

The Torch is Passed

By ALIX M. HALL

The old men simply shook their heads.
Old women looked and smiled.
And someone said, "Without a doubt
Those young folks are just wild."

"They don't remember how it was,
They haven't any clue.
But we remember in our hearts
As old folks often do."

We gave the old ones due respect.
We learned from them and then
We lived in our own time and day
Without "Remember when."

We fought our own foul enemy.
We bled our own red blood.
We wept our share of bitter tears
For fallen in the mud.

Our day was different we said,
Our time was here and now.
But we held in our hearts and minds
That they had shown us how.

They aged and fell, the old ones did.
We stood and mourned their fall.
And turned around and found ourselves
As old ones after all.

We looked and smiled as they marched by
The young who took our place
They had their own foul enemy
In their own time and space.

And they remembered us with love
As they marched on their foe,
"They showed us how, they paved the way
That we now have to go."

And then they went where duty called
Without a backward stare
At old ones left remembering
What we had had to bear.

But that is how it is you see.
They passed the torch and then
We kept it burning in our day
And passed it on again.

That torch will ever shine you know
That flag will ever fly
Where freedom is the watchword
And honor is the cry.

Each growing generation learns
The stories old ones tell
That duty is the price we pay
To guard our freedoms well.

At Valley Forge and Gettysburg
And at the Alamo,
At Belleau Woods, Pearl Harbor
And Normandy, Iwo.

In Berlin and Okinawa
Inchon, and Seoul, you see.
The Highlands and the Delta
Saigon, the DMZ.

In Cuba and Grenada
And so in Panama
Kuwait, Iraq, the desert
And even Bosnia.

Our country calls, they answer,
Wherever it's to be.
The torch is passed beyond us
For freedom isn't free.

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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.

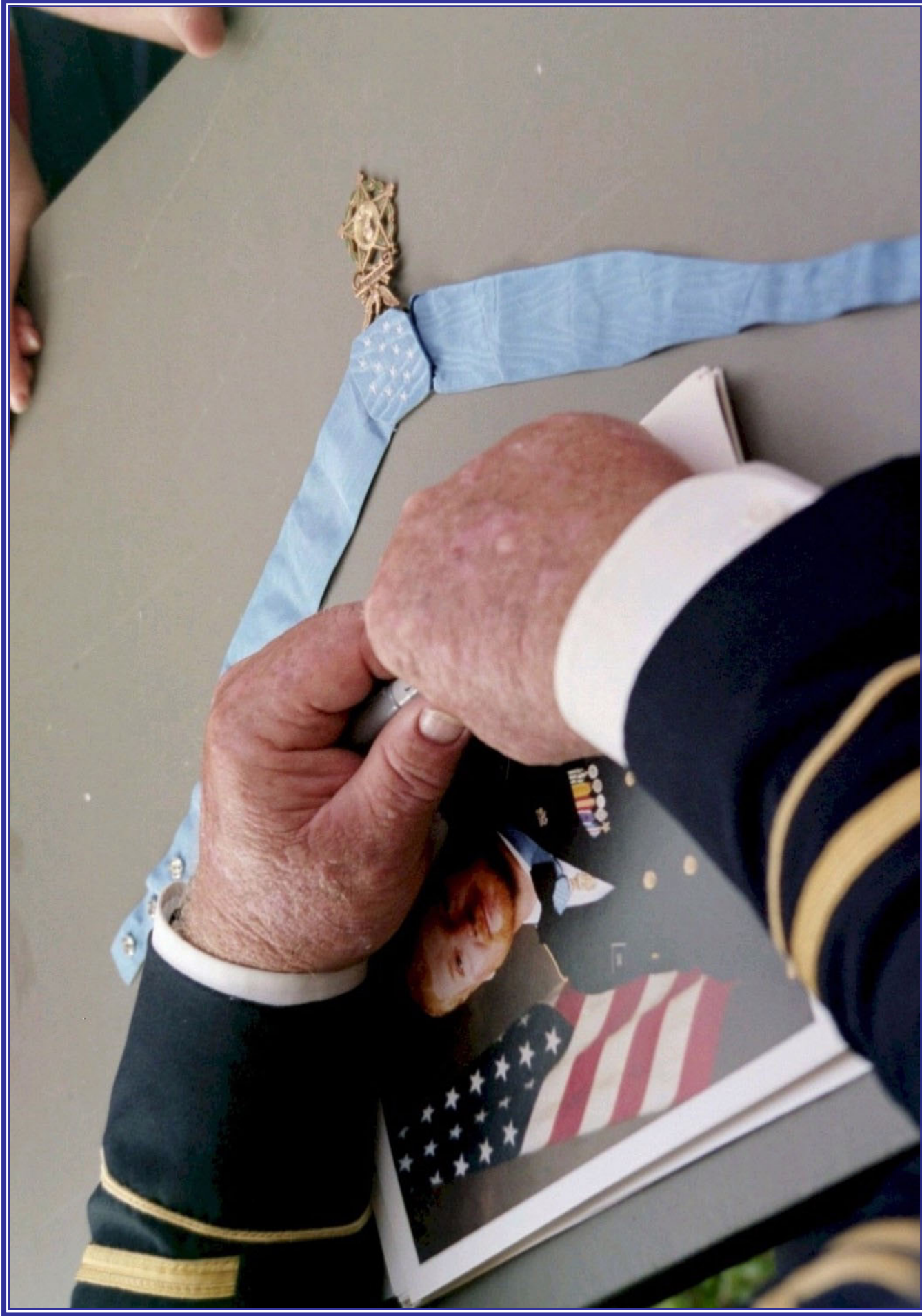
CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

