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AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

HALLOWED GROUND

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BROTHERS IN VALOR

MEDAL OF HONOR BRAVERY
FROM THE CIVIL WAR AS
TOLD BY LIVING RECIPIENTS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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HALLOWED GROUND
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The American Battlefield Trust preserves our nation's hallowed battlegrounds and educates the public about what happened there and why it matters today. We permanently protect these battlefields as a lasting and tangible memorial to the brave soldiers who fought in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Thanks to the contributions of more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide, we have preserved more than 50,000 acres at 131 sites in 24 states. For more information, call 1-888-606-1400 or visit our website at www.battlefields.org. *Hallowed Ground* is the membership magazine of the American Battlefield Trust. It is produced solely for nonprofit educational purposes and every reasonable attempt is made to provide accurate and appropriate attribution for all elements, including those in the public domain. Contemporary images are reproduced only with permission and appropriate attribution; uncredited images are courtesy the American Battlefield Trust. Feature articles reflect the research and opinion of the bylined author. ©2019 American Battlefield Trust.

COVER: Medal of Honor recipient Hershel “Woody” Williams. WILLIAM HEREFORD

THIS PAGE: Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris retraces the steps of the 54th Massachusetts near Fort Wagner on Morris Island, Charleston, S.C., CHARLES HARRIS



Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams stands in the "Valley of Death," where six Medals of Honor were awarded for the same action. The Trust has saved 1,040 acres at Gettysburg, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa.
WILLIAM HEREFORD



HAVE STUDIED American military history for decades, reading hundreds of books and tromping across nearly as many battlefields. But all of that can only take me so far in my understanding of what occurred on those hallowed grounds.

I wasn't there hearing the cannons, smelling the black powder. Can any of us today truly understand what happened at Gettysburg or Fredericksburg? Perhaps not fully. But I believe that those men and women who have donned the American uniform in more recent conflicts are uniquely situated and able to convey elemental truths that have remained unchanged across centuries of warfare.

This is a profoundly special issue of *Hallowed Ground*, one that I hope will help you understand the events of the past in a new way. The men who you will meet in these pages are American heroes, examples of the very best this nation has to offer. They are living recipients of the Medal of Honor. They have made it their lives' work to educate the public about distinctly American values and virtues, reminding us all of the sacrifices made on our behalf.

Working with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, we identified several living recipients whose tales of valor ran parallel to those of Civil War-era recipients. Then, we invited those warriors to walk in the footsteps of their predecessors — on battlefields where the Trust has made a significant impact on landscape preservation.

Their reflections on the experience appear in these pages,

but I would also urge you to go online and explore some of the digital extras we have prepared to go alongside them. In particular, don't miss the amazing video interviews with each recipient, produced by our friends at Wide Awake Films. You'll also find lots more history than we could fit on these pages, including updated battle maps that pinpoint the location of the Civil War citations.

While you're online, also take some time to explore the Civil War Medal of Honor Database that our team has created, making the names and citations of the men who were honored for that conflict publicly available like never before.

Although the Medal of Honor can trace its origins back to the Civil War, one military decoration goes back even farther. The Purple Heart was commissioned by George Washington in the final stages of the American Revolution. But we wanted to do more than simply highlight the history of that award; we wanted to honor the members of the

American Battlefield Trust family who have shed their blood for this country. I'd ask that you take a moment to read the names on page 37 and offer up your own thoughts of thanks to them. ★



JIM LIGHTHIZER
President, American Battlefield Trust

President Portrait by BUDDY SECOR

battlefields.org
THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR DATABASE

Our new database allows you to browse and search for recipients by name, unit or geographic location. Explore the stories of these brave men, like Sgt. Samuel Cole Wright (shown here), who received his for bravery at Antietam, where 20 Medals of Honor were awarded and 461 acres have been saved by the Trust. Uncover more stories yourself at www.battlefields.org/Database.

MORE MEDAL OF HONOR HISTORY

Find all of our Medal of Honor content in one convenient location at www.battlefields.org/MOH

AFTER THE BATTLE

What became of the Civil War-era Medal of Honor recipients featured in this issue? Our exclusive online-only article delves into what their lives were like once returning home and the sometimes long and circuitous routes they took to receiving our nation's highest honor. To read the article, visit www.battlefields.org/BonusArticle.

"MAKING OF" THIS ISSUE PHOTO GALLERY

Creating this special issue of *Hallowed Ground* was a moving experience for the many photographers, videographers and writers who contributed. Our behind-the-scenes photo gallery gives perspective of what it was like to walk the hallowed ground with true American heroes. To take a look at this footage, visit www.battlefields.org/MakingOf.

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www.battlefields.org AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST



COLOR BEARERS GATHER IN NEW ORLEANS

for annual winter Thank You Weekend



INTEREST in this February 8–10 weekend exceeded capacity, as donors flocked to the Big Easy to explore its rich history. Tours and lectures covered everything from pirates and riverboats to iconic battles of the War of 1812 and Civil War, to outstanding museums focused on World War II.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at this exciting event. Mark your calendars for February 7–9, 2020, when we will travel to Savannah, Ga. ★

PHOTOGRAPHY *by* BUDDY SECOR

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED: walking tours of the French Quarter (top row); historic cemeteries and Jackson Square, plus presentations by Trust President Jim Lighthizer (middle row); Ron Drez leads guests on a tour of the Chalmette Battlefield prior to a lecture by William C. “Jack” Davis (bottom row).

Trustee Lt. Gen. Richard Mills spoke to members of the Military and Veterans Caucus of the VA General Assembly on January 30, urging the creation of a new state park at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATORS LEARN

of important links between battlefields and the modern military



ON JANUARY 30, American Battlefield Trust board member Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, USMC (Ret.), presented to a packed house of the Virginia

General Assembly’s Military and Veterans Caucus at the invitation of the caucus’s co-chairman, state Sen. Bryce Reeves. Mills’s presentation came right in the heat of the General Assembly’s 2019 legislative session, which — in odd-numbered years — lasts for less than two months.

Mills — who also serves as president and chief executive officer of the Marine Corps University Foundation — spoke to legislators and officials from Gov. Ralph Northam’s administration regarding the role that preserved battlefields play in providing active training grounds for America’s armed forces. He emphasized that staff rides conducted on these storied sites give America’s servicemen and women an edge in applied strategic and tactical thought that is not readily available elsewhere. Mills further expressed that battlefield visits are important for developing unit pride and that the sites themselves are living memorials — not just to the soldiers who fought there, but to all Americans who have honorably served their country in uniform.

Mills urged legislators to support increased funding for the highly successful Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, which provides matching grants to help safeguard hallowed battlefields before they are lost to development. This funding has been central to the preservation of more than 8,500 acres of hallowed ground at more than 40 battlefields throughout the Commonwealth at such places as Yorktown, Petersburg and Appomattox. Mills additionally encouraged lawmakers to support budget language that would direct the Commonwealth to study the potential creation of a Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park. ★

NEW GENERATIONS EVENTS

announced for Cedar Mountain and Gettysburg



DO YOU KNOW a child whose imagination would be captured by spending time on a Civil War battlefield, participating in carefully crafted activities designed to make history relevant and accessible? If so, consider attending one of our upcoming Generations events!

On March 31, history lovers of all ages will “Charge and Countercharge at Cedar Mountain,” near Culpeper, Va. In addition to marching in the footsteps of historical soldiers, guests will sample hardtack, witness firing demonstrations and learn about period photography. Some lucky kids will even get to don hats and uniforms (and 3-D glasses!).

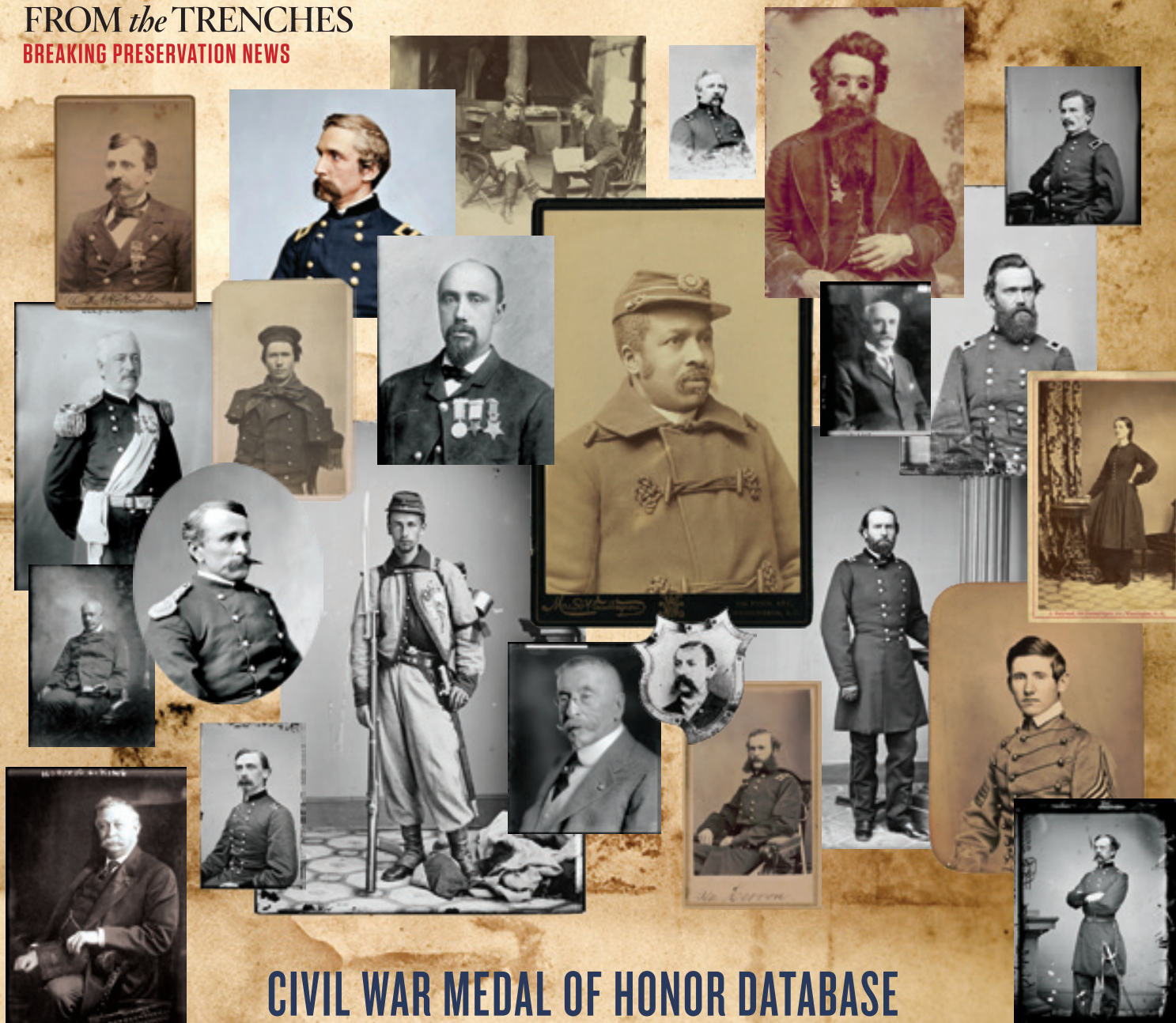
Another Generations opportunity will occur at Gettysburg on April 27. Full details will be posted at www.battlefields.org/generations. ★



Generations Event
NOEL KLINE



IN DECEMBER 2018, the Trust provided legislators in the Kentucky General Assembly and Bevin Administration officials with *Battles in the Bluegrass*, a report on battlefield preservation successes and opportunities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In addition to feedback gleaned from a stakeholders meeting held in Frankfort, Kentucky earlier in 2018, numerous battlefield sites across the state responded to survey questionnaires sent by the Trust which helped to inform the report’s development. The release of *Battles in the Bluegrass* came on the heels of a presentation by Trust staff to the Kentucky General Assembly’s Joint Interim Committee on Tourism, Small Business, and Information Technology in October 2018 on the benefits of battlefield preservation — all part of ongoing efforts to encourage increased state investment in the preservation of Kentucky’s battlefields. ★



CIVIL WAR MEDAL OF HONOR DATABASE

Locate all 1,522 recipients by battlefield, name and unit



OR THE FIRST TIME, biographical information and citations for all 1,522 recipients of the Medal of Honor during the Civil War are publicly available in one searchable format.

