



AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

SARAH ALISON AUDITORIUM

COMMEMORATE
VETERANS DAY

IN THE COMPANY OF HEROES

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER'S
17th ANNUAL CONFERENCE & HONORS

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2014 - WASHINGTON, DC

LOCATIONS OF EVENTS:

**“The Wounded Warrior Experience”
& Conference Speaker Sessions**

U.S. Navy Memorial
Naval Heritage Center
701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 123
Washington, DC 20004

**“An Evening Reception
Honoring US & UK Veterans”**

Friday Evening Reception
The British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20008

The American Veterans Center Honors

Mayflower Renaissance Hotel
Grand Ballroom
1127 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Black Tie Attire

*Bus transportation will be available from the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel to all off-site events.
See schedule for departure times.*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

TIMES & TOPICS SUBJECT TO CHANGE - ADDITIONAL SPEAKERS & PARTICIPANTS TBA
VISIT WWW.AMERICANVETERANSCENTER.ORG FOR CONTINUED UPDATES AND ADDITIONS

THE WOUNDED WARRIOR EXPERIENCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

7:30 PM - "THE WOUNDED WARRIOR EXPERIENCE"

Presented by Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation

Special pre-event reception at 6:00 PM, U.S. Navy Memorial

Featuring service members who have been wounded in the line of duty, sharing their inspiring stories of recovery and determination, along with resources available to service members transitioning from the military to the private sector.



Hosted by **Jennifer Griffin**, National Security Correspondent for the Fox News Channel.

Featuring:

LT Jason Redman - Eleven-year veteran of the US Navy SEALs, severely wounded in a firefight in Iraq in 2007. After 37 surgeries, now a motivational speaker, author & founder of Wounded Wear, a non-profit clothing line raising awareness of the sacrifices of wounded service members.

Sgt. John Peck - After being injured by an explosive in Iraq that caused a severe traumatic brain injury, among other wounds, he returned to duty in Afghanistan. In 2010, he was again wounded by an IED, losing both legs and arms, but not his spirit. Currently a candidate for double-arm transplant.

Sgt. Mary Herrera - The automatic weapon gunner for the lead vehicle of her platoon near Fallujah, Iraq, when her convoy was ambushed and she was struck by enemy fire. She continued to return fire until she was hit by a second round, forcing her from the battle.

SSG Charles Eggleston - While on a tour of duty in Iraq, two IEDS detonated next to his vehicle, leaving him with severe injuries down the left side of his body, nearly severing his spine. Representing Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation.

SSgt. Jeremiah Workman - Marine Corps veteran of Iraq and recipient of the Navy Cross. Author of *Shadow of the Sword*, which chronicles his story of one of the most decorated and highest profile veterans struggling with PTSD.

LT Pete Scobell - Seventeen year veteran of the Navy SEALs, with six tours to Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations including the now-famous rescue of the Maersk Alabama. Treated for a severe traumatic brain injury, he is an advocate for awareness and treatment of blast injuries, concussions, and PTS.

SGT Matthew Pennington - While serving his second tour in Iraq in 2009, his unit was ambushed by an IED, with severe shrapnel wounds causing severe damage to his right leg and the loss of his left. After his long recovery, is now an advocate for improving the lives of our combat wounded.

LT Chet Frith - After returning from a one-year combat deployment to Iraq, he began noticing symptoms of post-traumatic stress. He now provides assistance to wounded sailors, Coast Guardsmen and their families to help them combat PTS and other injuries.

Sgt. Adam Kisielewski - Infantry squad leader outside of Fallujah, Iraq when he was severely injured by an IED blast, requiring the amputation of his left arm and right leg. He now serves on the board of directors for Homes for Our Troops.



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

SPEAKER SESSIONS AT THE U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL – SESSIONS BEGIN AT 8:30AM

Buses from Mayflower Renaissance Hotel depart at 7:30 and 8:00 AM

U.S. Navy Memorial

Naval Heritage Center

701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 123

Washington, DC 20004

8:30 AM - KEYNOTE REMARKS

Featuring:

Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis - Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command.

