

# 2021 GMVHOF INDUCTEES



## **Sparkle Kornegay Adams (SERVICE)**

Master Sergeant, Air Force, Forest Park. During her 25+ years of active and reserve military service plus her career with several federal government agencies, Sparkle Adams dedicated untiring and selfless volunteer spirit to her church, community, city, state and nation, positively impacting thousands of lives. Some of her many efforts include: Forest Park City Council Member, Forest Park Mayor, Forest Park Kiwanis Club, Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Walk of Heroes / Veterans War Memorial, Ben Hill United Methodist Church Veterans Ministry and Metro Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Black Military Women. She also founded Walking in Authority Team Council (WIATC) which educates teens and adults in leadership, accountability and empowerment. To date, WIATC is credited with 547 teen graduates, many of whom have received college scholarships.



## **Ormond Craig Fowler, Jr. (VALOR)**

Commander, Navy, Savannah. "O.C." Fowler served on active duty for over 22 years. While stationed in Vietnam in 1970-1971, he was a UH-1 (Huey) Helicopter Gunship Commander and Fire Team Leader in Helicopter Attack Squadron Three, the most highly decorated squadron in Navy history. Serving in the Mekong Delta, this unit supported the actions of Navy SEALs, Navy patrol river boats, and U.S. Army and South Vietnamese Army units who were frequently under heavy enemy attack. During these operations, O.C. flew over 650 combat missions while accumulating 750 combat flight hours, often while receiving intense hostile ground fire and during extremely poor weather conditions. For his heroism, he was awarded 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 on active duty for over 22 years and is a Veteran of two combat tours in Vietnam. He was cited on numerous occasions for valorous actions. During his first tour in May 1966 as a Lieutenant while serving as a Special Forces Advisor to a South Vietnamese unit, he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart for single handedly charging a hostile machine gun position during a heliborne assault mission and despite being wounded by an enemy grenade. During his second Vietnam tour in February 1969 as a Company Commander in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, then Captain Grimshaw was awarded his second Bronze Star Medal for Valor for directing helicopter gunship fire on enemy positions during a multiple hours-long engagement, and while rescuing 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. Beginning as an infantry private, "Mike's" career included special operations, counter insurgency, asymmetrical and irregular warfare. He became the only CSM to have held the senior enlisted position in the Ranger Regiment and both the Joint and Army Special Operations Commands. Retiring from the Army in 2008, he was soon recalled to serve as the Senior Enlisted Advisor in the International Security Assistance Force, Afghanistan. He continues to lead a post-Army career of selfless service through his dedication of time with the Wounded Warrior Project, Witness to War, Gallant Few, Inc., Sua Sponte Assn., and the Special Operations Medical Assn. He is the Executive Director of the Three Rangers Foundation and is the Honorary CSM of the 75th Ranger Regiment.



## **Samuel David Hernandez (VALOR)**

Command Sergeant Major, Army, McDonough. A 30-year active-duty Veteran and Combat Veteran of nearly five years with the Special Forces in Vietnam where he repeatedly led Long Range Reconnaissance teams deep behind enemy lines. These missions were credited with recovering American prisoners of war, capturing enemy soldiers and collecting critical intelligence. For his many heroic acts, "Sammy" was awarded four Bronze Star Medals for Valor and three Purple Hearts, among numerous other awards. He also participated in a High-Altitude Low Opening (HALO) insertion into enemy territory, the very first combat freefall airborne mission of its type in U.S. Army history. During a later tour in Grenada as CSM of an 82nd Airborne Division unit, he participated in Operation "Urgent Fury" which resulted in the rescue of several hundred American medical students being held by local Communist leaders.



