

POSTAL NEWS

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Medal of Honor Recipients to Dedicate Vietnam War Stamps on Memorial Day

Stamp Sheet Depicts 48 Living Recipients

High-resolution images of the stamps are available for media use only by emailing mark.r.saunders@usps.gov

WASHINGTON — Nearly a dozen Vietnam Medal of Honor recipients will help the Postal Service dedicate the Limited Edition Medal of Honor: Vietnam War Forever Stamps.

The ceremony will be held at 1 p.m., Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 at the <u>Vietnam Veterans Memorial</u> on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The <u>Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund</u> and the <u>National Park Service</u> will host the ceremony, which is free and open to the public.

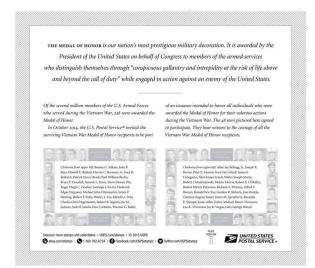
The Protracted Conflict

Several million service men and women fought in the conflict, which claimed the lives of more than 58,000 Americans. Two hundred fifty-eight people who served during the war received the Medal of Honor. More than six out of 10 recipients were honored posthumously.

The Vietnam War was a protracted conflict between North Vietnam and South Vietnam, beginning in the mid-1950s and ending with the fall of Saigon in the south in 1975. The first U.S. combat troops were committed to the defense of South Vietnam in March 1965, although American military advisers had been involved in South Vietnam since the 1950s. Several million Americans served on active duty in Vietnam until March 1973, when U.S. troops were withdrawn from the country.

Medal of Honor: Vietnam War Prestige Folio

The prestige folio stamp sheet depicts 48 of the more than 50 living Vietnam War recipients (some chose not to have their name and/or photograph included). The folio, which lists the names of the recipients, is modeled after the <u>World War II</u> and <u>Korean War</u> Medal of Honor prestige folio stamp sheets issued in 2013 and 2014 respectively.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA / MEDAL OF HONOR / VIETNAM WAR

William E., Adams: Famini C., Alikins: Lexios Albanese: Lexional L. Alvarado- Iman Anderson, Fa. Rekurd. A. Anderson: Webster Anderson: Engine Andelsy, F.: Ocar P. Anatis- Josh P. Baro: Noly Daniel Boston. - Son Bell Relial C.; In Could E. Bullard - Josh C. 1980 Brater: Josh Anderson Famini H. Harry Bell P. Beickirk. - Toll Belder: Lexio Alle Belleria H. Belleria Bel

The Nation's Most Prestigious Military Decoration

The Medal of Honor is our nation's most prestigious military decoration. It is awarded by the president of the United States on behalf of Congress to members of the armed services who distinguish themselves through "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty" while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States.

The Medal of Honor traces its origins to the first year of the Civil War, when Congress saw the need for a formal means of recognizing or rewarding acts of heroism. In 1861, James W. Grimes, a senator from lowa, introduced a bill to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by distributing "medals of honor." President Lincoln signed the bill into law on Dec. 21, 1861. Lincoln signed a similar measure on behalf of the U.S. Army on July 12, 1862, and the country had two Medals of Honor: one for sailors and one for soldiers.







Three Versions of the Medal of Honor

There are now three similar, yet distinct, versions of the Medal of Honor, one for each Military Department (Army, Navy and Air Force). The medals are similar in that each consists of a variation of a five-pointed star worn around the neck on a light blue ribbon. The Navy version is awarded to those serving in the Navy and Marine Corps, and during times of war, to members of the Coast Guard. The Air Force, which was established as an independent department in 1947, adopted its distinctive Medal of Honor in 1965. The first presentation of the U.S. Air Force's medal took place in 1967 during the Vietnam War.

Following is a listing of the living recipients depicted on the stamp sheet in state order. Click the links to the videos of the recipients recounting their experiences. (Note: Media use is of video is only permitted if broadcast in its entirety.)

