

2016 GMVHOF INDUCTEES



John David Blair (VALOR)

Sergeant, Marine Corps, Canton. On 27 Jan 1968 as a Squad Leader in Vietnam while on patrol, his squad came under attack by enemy machine guns. Skillfully maneuvering his men, he led an assault on one position and personally silenced seven enemy soldiers. He and another Marine then crawled toward an enemy .50 caliber machine gun emplacement, and with total disregard for his own safety, Blair moved across the kill zone and eliminated that position with hand grenades. His combat awards are: Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Achievement Medal (Valor), and the Silver Star.



Earl Fredrick Burke (VALOR) (KIA)

Sergeant First Class, Army, Columbus. On 6 & 7 Feb 1968 as a Special Forces (SF) Heavy Weapons Specialist at Lang Vei SF Camp, Vietnam, he distinguished himself with unbelievable gallantry as the camp was being attacked by 16 Russian tanks and NVA soldiers. He helped kill three tanks with a crew-served anti-tank weapon, rained-down mortar fire on the advancing enemy, and attacked a fourth tank at close range with a light anti-tank weapon. He was last seen manning a machine gun as the camp was over-run. His combat awards are: Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, and the Silver Star.



Carmen James Cavezza (VALOR)

Lieutenant General, Army, Columbus. On 2 Jan 1966, as a Company Commander in Vietnam, he courageously led his men during a six hour battle with a well armed enemy force. Without hesitation and displaying inspirational leadership, he led his men in a furious charge toward the enemy. Although wounded three times, he continued to lead and direct his men until the enemy was subdued. His combat awards are: Combat Infantryman Badge, Air Medal (Valor), Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal (Valor), Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star (2).



Paul Randy Cheatwood (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Corporal, Marine Corps, Tallapoosa. On 16 Feb 1968, as a Rifleman in Vietnam, his unit attacked an enemy force which was occupying the city of Hue. During the attack, the Marines came under intense enemy sniper fire which caused numerous casualties. Immediately, in three back-to-back heroic actions, and although wounded, he delivered effective rifle and pistol fire and hurled grenades, knocking out a sniper's position, a machine gun emplacement, and killing many of the enemy. His combat awards are: Combat Action Ribbon, Purple Heart, and the Navy Cross.



Joseph Maxwell Cleland (SERVICE)

Captain, Army, Atlanta. After earning a BA from Stetson University and a MA from Emory University, he volunteered for Vietnam duty. In 1968, in support of the Battle of Khe Sanh, he was seriously injured resulting in him becoming a triple amputee. However, this seemingly life-altering injury did not stop him as he went on to serve Georgia and the nation in positions of ever increasing responsibility such as, Georgia Senate: '71-'75; VA Administrator: '77-'81; Georgia Secretary of State: '82-'96; US Senate: '97-'02. His combat awards are: Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star Medal, and the Silver Star.



Donnie Lee Cochran (ACHIEVEMENT)

Captain, Navy, Pelham. He was selected and served as a Pilot, Flight Leader, and Commanding Officer (CO) of the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, The Blue Angels, where he flew over 1,500 hours at 240 air shows in three years. After the Blue Angels, he deployed to the Persian Gulf and flew 24 missions over Southern Iraq enforcing the southern no fly zone. Later he was the CO of NROTC at Florida A & M University and the Deputy CO of Navy Recruiting. He retired after 24 years of service with 2,000 flight hours and 469 carrier landings in fighter aircraft.



Michael Patrick Dover (SERVICE)

Master Sergeant, Army, Ellerslie. After retiring from active duty, he has spent untold hours selflessly tending to the needs of Veterans. This service includes: President of the South Atlantic Center for Veterans Education & Training where he has helped over 10,000 homeless Veterans and was instrumental in the planning of a center for homeless Veterans in Cuthbert. With the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), he has been Ga State Commander and Ga State Chaplain, and is currently the National DAV Chaplain where he continues working with homeless Veterans.



Ray McKibben (MEDAL OF HONOR) (KIA)

Sergeant, Army, Felton. On 8 Dec 1968 in Vietnam serving as the point element of a reconnaissance patrol, he conducted an effective, deadly, single-man assault against six heavily fortified enemy machine gun positions, causing the enemy to either flee or be killed by his effective rifle fire and hand grenades. At one time, he ran out of ammunition but continued with a captured weapon. During his final bunker assault, he was mortally wounded but still managed to continue firing and killing the enemy within. His combat awards are: Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, and the Medal of Honor.



Burton Dewayne Patrick (SERVICE)

Lieutenant General, Army, Thomson. Graduating from North Georgia College in 1957, he went on to lead an exemplary life of a service to others. While in command of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), tragedy struck. On 12 Dec 1985, 248 of his Soldiers and 8 Airmen were killed in an aircraft crash in Canada. His untiring, humble, and selfless devotion to their families and to their memory is unparalleled and forever stands as the perfect example of a leader and servant. His combat awards are: Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star Medal (Valor - 2), and the Silver Star.