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

Technician Fifth Grade, Army, Duluth. A World War II Veteran, commercial realtor and philanthropist, he served in the European Theater, landing at Omaha Beach on D-Day, fought in several campaigns, was wounded and received the Purple Heart, among other awards. After the war he became a successful realtor throughout Georgia, building malls plus a variety of other business ventures. Known as "Mr. Anonymous," he was the donor of numerous charitable enterprises while always insisting to keep his identity a secret. Some of his acts of generosity include: The Center for Art & Learning, Gwinnett Technical School, and the land for the Gwinnett Hospital. His crowning achievement was the donation of 775 acres of land near Canton for the Georgia National Veterans Cemetery. This final resting place was a gift from "Mr. Anonymous" to thousands of Georgia Veterans and their families.



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

Major General, Air Force, Macon. After attending North Georgia College, he joined the Army Air Corps in 1941. During World War II, he served in the European Theater of Operations and participated in seven major campaigns. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for guiding his formation of gliders to base despite a smoke-filled cockpit which had been struck by anti-aircraft fire. During the war, Lieutenant, Captain and finally Major Johnson led airborne assault missions and aerial resupply missions to ground forces deep behind enemy lines. At war's end he was assigned duty to assist in evacuating prisoners from three Nazi concentration camps. Remaining on active duty after the war, he served in positions of ever-increasing responsibility, both stateside and overseas. He retired in 1975 as a command pilot with over 6,000 hours of flying time and 32+ years of distinguished service.



## **Alfred J. Landgraff (VALOR) (Posthumous)**

Captain, Army, Marietta. Born in Milwaukee, he enlisted in the Army in 1943 and served in the 82nd and the 17th Airborne Divisions as well as the 504th and 507th Parachute Infantry Regiments until his discharge as a Captain in 1946. As a Lieutenant, Landgraff was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action on D-Day, 6 June 1944. While defending a river bridge, a column of five German tanks approached his unit's position, threatening the 100 lightly armed paratroopers. Their only anti-tank gun was running low on ammunition, but Landgraff and one other man stayed with and fiercely protected the gun until additional rounds could be located. His determination prevented enemy tanks from penetrating and overrunning the paratrooper's defensive position. In addition to the Silver Star, he was also the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart and several other combat awards.



### **John Patrick Newport, Jr. (SERVICE)**

Master Sergeant, Marine Corps, Woodstock. After a 20-year active-duty career, including a combat tour in Vietnam, he launched into another career of passion and selfless community service. He formed the Marine Corps League Detachment in Cherokee County 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. In addition, he formed a Ceremonial Rifle Team which provides grave-side honors for deceased Veterans. His additional community services for others include: Deputy Director of the Cherokee Co. Homeless Veterans Program, Veteran Home Repair Program, Point In Time Homeless Count, Cherokee Co. Veterans Accountability Court and the Missing in America Project, which locates, identifies and interments the unclaimed cremated remains of American Veterans.



### **Thaddeus Raymond Sobieski (VALOR) (Posthumous)**

Colonel, Army, Atlanta. "Sobie" served in World War II as an enlisted man in the (then) Army Air Corps. After the war, he attended and graduated from the University of Connecticut where he received his commission through ROTC and re-entered the Army as a Second Lieutenant. During the early portion of the Korean War, he commanded a rifle platoon and a rifle company in the 3rd Infantry Division in some of the most vicious battles of that conflict. Beginning on the bitterly cold and snowy night of 30 November and continuing through the day of 1 December 1952, he led an assault on a heavily defended enemy hilltop position. When one of his fellow Soldiers was critically wounded in both legs and unable to move, he raced across open fields of fire to rescue the man, becoming wounded himself. For his leadership and courageous action, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.



### **James Michael Sprayberry (MEDAL OF HONOR)**

Lieutenant Colonel, Army, LaGrange. Entering the Army in 1966, he was commissioned through Officer Candidate School in early 1967 and soon deployed to Vietnam where he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. On 25 April 1968 in the infamous A Shau Valley, the company that he was part of became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy force resulting in the death of four and the wounding 11 Soldiers and Officers. LT Sprayberry immediately organized and led a night-time rescue mission for his fallen warriors which lasted for over seven hours. During this time, Sprayberry personally eliminated 12 enemy soldiers, two enemy machine guns and five enemy bunkers with his expert use of grenades, rifle and pistol. For this action, he was awarded military's highest decoration for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor. He is also the recipient of the Silver Star and Purple Heart.