Using the extensive records of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the American Battlefield Trust translated this information into an interactive database. Users can explore using a map feature, or browse by recipient name, unit or location. Each individual entry includes the citation, biographical information about the

recipient and, where available, a photograph.

"The stories of those who were among the first recipients of this nation's highest honor are extraordinary," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "Seeing the breadth and concentration of those deeds is simultaneously humbling and inspiring. Particularly meaningful is to see those places where the Trust has been able to set aside land in perpetuity."

The roster of Civil War Medal of Honor recipients has never before been presented in a format that is particularly accessible. The result is a resource perfect for serious researchers, amateur genealogists and armchair historians alike. ★

WWW.BATTLEFIELDS.ORG/DATABASE

SACKETS HARBOR SAVED

New York State Park grows from transfer



View from Sackets Harbor Battlefield
State Historic Site
Sackets Harbor, N.Y.
OTTOSEN PHOTOGRAPHY



ON FEBRUARY 5, New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the state's acquisition of 24 acres from the American Battlefield Trust, land that will become an important addition to Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site. The Trust acquired the site with assistance from the New York Division of Parks and a grant from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program — the first time such funding was used to protect a site associated with the War of 1812.

"Acquiring this important battlefield site continues our work to preserve our historic places and encourage people to appreciate New York's incredible heritage," Governor Cuomo said. "I encourage visitors to discover Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site and the many places where New Yorkers helped to forge the great, independent nation the United States is today."

The property encompasses nearly the entire area of Horse Island, an island off the shore from Sackets Harbor — including a historic lighthouse dating to the 1870s. Following the outbreak of war between the United States and Great Britain in June 1812, Sackets Harbor became the center of American naval and military activity for the upper St. Lawrence Valley and

Lake Ontario. In an attempt to destroy its shipyard, a British-Canadian force launched an attack on May 29, 1813. The attack began with an early-morning amphibious assault against American forces at Horse Island. Americans encamped on the island initially prevented the British from landing, but later were forced to retreat across a causeway to the mainland. The Americans eventually drove off the invasion in a narrow but costly victory.

"Preserving Horse Island is a critical step in ensuring that the significance of the Battle of Sackets Harbor is both better appreciated and better understood by Americans, today and in the future," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "We are eager to build upon this effort as we continue to partner with the State of New York to honor those early citizen soldiers who fought to defend our infant nation."

State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey added, "Acquiring the island will forever protect the view shed of the existing historic site from development, create new opportunities to interpret the history of Sackets Harbor and offer new public recreational access to Horse Island." ★

STUDENTS TO ADVOCATE FOR BATTLEFIELDS

*through American Battlefield
Trust Youth
Leadership Team*



THE NEXT generation of preservationists will be fully equipped to handle the rigors of advocacy campaigns on behalf of important historic places, thanks to a new initiative that will transform enthusiasm into tangible skills. The Youth Leadership Team will be a group of 10 students aged 13–18 selected for a one-year term, with the first class beginning in late spring.

Students selected for the group will come to Washington for an intensive, three-day training course on the process of preservation and how community involvement can have the greatest impact. From social media mobilization to how to construct remarks for public comment hearings, from the basics of lobbying elected officials to how to talk to the press, we will give them practical advice they can use to help further a preservation project in their own community.

After returning home with seed money for their local project, Team members will keep in touch with Trust staff using social media, giving them access to professional advice as they move forward. They will bring their newfound firsthand experience back to Washington with them for a special Youth Lobby Day, during which we will arrange for them to meet with their congressional representative on the importance of preservation in their district.

Finally, the entire Team will attend the 2020 Trust Annual Conference to present to members on their experience and the results of their own community projects.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity to advance the cause of preservation and build a strong foundation in advocacy skills, visit www.battlefields.org/ylt. ★



ALABAMA

Belle Mont Mansion
Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Park
Fort Gaines Historic Site
Fort Morgan State Historic Site
Historic Blakeley State Park

ARKANSAS

Headquarters House Museum
Historic Washington State Park
Jacksonport State Park
Jenkins Ferry Battleground State Park
Poison Spring Battleground State Park
Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park

CALIFORNIA

Cieneguitas Cemetery
Drum Barracks Civil War Museum
Modesto Citizens Cemetery — GAR Section

CONNECTICUT

Fort Trumbull State Park

DELAWARE

Fort Delaware State Park

FLORIDA

Fort Clinch State Park

GEORGIA

A.H. Stephens State Park
Battlefield Memorial Park
Blue and Gray Museum
Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park
Dalton Confederate Cemetery
Fort Pulaski National Monument
Jefferson Davis Memorial Historic Site
Kettle Creek Battlefield
Pickett's Mill Battlefield State Historic Site
Prater's Mill Historic Site
Resaca Confederate Cemetery

IDAHO

Morris Hill Historical Park and Cemetery

ILLINOIS

Ulysses S. Grant Home Historic Site

INDIANA

General Lew Wallace Study & Museum

KANSAS

Black Jack Battlefield and Nature Park

Historic Fort Blair Park
Lecompton Constitution Hall
Marais des Cygnes Massacre Site
Shawnee Indian Mission National Historic Landmark

KENTUCKY

Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate
Augusta Battlefield
Battle for the Bridge Historic Preserve/
Munfordville Battlefield
Battle of Ivy Mountain Memorial Park
Battle of Richmond, Kentucky
Behringer-Crawford Museum
Camp Nelson National Monument
Camp Wildcat
Columbus-Belmont State Park
Cynthiana Battlefield
Fort Boone Civil War Battle Site
Fort Duffield Park and Historic Site
James A. Ramage Civil War Museum
Keller's Bridge Battlefield
Middle Creek National Battlefield
Mill Springs Battlefield
Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

LOUISIANA

Camp Moore Confederate Museum
& Cemetery
Fort DeRussy State Historic Site
Mansfield State Historic Site
Port Hudson State Historic Site

MAINE

Fort Knox State Historic Site

MARYLAND

Antietam National Battlefield
Fort Washington Park
Monocacy National Battlefield
Point Lookout State Park

MASSACHUSETTS

Forbes House Museum
Minute Man National Historical Park

MICHIGAN

Historic Fort Wayne
River Raisin National Battlefield Park

MINNESOTA

Fort Ridgely Historic Site



Wilson's Creek Battlefield
Wilson's Creek, Mo.



Buford Massacre Site
Lancaster, S.C.



Petersburg, Va.

2019 ANNUAL PARK DAY

*Volunteers sought nationwide
for April 6*



EACH SPRING, thousands of volunteers gather at battlefields and historic sites across the nation to participate in the Trust's annual Park Day clean-up effort. Now in its 24th year, Park Day is made possible in part by the continued financial support of History™.

We are deeply thankful to all of the sites participating in this year's clean-up. Please visit www.battlefields.org/parkday to find a site near you and learn about its specific plans, including meeting location, rain date and material needs.

Traditionally popular Park Day projects include trail maintenance, exhibit cleaning, groundskeeping, painting and trash removal. Many sites offer a side of history with this volunteerism, scheduling special lectures or demonstrations for participants. ★

NEW MEXICO

Fort Stanton Historic Site

NEW YORK

Thomas Paine Cottage Museum

NORTH CAROLINA

Bennett Place State Historic Site
Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site
Fort Branch Civil War Site

Fort Fisher State Historic Site
Governor Richard Caswell Memorial Historic Carson House
Historic Edenton State Historic Site
New Bern Battlefield Park
North Carolina Maritime Museum at Southport
Smith-McDowell House Museum
Stonewall Manor

OHIO

Berlin Heights Battlefield
Harriet Beecher Stowe House
Johnson's Island Civil War Prison Site

OKLAHOMA

Doakville Archaeological Site
Honey Springs Battlefield and Visitor Center

PENNSYLVANIA

Gettysburg National Military Park
Highland Cemetery
Mount Moriah Cemetery
Paoli Battlefield Historical Park

SOUTH CAROLINA

Buford Massacre Site
Musgrove Mill State Historic Site
Ninety Six National Historic Site
Rivers Bridge State Historic Site

TENNESSEE

Britton Lane Battlefield
Fort Dickerson
Fort Germantown Park
Fort Pillow State Park
Johnsonville State Historic Park
Lotz House Civil War Museum
Mabry-Hazen House
Parker's Crossroads Battlefield
Shy's Hill Battlefield — Nashville
Stones River National Battlefield

TEXAS

Fort Brown Earthworks and Stillman House Museum

VIRGINIA

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Ball's Bluff Battlefield Regional Park
Belle Grove Plantation
Brandy Station — Graffiti House
Bristoe Station Battlefield Heritage Park

ON PROTECTING OUR LAND:

**“WE HAVE FALLEN HEIRS
TO THE MOST GLORIOUS
HERITAGE A PEOPLE EVER
RECEIVED, AND EACH ONE
MUST DO HIS PART
IF WE WISH TO SHOW
THAT THE NATION
IS WORTHY OF ITS GOOD
FORTUNE.”**

— THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
PRESIDENT & MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENT

Cannon Branch Fort
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
Cedar Mountain Battlefield
Endview Plantation
Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park
Historic Sandusky
Kernstown Battlefield
Laurel Hill — Birthplace of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart
Mahone's Tavern & Museum
Manassas National Battlefield Park
Mt. Defiance Historic Park
North Anna Battlefield Park
Pamplin Historical Park

Petersburg National Battlefield
Richmond National Battlefield Park
Trevilian Station Battlefield
Virginia Museum of the Civil War
Williamsburg Battlefield

WEST VIRGINIA

Bulltown Historic Area
Rich Mountain Battlefield
Shepherdstown Battlefield

★ ★ ★ ★

Find a site near you! Get involved! **SEND US YOUR PICTURES**
and be seen in *Hallowed Ground!*

www.battlefields.org/parkday

SENATE PASSES SWEEPING *land conservation legislation*



AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS received an early Valentine, when the U.S. Senate passed the Natural Resources Management Act on February 12. This bipartisan legislation has far-reaching benefits for land conservation efforts across the nation, with some measures aimed specifically at benefitting battlefields. Passed by an overwhelming majority in the Senate, the bill now heads to the U.S. House of Representatives for further consideration.

In the broadest sense, the measure, also known as S.47, permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which has assisted with the preservation of thousands of acres of battlefield land across the country since it was created in 1964. This large-scale program is the critical funding source for the American Battlefield Protection Program's matching grants, which have been at the bedrock of Trust successes virtually since our inception.

