2017

Wandering the Web: African American Vietnam Veterans

Audrey Robinson-Nkongola
*Western Kentucky University*

Jack G. Montgomery
*Western Kentucky University, jack.montgomery@wku.edu*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg](http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg)

Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg)

**Recommended Citation**


DOI: [https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7066](https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.7066)

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.
The Medal of Honor (MOH), the recognition for extraordinary courage in battle, is the highest medal that a veteran can receive for military service. This medal of valor was created in 1861 to honor Navy and Marines. The medal is now given to all deserving armed persons. It is incorrectly referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor. It is called this, because the President of the United States presents the medal in the name of the Congress. In order for a person to receive this medal of valor, three criteria must be met. They are:

a) while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;

b) while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or,
c) while serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Although this standard was set, to justify giving out a MOH, the conduct (of the soldier) which deserves recognition should not be the simple discharge of duty, but such acts beyond this that if omitted or refuse to be done, should not justly subject the person to censure as shortcoming or failure. The following Web pages provide information on the history as well as the recipients of MOH.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS) — http://www.cmohs.org/medal-history.php — was formed on August 5th, 1958 by President Dwight Eisenhower who signed legislation created by Congress. According to the CMOHS Website, two of the goals are “to form a bond of friendship... among all holders of the Congressional Medal of Honor” and “to protect, uphold and honor the medal at all times and on all occasions.” Under the menu tab “Recipients,” CMOHS has a database in which the MOH veterans who fought in Vietnam can be discovered by typing in the keywords “Vietnam War” in the search box labeled “conflict.” The recipients are listed alphabetically via surname. After selecting the link named “view,” the site includes the name, picture, citation, rank, city and state of enlistment, branch, as well as the unit of the recipient.

The Home of Heroes — http://homeofheroes.com/moh/war/17 vietnam.html — lists Vietnam veterans who received the MOH. It provides the number of Vietnam veterans who received the Medal. The site illustrates the number of recipients via military branches. At the writing of this bibliography, 258 Vietnam soldiers received the MOH. Of the 258 Vietnam vets, 172 veterans served in the Army. The veterans are categorized under the military branch they served. Next, the site indexes the veteran’s name alphabetically via surname. Adjacent to the recipient’s name is the city and state in which they entered service. Each veteran has a link, which provides a citation of the conspicuous act in which the Medal was merited. Other MOH Websites cite Home of Heroes are their source. The Webmaster is C. Douglas “Doug” Sterner, a Vietnam veteran.

Military Awards for Valor Top 3 — U.S. Department of Defense — http://valordefense.gov/recipients/armyMedalofHonorRecipients.aspx — is maintained by the Department of Defense (DoD). This Website lists the United States Army’s recipients of the Medal of Honor. The list is in alphabetical order by surname. The information includes name, rank, the branch of service the soldier served in, and the date he or she received the Medal. DoD provides a disclaimer stating the Website may not include all the recipients of MOH. In order to obtain accurate information, the branch in which the soldier was enlisted should be contacted. DoD does not provide a link detailing the event in which the soldier received the Medal.

Stars and Stripes — http://www.stripes.com/ — provides “independent military information.” According to the Website, it is referred to as the “hometown newspaper,” authorized by the Department of Defense, yet possess First Amendment protection. Conducting a keyword search using the terms “Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient,” various news stories published in “Stars and Stripes” appear. The article entitled, “Vietnam: Valor for a lost cause?” features a Vietnam vet who received the MOH.

Vietnam Medal of Honor Recipients — http://www.history.army.mil/moh/vietnam-a.html — is “a service of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.” It records Vietnam veterans who received the Medal of Honor (MOH). A MOH veteran can be identified by conducting a name. Each citation provides a picture of the soldier, the date he or she received the medal, i.e., posthumously, and a short
Take a closer look at....

