

Hispanic Medal of Honor

Recipients and Nominees

Contents

1	Joseph H. De Castro	1
1.1	Early years	1
1.2	Civil War service	1
1.3	Medal of Honor citation	1
1.4	Post Civil War	1
1.5	Awards and decorations	2
1.6	In popular culture	2
1.7	See also	2
1.8	Notes	2
1.9	References	2
1.10	Further reading	2
1.11	External links	2
2	John Ortega	3
2.1	Biography	3
2.2	Medal of Honor citation	3
2.3	Awards and decorations	3
2.4	See also	4
2.5	References	4
3	Philip Bazaar	5
3.1	Biography	5
3.2	Medal of Honor citation	5
3.3	Awards and decorations	5
3.4	See also	6
3.5	References	6
3.6	External links	6
4	France Silva	7
4.1	Medal of Honor action	7
4.2	Medal of Honor citation	8
4.3	Postscript	8
4.4	See also	8

4.5	References	8
4.6	External links	9
5	David B. Barkley	10
5.1	Biography	10
5.2	Medal of Honor citation	10
5.3	In memory	10
5.3.1	David B. Barkley Plaza	10
5.4	Awards and decorations	11
5.5	See also	11
5.6	Notes	11
5.7	References	11
5.8	External links	11
6	Joe P. Martínez	12
6.1	Early years	12
6.2	World War II	12
6.3	Medal of Honor citation	12
6.4	Honors	13
6.5	Awards and recognitions	13
6.6	See also	14
6.7	Notes	14
6.8	External links	14
7	Lucian Adams	15
7.1	Personal	15
7.2	Service	15
7.3	Medal of Honor citation	15
7.4	Awards and recognitions	16
7.5	See also	16
7.6	Notes	16
7.7	References	16
7.8	External links	16
8	Marcario García	17
8.1	Early years	17
8.2	World War II	17
8.3	Medal of Honor citation	17
8.4	Honors and discrimination	18
8.5	Later years	18
8.6	Awards and recognitions	18
8.7	Notes	18
8.8	See also	18

8.9	References	18
8.10	Further reading	19
8.11	External links	19
9	José M. López	20
9.1	Early years	20
9.2	Medal of Honor citation	20
9.3	Post World War II	21
9.4	Namesakes	21
9.5	Awards and recognitions	21
9.6	See also	21
9.7	Notes	21
9.8	References	21
9.9	External links	21
10	Jose F. Valdez	22
10.1	Early years	22
10.2	World War II	22
10.3	Medal of Honor citation	22
10.4	Awards and recognitions	23
10.4.1	Awards	23
10.4.2	Honors	23
10.5	See also	23
10.6	References	23
10.7	External links	24
11	Cleto Rodríguez	25
11.1	Early years	25
11.2	World War II	25
11.3	Medal of Honor citation	25
11.4	Later years	26
11.5	Namesake	26
11.6	Awards and recognitions	26
11.7	See also	26
11.8	References	26
11.9	Further reading	26
11.10	External links	26
12	Manuel Pérez, Jr.	27
12.1	Early years	27
12.2	World War II	27
12.3	Medal of Honor citation	27
12.4	Honors	28

12.5	Date of death	28
12.6	Awards and recognitions	28
12.7	See also	28
12.8	Notes	28
12.9	External links	28
13	Silvestre S. Herrera	29
13.1	Early years	29
13.2	World War II	29
13.2.1	Medal of Honor citation	30
13.2.2	Portrait of Valor	30
13.2.3	More honors	31
13.3	Later years	31
13.4	Awards and decorations	31
13.5	See also	31
13.6	Notes	31
13.7	References	31
14	Ysmael R. Villegas	33
14.1	Early years	33
14.2	World War II	33
14.3	Medal of Honor citation	33
14.4	Honors	34
14.5	Awards and decorations	34
14.6	See also	34
14.7	Notes	34
14.8	External links	34
15	Harold Gonsalves	35
15.1	Early years	35
15.2	World War II	35
15.3	Post-World War II	35
15.4	Namesake	36
15.5	Medal of Honor citation	36
15.6	Military decoration & awards	36
15.7	See also	36
15.8	References	37
16	David M. Gonzales	38
16.1	Early years	38
16.2	World War II	38
16.2.1	Medal of Honor citation	38
16.3	After the war	39

