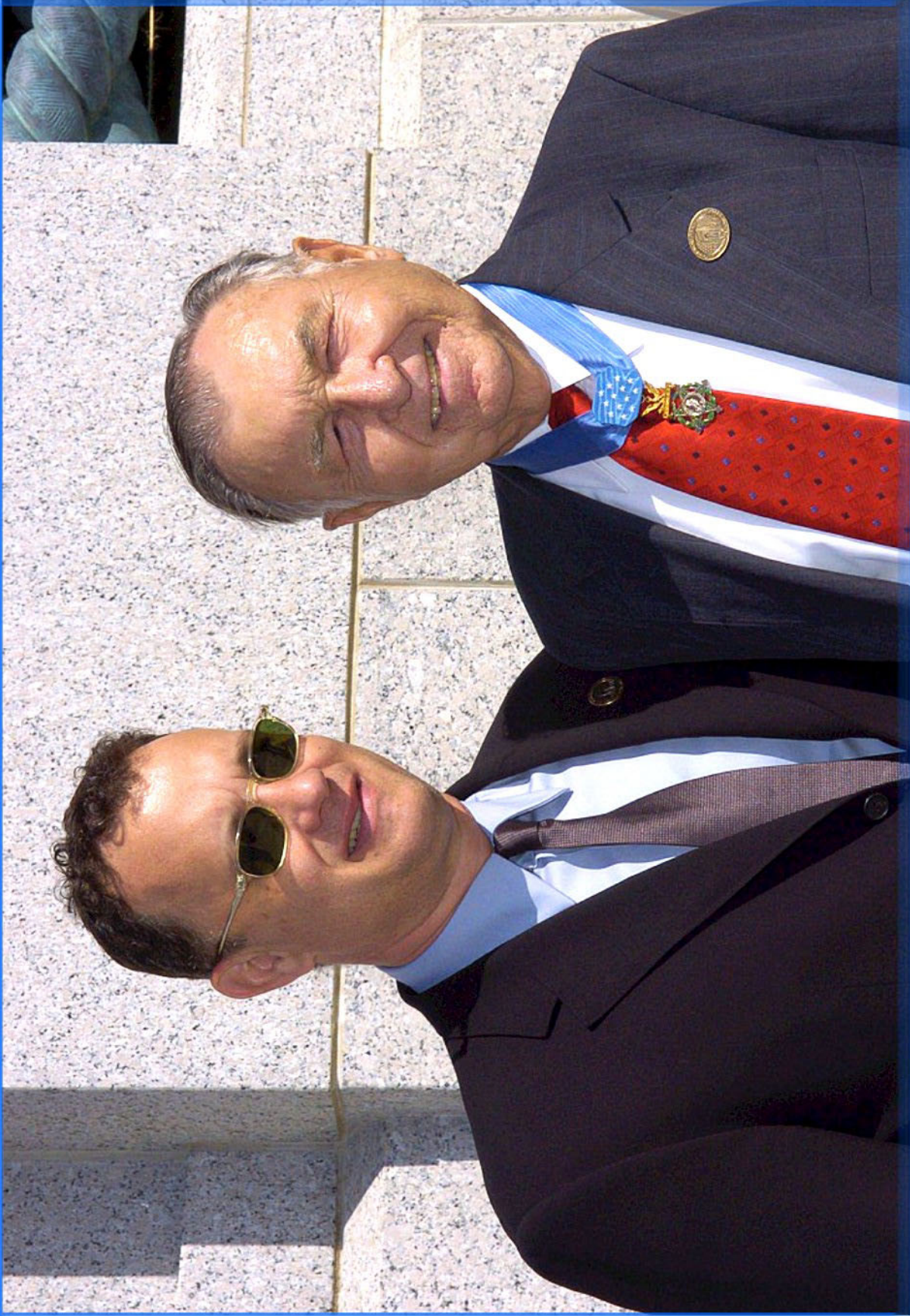
Photos by Barney Lerten and Courtesy of the Bend Bugle



In 1946 the U.S. Army's Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team came home from combat in Europe to march down Constitution Avenue as the most decorated unit of the War. Last year Shizuya Cesar Hayashi and Barney Hajiro, two of the regiments 21 Medal of Honor recipients returned to Washington for dedication of the WWII Memorial. Photo © 2004 by Mick Bush, CMOHS Photographer



Medal of Honor Recipients Wesley Fox (USMC-Vietnam), Jack Lucas and Hershel Woody Williams (USMC-WWII), and Ron Rosser (Army-Korea) helped dedicate a memorial to Vera Cruz Campaign Navy Medal recipient Rufus Johnston in his hometown of Lincolntown, NC. The Memorial was sponsored by American Legion Post 30. Photo Courtesy of the *Lincoln-Times News*



Actor Tom Hanks took time to visit with the Medal of Honor recipients who attended the 2004 dedication of the new World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Here he paused to pose with WWII Recipient Chuck Murray.