The CHARLESTON REPORT
Business Insights into the Library Market

You Need The Charleston Report...
if you are a publisher, vendor, product developer, merchandiser, consultant or wholesaler who is interested in improving and/or expanding your position in the U.S. library market.

Subscribe today at our discounted rate of only $75.00

The Charleston Company
6180 East Warren Avenue, Denver, CO 80222
Phone: 303-282-9706 • Fax: 303-282-9743

ENDNOTES


2015 Charleston Conference — 35th Annual Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition

Call For Papers, Ideas, Conference Themes, Panels, Debates, Diatribes, Speakers, Poster Sessions, Preconferences, etc...

2015 Theme — Where Do We Go From Here?

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 — Preconferences and Vendor Showcase Thursday-Saturday, November 5-7, 2015 — Main Conference
Francis Marion Hotel, Courtyard Marriott Historic District, Embassy Suites Historic District, Charleston, SC
Addlestone Library, and School of Science and Mathematics Building, College of Charleston

If you are interested in leading a discussion, acting as a moderator, coordinating a lively lunch, or would like to make sure we discuss a particular topic, please let us know. The Charleston Conference prides itself on creativity, innovation, flexibility, and informality. If there is something you are interested in doing, please try it out on us. We’ll probably love it...

The Conference Directors for the 2015 Charleston Conference include — Beth Bernhardt, Principal Director (UNC-Greensboro) <beth.bernhardt@uncc.edu>, Glenda Alvin <galvin@Tnstate.edu>, Adam Chesler (Business Expert Press) <adam.chesler@cox.net>, Cris Ferguson (Murray State University) <cferguson13@murraystate.edu>, Rachel Fleming (Appalachian State University) <flemingrm@appstate.edu>, Joyce Dixon-Fyle (DePauw University Libraries) <joyfyle@depauw.edu>, Tom Gilon (Against the Grain) <gilson@cofc.edu>, Chuck Hamaker <cchamake@email.uncc.edu>, Tony Horava (University of Ottawa) <thorava@uottawa.ca>, Albert Joy (Retired) <albert.joy@uvm.edu>, Ramune Kubilius (Northwestern Health Sciences Library) <r-kubilius@northwestern.edu>, Erin Luckett (Readex) <eluckett@newsbank.com>, Jack Montgomery (Western Kentucky University) <jack.montgomery@wku.edu>, David Myers (DMedia Associates) <dave@dmediaassoc.com>, Ann Okerson (Center for Research Libraries) <aokerson@gmail.com>, Audrey Powers (IFS Tampa Library) <apowers@lib.usf.edu>, Anthony Watkinson (Consultant) <anthony.watkinson@btopenworld.com>, Meg White (Rittenhouse) <meg.white@rittenhouse.com>, Katina Strauch (College of Charleston) <kstrauch@comcast.net>, or www.katina.info/conference.

Send ideas by July 17, 2015, to any of the Conference Directors listed above.
Or to: Katina Strauch, MSC 98, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409 • 843-723-3536 (voice) • 843-805-7918 (fax) 843-509-2848 (cell) • <kstrauch@comcast.net> • http://www.katina.info/conference

Wandering the Web
from page 8

Virtual Wall — http://virtualwall.org/valor.htm — resembles actual memorial walls. The founder of the Virtual Wall is Jim Schueckler, who is a Vietnam War veteran. He created this site in 1997. Another Vietnam veterans as Kenneth Davis has added to the site. According to the “About Us” section, the Virtual Wall became an “official partner with the Library of Congress.” In the menu, under the “Height of Valor” indexes the veterans who received various medals. Since the MOH is the highest military award given, it is listed first.

This Website is organized in alphabetical order via surname. The three initials before the name of soldier, i.e., specialist four (sp4), sergeant first class (SFC), private first class (PFC) is the rank of the enlisted. Once the link is selected, further information about the recipient includes the rank, unit, a picture as well as where the veteran is located on the virtual wall.

Endnotes