



## POSTAL NEWS

Nov. 11, 2013

Contact: Mark Saunders

202.268.6524

[mark.r.saunders@usps.gov](mailto:mark.r.saunders@usps.gov)

[usps.com/news](http://usps.com/news)

Rel. 13-085



### **Living Recipients Appear on World War II Medal of Honor Forever Stamp Sheet** *Prestige Folio Commemorates all 464 Recipients*

High-resolution images of the stamps are available for media use only by emailing [mark.r.saunders@usps.gov](mailto:mark.r.saunders@usps.gov).

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service today dedicated the World War II Medal of Honor Forever stamps — paying tribute on Veterans' Day and everyday going forward to the 464 American veterans who received the nation's highest military honor for going above and beyond the call of duty during the Second World War.

The dedication took place at the [National World War II Memorial](#) where two of the eight living World War II recipients of the nation's highest military honor joined in the dedication as part of a ceremony conducted by the [Friends of the National World War II Memorial](#).

Available today as a set of 20 stamps, customers may purchase the [Medal of Honor: World War II Prestige Folio Forever stamps](#) at [usps.com/stamps](http://usps.com/stamps), at 800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724), at Post Offices nationwide or at [ebay.com/stamps](http://ebay.com/stamps).

"Our challenge as a nation is to never forget the sacrifices all of these individuals made on our

behalf,” said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe in dedicating the stamps. “We hope these new Medal of Honor Forever stamps will provide everyone with one more way to preserve our veterans’ stories for future generations. I urge you to use these stamps and mail them around the nation and the world. Save them for your children and grandchildren. Let them serve as small reminders of the giant sacrifices made by the heroes of World War II.”

Joining Donahoe in dedicating the stamps were World War II Medal of Honor recipients Army Master Sergeant Wilburn Ross of Dupont, WA; Army Private and retired postal employee George Sakato of Denver, CO; widow of Army Second Lieutenant/Senator Daniel Inouye, Irene Hirano Inouye of Honolulu, HI; past President of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society/Marine Corps retired Colonel and Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Harvey “Barney” Barnum; Chairman, Friends of the National World War II Memorial/retired U.S. Army Lieutenant General Claude Mick Kicklighter; Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley; and National Park Service National Mall and Memorial Parks Superintendent Robert Vogel.

Recounting his experience near heavily defended Hill 617 near Biffontaine, France in October 1944, Sakato recalled saying to himself, “What the hell? Why?” Sakato continued, “When he died, I got so mad, I cried and ran up that hill. I don’t know where I got the energy to do that.”

In his single assault, Sakato killed 12 and personally captured four enemy soldiers. His unit, inspired by his bravery, followed him to capture 34 prisoners. Sakato was recommended for the Medal of Honor but was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC). Fifty five years later, in 2000, his award was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

“I didn’t think I did the heroics credited to me. I was just mad out of my mind when I charged up the hill. I thought I might die, but I was going to die trying. To be part of this stamp dedication is humbling,” said Sakato. “I share this honor with all the other brave men and women who sacrificed.”

That same month, near St. Jacques, France, after his company lost all but three of its men while fighting a company of elite German mountain troops, Wilburn Ross positioned his light machine gun in front of his riflemen and began firing to absorb the enemy’s attack. He killed or wounded 58 Germans in more than five hours of continuous combat and saved the surviving remnants of his company. He remained at his post for 36 hours.

“I did what I was supposed to do without thinking,” the soft spoken Ross said. “I didn’t think much about what the medal meant to me then, but now it means a lot. I’m grateful to be associated with members of the Medal of Honor Society. They are all selfless individuals who serve as role models to the community. These stamps will help tell their story.”