Photo © 2004 by Mick Bush, CMOHS Photographer



6TH CAVALRY, 6TH SQUADRON, 11TH ATTACK HELICOPTER REGIMENT

MOH recipients Rodolfo Hernandez (Korea), Sammy Davis (Vietnam) and Ron Rosser (Korea) visit with young soldiers stationed in Germany. The soldiers are PFC Jonathan Campbell (Baltimore, MD), PV2 Louis Sepulveda (Kapolei, HI), SPC Amadar Nava (Grand Prairie Texas), PFC Brant Feivou (Rancho Cucamonga, CA), SPC Sammy Salmon (Pohnpei, FM), SPC Brandon York (Key West, FL), SPC Matthew Miles (Sacramento, CA)



Medal of Honor Recipient Jack Lucas (USMC) joins fellow World War II veterans Senator Bob Dole and President George H.W. Bush in the ceremonies to dedicate the new memorial in Washington, D.C. to all 16 million men and women of *The Greatest Generation* who served to defend freedom in World War II.

Photo © 2004 by Mick Bush, CMOHS Photographer



World War II Medal of Honor Recipient Van Barfoot (Army) took time to visit the F.B.I. Headquarters in Washington, D.C. last year while attending dedication of the new World War II Memorial. The recipients and their guests were warmly greeted, given a V.I.P. tour, and even given the chance to brush up on their marksmanship on the range.

Photo © 2004 by Mick Bush, CMOHS Photographer



Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, a member of World War Two's famed 442nd Go For Broke Regiment, is the Medal of Honor recipient currently serving in either house of the United States Congress.



At age 95 John Finn (Navy-WWII) is the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and one of life's most unforgettable characters for those who have met him. Despite his age and a broken hip John refused to miss last year's dedication of the World War II memorial, or the chance to impart some of his wisdom to JCS Chairman General Richard Myers. Photo © 2004 by Mick Bush, CMOHS Photographer



Medal of Honor recipient Wesley Fox (USMC-Vietnam) addresses JROTC students at West Lincoln High School in Lincoln County, NC, during a series of events in December 2004 that saw Medal of Honor recipients visiting all of the county's junior and high schools to educate students about their own hometown heroes.

Photo Courtesy of the *Lincoln-Times News*



Alfred Rascon who earned the Medal of Honor in Vietnam visited with soldiers during a March 2004 visit to the USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii. Susan Dunkaio of Phoenix, AZ, took this photo and sent it to us with the note that: "I was so moved that I did not ask him his name, but I did have the honor of shaking his hand and simply said 'Thank you, and God bless you'."

2004 In Review

In Memory

Richard Sorenson



Aug. 28, 1924 - Oct 9, 2004

Richard Bush



Dec 23, 1923 - Jun 7, 2004

Mike Clausen



Oct 14, 1947 - May 30, 2004

WWII Memorial Dedication



More than two dozen recipients of the Medal of Honor gathered in Washington, D.C. for the dedication of the new memorial to them and their 16 million comrades. It was a long-overdue tribute to *The Greatest Generation*.

Family and Friends of the Congressional Medal of Honor



Nearly 100 family members of Medal of Honor recipients and friends gathered in Pueblo, Colorado, for the inaugural meeting of a new national organization dedicated to preserving the history of our heroes. The three-day program was capped with an inspirational banquet with guest speaker Bruce McCandless, II, son of World War II MOH recipient Bruce McCandless and grandson of Willis Winter Bradley, MOH, WWI.

Friends and Family of the Congressional Medal of Honor is a new and growing organization which it is hoped will have a strong educational and patriotic impact on the future of America. For more information on the organization you can visit their website at www.HomeOfHeroes.com/family

Following the FFCMOH convention last year, many attendees gathered at nearby Florence, Colorado, where the State Veterans Nursing Home was renamed for local hero Bruce McCandless. Rosemary McCandless, daughter of Bruce McCandless and granddaughter of Willis Bradley, christened the new sign with a bottle of champagne. It was the first in what is hoped will be a national program to rename similar state homes for other Medal of Honor recipients.



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