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Cover Photo: Bob Maxwell, Oregon's only living Medal of Honor Recipient, visits with local Cub Scouts



Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis spends much of each year visiting in schools. His message is one of hope, patriotism, and service, with the knowledge that the future of America now rests with the young. He believes his Medal of Honor rightly belongs to others, especially those with whom he served. Though sometimes humbly worn, most frequently it is graciously shared

Photo Courtesy of Sammy Davis



On February 20, 1945, at Iwo Jima, PFC Jack Lucas became the youngest Marine in history to earn the Medal of Honor. Twenty years later in Vietnam Corporal Bob O'Malley became the first Marine in that war to survive to wear his Medal of Honor. The two veteran heroes recently shared a moment with Lance Corporal Grant Loether, who has continued that proud Corps tradition of service through two tours in Iraq. Photo by Dave Loether



In April 1862, twenty-two young Ohio volunteers under the leadership of civilian spy James Andrews made a daring raid 200 miles into enemy territory to capture a railroad train at Big Shanty, Georgia. Their mission was to drive it north to destroy vital bridges, railroad lines and communications between Chattanooga and Atlanta in order to disrupt the movement of Confederate soldiers and supplies. The mission resulted in a nearly 100 mile race that became known as "The Great Locomotive Chase". In the end all members of the Andrews's Raid were captured and confined in Confederate prisons. James Andrews was hanged as a spy, as were seven of the raiders (including two civilians). Fourteen raiders later escaped their prison camp, and on March 25, 1863 six of them reported to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton in Washington, D.C. where, in an impromptu ceremony, they were awarded the first Medals of Honor in history.

More than 100 years after the *Andrews Raid*, Army Major Patrick Henry Brady was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism as a medevac pilot in Vietnam. Last year during a visit to Ohio, Brady took time to visit the grave of raider Jacob Parrott, a hero of generations past who as a 19-year old private was the first man in history to receive the Medal of Honor.

Photo by Larry Huffman



Vietnam War Marine Medal of Honor Recipient Barney Barnum took time last year to visit with members of the Shenandoah Valley's Fox Young Marines in Front Royal, VA.

Photo by William Molitor



Surrounded by photos of heroes of both the past and present, Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipients John Cavaiani and Brian Thacker take time to visit with Tom Leighty while enjoying the Dover Air Force Base Museum's Hall of Heroes.

Photo Contributed by T.D. Leighty



Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Wesley Fox takes time to frequently visit with the young members of a Pennsylvania chapter of *Young Marines* named in his honor. The *Young Marines* is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through high school, that was established by the Marine Corps League in 1958. Visit them online at www.cwfym.tripod.com. Photo Courtesy of William Molitor



On December 7, 1941, Navy Ordnanceman John Finn became the first Medal of Honor recipient of that war when he drove his 1938 Ford Deluxe Sedan from his base housing to return fire on Japanese aircraft attacking Kaneohe Bay airfield. Our nation's OLDEST living recipient, last year at age 97 John traveled to Bristol, Rhode Island, to be the guest of honor in that city's July 4th parade while riding in a 1938 Ford Deluxe Sedan, rebuilt using parts from John's original vehicle.