### **World War II Medal of Honor Forever Stamps**

The first side of this four-page design highlights historical photographs of the last living recipients of the Medal of Honor from World War II. One stamp features a photograph of the Navy version of the Medal of Honor. The other stamp features a photograph of the Army version of the Medal of Honor. The Air Force version was not created until 1965. The two center pages list the names of all 464 recipients of the Medal of Honor from World War II. A short piece of text and a key to the names of the recipients pictured in the cover photos are included on the second page. The remaining 18 stamps are found on the back page. Art director Antonio Alcalá of Alexandria, VA, designed the stamps and the new format, working with photographs of the medals by Richard Frasier of Vienna, VA.

*(Two center pages)*

## MEDAL OF HONOR / UNITED STATES OF AMERICA /

## WORLD WAR II RECIPIENTS

**THE MEDAL OF HONOR, the nation's highest award for valor in combat, is presented "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty." More than 16 million people served with the American armed forces during World War II, but only 464 were singled out to receive the Medal of Honor.**

**In January 2012, the U.S. Postal Service invited the last living recipients of the award from World War II to join in honoring the extraordinary courage of every individual who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the war. The men pictured here agreed to participate in this momentous event. Sadly, Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Vernon McGarity died before the stamps could be issued. Their photographs are still included, as they remain among the last representatives of a remarkable group whose courage and devotion we honor with this issuance.**



*Clockwise from upper left:*  
Charles H. Coolidge, Francis S. Curry, Walter D. Ehlers, John D. Hawk, Daniel K. Inouye, Arthur J. Jackson, Robert D. Maxwell, Vernon McGarity, Nicholas Oresko, Wilburn K. Ross, George T. Sakato, Harold H. Shreve, William Williams, Hershel W. Williams.

Lucian Adams - Harold Christ Agerholm - Beauford T. Anderson - Richard Beatty Anderson - Sylvester Amadio - Richard Nott Antin - Thomas E. Atkins - Kenneth D. Bailey - Addison E. Baker - Thomas A. Baker - Vernon Baker - Van T. Barber - Carlton W. Barrett - John Baulieu - Harold William Bauer - Lewis Kenneth Bausell - Raymond O. Baudouin - Bernard P. Bell - Stanley Bender - George Benjamin, Jr. - Edward A. Bennett - Mervyn Sharp Bennett - Charles Joseph Berry - Victor R. Bernick - Arthur C. Beyer - William C. Biehn - Melvin E. Biddle - Elmer Charles Blinn - Kenneth - Oville Edwin Birch - Paul L. Bidloo - Cecil H. Bidloo - Richard L. Bong - Alexander Bonnyman, Jr. - Robert D. Booker - William James Bondelon - George W. G. Boyce, Jr. - Gregory Boyington - Herschel E. Brill - Maurice L. Britt - Leonard C. Brostrom - Robbie E. Brown - John Duncan Bulkeley - Frank Burke - Elmer J. Burr - Herbert H. Burr - James M. Burr - Richard Earl Bush - Robert Eugene Bush - John E. Butts - William Robert Cady - David Judson Callahan - Jose Calugas - George Ham Cannon - Abhis P. Casey - Charles F. Casey, Jr. - Chas Carr - Horace S. Caswell, Jr. - Edward A. Carter, Jr. - Anthony Caumont - Frederick W. Castle - Justin M. Chambers - Ralph Chad - Ernest Children - Clyde J. Chester - Dale Edson Christensen - Herbert H. Christian - Joseph J. Cicchetti - Francis J. Clark - Mike Colodillo - Darrell Samuel Cole - Robert G. Cole - James P. Connor - Raymond H. Conley - Charles H. Coolidge - Henry Alexius Courtney, Jr. - Richard Eller - Cowan - Clarence B. Craft - Robert Craig - Morris E. Crain - Dennis T. Cray - William J. Crawford - John B. Crows - John Philip Cusumoni - Francis S. Curry - Edward C. Dalgleish - Peter J. Delaney - Michael J. Daly - Anthony Peter Damato - Albert Levy David - Rudolph R. Davis - Charles W. Davis - George Fleming Davis - James L. Day - Samuel David Dealey - Jefferson Joseph DeHanne - Arthur E. DeFranco - Charles N. DeGasper - Emile Delano, Jr. - Ernest H. Derivation - James H. Diamond - Robert H. Ditta - James H. Doolittle - Desmond T. Doss - Jesse R. Drowley - Russell E. Dusham - Robert Hugo Dunlap - John W. Dunho - Aquila James Dyess - Merritt Austin Edson - Wilbur D. Eilers - Henry Talmage Elrod - Gerald L. End - Harold Glenn Epperson - Henry E. Erwin - Ray E. Eubanks - Ernest Edwin Evans - Forrest E. Eustace - John Peter Eusley - Robert E. Fenner - James H. Fiddle - John William Finn - Alvin E. Fisher - Francis J. Flaherty - Richard E. Fleming - Eugene Bennett Fluckey - Joseph Jacob Foss - William Adolph Foster - William C. Fournier - Thomas W. Fowler - John R. Fox - Elmer E. Fryar - Leonard A. Fuels, Jr. - Samuel Glenn Fugate - Robert Edward Galer - William Wyle Gale - Archer T. Gammone - Marciano Garcia - Harold A. Garmus - Donald Arthur Gary - Robert D. Gestung - Eric G. Gibson - Howard Walter Gibson - Harold Gonabous - David M. Gonzalez - Nathan Green Gordon - Donald J. Gott - William J. Grabarz - Ross Franklin Gray - Stephen R. Gregg - Kenneth E. Greenert - Henry Garber - Barney F. Hahn - George J. Hall - Lewis Hall - William L. Hall - Sherwood H. Halmon - William David Halvorsen, Jr. - Pierpont M. Hamilton - Owen Francis Patrick Hammerberg - Dale Merlin Hansen - Robert Murray Hanson - Roy W. Harmon - Harry R. Hart - William George Harrell - James L. Harris - Mikko Haeremon - Joe R. Hastings - Louis James Higgs, Jr. - John D. Hawk - William Toren Hawkins - Lloyd C. Hawke - Joe Hayashi - Hiroshi Hayashi - Clinton M. Hedrick - James R. Hendrix - Robert T. Henry - Silvester S. Herries - Rufus G.

