

2015 GMVHOF INDUCTEES



Theodore Carroll DeVore (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Sergeant, Army, Athens. In May 1945, as an Infantry Squad Leader in WWII in Germany, his unit came under fire from an enemy aircraft. An ammunition truck next to his men was hit and began to burn. Realizing that if it exploded his men would be killed, he jumped into the truck and drove it into a pond. He then ran back, under fire, to his men's position and continued to direct small arms fire on the enemy. For his selfless act of bravery he was awarded our nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star.



Robert Irwin Gibbs, Jr. (SERVICE) (Posthumous)

Lieutenant Commander, Navy, Decatur. In 1941 he graduated from Georgia Tech and was commissioned in the Navy prior to WWII. During the war, he volunteered for submarine duty and served throughout the Pacific. At age 25, he became the youngest Commanding Officer of a Submarine in US Naval history and later was in charge of dismantling Japan's sub fleet. After the war, he earned a medical degree from Emory University and became a prominent doctor in Atlanta and NE Georgia. He continued selflessly serving others through medicine until age 82, followed by other non-profit work until his death at 94.



Fred Orr Jackson (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Colonel, Army, Fayetteville. At 17, joined the Georgia Army National Guard, promoted to Master Sergeant at 23, immediately went on active duty at the beginning of WWII, selected for Officer Candidate School, and then off to the war in Europe for three years leading Armor and Infantry units. On three separate occasions, he personally knocked out a German Tiger Tank, a personnel carrier, and two ammunition trucks, and rescued a downed P-47 Pilot. For these selfless acts of courage, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and our nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star.



Gerald Lord (SERVICE)

Colonel, Army, Dahlonega. Educated and commissioned through North Georgia College (NGC), served 30+ years on active duty including two tours in Vietnam as an aviator and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and 19 Air Medals, commanded from platoon to Post Commander, Ft. McPherson. For 20+ years, he continued his strong affiliation with NGC serving in many critical capacities. His tireless and selfless service to Georgia, Lumpkin and Fulton counties, Dahlonega and Atlanta is evidenced by his support to over 20 civic, education, veteran / military, and non-profit organizations.



Donald Mathis McKay (VALOR)

Colonel, Army, Columbus. Enlisted in the Georgia Army National Guard, graduated from Georgia Tech, commissioned in the Infantry through ROTC, served a total of 31+ years and commanded at every level from platoon to Deputy Post Commander, Ft. Benning. As a Company Commander in Vietnam, he was decorated for valor on four occasions. In Dec. 1968, when a small element of his unit was pinned down by an ambush, he courageously lead a counter attack against the dug-in enemy, saving the lives of his men. For his selfless act of bravery he was awarded our nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star.



Birch George McVay (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Colonel, Air Force, Cochran. At 19, completed B-17 training and was commissioned. At 20, flying missions over Europe was the youngest Squadron Commander in WWII. On 6 Nov. 1944, on his 25th mission, enemy flak knocked out all radios and navigational aids causing the aircraft to fly deep into Germany until fuel starvation caused a force landing. He and his crew were captured and spent the next six months as POWs until war's end. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during interrogation and for his undaunted courage and leadership he was awarded three Air Medals.



John Day Mooneyham (VALOR)

Colonel, Army, Sautee Nacoochee. Served 27+ years including two tours in Vietnam as an Infantry Platoon Leader and Company Commander plus many global assignments as a Green Beret. In combat, wounded three times and decorated for valorous acts four times. In June 1966 while leading his platoon which was the forward element of a larger force, the enemy opened up with massive fire. Immediately, he courageously led a counter attack routing the enemy and saving the main US element. For his selfless act of bravery he was awarded our nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star.