LAST NAME	FIRST	CITY	ST	MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION	VIDEO LINK
ADKINS	BENNIE	OPELIKA	AL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3513/adkins-bennie-g.php	https://vimeo.com/124517084
SPRAYBERRY	JAMES	MADISON	AL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3420/sprayberry-james-m.php	N/A
THORSNESS	LEO	MADISON	AL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3433/thorsness-leo-k.php	https://vimeo.com/73862719
FERGUSON	FREDERICK	CHANDLER	AZ	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3273/ferguson-frederick- edgar.php	https://vimeo.com/72417862
BACA	JOHN	JULIAN	CA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3219/baca-john-p.php	https://vimeo.com/71014774
MODRZEJEWSKI	ROBERT	SAN DIEGO	CA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3365/modrzejewski-robert-j.php	https://vimeo.com/75308007
PITTMAN	RICHARD	STOCKTON	CA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3389/pittman-richard-a.php	https://vimeo.com/76054667
TAYLOR	JAMES	PENN VALLEY	CA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3429/taylor-james-allen.php	https://vimeo.com/119380139

VARGAS	JAY	SAN DIEGO	CA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3434/vargas-jay-r.php	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hifl6 wQfXZI
LEMON	PETER	COLORADO SPRINGS	со	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3341/lemon-peter-c.php	N/A
BUCHA	PAUL	RIDGEFIELD	СТ	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3239/bucha-paul-william.php	https://vimeo.com/71019460
INGRAM	ROBERT	JACKSONVILLE	FL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3309/ingram-robert-r.php	https://vimeo.com/73382873
LITTRELL	GARY	ST. PETE BEACH	FL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3345/littrell-gary-lee.php	https://vimeo.com/75398366
MORRIS	MELVIN	COCOA	FL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3501/morris-melvin.php	N/A
PATTERSON	ROBERT	PACE	FL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3380/patterson-robert-martin.php	https://vimeo.com/75311195
RAY	RONALD	PONTE VEDRA BEACH	FL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3399/ray-ronald-eric.php	https://vimeo.com/76052808
KELLOGG JR.	ALLAN	KAILUA	н	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3328/kellogg-allan-jay-jr.php	https://vimeo.com/119449311
FRITZ	HAROLD	PEORIA	IL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3287/fritz-harold-a.php	https://vimeo.com/71966122
LYNCH	ALLEN	GURNEE	IL	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3350/lynch-allen-james.php	https://vimeo.com/75487441
DAVIS	SAMMY	FREEDOM	IN	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3256/davis-sammy-l.php	https://vimeo.com/71966854
DONLON	ROGER	LEAVENWORTH	KS	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3266/donlon-roger-hugh-c.php	https://vimeo.com/71969487

HAGEMEISTER	CHARLES	LEAVENWORTH	KS	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3296/hagemeister-charles- chris.php	https://vimeo.com/73385334
JENKINS	DON	MORGANTOWN	KY	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3312/jenkins-don-j.php	N/A
KELLEY	THOMAS	SOMERVILLE	MA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3327/kelley-thomas-g.php	https://vimeo.com/75304837
RASCON	ALFRED	LAUREL	MD	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3397/rascon-alfred-v.php	https://vimeo.com/73855089
BALLARD	DONALD	GRAIN VALLEY	МО	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3222/ballard-donald-e.php	https://vimeo.com/71014344
MARM JR.	WALTER	FREMONT	NC	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3351/marm-walter-joseph-jr.php	https://vimeo.com/75488849
ROBERTS	GORDON	ERWIN	NC	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3402/roberts-gordon-r.php	https://vimeo.com/76053586
JACOBS	JACK	N/A	N/A	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3311/jacobs-jack-h.php	https://vimeo.com/73861330
DIX	DREW	MIMBRES	NM	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3263/dix-drew-dennis.php	https://vimeo.com/71972965
BEIKIRCH	GARY	ROCHESTER	NY	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3226/beikirch-gary-b.php	https://vimeo.com/71020433
KERREY	JOSEPH (BOB)	NEW YORK	NY	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3329/kerrey-joseph-r.php	https://vimeo.com/119452562
LIVINGSTON	JAMES	MOUNT PLEASANT	sc	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3346/livingston-james-e.php	https://vimeo.com/119446421
FITZMAURICE	MICHAEL	HARTFORD	SD	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3276/fitzmaurice-michael- john.php	https://vimeo.com/71967786
BRADY	PATRICK	NEW BRAUNFELS	TX	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3236/brady-patrick- henry.php	https://vimeo.com/70869461