The measure formalizes last fall's creation of Camp Nelson National Monument — site of a Union supply depot, training ground and hospital that grew into a busy recruitment center for African American soldiers and an emancipation site for them and their families — via the Antiquities Act. Local and state partners, as well as groups like the Trust and the National Park Foundation, have worked diligently for years to create a national monument at this site. Further, this legislation creates Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument — site of a key 1862 battle — where the Trust and its partners have preserved more than 680 acres of hallowed ground.

Other battlefield benefits include the expansion of boundaries at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park and Shiloh National Military Park. The Shiloh measure will make Trust-protected land at Fallen Timbers eligible for inclusion in the park and also formally names Parker's Crossroads Battlefield as an affiliated area of the National Park System. ★

FRIENDS GROUPS, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS *aid parks amid federal shutdown*



THE PARTIAL federal government shutdown that began in late December had a significant impact on the National Park Service, as the Department of the Interior was one of the shuttered agencies. While individual circumstances varied across parks, visitor centers and bathrooms were typically closed, as were some parking areas and tour roads — although pedestrian access was not disallowed. While a skeleton crew of law enforcement rangers may have been on call, virtually all interpretive services were cancelled. Websites and social media channels also went dark.

However, into this difficult situation stepped a number of local friends groups, tourism boards and government bodies, all seeking to minimize the impact to both visitors and the local economy. These entities have done tremendous work safeguarding our hallowed grounds and deserve our thanks for their efforts.

Visitors to Gettysburg found less disruption than at many other parks, thanks to the combined efforts of the Gettysburg Foundation and the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides. The impressive visitor center, owned by the foundation, remained open and guides were available to lead private tours, although lectures and other group hikes were cancelled. Most main tour roads are also open to vehicular traffic as weather permits, since they are maintained by the state.

Even less impact was felt at Vicksburg, where Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park and Campaign funded basic operations at the park, meaning that the tour road, visitor center, the USS *Cairo* and Museum, the national cemetery and all restrooms remained open.

"We never want even one visitor to be turned away from our park," said the group's executive director, Bess Averett. "We are fortunate to have staff at [Vicksburg National Military Park] who share our passion for this historic place and its story and have worked to pioneer this opportunity to provide an option to keep VNMP open in the event of a shutdown."

At Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, the bookstore is operated out of a carriage house behind the visitor center. Partner Eastern National opened each day and, in addition to selling reading material and souvenirs, took on basic orientation duties in the absence of park staff.

In Louisiana, many assumed the annual commemorations at the Chalmette Battlefield to mark the anniversary of the War of 1812 Battle of New Orleans would be cancelled. But thanks to the efforts of St. Bernard Parish officials and the enthusiasm of the New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation, weekend living history events were moved to nearby Sidney Torres Park.

A similar story unfolded in Michigan, where the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation facilitated a 206th anniversary commemoration. Foundation volunteers also worked to provide maintenance services, like trash removal. ★



VICTORY

RECENTLY SAVED LAND

American Battlefield Trust protects ground in five states

CAMP NELSON, Ky.

A UNION SUPPLY depot, training ground and hospital during the Civil War, Camp Nelson grew into a busy recruitment center for African American soldiers and an emancipation site. By the end of 1865, when ratification of the U.S. Constitution's 13th Amendment ended slavery in Kentucky, some 10,000 African American men had enlisted and been emancipated at Camp Nelson. It also served as a sanctuary for more than 3,000 wives and children of those soldiers.

The Trust was proud to work with Jessamine County and the National Park Foundation to facilitate the transfer of **380 acres** to the National Park Service, creating Camp Nelson National Monument, the newest unit of the National Park System. This was **our first project at Camp Nelson.**

CHANCELLORSVILLE, Va.

THE BATTLE of Chancellorsville, fought

April 30–May 6, 1863, was a resounding Confederate victory, but it came at a great cost. After his triumphant flank attack on May 2, Jackson was shot by his own troops and died 10 days later.

*For years, the Trust has gradually acquired properties associated with Confederate Lt. Gen. Stonewall Jackson's famous "Flank Attack" — the most recent being a 4.3-acre parcel that figures into the Medal of Honor citation of Hubert Dilger. The acquisition was facilitated by funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program and a landowner donation. The Trust has now protected a total of **1,321 acres** at Chancellorsville.*

COLD HARBOR, Va.

THE BATTLE of Cold Harbor is remembered as the culmination of the Overland Campaign and one of the bloodiest engagements of the Civil War. Beginning on May 31, Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses Grant ordered

SUCCESS STORIES

LAND SAVED FOREVER

a series of hopeless frontal assaults, finally shifting his army to threaten Petersburg on June 12.

*In August, the Trust, thanks to the support of the HTR Foundation, acquired a three-acre parcel abutting the national park in the area associated with the June 3, 1864, assault. We hope that the parcel will someday be transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park. This project brings the Trust total to **141 acres** at Cold Harbor.*

GLENDALE, Va.

ALSO KNOWN as Frayser's Farm, Glendale was the fifth of the Seven Days' Battles. On June 30, 1862, three Confederate divisions encountered Union forces near Glendale, just outside Richmond. They penetrated Federal defenses near the Willis Church, routing a division, but Union counterattacks sealed the break and saved the line of retreat. Escaping from Glendale that night, Union forces established a strong defensive position on Malvern Hill.

*The latest Trust acquisition at Glendale is a 7.3-acre parcel in the area where the heaviest twilight fighting occurred. A donut hole in previously protected land, the property will eventually be transferred to Richmond National Battlefield Park. The Trust has now saved a total of **726 acres** at Glendale.*

NEW MARKET HEIGHTS, Va.

AT DAWN on September 29, 1864, the Army of the James — including a significant number of United States Colored Troops (USCTs) — attacked Richmond's defenses. After initial Union successes, the Confederates entrenched on the south side of the North Anna River, where their "inverted V" defenses forced Grant to divide his army into three parts in order to attack, beginning on May 23, 1864. Ultimately, Grant outflanked the position by moving downstream and continued his advance on Richmond.

Thanks to funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program, Virginia Battlefield Preservation

*Fund and a landowner donation, in July, the Trust secured a 34-acre parcel at New Market Heights, a battle famous for the 15 Medals of Honor awarded to African American soldiers. The Trust will work to restore the land to its wartime appearance, and hopes to someday transfer it to Richmond National Battlefield Park. The Trust has protected a total of **65 acres** at New Market Heights.*



Trevilian Battlefield, Louisa County, Va.
Six Medals of Honor; 2,238 acres saved by the Trust.
MICHAEL MIHOK

NORTH ANNA, Va.

FOLLOWING the stalemate at Spotsylvania Court House, Lt. Gen. Grant was determined to continue the Union offensive. The Confederates entrenched on the south side of the North Anna River, where their "inverted V" defenses forced Grant to divide his army into three parts in order to attack, beginning on May 23, 1864. Ultimately, Grant outflanked the position by moving downstream and continued his advance on Richmond.

In October, the Trust, working with the American Battlefield Protection Program, Virginia Land Conservation Fund, Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and a landowner donation, secured a 125-acre parcel of the North Anna Battlefield. The site includes the

*remains of historic buildings, the south end of the original bridge crossing and remnants of the old Telegraph Road. The Trust has protected a total of **874 acres** at North Anna.*

RAPPAHANNOCK STATION, Va.

UNDER PRESSURE to press forward following his partial victory at Bristoe Station, Maj. Gen. George G. Meade ordered an assault against Lee's infantry along the Rappahannock River on November 7, 1863. The single pontoon bridge at Rappahannock Station was overrun in a brutal nighttime bayonet attack, forcing Lee to retreat south.

*In December, the Trust assisted Fauquier County in the acquisition of a one-acre property at Rappahannock Station that will make a notable addition to the municipal park. The Trust has protected a total of **857 acres** at Rappahannock Station.*

SECOND DEEP BOTTOM, Va.

WITH THE ARMIES entrenched around Petersburg, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant sought to exploit suspected weaknesses in the Confederate lines. With detachments operating in the Shenandoah Valley, Lee's defenses at Richmond were weakened, prompting an assault across the James River near Fussell's Mill on August 16. After heavy fighting, the Federals returned to the south side of the James on the 20th, maintaining their bridgehead at Deep Bottom.

*The 94-acre property, acquired with the assistance of the American Battlefield Protection Program, the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund and a landowner donation, may someday be incorporated into Richmond National Battlefield Park. The Trust has now protected a total of **172 acres** at Second Deep Bottom.*

SHILOH, Tenn.

ON THE MORNING of April 6, 1862, Confederate soldiers poured out of the nearby woods and struck a line of Union soldiers near Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. The overpowering Confederate offensive drove the unprepared Federal forces from their camp. Intense fighting continued until after dark, but the Federals held. A Union counteroffensive the next morning overpowered the weakened and outnum-

bered Confederate forces, which retired from the field.

*The eight-acre parcel protected in December, anticipating a grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission, is the latest of many Trust projects at Shiloh. The Trust anticipates it will someday be transferred for incorporation into the national park. We have now protected a total of **1,325 acres** at Shiloh.*

TREVILIAN STATION, Va.

UNION MAJ. GEN. Philip Sheridan hoped to disrupt enemy supply lines and create a distraction amid the Overland Campaign with a large-scale cavalry raid. Union troops seized the station on June 11, 1864, and destroyed some tracks but were unable to dislodge the Confederate position the next day.

*The 12-acre tract protected by the Trust in late August is at the heart of the area of fighting known as "Custer's First Last Stand" on June 11, 1864. Funding for the project was provided by the American Battlefield Protection program, while the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation stands ready, to take transfer of the land and act as its steward. The Trust has now protected a total of **2,238 acres** at Trevilian Station.*

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITES

BRANDYWINE, Pa.

IN TERMS OF terrain covered, time expended and troops engaged, many historians consider Brandywine to be the largest battle of the Revolutionary War. Fought on September 11, 1777, this Patriot loss ultimately resulted in the fall of Philadelphia, the new nation's second-largest city, to British forces.

*In late August, the Trust helped secure the protection of two parcels via conservation easement: an 88-acre parcel that includes the site of Osborne's Hill, and a 13-acre property in the Meetinghouse Road Corridor. The projects were made possible by assistance from the American Battlefield Protection Program, Brandywine Conservancy & Museum, Chester County Preservation Partnership Program, Mars Foundation, Mt. Cuba Center, Natural Lands Trust, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation of Natural Resources and a landowner donation. The Trust has now protected a total of **116 acres** at Brandywine.*

CAMDEN, S.C.

THE BATTLE of Camden was a devastating defeat for the Americans. After capturing Charleston in May 1780, British forces under General Charles Lord Cornwallis established a supply depot and garrison at Camden, against which American General Horatio Gates marched his army, intent on liberating South Carolina from British control. Unfortunately, Gates was operating under the false impression of numerical superiority. When attacked on August 16, 1780, the American left and center collapsed, resulting in 900 men killed or wounded and another 1,000 taken prisoner.



Yorktown Battlefield,
part of Colonial National Historical Park
Yorktown, Va.
TOM ANDERSEN

*In July, the Trust protected a **294-acre** parcel associated with the battle's final phase, where Major General Johann de Kalb made his last heroic stand before succumbing to numerous wounds — seven from bayonets and four from fired balls. Funding was provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program and South Carolina Conservation Bank for the land, which will be transferred to the Historic Camden Foundation. This is the **Trust's first project at Camden.***

HANGING ROCK, S.C.