Herring - Edwin Joseph Hill - Freeman V. Horner - James H. Howard - Paul B. Huff - Lloyd H. Hughes - Johnnie David Hutchins - Daniel K. Inouye - Judson S. Jackson - Arthur J. Jackson - Douglas Thomas Jacobson - Willy F. James, Jr. - John L. Jernad - Eldon H. Johnson - Leon W. Johnson - Leroy Johnson - Oscar G. Johnson - William J. Johnson - Herbert Chaspy Jones - Joseph Rudolph Jones - Victor L. Kaulle - John E. Kane - Neil F. Kealey - George D. Keithley - Gus Keller - Joseph H. Kelley - Cha A. Kelley - Charles E. Kelly - John D. Kelly - Thomas J. Kelly - Reinhardt John Kappeler - Deane J. Kermetter - Patrick J. Kester - Isaac Campbell Kidd - Thomas Kinison - Harold G. Kiser - David R. Kingley - Elbert Luther Kiser - Gerry H. Kisten - Alton W. Knappenberg - Nick L. Knight - Raymond L. Knight - Yoshi Kobashigawa - Richard Edward Koser - Anthony L. Kovach - Robert E. Kowale - James Dennis La Belle - William R. Lawley, Jr. - Robert E. Laws - Daniel W. Lee - John Harold Letts - Turner W. Leonard - Fred Ladner Lester - Darrell R. Lindsey - Jake W. Lindsey - Floyd E. Lindstrom - Edgar H. Lloyd - Donald R. Lobaugh - James M. Logan - Joe M. Lopez - Jacklyn Harold Lucas - Jack Lummas - George L. Mahoy, Jr. - Douglas MacArthur - Charles A. MacGillivray - John D. Magrath - Joe E. Mann - Harry Lim Martin - Joe P. Martinez - Leonard Foster Mason - Archibald Mathies - Jack W. Mathis - Robert D. Maxwell - Martin O. May - Mohen Mayfield - Thomas E. McGill - David McCampbell - Bruce McGonigal - Robert Howard McGard - Lloyd C. McGarvey - Joseph Jermiah McGarity - Richard Miles McCord, Jr. - Charles L. McGaha - Vernon McGarity - William D. McGee - Troy A. McGill - Francis X. McGraw - Thomas B. McGuire, Jr. - John R. McKinney - Robert Miller McTearns, Jr. - John J. McVagh - William A. McWhorter - John Muehler - Gino I. Merli - Joseph F. Merrill - Harold O. Messerschmidt - William E. Metzger, Jr. - Edward S. Michael - Harry J. Michael - Andrew Miller - James H. Mills - John W. Minick - Nicholas Minor - Jimmie W. Monahan, Jr. - Jack C. Montgomery - Harold H. Moon, Jr. - John C. Morgan - Edward L. Moskale - Kazuo Moto - Charles E. Mower - Joseph E. Muller - Sadao S. Munamori - Douglas Albert Munro - Kiyoshi K. Muranaga - Audie L. Murphy - Frederick C. Murphy - Charles P. Murray, Jr. - Mauro Nakai - Shiroji Nakamine - William K. Nakamura - William L. Nelson - Ralph G. Neppel - Robert B. Nett - John Dury New - Beryl R. Newman - Alexander R. Nittinger, Jr. - Joe M. Nishimura - William J. O'Brien - Joseph Timothy O'Callahan - Carlos C. Ogden - Edward Henry O'Hara - Allan M. Oltus - Richard Helminghaus O'Keefe - James K. Okabe - Yukio Okamoto - Aida L. Olson - Thomas O. Olson - Frank H. Oso - Nicholas Oresko - Kansas Oso - Robert Allen Owens - Joseph William Chibourn - Mitchell Paige - John Joseph Parle - Laurene