9:00 AM - 1943: THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Veterans of the famed first African American aviation unit in U.S. military history. *Featuring:*

Jim Pryde - Former radio operator with the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

Ivan Ware - Former pilot with the 33rd Fighter Group.

Major Anderson - Former ground support serviceman for the Tuskegee Airmen..

9:45 AM - LEGENDS OF WORLD WAR II

PRESENTED BY THE TAIWANI FOUNDATION - Featuring:

Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole – Co-pilot alongside Jimmy Doolittle on Plane #1 during the Doolittle Raid - the first attack on mainland Japan.

LTC James Megellas - The most highly decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division, decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star.

Lt. Col. Edward Saylor - Engineer, Plane 15 (nicknamed *TNT*) on the legendary Doolittle Raid. Along with Lt. Col. Cole and the 78 other Doolittle Raiders, recently voted to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

10:30 AM - BREAK

11:00 AM - THE MEDAL OF HONOR

PRESENTED BY THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART SERVICE FOUNDATION - Featuring:

Col. Harvey C. “Barney” Barnum - Recipient of the Medal of Honor for valor during actions in South Vietnam, Dec. 18, 1965.

Awarded on Feb. 27, 1967, the fourth Marine to receive the Medal in Vietnam.

SFC Melvin Morris - Recipient of the Medal of Honor for valor in Vietnam. Sgt. 1st Class Morris is one of the “Valor 24” - 24 men among more than 6500 who, following a lengthy review, were selected to be upgraded to the Medal of Honor on March 18, 2014.

11:45 AM - LUNCH

12:45 PM - THE LAST ACE

PRESENTED BY THE NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION - Featuring:

Brig. Gen. R. Steve Ritchie, USAF (Ret) - The only Air Force “Ace” pilot from the Vietnam War, recipient of the Air Force Cross.

1:30 PM - ON THE FRONT LINES: SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN TODAY’S MILITARY

A rare appearance by active duty members of the United States military’s elite Special Operations Forces who have served on the front lines of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Participants TBA.

2:15 PM - CAPSTONE REMARKS

Featuring:

Gen. P.X. Kelley, USMC (Ret) - 28th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission during construction of the National World War II Memorial.

3:00PM - THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Operations in the Global War on Terror & Operation Noble Eagle

Participants TBA



EXCLUSIVE EVENT - FRIDAY EVENING

HONORING U.S. & U.K. VETERANS: A SPECIAL RECEPTION AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Buses depart Mayflower Renaissance Hotel at 6:00 PM)

This special exclusive reception will recognize the long partnership between the United Kingdom and the United States, saluting those of the Greatest Generation of World War II to the generation that has served side by side in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Stareception will feature British and American food, drinks, and spirits.

Special guests include wounded warriors from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Special thank you to Gemarmi, Inc. & Mr. Patrick Porter for their continued support of the Wounded Warrior reception.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

SPEAKER SESSIONS AT THE U.S. NAVY MEMORIAL – SESSIONS BEGIN AT 9:00 AM

The U.S. Navy Memorial is located at:

701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20004

Buses depart hotel at 8:15 AM

9:00 AM - THE GREATEST GENERATION: AMERICANS IN WWII

PRESENTED BY THE NORTHROP GRUMMAN CORPORATION - Featuring:

Harry Ettlinger - One of the few remaining of “The Monuments Men,” the famed unit tasked with protecting the great art treasures of Europe from destruction during the war and subject of the acclaimed book and film.

Marty Jackson - Pilot of 72 combat missions in the war, having flown over Nagasaki the day before and the day after it was bombed.

George Klein - Veteran of the famed 2nd Ranger Battalion on D-Day, the “Boys of Pointe du Hoc.”

Elinor Otto - It’s been seven decades and she’s still working as a “Rosie the Riveter” in a Boeing C-17 plant in California, a job she first took on as an original “Rosie” in 1942 during World War II.