16.4	In memory	39
16.5	Awards and recognitions	39
16.6	See also	39
16.7	Notes	40
16.8	External links	40
17	Alejandro R. Ruiz	41
17.1	Early years	41
17.2	World War II	41
17.3	Medal of Honor citation	41
17.4	Honors	42
17.5	Awards and recognitions	42
17.6	See also	42
17.7	References	42
17.8	External links	42
18	Rudolph B. Davila	43
18.1	Early years	43
18.2	World War II	43
18.3	Back home	43
18.4	DSC upgraded to Medal of Honor	43
18.5	Medal of Honor citation	44
18.6	Later years	44
18.7	Awards and recognitions	44
18.8	See also	45
18.9	References	45
18.10	External links	45
19	Pedro Cano	46
19.1	Early life	46
19.2	Service record	46
19.3	Military awards and honors	47
19.4	Desire For Citizenship	48
19.5	Death and funeral	48
19.6	Subsequent honors	48
19.7	The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor Ceremony	49
19.8	References	49
20	Joe Gandara	50
20.1	Biography	50
20.2	References	50
21	Salvador J. Lara	51

21.1	Background	51
21.2	Medal of Honor action	51
21.3	See also	51
21.4	References	51
22	Manuel V. Mendoza	52
22.1	Background	52
22.2	Medal of Honor action	52
22.3	Honors and awards	52
22.4	References	52
23	Baldomero López	53
23.1	Biography	53
23.1.1	Korean War – Medal of Honor action	53
23.2	Decorations	53
23.3	Medal of Honor citation	53
23.4	Legacy and honors	54
23.5	See also	54
23.6	References	54
23.7	External links	55
24	Eugene A. Obregon	56
24.1	Biography	56
24.2	Decorations	56
24.3	Medal of Honor citation	56
24.4	Foundation	57
24.5	Namesakes and honors	57
24.6	See also	57
24.7	References	57
25	Mike C. Pena	59
25.1	Biographical details	59
25.2	Medal of Honor	59
25.2.1	Medal of Honor citation	59
25.3	Honors and awards	60
25.4	References	60
25.5	See also	60
26	Joseph C. Rodríguez	61
26.1	Biography	61
26.1.1	Early years	61
26.1.2	Korean War	61
26.1.3	Later years	61

26.2 Medal of Honor citation	62
26.3 Awards and recognitions	62
26.4 See also	62
26.5 Notes	63
26.6 References	63
27 Rodolfo P. Hernández	64
27.1 Biography	64
27.1.1 Early years	64
27.1.2 Korean War	64
27.1.3 Later life	65
27.1.4 Death	65
27.2 Medal of Honor	65
27.3 Military decorations and awards	65
27.4 Portrayals	66
27.5 See also	66
27.6 References	66
28 Edward Gómez	67
28.1 About	67
28.2 Awards and decorations	67
28.3 Medal of Honor citation	67
28.4 See also	67
28.5 References	68
29 Fernando Luis García	69
29.1 Biography	69
29.1.1 U.S. Marine Corps	69
29.1.2 Medal of Honor citation	69
29.2 Military awards	70
29.3 In memory	70
29.4 See also	70
29.5 Notes	70
29.6 References	71
29.7 Further reading	71
30 Benito Martinez (soldier)	72
30.1 Early years	72
30.2 Korean War	72
30.3 Medal of Honor citation	72
30.4 Honors	73
30.5 Awards and recognitions	73
30.6 See also	73

30.7 Notes	73
30.8 References	73
31 Ambrosio Guillen	74
31.1 Biography	74
31.2 Public namings	74
31.3 Medal of Honor	74
31.4 See also	75
31.5 References	75
31.6 External links	75
32 Joe R. Baldonado	76
32.1 Biography	76
32.2 Medal of Honor	76
32.2.1 Citation	76
32.3 Other awards, citations and commendations	77
32.4 References	77
32.5 See also	77
33 Victor H. Espinoza	78
33.1 Biography	78
33.2 Medal of Honor	78
33.2.1 Medal of Honor Citation	78
33.3 Other honors and awards	79
33.4 References	79
33.5 See also	79
34 Eduardo C. Gomez	80
34.1 Biography	80
34.2 Medal of Honor	80
34.2.1 Medal of Honor citation	80
34.3 Other honors and awards	81
34.4 See also	81
34.5 References	81
35 Miguel Vera	82
35.1 Biographical details	82
35.2 Medal of Honor	82
35.2.1 Medal of Honor citation	82
35.3 Honors and awards	83
35.4 See also	83
35.5 Notes	83
35.6 References	83

