

2021 GMVHOF INDUCTEES



Sparkle Kornegay Adams (SERVICE)

Master Sergeant, Air Force, Forest Park. Sparkle Kornegay Adams served 25+ years of duty. She also served with Federal Government Agencies. She dedicated her untiring and selfless volunteering for the benefit of her church, community, city and nation which positively impacted thousands of lives. She served as a Forest Park City Council Member, Mayor of Forest Park, the Forest Park Kiwanis Club, The Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Walk of Heroes, the Veterans War Memorial, the Ben Hill United Methodist Church Veterans' Ministry and the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Black Military Women. She also founded the Walking in Authority Team Council (WIATC), a developmental organization for youth.



Ormond Craig Fowler, Jr. (VALOR)

Commander, Navy, Savannah. "O.C." Fowler served for over 22 years. He was in Vietnam during 1970-71. He was the Commander of a UH-1 (Huey) Gunship and Fire Team Leader in Helicopter Attack Squadron Three. His squadron was the most highly decorated in Navy History. While serving in the Mekong Delta his unit supported combat actions of the U.S. and South Vietnamese Units who were under attack. During these operations, "O.C." flew over 650 combat missions totaling 750 combat flight hours. All while receiving intense hostile ground fire often during precarious weather conditions. He earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Air Medals for Valor, 27 Strike/Flight Air Medals, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and the Vietnamese Air Gallantry Cross.



James McLennon Grimshaw (VALOR)

Major, Army, Townsend. "Jim" Grimshaw served over 22 years and is a veteran of two combat tours in Vietnam. During his first tour in 1966, Lieutenant Grimshaw served as a Special Forces Advisor to a South Vietnamese unit. During this assignment he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart for single handedly charging a hostile machine gun position during an assault and suffering a wound from an enemy grenade. As a Company Commander in the 103rd Airborne Brigade in February 1969 during his second Vietnam tour, then Captain Grimshaw was awarded a second Bronze Star for Valor for directing helicopter gunship fire on enemy positions. He also assisted with the rescue of many wounded soldiers in the midst of intense enemy night sniper fire.



Michael Thomas Hall (ACHIEVEMENT)

Command Sergeant Major, Army, Columbus. A 34 year decorated Veteran whose service included 20 years with the 75th Ranger Regiment. Mike began as an infantry private. Later his career included special operations, counter insurgency and irregular warfare. He was the only CSM to hold the senior enlisted position in the Ranger Regiment and with the Joint Army Special Operations Commands. He retired in 2008 but recalled to serve as the Senior Enlisted Advisor in the International Security Assistance Force. He has a Post-Army career of service with the Wounded Warrior Project, Witness to War, Gallant Few and other organizations. He is the Executive Director of the Three Rangers Foundation and the Honorary CSM of the 75th Ranger Regiment.



Samuel David Hernandez (VALOR)

Command Major, Army, McDonough. "Sammy" was a thirty year active duty Veteran. He also served five years with the Special Forces in Vietnam where he led Long Range Reconnaissance Teams behind enemy lines. These missions recovered American Prisoners of War, captured enemy soldiers, and collected critical intelligence. He received four Bronze Stars for Valor and three Purple Hearts and other awards. He led in a High-Altitude Low Opening (HALO) insertion into enemy territory. This was the first freefall airborne mission in U.S. Army History. In Granada, as the CSM of a unit of the 82nd Airborne Division, he participated in Operation "Urgent Fury." This resulted in the rescue of several hundred American medical students being held by local Communist leaders.



Dallas Scott Hudgens, Jr. (SERVICE) (Posthumous)

Technician 5th Grade, Army, Duluth. Dallas was a WWII Veteran, commercial realtor and philanthropist. He served from Omaha Beach on D-Day throughout France, Belgium and Germany with a tank crew. He received two Purple Hearts and always remained dedicated to his tank crew. He became a successful realtor after the war in the Atlanta area, building malls and other ventures. As he prospered he donated generously to the community. He was a very private person and preferred not to be known publicly. He was "Mr. Anonymous" by choice. His crowning achievement was his donation of 775 acres of mountain land near Canton for the Georgia National Veterans Cemetery as a final resting place to honor all U.S. Veterans. The Scott Hudgens Family Trust continues today.



George Marvin Johnson, Jr. (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Major General, Air Force, Macon. He attended North Georgia College then joined the Army Air Corps in 1941. During WWII he served in the European Theatre and participated in seven major campaigns. He earned several promotions and soon Major Johnson led airborne assault operations and aerial resupply missions to ground forces behind enemy lines. During these missions he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross as a combat pilot. At the end of the war, he evacuated prisoners from three Nazi Concentration Camps. He remained on active duty after the war serving in assignments with ever increasing responsibilities in the U.S. and overseas. He retired in 1975 as a Command Pilot with over 6000 hours of flying time and 32+ years of distinguished military service.



Alfred J. Landgraaf (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Captain, Army, Marietta. Born in Milwaukee, he enlisted in the Army in 1943 and served in the 82nd and 17th Airborne Divisions as well as the 504th and 507th Parachute Infantry Regiments. He was discharged as a Captain in 1946. He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on D-Day, 6 June 1944. He and another paratrooper protected the only anti-tank gun until ammunition arrived as a column of five German tanks approached their position. His determination prevented enemy tanks from penetrating and overrunning the paratroopers' defensive position. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart and several other combat awards.