THE FALL of Charleston in May 1780 was a major blow to Patriot fortunes in the Revolutionary War. The British then moved inland and set up a series of backcountry outposts. On August 6, 1780, in a major shift

to American fortunes, Brigadier General Thomas Sumter seized one such location after a three-hour pitched battle at Hanging Rock.

*In October, the Trust issued a grant to the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust to protect 2.8 acres that will become part of the Liberty Trail project. We have now protected a total of **141 acres** at Hanging Rock.*

YORKTOWN, Va.

WITH HIS BACK to the York River in the fall of 1781, British General Charles Lord Cornwallis intended to resupply his army. However, the arrival and triumph of the French

Caribbean fleet prevented this. Meanwhile, French and American forces moved to lay siege to Yorktown. The night-and-day allied bombardment began on October 9, intensifying with the capture of outer British defenses by bayonet charge on October 14. Surrounded on three sides by enemy artillery, Cornwallis's position was untenable and he was forced to surrender.

*Thanks to assistance from the American Battlefield Protection Program, Virginia Land Conservation Fund and Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund, the Trust protected **48.6 acres** that mark the site of a French encampment associated with the siege. The parcel had been endangered — plans had been drawn for a 100-unit residential subdivision. This was the **Trust's first project at Yorktown.**★*

DESIGNING THE MEDAL OF HONOR

*Treasures from the archives
of the Congressional Medal
of Honor Society*

PHOTOGRAPHY
by SHANNON RAE

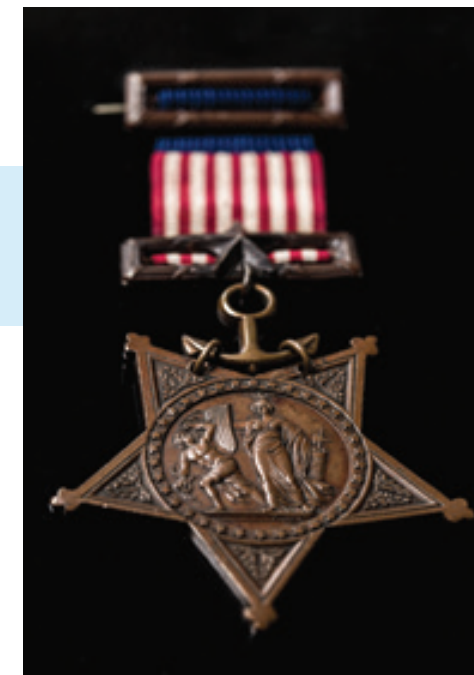


INCE THE AWARD was instituted in 1863, the design of the Medal of Honor has gone through several iterations. Some changes have been minor, others significant, particularly the shift from a pin to a neck ribbon. Moreover, the different service branches have all developed their particular flourishes to distinguish their medals at a glance.

The Navy Medal of Honor, the first award authorized, has remained virtually unchanged since its design was adopted in 1862. Initial work was done by the Philadelphia Mint, at the request of Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles and under the supervision of Director James Pollock. The Philadelphia firm of William Wilson & Sons provided the attachments and boxes for the Medals.

Original medals were suspended from a flag-like red, white and blue ribbon that could be pinned to the breast of the recipient by an anchor wrapped with a length of rope. The design featured a ring of 34 stars and an illustration of the Roman goddess of war, Minerva, dispelling the figure of Discord. The reverse was inscribed with the words "Personal Valor" and featured an open area where the recipient's information would be engraved.

Army Medals of Honor dating to



the Civil War and other conflicts of the 19th century were struck from the same die as the Navy medal, meaning that there were only minor differences. The first was in the area connecting the medal to its ribbon, where an eagle with a saber in its talons atop crossed cannons stood in place of the anchor. The bar

that held the pin on the back was also made more elaborate for the Army version. Finally, the reverse included the additional engraving "The Congress To" above where the recipient's information would be added.

The first significant design change

FACING PAGE: Army Medal of Honor in the 1904 Gillespie design, presented to Civil War veteran George W. Roosevelt. **THIS PAGE, AT TOP:** The original designs of the Navy Medal of Honor (left) and Army Medal of Honor (right) for actions during the Civil War. The eagle suspension device on the Army model was the most significant difference between the two awards. **TO THE RIGHT:** A detail of the inscription on Roosevelt's Medal, showing the two separate actions for which he was honored.



to the Army award occurred in 1896, the same year that Congress authorized a rosette that could be worn in place of the Medal. In an attempt to distinguish the Medal of Honor from less formal decorations that were given out by Civil War veterans' organizations, the ribbon was changed significantly, although its color scheme remained the same. Earlier recipients were also eligible to receive the newly designed ribbon as a replacement.

However, concerns about the similarities to more common medals persisted, and several Civil War-era recipients now in positions of power, including Brig. Gen. George Gillespie and U.S. Ambassador to France Horace Porter, spearheaded an effort to revamp the design more significantly. Porter arranged for the Paris firm of Messrs. Arthur, Bertrand, and Berenger to create a new design that kept the star shape but modified the face of the Medal. It was approved in 1904 and promptly trademarked by Gillespie to safeguard the likeness from imitation.

The so-called Gillespie Medal replaced the detailed face design with a portrait of the goddess Minerva in a war helm. The oak leaf clusters on the star's points became dark green enamel, and a wreath of the same material was added around the outer edge. The eagle on the connector became perched on a bar reading "Valor" and its cargo shifted to become an olive branch and a clutch of arrows. The ribbon was shifted to today's familiar bluebird color, embroidered with 13 stars. The reverse of the Medal itself was left entirely blank, ready for the recipient's details; the words "The Congress To" had shifted onto the bar.

In 1886, the Navy Medal had received its first minor update,

when the anchor connecting Medal to ribbon lost its encircling rope. In 1913, the ribbon itself was shifted to the same blue as the Army award. In 1919, in order to distinguish Navy Medals awarded for combat versus noncombat heroism, a design utilizing a Maltese Cross in place of the star was instituted for the former category. Although designed and produced by the famous Tiffany and Co., it

IN 1942, THE NAVY UNIVERSALLY ADOPTED A NECK RIBBON TO FURTHER DISTINGUISH THE MEDAL OF HONOR FROM OTHER DECORATIONS.

was not popular and was officially retired in 1942.

Until World War II, the medal was often worn pinned to the breast of recipients, although it was sometimes pinned at the neck or attached to a neck ribbon. But in 1942, the Navy universally adopted a neck ribbon to further distinguish the Medal of Honor from other decorations — it is the only American military award to be worn in this way. The Army followed suit in 1944, with both versions utilizing an eight-sided pad embroidered with 13 stars to attach the Medal to the neck ribbon.

In 1965, a version of the Medal of Honor specific to the U.S. Air Force came into effect, meaning members of that service no longer received the Army design. The new medal replaced Minerva with an image of the Statue of Liberty, but retained the 34 stars that represent the 34 states at the time of the Medal of Honor's institution during the Civil War. ★



★
"This Medal of Honor does not belong to me. This medal belongs to every man and woman who has ever served their country. We were doing what we were trained to do. We were doing our job."

—MICHAEL E. THORNTON, VIETNAM

★
"I would rather have the blue band of the Medal of Honor around my neck than to be President of the United States."

—PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN

AT LEFT: A Civil War Army Medal of Honor in original presentation box. AT RIGHT: A 1904 "Gillespie" Army Medal of Honor suspended on an early-design neck ribbon. When the neck ribbon was first introduced, some recipients were confused as to how to wear it and adopted this hybrid style as a compromise. ★

★ THE MEDAL OF HONOR ★

BROTHERS IN VALOR



MODERN RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR VISIT HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS
TO WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THEIR CIVIL WAR FOREBEARS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THEIRS is a remarkable brotherhood. They are those few who have gone the furthest above and beyond the call of duty in defense of cause and country. A singular spirit connects them, regardless of when or where they served.

★★★
The Navy Medal of Honor, held by WWII recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, which he received from President Harry S. Truman for his valor at the Battle of Iwo Jima.
WILLIAM HEREFORD





★ ★ ★

Sergeant First Class

MELVIN MORRIS,
Green Berets, standing near Fort Wagner on
Morris Island, where two Medals of Honor
were awarded and the Trust
has saved 118 acres. Charleston, S.C.



be charge of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, immortalized in the Academy Award-winning film Glory, was a seminal moment in the acceptance of African American soldiers as an effective fighting force. Although they were unable to seize the formidable defenses of Fort Wagner, on a barrier island in Charleston Harbor, the unit did crest the parapet. They stood in the vanguard of the assault, knowing that no quarter would be offered to them by their Confederate adversaries; indeed, the many fatalities, including the regiment's colonel, were buried in an unmarked mass grave.

Sgt. William Carney, the unit's final color bearer during the action — several having been shot down before he picked up the banner — survived the assault. The incredible valor he displayed under fire, planting the flag atop the walls of the fort and safeguarding its return to Union lines despite several wounds, represents the earliest action for which a black soldier was awarded the Medal of Honor. But Carney — born a slave — had to wait nearly 37 years to claim the honor. In all, 25 African American soldiers and sailors received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War. ★



WILLIAM H. CARNEY

FORWARD AT ALL COSTS

WILLIAM CARNEY AT FORT WAGNER by **Melvin Morris**



WILLIAM CARNEY WAS BORN in 1840 as a slave. He managed escape with the Underground Railroad to Massachusetts and worked, made a life there. When he joined the 54th Massachusetts, he had a little education, so he was made a sergeant. William Carney must have felt that it was his duty to fight for the Union. In other words, “I have my freedom. But to ensure my freedom, I got to make sure that our country stays free. It is my honor to serve my country. My duty.”

It's important for us to know that story because it shows the thought process of such men that “If we're given the same rights and privileges, we're willing to fight for our country. And we will fight hard.” That's what he tried to prove. That's what the 54th tried to prove. That alone was enough motivation for them to fight. Even though they were paid far less than the white soldiers, they got less clothing; they continued to march. They wanted to go into battle and win their freedom, and they performed there as best as any soldier could.

I come from Oklahoma, a place called Okmulgee, capital of the Creek Nation. There wasn't much going on there in the '50s, no work to speak of.

My first was job was working at the bowling alley; I think I made 65 cents an hour. I said, “No, this isn't going to cut it.” And my brother and I both went into the military, because the National Guard was recruiting minorities. I stayed there a year, and volunteered to go to the regular Army in 1960. I went Airborne and then volunteered for the Green Beret. That's a two-year training,

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES HARRIS





LEFT: Carney hoists the flag on Fort Wagner, leading the 54th Massachusetts forward; **TOP:** SSG Morris (right) and his men in Vietnam; **MIDDLE:** Morris receives the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama in 2014. **RIGHT:** A life-size bronze statue of Morris at Riverfront Park in Cocoa, Fla., was unveiled in May 2015. **INSET:** The patch of the Green Berets Airborne Special Forces.

★ ★ ★

and you can fail out at any point.

When you walk point, you're the lead man of a large element. You're in the visual. You're by yourself. You are actually what they call the spotter on the trail or the path. You have to be alert; if you fail and you get caught in an ambush, everybody gets killed. The most dangerous job in Vietnam was the point man.