36 Daniel D. Fernández	84
36.1 Biography	84
36.2 Honors	84
36.3 Medal of Honor citation	84
36.4 See also	85
36.5 References	85
36.6 External links	85
37 Eurípides Rubio	86
37.1 Early years	86
37.2 Action in Vietnam	86
37.3 Medal of Honor citation	86
37.4 Honors	87
37.5 Military decorations awarded	87
37.6 See also	88
37.7 References	88
37.8 Further reading	88
37.9 External links	88
38 Elmelindo Rodrigues Smith	89
38.1 Early years	89
38.2 Vietnam War	89
38.3 Medal of Honor citation	89
38.4 Postscript	90
38.5 Awards and recognitions	90
38.6 See also	90
38.7 Notes	90
38.8 References	90
38.9 External links	90
39 Maximo Yabes	91
39.1 Early years	91
39.2 Vietnam War	91
39.3 Medal of Honor citation	91
39.4 Honors	92
39.5 Awards and recognitions	92
39.6 See also	92
39.7 Notes	92
39.8 Further reading	92
39.9 External links	93
40 Carlos Lozada	94
40.1 Early years	94

40.2 Vietnam War	94
40.3 Medal of Honor citation	94
40.4 In memory	95
40.5 Military decorations awarded	95
40.6 See also	96
40.7 References	96
40.8 Further reading	96
40.9 External links	96
41 Alfredo Cantu Gonzalez	97
41.1 Biography	97
41.2 Awards and decorations	97
41.3 Medal of Honor citation	97
41.4 Honors	98
41.5 See also	98
41.6 References	99
42 Jay R. Vargas	100
42.1 Education	100
42.2 Military career	100
42.2.1 U.S. Marine Corps	100
42.2.2 Later years	100
42.3 Family	100
42.4 Military awards	100
42.4.1 Medal of Honor citation	101
42.5 Other awards	101
42.6 See also	101
42.7 Notes	101
42.8 References	101
42.9 Further reading	102
43 Roy Benavidez	103
43.1 Childhood and early life	103
43.2 Military career	103
43.2.1 US Army	103
43.2.2 Army Special Forces	103
43.3 Medal of Honor	104
43.4 Post-military retirement	105
43.5 Death	106
43.6 Military decorations and awards	106
43.7 Personal honors	106
43.8 See also	107

43.9 Notes	108
43.10References	108
43.11External links	108
44 Héctor Santiago Colón	109
44.1 Early years	109
44.2 Action in Vietnam	109
44.3 Medal of Honor citation	109
44.4 Legacy	110
44.5 Military decorations awarded	110
44.6 See also	110
44.7 Notes	111
44.8 References	111
44.9 Further reading	111
44.10External links	111
45 José F. Jiménez	112
45.1 Biography	112
45.2 Awards and honors	112
45.2.1 Medal of Honor citation	112
45.3 See also	113
45.4 Notes	113
45.5 References	113
45.6 External links	113
46 Ralph E. Dias	114
46.1 Biography	114
46.2 Medal of Honor citation	114
46.3 Legacy	115
46.4 See also	115
46.5 Notes	115
46.6 References	115
47 Emilio A. De La Garza	116
47.1 Early years	116
47.2 Marine Corps service	116
47.3 Awards and honors	116
47.4 Medal of Honor citation	116
47.5 See also	117
47.6 References	117
48 Miguel Keith	118
48.1 Biography	118

48.2 Decorations	118
48.3 Medal of Honor citation	118
48.4 In memory	119
48.5 See also	119
48.6 Notes	119
48.7 References	119
49 Louis R. Rocco	120
49.1 Biography	120
49.1.1 Early years	120
49.1.2 Vietnam War	120
49.1.3 Later years	120
49.2 Medal of Honor citation	121
49.3 Awards and recognitions	121
49.4 See also	121
49.5 Notes	121
49.6 External links	122
50 Alfred V. Rascon	123
50.1 Biography	123
50.1.1 Early years	123
50.1.2 Vietnam War	123
50.1.3 Post Vietnam	123
50.1.4 Later years	124
50.2 Medal of Honor citation	124
50.3 Honors	125
50.4 Awards and recognitions	126
50.5 See also	126
50.6 References	126
50.7 External links	126
51 Humbert Roque Versace	127
51.1 Early years	127
51.2 Vietnam War	127
51.2.1 Medal of Honor citation	128
51.3 In memory	129
51.4 Awards and decorations	130
51.5 See also	130
51.6 References	130
51.7 Further reading	131
51.8 External links	131
52 Leonard L. Alvarado	132