### **Myron Edward Squires (VALOR)**

Lieutenant Colonel, Army, Jasper. "Mike" entered the Army from St. Petersburg, Fl. in 1956, subsequently undergoing Infantry, Airborne and Aviation Helicopter training. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1966 with the 25th Infantry Division as a UH-1 (Huey) helicopter pilot assigned for insertion and extraction of Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRPs). During concurrent months that year, and despite heavy weapons fire directed towards his aircraft, he nevertheless landed his ship to successfully rescue LRRP teams involved in running gun battles with superior forces. For his gallantry in action during these courageous encounters which resulted in saving the lives of several LRRP team members as well as his own helicopter crew, he was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses. His other awards were Air Medals for Valor, an additional 20 Air Medals and three Bronze Star Medals.



### **Clark Jackson Thompson (VALOR) (Posthumous)**

Lieutenant Colonel, Army, Dahlonega. As a UGA grad, former enlisted Soldier and eventually an Armor officer, "Jack" Thompson greatly distinguished himself on 9 March 1969 while serving as a Brigade Intelligence Officer in the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. On that day, the brigade firebase and helicopter re-supply pad came under heavy attack from a barrage of North Vietnamese rockets. During the attack, many U.S. Soldiers that were out on the resupply pad were wounded. With complete disregard for his own safety, he immediately commandeered a vehicle, raced to the Soldiers, rendered immediate medical aid, loaded the wounded on the vehicle and relocated them to a safer area for much needed intensive medical treatment. This entire daring rescue was conducted under continuous, directed and accurate enemy rocket fire. For his initiative and bravery, he was awarded the Silver Star.



### **John William Thompson (ACHIEVEMENT)**

Colonel, Army, Alpharetta. He graduated from the University of North Georgia where he was commissioned in Army Aviation, followed by a career primarily focused on special operations. During his 22nd year of military service, Colonel Thompson became the 12th commander of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), commanding an elite force of over 3,200 soldiers, 200 specially modified helicopters and numerous unmanned aerial systems. In this capacity he was dispatched to conduct deployments throughout the U.S. Central Command / Mideast region. His most notable missions were the planning of hostage rescue and capture / kill operations, including and most notably the demise of Osama Bin Laden on the night of 2 May 2011. He retired after nearly 30 years of honorable and distinguished service and is the recipient of numerous awards for gallantry and meritorious achievement.



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

Captain, Army, Lincolnton. "Bo" Thompson graduated from North Georgia College and received his commission in 1962. On 9 August 1967, as pilot-in-command of a helicopter gunship with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam, he made numerous low-level gun runs attacking enemy positions as Soldiers were being inserted into a heavily defended North Vietnamese Army position. During this operation, his aircraft came under intense hostile fire from enemy anti-aircraft guns. As a result of numerous strikes from these and other enemy weapons, his helicopter was disabled and crashed, instantly killing Captain Thompson and his entire crew. Due to his repeated gun runs suppressing the enemy, an untold number of U.S. lives were saved that day. For his courage and devotion in the support of his fellow Americans, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.



### **Larry Dean Wright (VALOR)**

Brigadier General, Air Force, Newnan. During his 27-year career, one high-intensity year was spent in combat in Vietnam as part of the 458th Airlift Squadron, flying tactical resupply missions in support of the far-flung outposts of the U.S. Army 5th Special Forces Group. By tour's end as a Captain, Wright had accumulated an incredible 1,873 hours of combat flying. On 30 October and 29 November 1969, his skill, courage and leadership were greatly tested. On these dates, two separate SF Camps were under heavy attack and about to be overrun. While several other resupply aircraft were forced to turn away due to thunderstorms, night black-out conditions and enemy ground fire, he was able to get the critically needed supplies, especially ammo, into these beleaguered strongholds. These actions resulted in him being awarded the Silver Star and the Distinguished Flying Cross.