Horace Richard Pearl (VALOR) (Posthumous)

Command Sergeant Major, Army, Griffin. On 24 Jun 1944 in France, he successfully led a four man patrol behind German lines to secure the identification of enemy units. When attacked by an enemy machine gun, he led his small team on a fearless counter-attack resulting in four enemy killed and causing 30 others to flee in panic. During WWII with the 82nd Airborne Division, he made all four combat jumps in Europe and then two more during the Korean War. His combat awards are: Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart (4), Master Parachute Badge (6 Combat Jumps), and the Silver Star.



Philip Leslie Spackman (VALOR)

First Lieutenant, Army, Jasper. In Vietnam, on eight occasions, as an Armored Cavalry Assault Platoon Leader, he distinguished himself by selfless, courageous actions. On 2 Jul 1969 when one of his vehicles was ambushed, wounding all occupants, he immediately dismounted and rushed through intense rifle fire to the aid of the wounded, killing some of the attackers, en-route. He then led an attack that routed the remaining enemy force. His combat awards are: Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart (2), Bronze Star Medal (Valor - 4), Silver Star (3), and the Distinguished Service Cross.



Donna Curtis Rowe (SERVICE)

Captain, Army, Marietta. In Vietnam, as the Head ER Nurse in a Field Hospital, she helped save untold numbers of US and Allied Soldiers' lives. In May 1969, she took on the seemingly impossible task of trying to save a critically wounded 4 month old baby girl. Her medical efforts and prayers were answered and today, US Citizen and mother of 4 daughters, "Kathleen" is alive! In 2003 Donna and Kathleen were reunited during the filming of their story in the award-winning documentary, The Shadow of the Blade. Her combat awards are: Vietnam Service Medal and Campaign Medal.



Shelton Beverly Sutton, Jr. (VALOR) (KIA)

Ensign, Navy, Vidalia. On 13 Nov 1942, in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean near Guadalcanal Island, the USS Juneau and two other US ships were attacked by a Japanese Naval force. In the first attack, Juneau suffered a non-fatal blow. As the ship's Engineer Officer, Sutton managed to keep the boilers operational in order to keep steaming and fighting. In the second attack, Juneau was again torpedoed and sank in twenty seconds with only 100 out of 700 crewmembers surviving. His combat awards are: Combat Action Ribbon and the Purple Heart.



Clyde A. Thomason (MEDAL OF HONOR) (KIA)

Sergeant, Marine Corps, Atlanta. On 17 & 18 Aug 1942 on Makin Island, he led the advance element of the assault force, maneuvered his men with expert tactical judgment, and by his exemplary leadership and courage, exhorted them to undertake numerous valorous and successful attacks. Upon locating an enemy sniper position, he immediately attacked and killed the sniper, thus saving many lives. Later, as he led an assault on a well-fortified enemy position, he sacrificed his life in order to protect his men. His combat awards are: Combat Action Ribbon, Purple Heart, and the Medal of Honor.



Dewey Wayne Waddell (VALOR) (POW)

Colonel, Air Force, Bremen. On 5 Jul 1967 on his 47th combat mission in an F-105 Thunderchief jet over North Vietnam he was shot down, captured, and held as a POW for five years, eight months, and ten days, suffering greatly at the hands of the enemy. During the attack, even though his aircraft received several hits from flack, he continued the attack until he had to eject. He served on active duty for over thirty years with honor, distinction, courage, and conviction. His combat awards are: Prisoner of War Medal, Air Medal (6), Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star (2).



Curtis Clay Williamson (VALOR)

First Sergeant, Marine Corps, Fayetteville. On 17 Oct 1966 as a Squad Leader in Vietnam while serving as the point element of his platoon, he observed an approaching large enemy force. Immediately, he took the threat under fire, killing two of the enemy. When his weapon jammed, he continued the attack with grenades. Realizing his Platoon Commander had been wounded, he ran through intense small arms fire to render first aid. While protecting the wounded Marine, he killed five more of the attacking enemy. His combat awards are: Combat Action Ribbon, Purple Heart, and the Silver Star.



Charles Douglas Windham, Jr. (VALOR)

Staff Sergeant, Army, Norcross. On 23 Oct & 7 Dec 1968 & 9 Feb 1969 as a Long-Range Reconnaissance Team Leader in Vietnam, he gallantly lead his five man team in three intense fire-fights with numerically superior and well-equipped enemy forces. Each time, the mission completion and the well being of his men were evident as he selflessly and bravely led with exemplary courage and resolve while risking his life in order to save others, and being wounded in the process. His combat awards are: Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal (Valor - 2), and the Silver Star.