



VETERANS HONORING ARIZONA MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

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Recipient

Our group of mostly Vietnam Veterans have come together under Veterans Honoring Arizona Medal of Honor Recipients to honor 27 Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) recipients with Arizona ties.

Native American Campaigns

Alchesay, William	1872
Blanquet	1872
Chiquito	1872
Elsatsoosh	1872
Jim	1872
Kelsay	1872
Kosoha	1872
Machol	1872
Nannasaddie	1872
Nantaje	1872
Rowdy	1890
Smith, Cornelius Cole	1891

WWI

Luke Jr., Frank	1918
Pruitt, John Henry	1918

WWII

Foss, Joseph Jacob	1942
Herrera, Silvestre Santana	1945
Thompson, Max	1944

Korea

Harvey, Raymond	1951
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Vietnam

Austin, Oscar Palmer	1969
Bacon, Nicky Daniel	1968
Crandall, Bruce P.	1965
Dunagan, Kern Wayne	1969
Ferguson, Frederick Edgar	1968
Jimenez, Jose Francisco	1969
Lauffer, Billy Lane	1966
Thorsness, Leo Keith	1967
Vargas, Jay R.	1968

The CMOH is this Nation's highest military decoration awarded in all branches of the U.S. military for gallantry and bravery above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy.

This very special group of 27 heroes includes those CMOH recipients who were born in Arizona, went into service from Arizona or lived in Arizona after their military service. Of the twenty seven, four are living and we intend to have present at the event.

The event to honor the 27 CMOH recipients will be held on Saturday March 19, 2011 at the Silvestre S. Herrera School of Fine Arts and Dual Language Center located at 1350 South 11th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85034. The event will begin with reception at 11:00 A.M., posting of the colors at 11:45 A.M. followed with lunch served at Noon. Presentation program will commence at 1:00 P.M.

The Fine Arts and Dual Language Center is located on the campus of the Silvestre S. Herrera Elementary School. The namesake of the School is one of the 27 heroes being honored at the event. Mr. Herrera who passed away in 2007 at age 90 was awarded the CMOH for his gallantry in France in 1945 during World War II. Mr. Herrera was also awarded Mexico's Premier Merito Militar, that country's highest award for valor. He became the only one ever authorized to wear the CMOH and Mexico's equivalent.

Honoring this special group of heroes allows us to go back in history to Arizona's territorial days. Twelve of these heroes were awarded the CMOH during the territorial, pre-statehood (1912) period in the years after the Civil War (first ever CMOH awarded in 1861). Arizona CMOH recipients after statehood include Frank Luke Jr., WWI (Luke AFB in Glendale named after him). Sequentially for example, you have Silvestre S. Herrera (WWII), Raymond Harvey (Korea), and

Frederick Ferguson (Vietnam). Many of these twenty-seven heroes also were awarded medals for valor from countries in which they served.

Our goal on March 19, 2011 is to focus on these extraordinary individuals and their extraordinary deeds. It is our hope that this event will impart to those attending the idea of Americanism and the sacrifice of these heroes to the preservation of this Nation. In particular, we wish to impress on young Americans the ideals of serving their country in peace or war and not to take for granted the great privileges of U.S. citizenship.

It is our vision that a wall of heroes be created where the 27 plaques are placed in the Center's auditorium or hallways serving to inform students, parents and visitors to the Center of this great legacy. Further, it is our hope that the plaques will be permanently housed at the Herrera Fine Arts and Dual Language School and that they will travel to schools throughout Arizona as an exhibit to inform students, parents and other adults of the gift and treasure that these heroes are to Arizona and the Nation.

The event will follow military protocol in the presentation of the plaques to the four living individuals and to the representatives/relatives of the other twenty three heroes.

We respectfully invite you to participate at this special event, which includes the luncheon. Tickets are \$30 each, \$50 per couple or a four-pack for \$100. Please make all checks payable to Veterans Honoring Arizona Medal of Honor Recipients.

We would be grateful for donations beyond the price of the tickets. Funds raised beyond the expenses of this event will be donated to the Silvestre S. Herrera Elementary School for the benefit of the school's children.

We look forward to your attendance at this historic event to honor these gentlemen, an American treasure and gift. Arizona has a rich history dating back to its territorial days and this history is not better told than from the perspective of the diverse backgrounds of these twenty-seven heroes, all in the service of this great Nation.

Respectfully yours,

**Committee Member
(Not a 501(c)(3) organization)**

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