52.1 Biography	132
52.2 Medal of Honor	132
52.3 Medal of Honor Citation	132
52.4 Other awards and decorations	133
52.5 See also	133
52.6 References	133
53 Jesus S. Duran	134
53.1 Biography	134
53.2 Medal of Honor	134
53.2.1 Citation	134
53.3 See also	135
53.4 References	135
53.5 External links	135
54 Santiago J. Erevia	136
54.1 Biography	136
54.2 Medal of Honor award	136
54.3 Medal of Honor citation	136
54.4 Other awards and citations	137
54.5 See also	137
54.6 References	137
55 Félix Conde Falcón	138
55.1 Awards and badges	138
55.1.1 Military awards	138
55.1.2 Badges	138
55.1.3 Medal of Honor citation	138
55.2 See also	139
55.3 Notes	139
55.4 References	139
56 Candelario Garcia	140
56.1 Biography	140
56.2 Medal of Honor	140
56.2.1 Citation	140
56.3 Other honors, awards and decorations	141
56.4 See also	141
56.5 References	141
56.6 External link	141
57 Jose Rodela	142
57.1 Background	142

57.2 Medal of Honor action	142
57.3 Medal of Honor citation	142
57.4 Other awards	142
57.5 See also	143
57.6 References	143
58 Demensio Rivera	144
58.1 Biographical details	144
58.2 Medal of Honor	144
58.2.1 Medal of Honor citation	144
58.3 Honors, awards and decorations	145
58.4 Note	145
58.5 See also	145
58.6 References	145
59 Leroy Petry	147
59.1 Early life and education	147
59.2 Career	147
59.2.1 Medal of Honor	148
59.2.2 Return to service	149
59.3 Awards and decorations	149
59.3.1 Medal of Honor citation	149
59.4 Personal life	150
59.5 Honors	150
59.6 See also	150
59.7 References	150
59.8 External links	151
60 Rafael Peralta	152
60.1 Biography	152
60.1.1 Death	152
60.2 Posthumous award	152
60.3 Awards and honors	153
60.3.1 Navy Cross citation	153
60.4 Legacy	153
60.5 See also	154
60.6 References	154
60.7 External links	155
61 Guy Gabaldon	156
61.1 Early years	156
61.2 World War II	156
61.2.1 The Pied Piper of Saipan	156

61.2.2	Tinian	157
61.3	Post-war	157
61.4	Navy Cross	158
61.5	Later years	158
61.6	Death	158
61.7	Awards and recognitions	159
61.8	Military awards and decorations	159
61.9	See also	159
61.10	Notes	159
61.11	References	159
61.12	External links	159
62	Marcelino Serna	161
62.1	Early years	161
62.2	World War I	161
62.3	Distinguished Service Cross Citation	161
62.4	Later years	162
62.5	Awards and decorations	162
62.6	Notes	162
62.7	See also	162
62.8	References	162
62.9	Further reading	163
63	Modesto Cartagena	164
63.1	Early years	164
63.2	Korean War	164
63.3	Distinguished Service Cross citation	165
63.4	Later years	165
63.5	Legacy	166
63.6	Military awards and decorations	166
63.7	See also	167
63.8	Notes	167
63.9	References	167
64	Angel Mendez	168
64.1	Early years	168
64.2	Vietnam War	168
64.2.1	Operation Desoto	168
64.3	Navy Cross citation	169
64.4	Legacy	170
64.5	Awards and decorations	171
64.6	See also	171

64.7	References	171
64.8	Further reading	171
64.9	Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses	172
64.9.1	Text	172
64.9.2	Images	176
64.9.3	Content license	189

Chapter 1

Joseph H. De Castro

Corporal **Joseph H. De Castro** (November 14, 1844 – May 8, 1892), was the first **Hispanic-American** to be awarded the **United States's** highest military decoration for valor in combat—the **Medal of Honor**—for having distinguished himself during **Pickett's Charge** in the **Battle of Gettysburg** of the **American Civil War**.