Photo Courtesy of Ted Hayes, Editor, *The Bristol Phoenix*, Bristol, R.I.



At 81-years young and the Air Force's most decorated hero, Medal of Honor recipient and former Vietnam War POW George E. Bud Day shows few signs of slowing down. In addition to being a strong advocate for veterans, the semi-retired attorney can frequently be found fostering patriotism across the country as in this recent visit to the Colonel Wesley Fox Young Marines in Pennsylvania.

Photo Courtesy of William Molitor

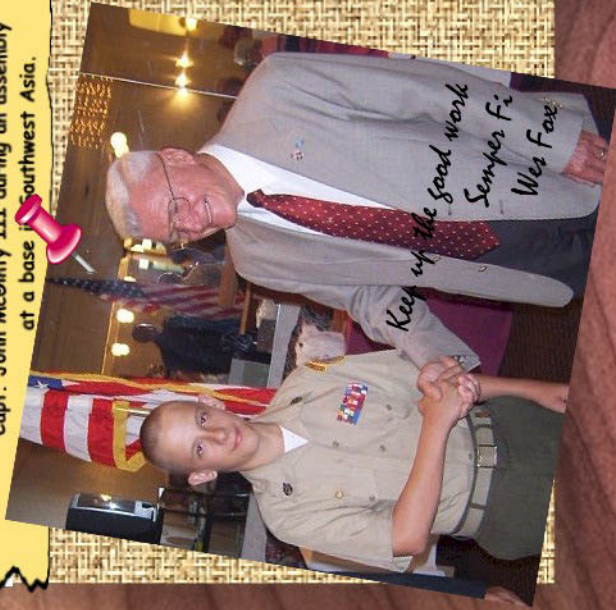


WWII Medal of Honor Recipient John D. "Bud" Hawk gets an enthusiastic and warm welcome from Bainbridge High School students and staff during Homecoming festivities. Bud originally graduated with the Class of 1943, but returned to Bainbridge for "post graduate" studies in 1945/1946 after he was discharged from the Army in 1945.

Photo © 2006 by Scott W. Nickell (Used by Permission)



Staff Sgt. Shafinah Rosaura, 379th Expeditionary Contracting Squadron, chats with Medal of Honor recipient Marine Capt. John McGinty III during an assembly at a base in Southwest Asia.



Keep up the good work
Semper Paratus
Wes Fox



Leo Thorness (USAF-MD)
And Tom Leighty



WWII Marine Ace James Swett (MDH) and
Iraq Veteran Lance Corporal Grant Loether



Pat Brady, MOH (Center) visiting with WWII DSC recipient Jim Hunt (Left)
and former RVN POW Don Gouin (Right)

Throughout the year, every year, those who humbly wear the Medal of Honor continue their service by sharing their time again and again to encourage and inspire a new generation of Americans.

Photo Credits: T/Sgt Steve Staedler, Dave Loether, William Molitor, T.D. Leighty, Larry Huffman



Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Jack Jacobs continues to inspire those who serve in defense of freedom. Last year during a visit to Iraq he took time to visit with 1st Lieutenant Eric P. Torrado and Specialist Christopher Arnold.

Photo Courtesy of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion



Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient Sammy Davis loves kids and they respond with respect and fascination to his repeated visits to their schools. Holding his Medal of Honor is a special moment for these young patriots.

Photo Courtesy of Sammy Davis

HEROES



*Paul Ray Smith
USA-Iraq



*Jason Dunham
USMC-Iraq



*Jason Cunningham
USAF-Afghanistan



*John Chapman

USAF-Afghanistan

OF A NEW GENERATION



*Matthew Axelson
USN SEAL-Afghanistan



*Danny Dietz
USN SEAL-Afghanistan



Louis Fonseca
USN-Iraq

US Navy SEALs
(Classified)

THREE
Awards To

U.S. MARINES



JAMES COFFEY
USA-Iraq



DONALD HOLLENBACH
USA-Iraq



MARK MITCHELL
USA-Afghanistan



Brian Chontosh



Willie Copeland



Todd Corbin



Dominic Esquibel



Bradley Kasal



Jarrett Kraft



Justin Lerew



Marco Martinez



Robert Mitchell



Scott Montoya



*Brent Morel



Joseph Perez



Anthony Vigilani



Jeremiah Workman

* Indicates Posthumous Awards

Vigilant for heroism in Afghanistan, All others for heroism in Iraq

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