10:00 AM - 1944: FROM D-DAY TO BASTOGNE

Veterans of the legendary 101st Airborne Division on the 70th Anniversary of their fight across Europe in World War II

PRESENTED BY AON - Featuring:

Donald E. Burgett - Veteran of A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry, and author of several books including the acclaimed *Curraheel: A Screaming Eagle at Normandy*, his memoir personally endorsed by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Jim “Pee Wee” Martin - Veteran of G Co., 506th PIR who recently made news worldwide by parachuting into Normandy on the 70th anniversary of his original D-Day jump.

COL Edward Shames - Started his service with I Co., 3rd Bn. 506th, becoming the first NCO in his battalion to receive a battlefield commission in Normandy. Was transferred to command 3rd Platoon of Easy Company - later known as the famed “Band of Brothers” - which he led until the end of the war.

With Special Guest James Madio - The actor who portrayed Frank Perconte in the acclaimed HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*.

Moderated by **Tim Gray**, Chairman of the World War II Foundation.

11:00 AM - KEYNOTE REMARKS

Featuring:

General Richard B. Myers, USAF (Ret) - 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2001-2005.

11:45 - LUNCH

12:45 PM - THE BORINQUENEERS

Veterans of the 65th Infantry Regiment from Puerto Rico, acclaimed for service in the Korean War and recently voted to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

Featuring:

1SG Fernando Rodriguez Borges - Served for 22 years and a veteran of D Company Heavy Weapons Platoon of the 65th, recipient of the Bronze Star.

Dr. Alberto Garcia - Assigned to the Medical Company of the 65th Infantry, then-Captain Garcia was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for actions in Korea on April 26, 1951.

SGM Victor Lopez Nieves - Served in the Heavy Mortar Company of the 65th as part of a 28-year Army career, seeing action in Korea and Vietnam, where he was awarded the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit.

CSM Emilio Castro Rivera - Veteran of C Company and HQ Company of the 65th, recipient of the Bronze Star with Valor and Purple Heart for actions in Korea.

Moderated by COL David J. Clark, former Exec. Director for the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee.

1:30 PM - LEADING MILITARY WOMEN: COMMANDERS AND TRAILBLAZERS IN THE U.S. MILITARY

Featuring distinguished women military officers from across the services, sharing their lessons and experiences on leadership. *Featuring:*
Lt. General Susan J. Helms - Former Commander, 14th Air Force, Air Force Space Command; astronaut, and the first U.S. military woman in space. Veteran of five space flights, totaling 211 days in space, including a space walk of eight hours and 56 minutes.
Additional participants TBA

2:15 PM - VALOR ON THE FRONT LINES

Decorated and distinguished veterans from operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. *Featuring:*
SGT Monica Beltran - Virginia Army National Guard - One of the few women to receive the Bronze Star with Valor from her actions in Iraq.
Sgt. Dakota Meyer - Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and the war in Afghanistan. He was the first living Marine recipient of the Medal of Honor in 38 years.
Lt. James E. Zumwalt - Former U.S. Navy officer and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Four generations of the Zumwalt family have received the Bronze Star, his being earned as an explosive ordnance disposal officer in Iraq.

3:00 PM - CAPSTONE REMARKS: CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP FOR FUTURE OFFICERS - *Featuring:*

Major General Michael J. Conrad - 1956 Graduate of West Point, decorated veteran of Vietnam (2 Silver Stars, 2 Bronze Stars), & former commander of the 1st Cavalry Division.

SIGNATURE EVENT - A NEW VETERANS DAY TRADITION

THE
AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER
HONORS

PRESENTED BY

NORTHROP GRUMMAN

THE FIRST AND ONLY TELEVISED AWARDS SHOW HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES

Reception & Silent Auction: Begins at 6:00 - Dinner & Honors Broadcast Filming: 7:00

Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, Grand Ballroom

1127 Connecticut Ave., NW - Washington, D.C. 20036

FILMED FOR A SPECIAL BROADCAST ON REELZ NETWORK &
DOD NEWS (FORMERLY THE PENTAGON CHANNEL),

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER HONORS IS THE FIRST AND ONLY
TELEVISED AWARDS SHOW HONORING OUR MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN FROM
ACROSS THE GENERATIONS.