John Patrick Newport, Jr. (SERVICE)

Master Sergeant, Marine Corps, Woodstock. John served an active duty career of 20 years which included a combat tour in Vietnam. Upon completion of his active duty, he launched a plan of service for Marine Veterans' that was based on passion and selfless service. He founded the Marine Corps League Detachment in Woodstock and served as its Commandant for several years. During his tenure the Detachment raised scholarship funds for ROTC Cadets, Eagle Scouts and children of active duty and Veteran Marines. He initiated another outstanding service, the formation of a Ceremonial Rifle Team that provides grave-side honors for deceased Veterans. Also provides relief for homeless Veterans, Court assistance and interring unclaimed cremated Veterans remains.



Thaddeus Raymond Sobieski (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Colonel, Army, Atlanta. "Sobie" served in WWII as an enlisted man in the Army Air Corps. After the war he graduated from the University of Connecticut and received a commission through ROTC. He re-entered the Army as during the early portion of the Korean War and commanded E Company, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division through some of the worst of that conflict. In the bitter cold of late November of 1952, he led an assault on a heavily defended enemy hill. When one of his fellow Soldiers was critically wounded in both legs and unable to move. "Sobie" raced across open fields of snow and heavy enemy fire to rescue the Soldier and was wounded himself. For his courage and leadership, he was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.



James Michael Sprayberry (MEDAL OF HONOR)

Lieutenant Colonel, Army, LaGrange. After entering the Army in 1966, he was commissioned through OCS in early 1967. He was deployed to Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division. On 25 April 1968 in the A Shau Valley the company encountered a numerically superior enemy force resulting in the death of four and the wounding of eleven soldiers and officers. Lieutenant Sprayberry immediately organized and led a night rescue mission for his fallen warriors which lasted for seven hours. Sprayberry personally eliminated twelve enemy soldiers and two machine guns with his expert use of grenades, rifle and pistol. He was awarded the military's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor. He also was the recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart.



Myron Edward Squires (VALOR)

Lieutenant Colonel, Army, Jasper. "Mike" entered the Army in 1956 from St. Petersburg, Florida. He completed Infantry, Airborne and Aviation Helicopter training then deployed to Vietnam in 1966 with the 25th Infantry Division. As a UH-1 (Huey) pilot he was assigned as an insertion and extraction pilot for Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRP). During subsequent months he had many encounters with heavy weapons fire and running gun battles as he successfully landed his aircraft to rescue LRRP Teams despite superior attacking forces. For saving the lives of these teams and his own crew he was awarded Two Distinguished Flying Crosses, an Air Medal for Valor, twenty additional Air Medals and three Bronze Star Medals.



Clark Jackson Thompson (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Lieutenant Colonel, Army, Dahlonega. "Jack" was a UGA graduate and former enlisted soldier who became an Armor Officer. On 9 March 1969 he distinguished himself while serving as a Brigade Intelligence Officer with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. On that day the firebase and helicopter resupply pad came under heavy attack from a barrage of North Vietnamese rockets. Many U.S. Soldiers were wounded. With complete disregard for his own safety, he commandeered a vehicle, quickly reached the Soldiers, administered medical aid, loaded the wounded and raced back to a safe area for skilled medical attention. This entire daring rescue was under direct and accurate rocket fire. For his initiative and bravery, he was awarded the Silver Star.



John William Thompson (ACHIEVEMENT)

Colonel, Army, Alpharetta. Colonel Thompson served nearly 30 years with distinguished and honorable service. He was a graduate of the University of North Georgia and commissioned as an Army Aviation Officer. He later became the 12th Commander of the 160th Special Operations Regiment (Airborne) which was comprised of 3,200 Soldiers and 200 specially modified helicopters. In this capacity he was on notice to be dispatched to conduct deployments throughout the U.S. Central Command/Mideast Region to plan hostage rescues and capture/ kill operations. Most notably, he helped to plan for, train and lead the strike force that resulted in the demise of Osama Bin Laden on 2 May 2011.



Robert Acquinn Thompson (VALOR) (Killed-in-Action)

Captain, Army, Lincolnton. "Bo" Thompson graduated from North Georgia College and received his U.S. Army Commission in 1962. On 9 August 1967, his helicopter gunship with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam made numerous low level gun runs attacking enemy positions as U.S. Soldiers were being inserted into an area which was heavily defended by a large force of the North Vietnamese. During this battle, his aircraft came under intense hostile anti-aircraft fire causing it to crash and instantly killing Captain Thompson and his entire crew. Due to his suppression of the enemy, an untold number of U.S. lives were saved that day. For his devotion to his fellow Americans, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.



Larry Dean Wright (VALOR)

Brigadier General, Air Force, Newnan. Brigadier General Wright served on active duty for 27 years. He spent one high intensity year in combat in Vietnam with the 458th Airlift Squadron flying resupply missions to remote outposts of the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Group. On 30 October and 29 November 1969 two Special Forces Camps came under heavy attack and were nearly overrun. Despite thunderstorms, enemy ground fire and near black out conditions he was able to deliver the critical ammunition and other supplies to these severely threatened Special Forces Outposts. As a result of his daring actions and incredible skills he was awarded the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also logged the incredible total of 1,873 hours of combat flying time.