Parrish - Hal Peace, Jr. - Forrest E. Peden - Jack J. Pendleton - Frank D. Peregny - Manuel Perez, Jr. - George J. Peters - George Peterson - Oscar Varner Peterson - Frank J. Petrusca - Jackson Charles Pharris - Wesley Phelps - George Phillips - Francis Janine Pierce - John E. Priden, Jr. - Everett Parker Pope - John Vincent Power - John James Powers - Leo J. Powers - Arthur Marjory Preston - Ernest W. Preunauer - Donald D. Puckett - Lawson Peterson Ramage - Bernard J. Ray - James W. Reese - John N. Reese, Jr. - Thomas James Reeves - Milton Ernest Rickets - Paul F. Riehard - Ruben Rivers - Charles Howard Ross - James E. Robinson, Jr. - Cloto Rodriguez - Robert E. Roeder - Albert Harold Rodda - Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. - Donald Kirby Ross - William K. Ross - Carlton Robert Rods - Donald E. Rudolph - Donald Jack Ruhl - Alejandro R. Renteria Ruiz - Joseph J. Sadowsky - George J. Sakato - Ben L. Salomon - Joseph R. Saromski - Peter J. Seares - Joseph E. Schaefer - Henry Schauer - Herbert Emory Schofield - Albert Ernest School - Norman Scott - Robert E. Scott - Robert S. Scott - Charles W. Shau - Carl V. Sheridan - William R. Shockley - William A. Shomo - Curtis F. Shoup - David Monroe Shoup - Franklin Earl Sigler - Edward A. Silb - John C. Siggen - Luther Slaggs, Jr. - James D. Sloan - Furman L. Smith - John Lucian Smith - Maynard H. Smith - William L. Soderman - Richard Keith Sommers - Joe C. Specker - Justin E. Spurrer - John C. Squire - Tony Stein - George Lovell Sivick III - Stuart S. Snyder - James Elton Swett - Ted E. Tansony - Seymour W. Terry - Charles L. Thomas - Herbert Joseph Thomas - William H. Thomas - Clyde Thomason - Max Thompson - Horace M. Thorne - John F. Thorne - Grant Frederick Timmerman - Peter Tomich - John J. Tomlinson - John R. Towle - Jack L. Treadwell - Walter E. Truemper - Day G. Turner - George R. Turner - Matt Urban - Joe Valdez - Leon R. Vance - John E. Alexander Archer Vandegrift - Junior Van Noy - Franklin Van Vleetburg - Bruce Avery Van Voorhis - Robert K. Vlade - Vincent R. Villegas - Dirk J. Vlug - Forrest L. Volder - George Edward Volkmann - Francis R. Wal - Jonathan M. Waterright - Kenneth N. Wilbur - Herman C. Walker - Kenneth Andrew Wicks - William Gary Wicks - James Richard Wind - Keith L. Wise - Henry F. Warner - George Watson - Wilson Douglas Watson - Robert F. Waugh - David C. Waybur - Ellis R. Welch - Walter C. Wenzel - Ed Whitley - Helen B. Whittington - Paul J. Wiedeler - Thomas W. Wigle - William H. Wilbur - Edward G. Wilks - Raymond H. Wilkins - Walter J. Will - James William Wilkins - Jack Williams - John Robert Willy - Alfred L. Wilson - Louis Hugh Wilson, Jr. - Robert Lee Wilson - Homer L. Wise - Frank Peter Witak - Howard E. Woodford - Cassin Young - Rodger W. Young - Jay Zeaner, Jr. - Raymond Zaanman