AT THIS VERY SPECIAL BLACK-TIE GALA, ATTENDEES WILL MAKE UP THE LIVE AUDI-
ENCE AS WE HONOR HEROES FROM WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM, AND THE
PRESENT DAY.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTERS, CELEBRATED VETERANS, AND
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES, WITH HONOREES' STORIES TOLD BY
CELEBRITY SUPPORTERS OF OUR MILITARY.

VISIT WWW.AVCHONORS.COM FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TELEVI-
SION BROADCAST LISTINGS.

 **REELZ**
Hollywood Happens Here.

**DoD
NEWS**

THE WOUNDED WARRIOR EXPERIENCE

PRESENTED BY THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART SERVICE FOUNDATION
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER TO SALUTE AMERICA'S HEROES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - 7:30 PM

HOSTED BY JENNIFER GRIFFIN

2014 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE



Staff Sgt. Charles
Eggleston



Lt. Chet Frith



Sgt. Mary Herrera



Sgt. Adam Kisielewski



Sgt. John Peck



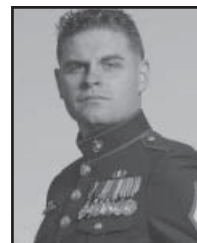
Sgt. Matthew Pennington



Lt. Jason Redman



Lt. Pete Scobell



Staff Sgt. Jeremiah
Workman

AIRING WORLDWIDE ON DOD NEWS

VETERANS DAY - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

1 AM, 7 AM, 1 PM, 8 PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

4 AM, 3 PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

11 AM, 6 PM

ALL TIMES EASTERN - AIR TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CHECK YOUR LOCAL SERVICE PROVIDER FOR AVAILABILITY, OR WATCH ONLINE AT
WWW.DEFENSE.GOV/LIVE/

17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Colonel Harvey C. "Barney" Barnum was commissioned to the rank of second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1962. As a Marine officer for more than 27 years, Barnum served multiple tours as an artilleryman with the 3rd and 2nd Marine Divisions, including two tours in Vietnam. Barnum earned the Medal of Honor for his actions on Dec. 18, 1965 in Vietnam. His other decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V, and Presidential Unit Citation.



Sergeant Monica Beltran - On Oct. 26, 2005, Specialist Beltran was serving as a gunner for a gun truck on a combat logistics patrol. During an enemy attack, Beltran returned maximum suppressive fire while taking heavy fire from multiple rounds of small arms, heavy-caliber machine guns, and rocket-propelled grenades. Despite suffering a wound to her left hand, she continued returning fire to ensure that the rear element of the convoy could pass safely through the mile-long kill zone. For her heroic service in the line of duty under hostile fire and adverse conditions, Beltran was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor on Dec. 30, 2005, the first woman in the Virginia National Guard to receive the honor.



First Sergeant Fernando Rodriguez Borges enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950. He was soon sent on a ship to Korea, where he would be a part of H Company, 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment with the 3rd Infantry Division. From there, he would join the 65th Infantry Division, The Borinqueneers. After a stint in Korea, he was sent back to the States, where, in 1954, he found himself with the 3rd Infantry again in Ft. Benning, Ga. Borges later served in Korea again, as well as staying in the military long enough to be deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Air Cav. Division and 101st Air Cav. Division. Retiring from active duty in 1972 with the rank of 1st. Sgt., he still serves God and his country the best ways he can.



Sergeant Donald R. Burgett served as a squad leader in WWII, and was part of A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He volunteered at the end of his 10th grade year, but was deemed too young to enlist. He worked until he was 18 years old and then volunteered again, this time joining the famed 101st Airborne Division. Burgett fought through the entire European campaign (Normandy, Holland, Austria, Bastogne, Germany) while part of A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was one of only 11 of the 200 original A Company soldiers to survive the end of the war. His awards include the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. His original memoir "Curraheel: A Screaming Eagle at Normandy" was personally endorsed by Dwight D. Eisenhower, and, at the age of 89, is readying his fifth book for publication.