1.1 Early years

De Castro was born in **Boston, Massachusetts**. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he was among the men who joined the all-volunteer **19th Massachusetts Infantry**.

1.2 Civil War service



Cannons representing Hancock's defenses, stormed by Pickett's Charge.

De Castro bore the **Flag of Massachusetts** for Company I, 19th Massachusetts Infantry. The unit participated in the **Battle of Gettysburg** at **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania** as part of the III Corps, 3rd Brigade, U.S. Army under the command of Colonel **Norman J. Hall**. On July 3, 1863, the third and last day of the battle, his unit participated in what became known as **Pickett's Charge**. The charge was a disastrous infantry assault ordered by Confederate General **Robert E. Lee** against Major General **George G. Meade's** Union positions on Cemetery Ridge.

During the battle, De Castro attacked a Confederate flag bearer from the **19th Virginia Infantry** regiment, with the staff of his own colors and seized the opposing regiment's flag, handing the prize over to General **Alexander S. Webb**. General Webb is quoted as saying, "At the instant a man broke through my lines and thrust a rebel battle flag into my hands. He never said a word and darted back. It was Corporal Joseph H. De Castro, one of my color bearers. He had knocked down a color bearer in the enemy's line with the staff of the Massachusetts State colors, seized the falling flag and dashed it to me".^[1] On December 1, 1864, De Castro was one of seven men from the 19th Massachusetts Infantry to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

1.3 Medal of Honor citation

Sergeant Joseph H. De Castro

Rank and organization: Corporal, Company I, 19th Massachusetts Infantry

Place and date: At Gettysburg, Pa., July 3, 1863

Born: Boston, Mass.

Date of issue: December 1, 1864

Citation:

Capture of flag of 19th Virginia regiment (C.S)

1.4 Post Civil War

After the war De Castro entered the regular Army and served for a few years. De Castro married Rosalia Rodriguez and in 1882 moved to **New York City**. There he

was an active member of the **Phil Kearny Post Number 8 of the Grand Army of the Republic**. He was employed by the New York Barge Office when, on May 8, 1892, he died in his home at 244 West 22nd Street. His funeral was held at the 18th Street **Methodist Church** and he was buried at Fairmount Cemetery (Section 2, Lot 300, Grave 2) in Newark, New Jersey.^[2]

1.5 Awards and decorations

Joseph H. De Castro's awards and decorations include the following:

- Medal of Honor (Army version)
- Army Civil War Campaign Medal

1.6 In popular culture

Linda Vasquez, the outgoing White House Chief of Staff, presents Vice President Frank Underwood with De Castro's Medal of Honor in "Chapter 21," the eighth episode of the second season of the Netflix political drama *House of Cards*.

1.7 See also

- List of American Civil War Medal of Honor recipients: A–F
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the American Civil War

1.8 Notes

[1] *The Magazine of American History*, page 18.

[2] "New York Times"; May 10, 1892; Obituary; page 5

1.9 References

- "Civil War (A-L); De Castro, Joseph H. entry". *Medal of Honor recipients*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 6, 2009. Retrieved July 13, 2010.
- The Magazine of American History with Notes and Queries, *Martha J. Lamb (editor), volume XVIII, July–December 1887*. Retrieved on July 20, 2006. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

- "Hispanic-Americans in the Army. Retrieved on July 20, 2006.". Archived from the original on August 18, 2007. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

1.10 Further reading

- *Right Before Our Eyes: Latinos Past, Present & Future*, Robert Montemayor, Henry (COL) Mendoza.
- *Gettysburg: A Testing of Courage*, Noah Andre Trudeau.
- *Pickett's Charge — The Last Attack at Gettysburg*, Earl J Hess.

1.11 External links

- "Gettysburg's Medal of Honor recipients. Retrieved on July 20, 2006". Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- "Units of the ARMY at the Battle of Gettysburg. Retrieved on July 20, 2006". Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 2

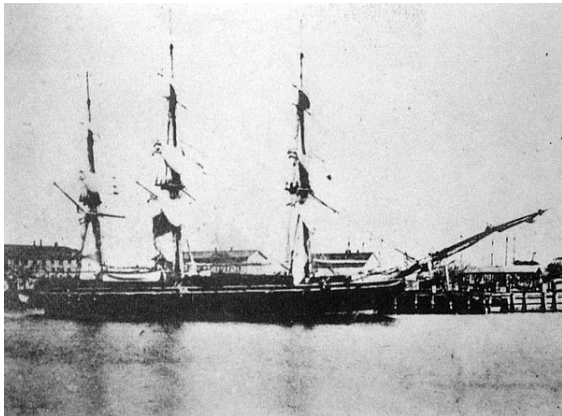
John Ortega

Seaman **John (or Juan) Ortega** (born in 1840 in Spain), was the first Hispanic sailor to be awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor in combat — the **Medal of Honor** — for having distinguished himself during the **South Atlantic Blockade** by the Union Naval forces during the **American Civil War**.