More than 16 million Americans served in the armed forces during World War II; 464 were singled out to receive the Medal of Honor. Of that number, nearly half died as a result of their heroic actions and received the honor posthumously. The Postal Service is issuing the stamps depicting the Medals of Honor and including photographs of the living recipients on the stamp sheet as an appropriate way to recognize the living while still paying respect to all 464 recipients whose names are included in the prestige folio. Twelve recipients were alive when the Postal Service approached them to have their photographs included. Today, only 8 remain.

The hyperlinks on the recipients' names below provide information on their citations, including videos of the recipients recounting their experiences.

Pictured (clockwise from upper left) are [Charles H. Coolidge](#) of Chattanooga, TN ([video](#)); [Francis S. Currey](#) of Selkirk, NY; [Walter D. Ehlers](#) of Buena Park, CA ([video](#)); [John D. Hawk](#) of Bremerton, WA ([video](#)); [Daniel K. Inouye](#) of Honolulu, HI; [Arthur J. Jackson](#) of Boise, ID ([video](#)); [Robert D. Maxwell](#) of Bend, OR ([video](#)); [Vernon McGarity](#) of Memphis, TN; [Nicholas Oresko](#) of Cresskill, NJ ([video](#)); [Wilburn K. Ross](#) of Dupont, WA; retired postal employee [George T. Sakato](#) of Denver, CO ([video](#)), and [Hershel W. Williams](#) of Ona, WV ([video](#)).

Sadly, Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Vernon McGarity died before the stamps could be issued, as did Nicholas Oresko, who died after the stamps were printed. John Hawk died only a week ago on Nov. 4. Their photographs are still included, as they remain among the last representatives of a remarkable group whose courage and devotion we honor with this issuance.

## The Nation's Highest Award for Valor in Combat

The Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor in combat, is presented "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty."

The idea for the Medal of Honor was conceived during the first year of the Civil War. Individuals were fighting for their country, yet the nation had no formal system for recognizing or rewarding acts of heroism. Then a senator from Iowa, James W. Grimes, introduced a bill to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by distributing "medals of honor." President Abraham Lincoln signed the bill into law Dec. 21, 1861. Lincoln signed a similar measure on behalf of the U.S. Army July 12, 1862, and the country had two Medals of Honor: one for sailors, and one for soldiers. By the time the Civil War ended, 1,525 medals had been awarded, including one to Army surgeon Mary Walker, the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor.