Lieutenant Colonel Richard E. Cole was born in Dayton and completed two years at Ohio University before enlisting as a flying cadet in November 1940. He completed training in July 1941 and was the co-pilot for Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle on the first plane off the carrier *Hornet*. He remained in the CBI until June 1943, flying cargo from India to China. He returned to the CBI in October 1943 and flew with the AAF's famed 1st Air Commandos in support of Allied operations behind Japanese lines. He had several operational assignments, including operations advisor to the Venezuelan Air Force, before retiring to Texas in 1967.



Harry Ettlinger was part of the group now known as The Monuments Men, made famous by the 2014 film. Ettlinger was a German Jew who had emigrated to the U.S. and settled in Nj. He graduated high school and was drafted by the Army in 1944. While stationed in France with an infantry unit, he was discovered to be the perfect translator. In January 1945, he was removed from his unit and reclassified to be a translator during the impending Nuremberg trials. After that he joined some-350 men from 12 other nations and began seizing and returning more than five million items that had been looted and displaced in Nazi-supporting countries.



Dr. Alberto J. Garcia served with the Medical Company, 65th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, United States Army. On April 26, 1951, near Ilbisang-ni, Korea, a large enemy force completely surrounded a battalion command post, isolating it from other friendly units. Dr. Garcia worked among the wounded in the adjacent aid station in a calm manner, undisturbed by the severity of the enemy fire. His efficient care of the wounded and his quiet demeanor eased their fears, giving them strength to face the desperate situation. Dr. Garcia often moved out into the open, rendered medical aid to the wounded lying in exposed positions and supervised their removal to the protective shelter of the aid station. The dauntless courage and untiring efforts of Dr. Garcia reflect great credit upon himself and the military service. Entered the military service from Puerto Rico.

17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Lieutenant General Susan J. Helms served with the U.S. Air Force and NASA. She graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1980 and was an F-15 and F-16 weapons separation engineer and flight test engineer. She was selected by NASA in 1990, and became an astronaut in 1991. She served as a crew member of Space Shuttle Endeavor, and was the first U.S. military woman in space. She has logged 211 days in space, as well as recording a spacewalk of eight hours and 56 min, a world record. Helms has been awarded, among others, the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Commendation Medal and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal. Inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2011, she has since retired.



Marty Jackson served in the United States Army as a pilot and co-pilot during WWII. He flew the P-40 Warhawk, P-47 Thunderbolt, B-25 Mitchell, and C-47 Skytrain. Assigned to the 311th Fighter Squadron, he flew several combat missions, mostly sticking to supporting the infantry by napalm bombing and strafing runs. On Aug. 8, 1945, Jackson led a group of P-47s over the city of Nagasaki, Japan the day before the atomic bomb was dropped. They also flew over the city, observing for about 20 minutes, the day after it was dropped, seeing as the only ones who really knew about the radiation were the experts. He was a part of 72 combat missions, dropping over 50 tons of ordnance, and totaling over 215 combat hours.



Lieutenant George Klein entered the service with the 33rd Infantry Division, Illinois National Guard in February 1941 at the age 19. He was commissioned in 1942 with Field Artillery O.C.S. Class 25, 80th Infantry Division Camp Forrest TN. 2nd Army Ranger School, joined 2nd Battalion in April 1943. He was sent overseas with the 5th Infantry Division on August 1943 and re-joined the 2nd Ranger Battalion February 1944. He was part of the D-Day invasion in Normandy, where he led men onto the shores and scale Pointe Du Hoc, the 100-foot cliff, before taking out six large German guns. During the invasion, he was wounded in the thigh by a German bayonet. Klein re-joined the 5th Infantry Division as the forward observer/air observer, where he was again wounded, and then returned to the United States on September 1945.



Staff Sergeant Jim "Pee Wee" Martin served in the United States Army during WWII as part of the renowned 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He is one of the last remaining "Toccoa Originals," a name given to the regiment formed in Camp Toccoa in July 1942, earning his nickname because he was the lightest man in the regiment. Part of the D-Day invasion, Martin and the 101st parachuted into Normandy at 12:30 a.m. on June 6, 1942, where they fought for 33 days until being relieved and returned to England. He jumped into Holland as part of the leading wave of Operation Market Garden, as well as participating in the Battle of the Bulge and securing Adolph Hitler's mountain home in Bavaria. On June 6, 2014 - at age 93 - Martin became the last WWII paratrooper to jump over Normandy, landing just behind Utah Beach as he had 70 years earlier.