The most dangerous job in the Civil War, as I understand it, was the color bearer. He's going to charge. He's going to be upfront. He's going to ignore everything around him.

His duty is to maintain that color, keep it, move with it and plant it if the objective is reached. His job is to not let that flag hit the ground. Can you imagine it? If you made an assault, what's up front? It's the commanding officer and color bearer, and you can guess who is going to get shot first.

And that's what happened with the 54th. But Carney picked up the color and kept it moving. He was shot three times and yet, the way I understand it, it was

said that flag never hit the ground. And that's pure dedication. Can you imagine how Carney was crawling on one knee with that flag? Because he was shot in the leg, but he wouldn't let it go.

In Vietnam, it was very different. Even in World War I, they still had linear assaults; now you don't see that anymore. But in Vietnam, we still wanted to get the communist flag. When the North Vietnamese took an area, the first thing they planted was their flag. And that's an

insult to America. So, when you saw that flag, that just made your blood boil. It was the same thing with us, we wanted to take our flag and plant it, to show that "We beat you."

Being here on Morris Island, my mind is constantly racing, trying to relive the whole event. Relive the charge, relive what it was like. I'm trying to imagine in my head the screams, the crying, the hollering, the barrage of bullets, the artillery. You gotta put all of that into perspective. The men who charged down that beach, knowing what's in front of them — they weren't going to be taken prisoner, they were going to be killed — they're heroes. And being who I am, that makes me feel very proud.

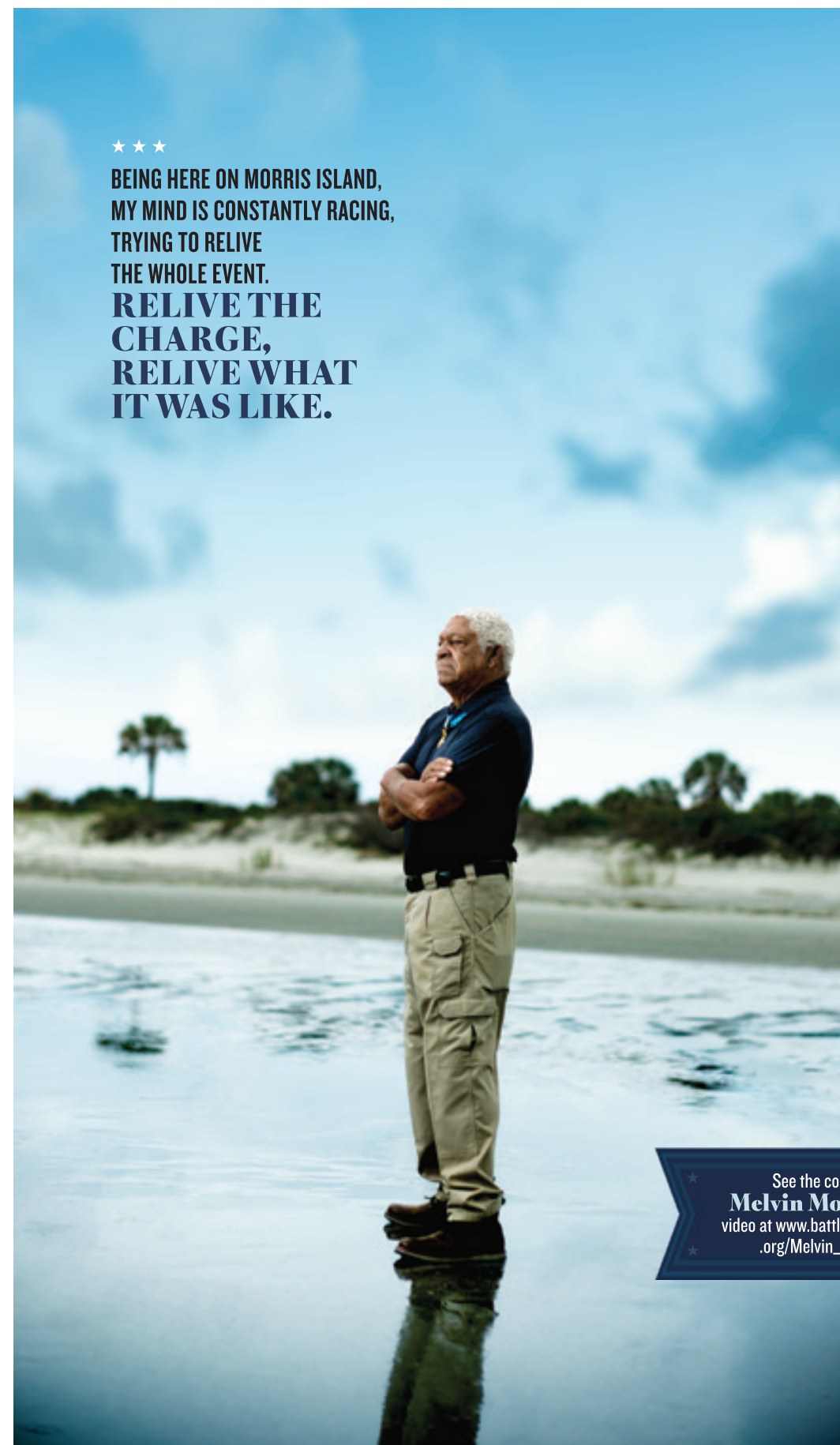
Carney didn't get his Medal of Honor until 1900 for an action that was in 1863. I didn't receive a Medal of Honor until 44 years later. The government said it was because of racial discrimination that I didn't receive the Medal of Honor earlier. But I didn't ever question it; I was just satisfied with what I had. In fact, I went back into combat for another year, having the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest decoration.

On March 18, 2014, I went to the White House and received the Medal of Honor from President Obama. And it was an exhilarating feeling, I just can't describe. But I told myself that now, I've got a lot of work ahead of me because I have a message to share. Young children need to know that people are out there putting their lives on the line for them every day.

That's what I do today; I go out and I give living history. I talk to students and the people about our heritage, about our military, and about why they should learn about history. We have to honor our heroes, regardless of their race, color, creed, ethnicity. I have made educating the people my life's task. ★



MELVIN MORRIS ★ MEDAL OF HONOR ★ Staff Sergeant Melvin Morris distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Commander of a Strike Force drawn from Company D, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, during combat operations against an armed enemy in the vicinity of Chi Lang, Republic of Vietnam on September 17, 1969. ★ On that afternoon, Staff Sergeant Morris' affiliated companies encountered an extensive enemy mine field and were subsequently engaged by a hostile force. Staff Sergeant Morris learned by radio that a fellow team commander had been killed near an enemy bunker and he immediately reorganized his men into an effective assault posture before advancing forward and splitting off with two men to recover the team commander's body. Observing the maneuver, the hostile force concentrated its fire on Staff Sergeant Morris' three-man element and successfully wounded both men accompanying him. After assisting the two wounded men back to his forces' lines, Staff Sergeant Morris charged forward into withering enemy fire with only his men's suppressive fire as cover. While enemy machine gun emplacements continuously directed strafing fusillades against him, Staff Sergeant Morris destroyed the positions with hand grenades and continued his assault, ultimately eliminating four bunkers. Upon reaching the bunker nearest the fallen team commander, Staff Sergeant Morris repulsed the enemy, retrieved his comrade and began the arduous trek back to friendly lines. He was wounded three times as he struggled forward, but ultimately succeeded in returning his fallen comrade to a friendly position. ★ Staff Sergeant Morris' extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



★ ★ ★

BEING HERE ON MORRIS ISLAND,
MY MIND IS CONSTANTLY RACING,
TRYING TO RELIVE
THE WHOLE EVENT.
**RELIVE THE
CHARGE,
RELIVE WHAT
IT WAS LIKE.**

See the complete
Melvin Morris
video at www.battlefields.org/Melvin_Morris

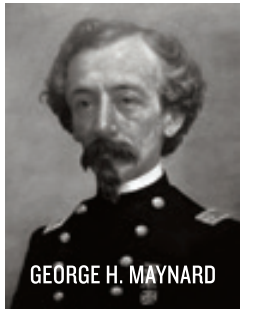


★ ★ ★
Master Chief Special Warfare Operator
BRITT SLABINSKI,
U.S. Navy SEALs, at the Slaughter Pen Farm,
where five Medals of Honor were awarded
and the Trust has saved 208 of its
248 acres across the battlefield.
Fredericksburg Battlefield, Va.



While the most famous actions at the Battle of Fredericksburg occurred around the famous sunken road before Marye's Heights, in truth, the more decisive fighting occurred to the south on the area known as Slaughter Pen Farm. Here, a Union assault punctured the Confederate lines before being repulsed by a counterassault. On this 208-acre property protected by the Trust in 2006, five soldiers earned the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry. Among them were several men who, seeing their unit's colors fall, seized the flag and held it aloft.

The citation of George Henry Maynard of Waltham, Mass., a watchmaker by trade, focuses on his decision to risk his own life to retrieve a badly wounded comrade. He was able to offer aid to his friend and carry him back to Union lines but, sadly, Charles Armstrong succumbed to his wounds that night in a field hospital. ★



GEORGE H. MAYNARD

COMPASSION UNDER FIRE

GEORGE MAYNARD AT SLAUGHTER PEN FARM by Britt Slabinski



AT ITS VERY ESSENCE, war doesn't really change much. It is still humans going up against humans. We have different means of conducting war, technological advances, so we are closer to war, or we are more removed from it. It still comes down to one person looking another in the eye and saying, "Okay, this is what we believe in, and we are going to risk our lives to defend that."

From the amount of intense training that you do, you're going to spend a lot of time with those people to your left and right. At the time of the Civil War, that really was your town, those were people that you grew up with, and you knew their grandparents. In today's Army, maybe you're not rooted in community ties, but you are rooted in ties of brotherhood and camaraderie through your shared experiences. What you end up fighting for, when it all comes down to it at that exact moment of combat, is love for the person to your left and to your right.

There are a lot of similarities in any battle to what I experienced — especially the balance between love for your teammates, but still needing to accomplish your mission. When you're in a command position, as I was, and you have the responsibility of those lives, that is a heavy burden to have on you. Particularly when you're issuing the orders to go into harm's way, fully knowing it might be their last act on Earth, that is a heavy weight to bear indeed.

George Maynard was on the front line of the Union advance across the Slaughter Pen Farm at Fredericksburg. After expending all of their ammunition, his unit headed back toward Union lines. When he got back, he noticed a close friend of his wasn't with them. I can imagine what's going on in George's mind. Now, anyone would have a choice to make at that moment. Where is he? Is he somewhere else on the line? Is he out in the field of battle? What do I do?

Think about this for a minute. He was just fighting, on the line, taking lives. Now, he's going to be in another mode.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBERT MAXWELL



He's going to go, risk his life again, to go save his friend, his brother. That decision — "I am going to risk everything; I am going to risk my tomorrows, everything that I have a hope of being. All of that, I'm going to put aside to go and get my friend, in hopes that he might have those same opportunities." — is what earns him the Medal of Honor.

It's absolutely heart-wrenching to look at your friends in agony. So I know exactly what George Maynard was going through. I wasn't there with him, obviously, but it's the same thing our soldiers feel today. That thought process, that internal spark that each of us has inside that says, "I've got to go do something," is unchanged.

So where does this love of country and your fellow man come from? Where does the sense of duty come from? I can't speak for others. All I can tell you is where it comes from for me. For me, it came from my early childhood. And the foundations we build when we're kids really are vitally important, and they last us throughout our life.