2.1 Biography

Ortega, a resident of **Pennsylvania**, was a **Spanish** immigrant who joined the Union Navy from his adopted home state of **Pennsylvania** in 1863.^[1]

Ortega was assigned to **USS Saratoga** during the American Civil War. The *Saratoga*, commissioned in 1843, was the third ship of the **United States Navy** christened with that name. It was a sloop-of-war under the command of Commander **George Musalas Colvocoresses**.



USS Saratoga

On January 13, 1864, **Secretary of the United States Navy Gideon Welles**, ordered Commander Colvocoresses and **USS Saratoga** to proceed to **Charleston, South Carolina**, and report to **Rear Admiral Dahlgren** for duty in the **South Atlantic Blockading Squadron** in what is known as the Union blockade. This was a massive effort by the Union Navy to prevent the passage of trade goods, supplies, and arms to and from the Confederate States.

Ortega was a member of the landing parties from the ship

who made several raids in August and September which resulted in the capture of many prisoners and the taking or destruction of substantial quantities of ordnance, ammunition, and supplies. A number of buildings, bridges, and salt works were destroyed during the expedition.

For his actions Seaman John Ortega was awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted to acting **master's mate** in August 1864. He deserted from the Navy in June 1865.^[2]

2.2 Medal of Honor citation

ORTEGA, JOHN

Rank and organization: Seaman, U.S. Navy

Accredited To: Pennsylvania

Born: 1840, Spain

G.O. No.: 45, December 31, 1864

Citation:

Served as seaman on board the U.S.S. Saratoga during actions of that vessel on 2 occasions. Carrying out his duties courageously during these actions, Ortega conducted himself gallantly through both periods. Promoted to acting master's mate.^[3]

2.3 Awards and decorations

Ortega's awards and decorations include the following:

- Medal of Honor (Navy version)
- Navy Civil War Campaign Medal

2.4 See also

- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of American Civil War Medal of Honor recipients: M-Z
- Hispanics in the American Civil War
- Hispanics in the United States Navy

2.5 References

- [1] Profile
- [2] <http://www.history.navy.mil/books/callahan/reg-usn-o.htm>
- [3] Civil War Medal of Honor citations; Last names starting with “O” through “R”, Retrieved November 8, 2007
- “Medal of Honor citation”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “USS Saratoga”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “South Atlantic Blockading Squadron”. Archived from the original on 2009-10-27. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Vermont Civil War”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Civil War Medal of Honor recipients (M-Z)”. *Medal of Honor citations*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved July 1, 2010.
- “John Ortega”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2007-11-08.

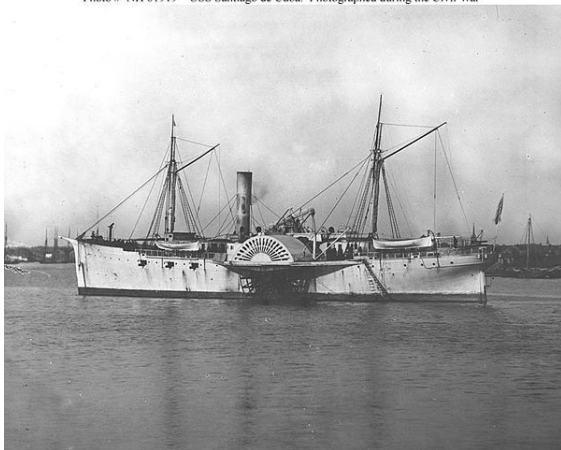
Chapter 3

Philip Bazaar

Seaman **Philip Bazaar**, born in **Chile, South America**, was a Navy seaman who was awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor in combat — the **Medal of Honor** — for having distinguished himself during the battle for **Fort Fisher** of the **American Civil War**.