Lieutenant Colonel James Megellas served during WWII as an officer in the United States Army. Originally assigned with the signal corp, he then volunteered to be a paratrooper in order to see combat. He was moved to H Company, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which was part of the the 82nd Airborne Division, where he would remain and eventually command. Among others, he participated in the amphibious assault at Anzio, Operation Market Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge. He left the active Army with the rank of captain, and then served another 16 years in the Army Reserve, earning the rank of lieutenant colonel. Megellas is the most decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne, where he's been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star, as well as having been nominated for the Medal of Honor.



Sergeant Dakota Meyer served with the Marine Corps. After enlisting in the Marines out of high school, he was accepted into the Marine Corps' sniper school, and graduated with a comprehensive knowledge needed to be just that; a scout sniper. He is the first living Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor sine the Vietnam War (38 years). He and a fellow Marine braved enemy fire in order to rescue and recover American and Afghan soldiers from an ambush in the small town of Ganjal, Afghanistan. He made numerous trips into the ambush site, wounded and taking shrapnel, to locate his four fallen American comrades. Dismounting his vehicle to search on foot, he found them after several hours and carried the bodies to safety. Since retiring, Meyer has started working with Toyota and Hiring Our Heroes to help veterans and military spouses find jobs.

17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris served during the Vietnam War as one of the very first soldiers to don the famous “Green Beret,” authorized by President Kennedy to be worn by the Special Forces as a “symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, and a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.” In Chi Lang, he once took handfuls of grenades and went on a daring assault against enemy bunkers and fortified positions, destroying all on his way to recover a fallen soldier. “You don’t leave soldier behind,” he would recall thinking. Morris’ actions that day would earn him the Distinguished Service Cross. He would become one of 6,500 who’s cases were re-opened due to racial or ethnic discrimination, and one of 24 awarded the Medal of Honor.



Sergeant Major Victor Lopez Nieves served in Heavy Mortar Company from April 1951-April 1952. He served for 28 years ending his career by with the rank of sergeant major. Served in the Korean War and Vietnam War where he received a Bronze Star and the Legion of Merit.



Elinor Otto is the very last “Rosie the Riveter” to still be working on the assembly line, and has been ever since 1942. The Rosie campaign started when the lack of young men volunteering for work because of the escalation of the war. All of the able-bodied men had starting to join the military in droves. Factories that once built cars and commercial planes were now building tanks and bombers. Otto started working in the Rohr Aircraft factory outside of San Diego, Calif., where she made 65 cents per hour assembling airplanes. The women who flocked to the factories earned themselves the nickname “Rosie the Riveter.” Otto is scheduled to continue until the current Boeng Airplane plant’s C-17 contract is up sometime in the next year.



Brigadier General R. Steve Ritchie is the only Air Force “ace” pilot of the air war in Vietnam. A veteran of more than 800 combat hours in the F-4 Phantom during 339 missions over Southeast Asia, Ritchie is the only American pilot to down five MiG-21s, the most sophisticated fighters in the North Vietnamese fleet. By the time he left active duty in 1974, Ritchie had been awarded the Air Force Cross, four Silver Stars, 10 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 25 Air Medals. He would rise to the rank of brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve and served in the Reagan administration.



Command Sergeant Major Emilio Castro Rivera served in Army from Nov. 2, 1950 - Sept. 26, 1956 (ending with rank of master sergeant); transferred to Air Force and retired on Oct. 1, 1974 with the rank of command sergeant major. Medals received: Bronze Star for Valor; Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal with four Bronze Stars; UN Service Medal; Combat Infantry Badge; Presidential Unit Citation. He was wounded on back left side on March 12, 1951 in Ijunbhu Valley, South Korea. Rivera was separated from his patrol in enemy territory and showed up days later. He spent a total of 28 years in military service.