Growing up, I was in Boy Scouts; I was an Eagle Scout. And what I learned there, the very values I learned there, still serve me to this day. The day of my action, the Boy Scout Oath was foremost on my mind: "On my honor I do my best to do my duty."

I don't know what the exact relationship between George Maynard and Charles Armstrong would have been. Given the history of the Civil War, they probably came from the same town — they may have been neighbors,

★ ★ ★
I WASN'T THERE WITH HIM, OBVIOUSLY, BUT IT'S THE SAME THING OUR SOLDIERS FEEL TODAY. THAT THOUGHT PROCESS, THE INTERNAL SPARK THAT EACH OF US HAS INSIDE THAT SAYS, "I'VE GOT TO GO DO SOMETHING," IS UNCHANGED.



BRITT SLABINSKI ★ MEDAL OF HONOR ★

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while assigned to a Joint Task Force in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. In the early morning of 4 March 2002, Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator Slabinski led a reconnaissance team to its assigned area atop a 10,000-foot snow-covered mountain. Their insertion helicopter was suddenly riddled with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire from previously undetected enemy positions. The crippled helicopter lurched violently and ejected one teammate onto the mountain before the pilots were forced to crash land in the valley far below. Senior Chief Slabinski boldly rallied his five remaining team members and marshalled supporting assets for an assault to rescue their stranded teammate. During reinsertion the team came under fire from three directions, and one teammate started moving uphill toward an enemy strongpoint. Without regard for his own safety, Senior Chief Slabinski charged directly toward enemy fire to join his teammate. Together, they fearlessly assaulted and cleared the first bunker they encountered. The enemy then unleashed a hail of machine gun fire from a second hardened position only twenty meters away. Senior Chief Slabinski repeatedly exposed himself to deadly fire to personally engage the second enemy bunker and orient his team's fires in the furious, close-quarters firefight. Proximity made air support impossible, and after several teammates became casualties, the situation became untenable. Senior Chief Slabinski maneuvered his team to a more defensible position, directed air strikes in very close proximity to his team's position, and requested reinforcements. As daylight approached, accurate enemy mortar fire forced the team further down the sheer mountainside. Senior Chief Slabinski carried a seriously wounded teammate through deep snow and led a difficult trek across precipitous terrain while calling in fire on the enemy, which was engaging the team from the surrounding ridges. Throughout the next 14 hours, Senior Chief Slabinski stabilized the casualties and continued the fight against the enemy until the hill was secured and his team was extracted. By his undaunted courage, bold initiative, leadership, and devotion to duty, Senior Chief Slabinski reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

family friends or even relatives. That isn't necessarily the case in the ranks anymore. But the bond between brothers-in-arms has remained unchanged across centuries. I know firsthand how that bond is alive and well today.

I wear our nation's Medal of Honor, I am a recipient of that Medal. But the Medal doesn't belong to me, although my name is on the back of it. I was just doing my job that day. And because nothing of consequence is ever accomplished alone, this Medal belongs to so many more people. It belongs to those that lost their lives, to my left and to my right, to those that were severely wounded, it belongs to everyone that fought there that day with me.

Standing on hallowed ground, I feel a connection to every one of those historic soldiers, whether it be the enlisted guys on the line, the officers commanding them or those running the cannons in the back. Everyone that fights for their nation, for those ideals, for the homeland, protecting our citizenry, protecting our ideals — I feel a connection to all of them. All of these people that fought at Fredericksburg and that continue to fight in our military today, all we want is for our fellow Americans to be the best citizens they can possibly be. Go: contribute to our society. Go: make what happened here — not only on this battlefield but on the battlefields across the world — matter. Go: be worthy of what's been given for you. That's all any soldier really wants. Go: be a good citizen today and tomorrow. ★



LEFT: The back of George Maynard's Civil War Medal of Honor from Fredericksburg; the Medal is on display in Faneuil Hall in Boston, Mass.; **TOP:** Slabinski holds an unexploded ordnance (UXO) encountered during deployment in Afghanistan. **BOTTOM:** Slabinski receives the Medal of Honor from President Trump in a White House ceremony on May 24, 2018. **INSET:** The Special Warfare insignia of the U.S. Navy SEALs.

★ ★ ★



See the complete
Britt Slabinski
 video at www.battlefields.org/Britt_Slabinski



★★★
U.S. Marine Corps Corporal
**HERSHEL "WOODY"
WILLIAMS,**
standing at Gettysburg National Military Park,
where 64 Medals of Honor were awarded
and the Trust has saved 1,040 acres.
Gettysburg, Pa.



n the afternoon of July 2, 1863, into the maelstrom of fighting around the Wheatfield came Union reinforcements in the form of the V Corps, including the Sixth Pennsylvania Reserves. As they moved forward, their flank was harassed by a contingent of Confederates concealed in a cabin owned by John T. Weikert. Recognizing the threat posed to his unit, Sgt. George Mears of Company A began gathering volunteers for a dangerous mission. The six-man party moved quickly across a muddy field, bursting through the cabin door and taking those inside prisoner.

The process of honoring all members of the group for their participation in the gallant charge was complicated by the spontaneous nature of the action. As Mears wrote in 1900, "The thing was done with such a rush, names or the number of men were not thought of and ... the squad was disbanded as hurriedly as it was called together each returning to his company and place in line of battle, which was then raging." But thanks to the strong sense of community among the veterans, all six men were eventually identified and recognized. ★



GEORGE W. MEARS

TAKE OUT THE ENEMY

THE MEARS PARTY AT GETTYSBURG by **Hershel W. Williams**



IN EVERY CONFLICT, there are those individuals who are willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. Most of the people in America do not know that there were 64 Medals of Honor awarded at Gettysburg to volunteers. They didn't have to do what they did, but they did it for a cause greater than themselves. Probably most of them didn't think that they were doing anything extraordinary at all — they were fulfilling their obligation as a soldier.

I enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 1942, the month after I turned 18. I wanted to go into the Marine Corps to protect my country and my freedom. I didn't know at that point that I would be going to a foreign country. I thought we would stay right here in the United States, to protect our country from somebody who apparently was trying to take it away from us. I didn't even know we had a South Pacific ocean at that point in time.

I first got to the little island of New Caledonia, then they shipped us out to Guadalcanal, where we trained on the flamethrower. Then we went to Guam and, once we secured the island, we shipped out to go to Iwo Jima. We didn't

have any intelligence about Iwo Jima. You couldn't get anybody on the island, so we didn't know that they had 22,000 soldiers on Iwo Jima or miles of tunnels that they'd hollowed out in the island.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILLIAM HEREFORD





On the 21st of February — that was D-Day plus two — we finally got ashore and began taking part in the combat. On the 23rd of February, the flag was raised on Mount Suribachi. I was about 1,000 yards up the island, near the first airfield. When the flag went up, they were celebrating because Old Glory was, for the first time, flying on enemy territory. I've read something about flags in the Civil War, and how central they were. And when that photograph, that Joe Rosenthal took, that hit the front pages of almost every newspaper in the country, that did something, I believe.

I'm thankful that our method of fighting in World War II was different, so different, than it was in the Civil War. They were shoulder to shoulder, moving forward as a total group. I am a little bit reminded of our enemy in World War II, the Japanese. Their tactics were so different from ours; if they got into a tight spot, they would do what they called banzai. They would come in a large group of people, all at one time.

At Gettysburg, six Medals of Honor were awarded for an action that has some parallels to my experience. We believe that a contingent of Georgians were attempting to advance from the Wheatfield and 10 or 12 took shelter in a cabin, picking off some of the Pennsylvania Reserves. And so, they decided that they had to eliminate those snipers because they were killing some of their people. So, those six guys — Chester Furman, John Hart, Wallace Johnson, George Mears, J. Levi Roush and Thaddeus Smith — volunteered and rushed the cabin, capturing the Georgians within.

★★★
**BEING AT A BATTLEFIELD WHERE YOU KNOW THAT INDIVIDUALS
SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IS A PROFOUND EXPERIENCE.
WE NEED THESE PLACES TO KEEP REMINDING US
OF THOSE WHO GAVE MORE
THAN ANY OF US.**

On Iwo Jima, we'd attempted a number of times to break through those pillboxes, and we were losing Marines very rapidly. So, when my commanding officer asked me, as I was the last of the flamethrower operators in my company, could I do something to eliminate some of the pillboxes, that was my duty. So, they say I volunteered and, well, maybe I did. But I looked at it as a responsibility, because that's what they trained me to do.

In my citation, there's one word I would have taken out. It says, "He went forward alone." I didn't. I didn't go alone. I was the only flamethrower operator, but I didn't go forward alone because I had



other Marines risking their lives to protect mine. Two of those individuals, I didn't even know. The two who lost their lives were not part of my squad or my platoon. Where they came from, I don't know.

I think Chester Furman and the other five individuals that had the target of the cabin, knowing that the snipers were in there, they felt a great deal like I did on Iwo Jima: that we need to eliminate them so that we can move forward, protect our buddies.

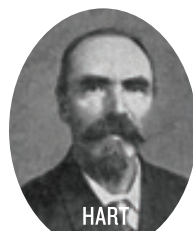
Being at a battlefield where you know that individuals sacrificed their lives is a profound experience. We need these places to keep reminding us of those who gave more than any of us. Around 58 percent of the Medals of Honor that have been awarded for WWII were awarded posthumously. For Iwo, there were 27 Medals of Honor, but only 13 were fortunate enough to get home and receive it personally. And today, I am the sole survivor. But we, as a country, can't forget. We should never forget what their sacrifices have made possible. ★



FURMAN



ROUSH



HART

TOP LEFT: Marines photo of Williams running with a flamethrower; **LEFT MIDDLE:** Williams receives the Medal of Honor from President Harry S. Truman on the White House lawn; **LEFT BOTTOM:** The USNS *Hershel "Woody" Williams* (T-ESB-4), an expeditionary transfer dock, on its maiden voyage; **INSET:** The patch of the 3rd Marine Division. **TOP:** Colt pistol of Mears Party member Chester Furman; **NEAR LEFT:** Other Medal of Honor recipients of the Mears Party: Furman, J. Levi Roush and John Hart. (No high resolution images of Wallace Johnson and Thaddeus Smith could be located.)

★★★

★★★
HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS ★ MEDAL OF HONOR ★

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as demolition sergeant serving with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 23 February 1945. Quick to volunteer his services when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through the network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands, Cpl. Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machinegun fire from the unyielding positions.

Covered only by 4 riflemen, he fought desperately for 4 hours under terrific enemy small-arms fire and repeatedly returned to his own lines to prepare demolition charges and obtain serviced flamethrowers, struggling back, frequently to the rear of hostile emplacements, to wipe out 1 position after another. On 1 occasion, he daringly mounted a pillbox to insert the nozzle of his flamethrower through the air vent, killing the occupants and silencing the gun; on another he grimly charged enemy riflemen who attempted to stop him with bayonets and destroyed them with a burst of flame from his weapon.

His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strong points encountered by his regiment and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective.

Cpl. Williams' aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.