Because it was the country's only military medal, the Medal of Honor was awarded more freely at first. But after World War I broke out, the Army and Navy created a series of new decorations to recognize different degrees of accomplishment, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the

Navy Cross, and the Citation Star, later replaced by the Silver Star. As a result, only 124 Medals of Honor were awarded for service in World War I.

There are 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. Although not required by any military regulation, according to tradition and the nature of the award, even a four-star general will salute a private who wears the Medal of Honor. Visit the [Congressional Medal of Honor Society website](#) for information on all Medal of Honor recipients.

### Ordering First-Day-of-Issue Postmarks

Customers have 60 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at local Post Offices, at [usps.com/stamps](https://usps.com/stamps) 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 Stamps  
Special Cancellations  
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, there is a 5-cent charge per postmark. All orders must be postmarked by Jan. 11, 2014.

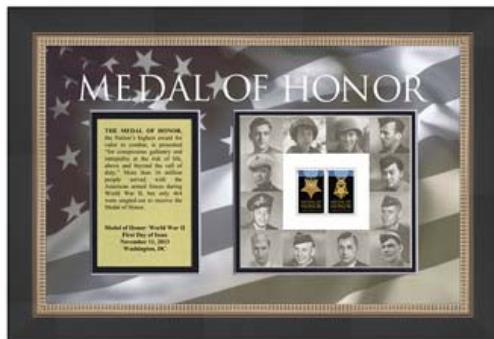
### Ordering First-Day Covers

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 [usps.com/shop](https://usps.com/shop) 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 available for this stamp issue:



581024, \$39.95 11" x 16" [Medal of Honor Framed Art](#)



581006, [Press Sheet with Die cuts](#), \$27.60 (print quantity of 2,500).

581008, [Press Sheet without Die cuts](#), \$27.60 (print quantity of 2,500).



581010, [Keepsake](#) (Prestige Folio & Digital Color Postmark Set of 2), \$12.95.





581016, [First-Day Cover Set](#) of 2, \$1.80.



581021, [Digital Color Postmark](#) Set of 2, \$3.22.



581030, [Ceremony Program](#) (Random Stamp), \$6.95.

581031, Stamp Deck Card, \$0.95.

587032, Stamp Deck Card w/ Digital Color Postmark (random single), \$1.96.

Customers may view the World War II Medal of Honor Forever stamps Prestige Folio, as well as many of this year's other stamps, on Facebook at [facebook.com/USPSStamps](https://facebook.com/USPSStamps), on Twitter [@USPSstamps](https://twitter.com/USPSstamps) or on the website [uspsstamps.com](https://uspsstamps.com), the Postal Service's online site for information on upcoming stamp subjects, first-day-of-issue events and other philatelic news.

# # #

**Please Note:** For broadcast quality video and audio, photo stills and other media resources, visit the USPS Newsroom at [usps.com/news/welcome.htm](https://usps.com/news/welcome.htm).

A self-supporting government enterprise, the U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation: 152 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. With more than 31,000 retail locations and the most frequently visited website in the federal government, [usps.com](https://usps.com), the Postal Service has annual revenue of more than \$65 billion and delivers nearly 40 percent of the world's mail. If it were a private-sector company, the U.S. Postal Service would rank 42nd in the 2012 Fortune 500. The Postal Service has been named the Most Trusted Government Agency for seven years and the fifth Most Trusted Business in the nation by the Ponemon Institute.

Follow the Postal Service on [twitter.com/USPSstamps](https://twitter.com/USPSstamps) and at [facebook.com/USPSStamps](https://facebook.com/USPSStamps).

.

.