3.1 Biography

Photo # NH 61919 USS Santiago de Cuba. Photographed during the Civil War



USS Santiago de Cuba

Bazaar, a resident of **Massachusetts**, was an immigrant from **Chile** who joined the **Union Navy** at **New Bedford, Massachusetts**.^[1] Bazaar was assigned to the **USS Santiago de Cuba** during the **American Civil War**.^[1] **Santiago de Cuba** was a wooden, brigantine-rigged, side-wheel steamship under the command of Rear Admiral **David D. Porter**.^[2]

In the latter part of 1864, Union General **Ulysses S. Grant** ordered an assault on **Fort Fisher**, a stronghold of the **Confederate States of America**. It protected the vital trading routes of **Wilmington's port**, at **North Carolina**.^[3] Rear Admiral Porter was in charge of the naval assault and General **Benjamin F. Butler** was in charge of the land assault. After the failure of the first assault, Butler was replaced by Major General **Alfred Terry**. A second assault was ordered for January 1865. Bazaar was aboard

the **USS Santiago de Cuba** and served in both assaults on the fort. On January 12, 1865, both ground and naval Union forces attempted the second assault. Bazaar and 5 other crew members, under the direct orders from Rear Admiral Porter, carried dispatches during the battle while under heavy fire from the Confederates to Major General **Alfred Terry**. Bazaar and his comrades were awarded the **Medal of Honor** for their actions.^[1]

3.2 Medal of Honor citation

BAZAAR, PHILIP

Rank and organization: Ordinary Seaman, U.S. Navy

Accredited to: Massachusetts

Born: Chile, South America

G.O. No.: 59, June 22, 1865

Citation:

On board the U.S.S. Santiago de Cuba during the assault on Fort Fisher on 15 January 1865. As one of a boat crew detailed to one of the generals on shore, O.S.

Bazaar bravely entered the fort in the assault and accompanied his party in carrying dispatches at the height of the battle. He was 1 of 6 men who entered the fort in the assault from the fleet.^[1]

3.3 Awards and decorations

Bazaar's awards and decorations include the following:

- Medal of Honor
(Navy version)
- Navy Civil War Campaign Medal

3.4 See also

- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of American Civil War Medal of Honor recipients: A–F
- Hispanics in the American Civil War
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Second Battle of Fort Fisher
- Hispanics in the United States Navy

3.5 References

- [1] “Hispanic Heritage Month - Philip Bazaar - MOH”. United States Department of Defense.
- [2] “Santiago de Cuba”. Department of the Navy - Naval Historical Center.
- [3] “Ft. Fisher”. *North Carolina Historic Sites*.

3.6 External links

- “USS Santiago de Cuba (1861-1865)”. Naval History & Heritage Command, Department of the Navy.
- “Navy Medal of Honor: Civil War 1861-65”. Naval History & Heritage Command, Department of the Navy. Retrieved 2006-12-23.

Chapter 4

France Silva

Private **France Silva** (May 8, 1876 – April 10, 1951) born in **Haywards, California**, was the first **United States Marine of Mexican-American and Hispanic** heritage to receive the **Medal of Honor**. He received the Medal of Honor for his meritorious conduct in **China** during the **Boxer Rebellion**.^[1]

4.1 Medal of Honor action

Silva joined the Marine Corps on September 12, 1899, in San Francisco and attended Boot Camp at the **Mare Island Naval Shipyard**. He was assigned to the U.S. flagship *Newark* where Private **Daniel Joseph Daly** (future double Medal of Honor recipient) was already a member. They became good friends. The *Newark* soon headed to the Philippines, to take part in the Spanish–American War, but were then sent to Japan to prepare for a landing at Taku, Tientsin and Peking. They arrived in Peking on May 31 before the Boxers closed the city off from the world.

In 1900, Private France Silva was a member of the Legation Guards (Marines) under the command of Captain Newt Hall, aboard the **USS Newark**. The *USS Newark* was a **United States Navy protected cruiser**, the first modern cruiser in the U.S. fleet. On May 20, 1900, the *Newark* sailed for China to help land allied troops to assist civilians within the legations which came under siege by the Boxers at Peking. Arriving **Tientsin** on May 22.^[2]

As Captains John T. Meyers and **Newt H. Hall**, USMC – under the command of Captain Bowman McCalla, USN – were in the lead position of the allies, the all European Brass Band played, *There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight*. They had their last really good meal for a couple of months but also immediately posted guard. Captain Meyers had given the command, “Fix, Bayonets!” just before their approach. They double timed the last three-hundred yards and the crowd cheered.