See the complete
Woody Williams
video at www.battlefields.org/Woody_Williams

★ THE PURPLE HEART ★

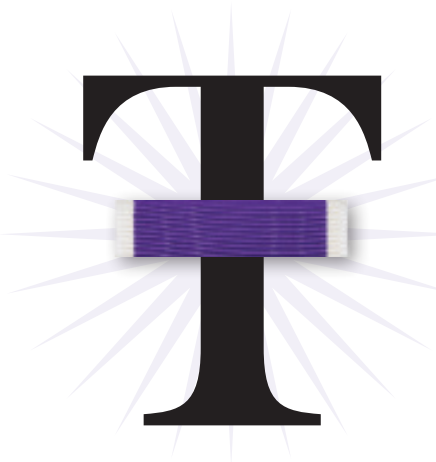


AVAILABLE TO ALL.

DESIRED BY NONE.

THE BADGE of Military Merit, once associated with extraordinary service during the Revolutionary War, evolved into what we now know as the Purple Heart, a decoration synonymous with physical sacrifice.

by
PETER
BEDROSSIAN



THE MODERN PURPLE HEART award was established by General Order #3, signed by Gen. Douglas MacArthur on February 22, 1932, a date chosen to commemorate the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth. But beyond that symbolic origination, the very design of the medal — the profile of Washington, its heart shape and the purple color of the ribbon — speaks to the longer history of the award.

The story of the Purple Heart begins during the last year of the American Revolution. By 1782, Congress had forbidden General Washington from granting commissions to men as a reward for merit, as it could ill afford to pay existing officers, let alone additional ones. Washington however, felt strongly that the enlisted soldier needed to be recognized for his service. Thus, on August 7, 1782, from his headquarters at the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, N.Y., he created two awards with which to recognize the service of those in the Continental Army. The first award was the Honorary Badge of Distinction, intended to recognize faithful service. A single chevron, sewn on the left sleeve of the regimental coat, represented three years of faithful service, whereas two chevrons represented six or more years of faithful service. Those who merited this distinction were to be treated with respect. A practical application of that respect was that these men would be given priority for furloughs during the winter of 1782.

The second award, the Badge of Military Merit, was the one that was

antecedent to and the inspiration for the modern Purple Heart. It was described in the orders as follows:

"... whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding.... Men who have merited this last distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinals which officers are permitted to do."

It was the first award open to enlisted men (privates, corporals and sergeants), and was indeed limited to them. The distinction of passing the guards was considerable for its time, given the social hierarchy between officers



and common soldiers.

The procedure was for regimental and brigade officers to nominate worthy candidates, along with proof of their deeds. Washington waited for nominations from August 1782 until April 1783, when he ordered a committee chaired by Brigadier General Greaton to meet and select candidates for the Badge of Military Merit. They met in the Temple Building at the New Windsor Cantonment and selected two sergeants from Connecticut: Sergeant Elijah Churchill, 2nd Continental (Sheldon's) Dragoons, and Sergeant William Brown, 5th Connecticut, Continental Line (Infantry).

They were called to headquarters at Newburgh on May 3, 1783. As Washington was away on that date, it is unknown how they received their awards. One month later, on June 10, 1783, Sergeant Daniel Bissel was called to headquarters at Newburgh and was awarded his badge by Secretary Jonathan Trumbull. Bissel is the last known verified recipient of the Badge of Military Merit.

Washington intended the award to be a permanent one. However, after the Revolution ended, it was all but forgotten.

The first time there was any serious consideration for reviving the award was in 1918. Gen. John Pershing sought to bring the award back to recognize merit for deeds done outside of combat. However, when World War I ended in November 1918, no further activity occurred until the late 1920s when Gen. Douglas MacArthur became the chief of staff of the army. After much discussion, the award was restored, but was quite different from the award we know today.

Like its predecessor, it was an award for merit, open solely to living recipients and was perceived as an army award. Merit was broadly defined, and being wounded was accepted as one type of merit. In addition, those who felt they qualified for the award had to submit an application for the Purple Heart. A result of those early procedures is that a majority of recipients during the first decade of the award's existence were civilians, most being veterans of World War I.

The grounds where the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is located are part of the medal's history. On May 28, 1932, 137 veterans of World War I were awarded their

Purple Hearts on this site. The tradition of recognizing sacrifice continues today with the Roll of Honor, a computerized database of enrolled Purple Heart recipients.

Another artifact of the "living veteran practice" is that a small number of veterans of earlier wars, notably the Civil War, applied for and were awarded Purple Hearts.

Many changes to these procedures have occurred over the years, especially during World War II. It was then that posthumous awards were authorized, the award was opened to all branches of service and its scope was limited to those killed or wounded by the enemy in combat. Subsequently, the definition has further evolved to include those killed or wounded while prisoners of war, as well as those killed or wounded by acts of terrorism.

Today the Purple Heart stands as the oldest American military award: "Available to all, desired by none."★

Peter Bedrossian is the program director at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in Newburgh, N.Y.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Badge of Military Merit, one of two originals that exist in the world; **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Howard Pyle's "They Scrambled Up the Parapet and Went Surging Over the Crest, Pell Mell, upon the British, 1899"; **THIS PAGE:** Douglas MacArthur — a part of one of only two father-son pairs to have received the Medal of Honor — helped create the Purple Heart; **CENTER:** The Purple Heart presented to John P. Hapson after WWI, one of the first three instances of the award; **BELOW:** Gen. John Pershing at Arlington National Cemetery near Fort Myer, Va. Coincidentally, Pershing's father-in-law was a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient. Colorizations by @MADSMADSEN.CH





JACK JACOBS ★ MEDAL OF HONOR ★
 Capt. Jacobs (then 1st Lt.), Infantry, distinguished himself while serving as assistant battalion advisor, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam.... Despite profuse bleeding from head wounds which impaired his vision ... Capt. Jacobs made repeated trips across the fire-swept open rice paddies evacuating wounded and their weapons.... His gallant actions and extraordinary heroism saved the lives of 1 U.S. advisor and 13 allied soldiers.
 ★ For Jacobs' complete citation, go to www.battlefields.org/Jack_Jacobs.

something valorous or you did not. It makes it more equitable, but also more inequitable once you start instituting gradations of valor.

Many of the lieutenants with whom I served in my first assignment at Fort Bragg were killed in Vietnam. We all went over at about the same time and wound up serving during the Tet Offensive in a variety of places, so that was my first experience of losing

people I had become close to. I am still in touch with some people I served with after Vietnam, but the majority of those I served in combat with are dead.

Lots of people received Purple Hearts who are not around to talk about their experience, because it killed them. And those of us who are still here, when asked about the circumstances of our award, we often give it short shrift, preferring instead to remember a buddy who did not survive, perhaps killed in the same incident. We know that it was originally an award for military merit, but that it was transformed into an award that signifies sacrifice. But it's about more than our own sacrifice, it's about those who sacrificed but didn't survive to wear the medal. ★



FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T WEAR IT

THE PURPLE HEART by Jack Jacobs



I GREW UP in New York City, in the projects of Queens. In those days, every household had made some contribution to the defense of the Republic. In the 1950s, it was unusual to find someone who had not served. I had friends who had fathers with parts missing. I had friends who had no fathers, because those fathers had made a sacrifice to save the world. Now it's exactly the opposite; most Americans do not know anyone in uniform. In an environment in which

very few people serve, it becomes something of a movie to most people. It looks like a fiction because you haven't had that experience. And so our views about what service and sacrifice are have been skewed by a lack of knowledge.

I don't think you can judge valor with any kind of regularity or equitability. It's a subjective evaluation, despite the fact that the services have tried to judge it in absolute or relative terms. Is this worth a Medal of Honor or a Distinguished Service Cross? A Service Cross or a Silver Star? And I think military people have grappled with this for a long time, which is why there was originally only the Purple Heart. You either did

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES SALZANO

VETERANS for BATTLEFIELDS A BROTHERHOOD OF SERVICE



PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS

Honoring an exceptional group of Trust members

MORE THAN SIMPLY America's oldest military decoration, the Purple Heart recognizes an exceptional group of warriors — those who shed their blood in defense of this nation and its ideals. The American Battlefield Trust is proud to recognize the following members who were awarded the Purple Heart. We honor their service and their sacrifice.



WORLD WAR II

Pvt. Geo E. Baur, *U.S. Army*
 Cpl. Edwin C. Bearss, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Pvt. William E. Hebner, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Pharmacist's Mate Truman Floyd Richason, *U.S. Marine Corps*

KOREAN WAR

Cpl. Thomas F. Beck, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Cpl. Donald E. Chapman, *U.S. Air Force*

VIETNAM WAR

Spec. Terry Atchison, *U.S. Army*
 Gunner's Mate Dale Stokes Ballinger, *U.S. Navy*
 Col. Albion A. Bergstrom, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Stephen L. Burch, *USA (Two-time recipient)*
 Spec. Hector Castaneda, *U.S. Army*
 Sgt. John Charnisky, *U.S. Army*
 Petty Officer Tommie Chason, *U.S. Navy*
 Lt. Carlton Crenshaw, *U.S. Marine Corps (Two-time recipient)*
 Spec. John J. Culwell, *U.S. Army*
 Hospital Corpsman John M. Dunning, *U.S. Navy*
 Sgt. Richard A. Dunning, *U.S. Army*
 Lt. Col. John H. Eckert, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Sgt. John Finn, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Capt. James P. Flores, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Clyde Foster, *U.S. Army*
 Capt. William S. Griswold, *U.S. Army and U.S. Coast Guard*
 Sgt. Michael O. Harris, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Col. Martin C. Higgins, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Lt. Col. Harold L. Hunter, *U.S. Army*
 Sgt. William F. Hustard, *U.S. Army*
 Sgt. William C. Jung, *U.S. Marine Corps (Two-time recipient)*
 Maj. John D. LaCourse, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Mr. Bruce W. Langbein, *U.S. Army*
 Sgt. John R. Lukas, *U.S. Army*
 Sgt. Linn Malaznic, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Clayton F. McGee, Jr., *U.S. Army*
 Cpl. Frank McGrew, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Sgt. Kenneth R. McLean, *U.S. Army*
 Sgt. Leon G. Needham, *U.S. Army*
 Maj. William Paris, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Robert M. Patrick, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Neil Prochnow, *U.S. Army*
 Capt. Nat H. Reed, *U.S. Marine Corps*
 Sgt. Robert Rivas, *U.S. Army*
 Lt. Col. Joseph E. Scanlin, *U.S. Army*
 Col. L. Gordon Sumner, Jr., PhD, *U.S. Army*
 Maj. Tracy W. Tucker, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Randolph E. Whitby, *U.S. Army*
 Spec. Edward Worman, *U.S. Army*

WAR ON TERROR

Capt. Andrew Goehring, *U.S. Army*

PROFILES *in* PRESERVATION

RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT



Patriot Award Reception and Gala
Sept. 2018



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

A bond of brotherhood for America's heroes



CHARTERED IN 1958 through legislation signed by President Dwight Eisenhower, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS) has one of the most rigorous standards for membership of any organization in the world: Only those bestowed America's highest military honor by the president of the United States are eligible for inclusion.

The current organization traces its lineage to earlier bodies. In the late 19th century, there was some public confusion as to who were legitimate recipients of the Medal. Hundreds of living recipients from the Civil War bore the decoration, but even more widely distributed medals from the Grand Army of the Republic bore an uncanny resemblance and were easily conflated by an untrained eye. Sadly, some individuals took advantage of the confusion and portrayed themselves as Medal of Honor recipients, prompting the true bearers of the Medal to form the Medal of Honor Legion in 1890.