EREVIA	SANTIAGO	SAN ANTONIO	TX	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3492/erevia-santiago-j.php	N/A
FLEMING	JAMES	MANVEL	TX	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3278/fleming-james-p.php	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9n CnlqlWuE
O'MALLEY	ROBERT	GOLDTHWAITE	TX	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient-detail/3378/o-malley-robert-e.php	N/A
RODELA	JOSE	SAN ANTONIO	TX	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3506/rodela-jose.php	N/A
SASSER	CLARENCE	ROSHARON	TX	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3409/sasser-clarence- eugene.php	https://vimeo.com/73856944
THORNTON	MICHAEL	PLANO	TX	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3432/thornton-michael- edwin.php	https://vimeo.com/73868556
BARNUM JR.	HARVEY	RESTON	VA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3225/barnum-harvey-c-jr.php	https://vimeo.com/71504014
FOLEY	ROBERT	ALEXANDRIA	VA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3279/foley-robert-f.php	https://vimeo.com/71511108
FOX	WESLEY	BLACKSBURG	VA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3284/fox-wesley-l.php	https://vimeo.com/71509352
CRANDALL	BRUCE	MANCHESTER	WA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3250/crandall-bruce-p.php	https://vimeo.com/71016656
JACKSON	JOE	KENT	WA	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3310/jackson-joe-m.php	https://vimeo.com/119451288
STUMPF	KENNETH	ТОМАН	WI	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3427/stumpf-kenneth-e.php	https://vimeo.com/119383883
WETZEL	GARY	OAK CREEK	WI	http://www.cmohs.org/recipient- detail/3440/wetzel-gary-george.php	https://vimeo.com/72904607

Ordering First-Day-of-Issue Postmarks
Customers have 60 days to obtain first-day-of-issue postmarks by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local Post Office, at the Postal Store website at usps.com/shop or by calling 800-STAMP-24. They should affix the stamps to

envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes to themselves or others and place them in larger envelopes addressed to:

Medal of Honor: Vietnam War Stamps

Special Events PO Box 92282

Washington, DC 20090-2282

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark up to a quantity of 50. For more than 50, customers are charged 5 cents each. All orders must be postmarked by July 24, 2015.

Ordering First-Day Covers

The Postal Service also offers first-day covers for new stamp issues and Postal Service stationery items postmarked with the official first-day-of-issue cancellation. Each item has an individual catalog number and is offered in the quarterly *USA Philatelic* catalog, online at <u>usps.com/shop</u> or by calling 800-782-6724. Customers may request a free catalog by calling 800-782-6724 or writing to:

U.S. Postal Service Catalog Request PO Box 219014 Kansas City, MO 64121-9014

Philatelic Products

There are nine philatelic products for this stamp issue:



589724, Framed Art, \$39.95.



589706, <u>Press Sheet with Die-cut</u>, \$35.28 (print quantity 1,000). 589708, <u>Press Sheet without Die-cut</u>, \$35.28 (print quantity 1,500).



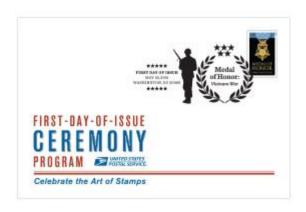
589710, *Digital Color Postmark Keepsake* with sheet of 24 stamps (set of 3), \$16.95.



589716, *First-Day Cover* (set of 3), \$2.79.



589721, *Digital Color Postmark* (set of 3), \$4.92.



589730, Ceremony Program, \$6.95.

589731, Stamp Deck Card, \$0.95.

589732, Stamp Deck Card with Digital Color Postmark (random stamp), \$1.99.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

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