George Alan Nelson (SERVICE)

Captain, Marines, Woodstock. On 29 Sep 1964, he was 2nd in command of the 1st combat unit to enter Vietnam, a USMC Company. Upon returning stateside, he was medically retired due to war injuries. Soon he became involved in community / veteran support programs. In 1992 he led the effort for the impressive "Roswell Faces of War Memorial", depicting 50 life-size bronze faces reflecting the horror of war. Dedicated in 1995 at the 1st "Roswell Remembers Memorial Day", it has become the largest Memorial Day event in Georgia. "Besides my family, the memorial is the finest thing I have ever done. – George Alan Nelson"



Melvin Pender, Jr. (ACHIEVEMENT)

Captain, Army, Smyrna. Joined the Army at 17, served 21+ years as enlisted and officer. At 26, qualified for the '64 Olympics placing 6th in the 100 Meters. After Officer Candidate School and his 1st of two Vietnam Infantry tours, at 30, he again qualified for, ran, and earned a Gold Medal by winning / setting a world's record in the Men's 4X100 Meter Relay in the '68 Olympics. At 35, he set world records in the 50, 60, 70 and 100 Meters. His final assignment was as the West Point Track Coach. After the Army, as an exemplary role model, he devoted his life to motivating



Robert Lee Washington Powell (VALOR)

Colonel, Army, Carrollton. Educated and commissioned through North Georgia College. Served 26+ years on active duty including three tours in Vietnam commanding a Recon Platoon and three Rifle Companies. His numerous acts of valor are legendary as evidenced by his three Silver Stars, three Bronze Star Medals for Valor, three Army Commendation Medals for Valor, and three Purple Hearts. These nine citations for bravery contain a constant theme of selflessness and disregard of his own safety for the rescue and security of his men and while under continuous, heavy, and effective enemy fire.



Carlton Gerald Savory (SERVICE)

Colonel, Army, Hamilton. Educated and commissioned in the Infantry through the United States Military Academy. Served 20+ years including a Vietnam tour where he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart while commanding a Rifle Platoon. Later, he became an Army Surgeon serving with Delta Force during the 1980 Iran Hostage Rescue. After Army retirement, he was recalled to active duty and served in Operation Desert Storm. In 2009 he was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. He continues to selflessly serve others through medicine and numerous non-profit endeavors.



Edison Earl Scholes (VALOR)

Major General, Army, McCaysville. Educated and commissioned through North Georgia College. Served 34+ years on active duty including two tours in Vietnam, Operations Just Cause in Panama, and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. In Vietnam he was an Infantry Company Commander and was decorated for valor on four occasions and was wounded twice. He is the recipient of the Silver Star, two Bronze Star Medals for Valor, Army Commendation Medals for Valor, and two Purple Hearts. His courage, selflessness, and care for his men are replete throughout the wording of these awards.



Charles Gates Shepard (VALOR)

First Lieutenant, Army, Atlanta. In April 1945, as an Infantry Platoon Leader in WWII in Germany, his patrol came under intense fire from 7 enemy machine guns and 20+ rifles. Outnumbered, outgunned, and despite being wounded, he maneuvered his men out of the kill zone and then led them in a fierce counter attack, displaying resolute fearlessness. Due to his exemplary leadership, his small unit defeated the threat resulting in over 20 of the enemy killed while not losing any of his men. For his selfless act of bravery he was awarded our nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star.



S.O. Swygert (VALOR)

Machinist Mate First Class, Navy, Columbus. On 18 October 1944, 19 year old Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) Swimmer S.O. Swygert braved intense Japanese machine gun fire while making a courageous daytime swim into the shallow waters of Leyte, Philippines Islands in order to gain vital intelligence in support of the immediate Allied amphibious assault. The information that he gathered helped to ensure success and ultimate victory. For his skill, determination, courage, fearlessness, and selfless service, he was awarded our nation's third highest award for valor, the Silver Star.



Francis Ted Wolfe (VALOR)

Lieutenant Colonel, Marines, Kennesaw. At 17, during WWI, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and for the next three decades and two more wars he served with pride and distinction. During WWII, as a Sergeant he served in Europe. In the Korean War, as a Captain, he was wounded and received the Purple Heart and the Navy Commendation Medal for Valor. In Vietnam, as a Lieutenant Colonel, he was awarded his second Navy Commendation Medal for Valor. His life of selfless service and stoic sacrifice epitomizes the Marine motto of "Semper Paratus" - Always Faithful.