This group partook in significant lobbying for measures that protected the integrity of the Medal, including the creation of a Pyramid of Honor with other awards suitable for acts of valor that were significant without rising to the level of the Medal of Honor.

World War II saw a major influx of Medal of Honor recipients — young, vibrant men who often took on an air of celebrity as they returned home. In the war's aftermath, the new Medal of Honor Society lost its political air and became more concerned with promoting the ideals embodied by the Medal, a process deepened in the charter of the CMOHS a dozen years later.

According to the group's director of operations, Victoria Kueck, "The Congressional Medal of Honor Society can be summarized in one statement: We share the Past. We serve the Present. We educate the Future."

Explicitly, the Society exists to create a bond of brotherhood among those living recipients and to maintain the memory of those who were awarded the honor

posthumously, or who have died in the years since receiving the award. More broadly, the group seeks to promote patriotism and perpetuate the principles upon which our nation was founded, including allegiance to the Constitution. Of particular interest is inspiring the youth of today to become citizens worthy of the sacrifices made on their behalf.

Society membership is automatically granted to all Medal of Honor recipients, although participation within the group is entirely voluntary. Many choose to attend annual reunions — the 2019 convention will be held in Tampa Bay, Fla., in October — at which, since 1968, they have honored citizen heroes held in high esteem with the National Patriots Award.

The Society is headquartered on the hangar deck of the USS *Yorktown*, docked at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant, S.C., just outside Charleston. A small professional staff — Kueck, deputy director Sharon Edgington, archivist Laura Jowdy and Megan Blackman, who provides support to recipients as they travel, representing the nation in peacetime as they did in war — work to advance the Society's goals. They oversee the newly renovated Medal of Honor Museum, also aboard the aircraft carrier, and care for a collection of priceless artifacts — as sale of a Medal of Honor is forbidden by law, the Society has become a caretaker for many of the historic decorations and other items related to the lives of recipients.

"Working with the Medal of Honor recipients is an honor and, at times, a humbling privilege," said Edgington. "What an amazing group of individuals who love our country and continue to serve in many capacities. Some of the recipients travel more than 200 days a year, speaking to students, active duty servicemen and women and veterans. For these men, wearing the MOH brings with it a sense of duty that they continue to carry on daily."

The Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and works alongside the affiliated Medal of Honor Foundation to support scholarships for students and teachers, the Medal of Honor Character Development Program, exhibits and installations, multimedia presentations and more. ★

CAMP *of* INSTRUCTION

STUDENTS OF PRESERVATION



WHO SHOULD RECEIVE A MEDAL OF HONOR?

Distinguishing this level of heroism requires extensive research

the medal is reached. And as Lt. Col. Colleen Carr, of the awards branch at the U.S. Army's Human Resources Center in Fort Knox, Ky., reminded the Colorado Springs *Gazette* in 2013, "The Medal of Honor is the one military award where the only approval authority is the president of the United States. He and only he is the person who makes the decision."

A nomination may originate in one of two ways — within a soldier's chain of command or via a member of Congress. The latter method is typically reserved for cases in which the statutory time-frame has been exceeded — actions more than three years prior. It was thus that Lt. Alonzo Cushing received the Medal of Honor in 2014 for actions during the Battle of Gettysburg, 151 years prior.

Some recipients, including Woody Williams, featured in this issue, report that they were entirely unaware that an investigation begun within their unit was underway until they received word that it was completed affirmatively.

Regardless of whether the process began internally or through the involvement of a member of Congress, the same rigorous investigation process applies. The nomination package that makes its way through the chain of command — even today, usually in hard copy rather than digitally — contains sworn statements by at least two eyewitnesses, but often many more. These primary sources are researched and verified in minute detail; some files have run more than 1,000 pages in total.

In the Army chain, a nomination successfully vetted by the Human Resources Command — which at this stage can also be downgraded to a lower level of decoration instead of the Medal of Honor — proceeds to Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the chief of staff of the Army, the secretary of the Army (in consultation with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) and the secretary of defense. At each stage, the bureaucracy has the opportunity to recommend approval to the next level, or nonconcur and halt the process. No statistics on what percentage of nominations ultimately result in the Medal of Honor are made public, but it is generally held to be a small minority. ★



EACH AND EVERY man or woman who has donned the uniform of the United States military is, in his or her own way, a hero, engaging in activities beyond the understanding of most civilians. Many of these individuals, when confronted with the enemy, perform in ways that rise above the norm in conduct and valor, receiving various decorations, commendations and citations for their actions.

A select few, however, go further above and beyond the call of duty and, after rigorous investigation, are awarded the Medal of Honor. But what makes an individual's actions worthy of such an honor? And how is that assessment made?

After all, "acts of bravery and courage are not unusual among those in uniform," notes the Congressional Research Service. "The distinction of this type of valor, heroism, courage, and bravery, in an environment where bravery and courage are the norm — and must be the norm in order to carry out effective military operations — may prove difficult to recognize by the outsider."

As such, as the Congressional Research Service summarizes, each branch of the armed services has created its own regimented process to evaluate individual actions, seeking to establish a level of heroism that is "uncommonly high and of a qualitatively different magnitude" than the average. In general terms, the nomination process seeks to establish, via the testimony of multiple eyewitnesses, that the action was undertaken at a risk to the honoree's own life and that it was voluntary or exceptional — "the type of deed which, if he had not done it, would not subject him to any justified criticism."

The research process is shrouded in secrecy, as very few individuals are involved, and they are not permitted to speak about incidents under investigation until the final decision on awarding



Army Medal of Honor and official case
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DAVID DAVIS



Teacher Institute 2016



TEACHERS, museum professionals, librarians and trainee educators from around the world are invited to gather in Raleigh, N.C., July 11–14, 2019, for the American Battlefield Trust's National Teacher Institute.

This four-day event includes breakout sessions, workshops, lectures and tours from some of the leading experts in the history and education fields. Educators will be immersed in a friendly, fun and engaging learning environment, in which they will be able to network with other educators and learn more about the historical topics they teach in their classrooms, while acquiring new and innovative teaching methods.

Our National Teacher Institute is about more than just methodology; it's about training better, more well-rounded educators. Veterans of past Institutes report leaving with a better understanding of their subject matter, a passion for history education and lifelong friendships.

Among the topics to be covered at the 2019 event will be: "Fight and Fight Again: How the Southern Campaign Won the American Revolution," "Eastern Theater vs. Western Theater: Where Was the Civil War Won and Lost?" "Forgotten and Misunderstood: The War of 1812," "The Last Days of the Confederacy in the Carolinas" and "How to Use First-Person Portrayals in the Classroom." Saturday's keynote presentation by Dr. Edward Ayers will ask "What Story Does the Civil War Tell?"

Workshops and lectures will be based at the Raleigh Marriott–Crabtree Valley hotel, where a group room rate has been secured. Field sessions will travel afield to the battlefields at Aversboro, Bentonville and Guilford Courthouse, as well as Bennett Place and Downtown Durham.

This event is free, but does require a \$100 refundable deposit to be placed to reserve your spot. At the conclusion of the Institute, educators can apply for continuing education credits, provided by Virginia Tech University.

To learn more or to register for this exciting event, visit www.battlefields.org/teacherinstitute.

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More than 1,000 American Battlefield Trust members have made battlefield preservation their legacy by joining our Honor Guard legacy giving society. If you care about ensuring the continuation of battlefield preservation for years to come, please consider joining them!

LEGACY GIVING

LEAVING A GIFT to the Trust through your estate is easier than you think — and may not even require a visit to your lawyer! We pledge to respect you throughout this process, understanding that circumstances or your intentions may change, and honor your desire for anonymity, should you choose.

To get started request our *Guide to Legacy Giving* (by returning the form on the outside of this magazine or e-mailing legacy@battlefields.org) or visit www.battlefields.org/legacygiving.



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STEP 1:

Make an inventory of your assets.
Our *Guide to Legacy Giving* even has a chart to use as a guide.

STEP 2:

Decide where your assets should go — and how.
Our *Guide* outlines the five main categories of beneficiaries and different types of charitable gifts you can consider.

STEP 3:

Meet with your attorney, accountant and financial adviser.
See our suggested bequest language and be sure to provide our federal tax ID number.

STEP 4:

Tell the Trust you have included us in your estate plans.
Contact Alice Mullis at legacy@battlefields.org or return the enclosed envelope.

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Sample Bequest Language: “I bequeath to the American Battlefield Trust, a tax-exempt nonprofit organization located in Washington, DC, the sum of \$_____ (or percentage____% of my total probate/trust estate, or properly described herein). This Fund is to be used as the organization deems advisable.”*

The American Battlefield Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
The federal tax ID number is 54-1426643.
*You may also wish to restrict your gift to fund a certain purpose, please contact Alice Mullis to discuss options (legacy@battlefields.org).

GIVE THROUGH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

TO GIVE through your retirement plan, all you need to do is change the information on your retirement plan beneficiary form. Simply request a form from your plan administrator and make the American Battlefield Trust a beneficiary. Therefore, designating a gift through your retirement plan is simple, quick and may not require a trip to see your lawyer. Also, it makes sense tax-wise — your assets will not be taxed when donated to us because we are tax-exempt organization, though they may be taxed when donating them to your heirs.

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Vicksburg National Military Park, Vicksburg, Miss.,
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PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE INCLUDED THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS

HAVE YOU already included the Trust in your estate plans? We encourage you to tell us, so that we can use this information for our internal planning purposes. Please let us know by completing our online confidential Declaration of Intent form online at www.battlefields.org/declarationintent or by e-mailing Alice Mullis at legacy@battlefields.org.

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SMITHSONIAN'S GREAT BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR is a visually stunning, provocative history unlike any other Civil War program you've ever seen. This critically acclaimed television and video series from the National Museum of American History is a sweeping and compelling look at the war's military, political and social history. Each episode features dramatic reenactments of important campaigns; first-hand accounts of eyewitnesses and participants read by distinguished actors; period photographs, paintings and artifacts; intriguing expert challenges to traditional historical thinking; original contemporary illustration; computer-enhanced maps; and music of the time. The strategies and motivations that created this devastating and heroic period come alive in this comprehensive reference. The DVDs and a laptop together can be a mobile history tour during your battlefield travels.

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A PARTING SHOT

HERITAGE SITES



THE NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR didn't actually end with the British surrender at Yorktown. As diplomats negotiated the Treaty of Paris, the Continental Army encamped at Newburgh, N.Y., awaiting news that their long efforts on the battlefield now bore fruit as a new nation. While there, General George Washington created a special recognition for enlisted soldiers who performed with exceptional gallantry, the Badge of Military Merit.

That award fell out of use, replaced in a thematic capacity during the Civil War by the Medal of Honor. In 1932, the imagery of Washington's badge was revived as the Purple Heart, which has gradually evolved to recognize those servicemen and -women who are wounded



or killed in the line of duty. The first instances of this reactivated recognition were issued to 137 WWI veterans, also, ceremonially, at Newburgh.

Today, the region is home to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, which seeks to collect and preserve the stories of Purple Heart recipients from all branches of service and across generations. Exhibits and videos showcase the diverse experience of recipients. The Roll of Honor, an interactive computer program detailing these personal stories, is a living document, with recipients and their families adding new entries almost constantly.

The museum opened in 2006, becoming the first-ever memorial to the nearly two million men and women who have been honored with the Purple Heart.★

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