Lieutenant Colonel Edward J. Saylor was born on March 15, 1920, in Brusett, Mont. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on Dec. 7, 1939. He trained in aircraft maintenance and as a flight engineer. Saylor was serving as a B-25 Mitchell flight engineer with the 34th Bomb Squadron of the 17th Bomb Group when he was selected for the Doolittle Mission in February 1942. Saylor was the flight engineer aboard the 15th B-25 to take off from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet (CV-8) on April 18, 1942. After bombing their assigned targets in Kobe, Japan the crew ditched their B-25 Mitchell in the water off the coast of China. After returning to the United States, Saylor was deployed to England before accepting a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Force on March 4, 1945. He then served as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer until leaving active duty on March 29, 1946.

17TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Colonel Edward J. Shames was born in Norfolk, Virginia and was in naval school when the United States entered World War II. He volunteered for the paratroopers in September 1942 and was assigned to I Company, 3rd Battalion of the 506th Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne. Shames then transferred to HQ company and, after receiving a battlefield commission at Carentan, joined Easy Company now known as the Band of Brothers as a second lieutenant after the

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - KEYNOTE REMARKS

Major General Mark A. Brilakis, USMC - Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruiting Command



Maj. Gen Mark A. Brilakis is currently assigned as the Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruiting Command. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn. and was commissioned through the Platoon Leaders Class. He was commissioned in May 1981 before assignments in the Operating Forces. He graduated from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College with honors and earning a Masters in Military Studies. He remained at the college for a second year as a student in the School of Advanced Warfighting where he received the General Clifton B. Cates Award. Those assignments in the Operating Forces include Battery Officer, 1st Battalion, 10th Marines and Battery Commander, Battalion FDO, S-3, 5th Battalion, 10th Marines.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - CAPSTONE REMARKS

General P.X. Kelley, USMC (Ret) - 28th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps



Gen. Kelley is a retired United States Marine Corps general who served as the 28th commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, from July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1987. He served 37 years active duty in the Marine Corps. After his commission in 1950, he served as an infantry officer in a wide variety of billets. His first assignment after receiving his commission through Villanova College's Naval ROTC program was with Aircraft Engineering Squadron 12 (AES-12) at Marine Corps Air Station Quantico, Va. He then served as an exchange officer with the Royal Marines. He then joined the Marine Force Reconnaissance community and served with distinction during the Vietnam War. His final assignments were as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and then Commandant of the Marine Corps until his retirement in 1987. His decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit (3), the Bronze Star with "V" (2), among many others. Following his retirement from the Marine Corps, Kelley has served on a number of corporate boards.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8 - KEYNOTE REMARKS

General Richard B. Myers, USAF (Ret) - 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Gen. Myers is a retired four-star general in the United States Air Force and served as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As chairman, Myers was the United States military's highest ranking uniformed officer. General Myers became the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs on Oct. 1, 2001. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to the president, the secretary of defense, and the National Security Council during the earliest stages of the War on Terror, including planning and execution of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. On Sept. 30, 2005, he retired and was succeeded by General Peter Pace. His Air Force career included operational command and leadership positions in a variety of Air Force and joint assignments.

WELCOMING TOMORROW'S MILITARY LEADERS

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER IS PROUD TO CONNECT THE MILITARY LEADERS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT WITH THOSE WHO WILL SERVE AS OUR LEADERS OF THE FUTURE. PARTICIPATING IN THE 2014 CONFERENCE & HONORS ARE STUDENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SERVICE ACADEMIES, MILITARY SCHOOLS, AND ROTC PROGRAMS:

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
THE UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD ACADEMY
THE UNITED STATES
MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

THE CITADEL
NORWICH UNIVERSITY
MIAMI UNIVERSITY NROTC
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AROTC
ST JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY AFROTC
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AFROTC
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AROTC
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA NROTC

VIRGINIA TECH AFROTC
VIRGINIA TECH AROTC
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY NROTC
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE AFROTC
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY AROTC
GEORGE WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY NROTC
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY NROTC
JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY AROTC
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AROTC