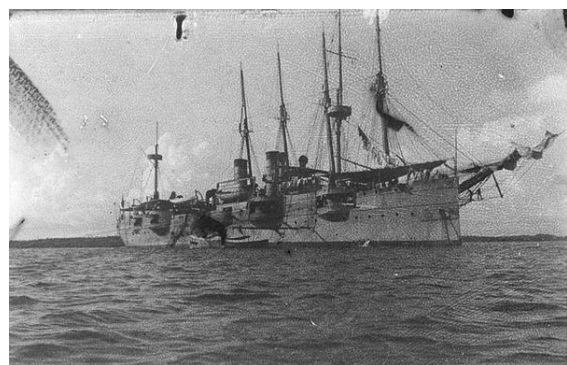
Later, when they entered the Forbidden City of Peking, Edwin Conger, the lead U.S. Diplomat (and former Army officer) said to Meyers, “Thank God you are here. Now we are safe.”

On June 19, 1900, the 1st Regiment (Marines) under Ma-

jor Littleton Waller, USMC, attempted to take the city of Tientsin and failed. Then on June 23, the Regiment, under the command of Major Waller, was able to enter Tientsin in their second attempt and force the Chinese forces to retreat to Peking. Private France Silva, several other Marines and two sailors, Navy Seamen Axel Westermarck and Chief Machinist Emil Peterson earned the Medal of Honor in their defense of the civilian compound (legation) at Peking. They defended the walled city from June 28 until the fall of the city which occurred on August 17.^[3]

In accordance to a newspaper article:

“The USS Newark placed ashore a contingent of Marine and three **bluejackets** as a legation guard. These men and later another detachment of Marines, soldiers and sailors joined the troops of other western countries and Japan in the defense of other Peking legations against the Boxers until the arrival of the Allied Forces in August.”^[4]



The USS Newark

According to the Journal of Pvt. Oscar J. Upham, USMC, (Upham called his journal the “Siege of Peking”) on July 1, “Pvt. Silva of the Newark Guard (detachment) volunteered to go and assist them (others on the Tartar Wall) and was hit in the arm making a very bad wound.” Several others had been seriously wounded and some killed during this skirmish. According to docu-

ments in the National Archives and Records Administration the bullet entered Pvt. Silva's left elbow and bounced off his sternum. He was medically discharged on January 6, 1901 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, CA. On December 31, 1901, he was awarded the Medal of Honor, also at Mare Island (Medal of Honor Society). The Medal of Honor Society stated recently (November 2008) that the Medal of Honor was mailed to him, but there is no official information about which official presented at Mare Island.

Captain Newt Hall, USMC, was Pvt. Silva's Commanding Officer aboard the Newark. Hall retired as a Colonel and many years later (1930s) wrote an account of the Siege of Peking. Of all the Marines under his charge he noted that Silva's was the "most interesting." Even though Pvt. Silva was badly injured (he couldn't hold his rifle because his elbow had taken the bullet and it passed through his arm and bounced off his sternum), he and several other Marines attempted to return to the Wall for action. Captain Hall ordered them back to (Sick Bay).

Silva refused, telling the captain that if he would take Silva's rifle and the captain give him his pistol, he said, "I can take of myself." Silva remained on duty for at least a day relieving Marines and others on the Wall giving them a "much needed rest."

Pvt. Silva's immediate Commanding Officer was Capt. Newt Hall. Hall was under the command of Capt. John T. Myers. Myer's and his detachment were on the USS Oregon (Upham Journal).

4.2 Medal of Honor citation

SILVA, FRANCE

Private, U.S. Marine Corps

July 19, 1901

G.O. Navy Department, No.55

In the presence of the enemy during the action at Peking, China, June 28, to August 17, 1900. Throughout this period, Silva distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.^[5]

4.3 Postscript

After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Silva reported that he lost all of his papers and his Medal of Honor, but another was mailed to him. He had filed a disability claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. France Silva died on April 10, 1951 and is buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery in Corning, California.^[6]

A model of the American Legation, previously on display at the Navy Yard in the early 1990s, was donated to the Marine Corps League, Detachment 1140, Tehama/Red



Bluff (CA). This model of the American Legation was then donated to the Northern California Veterans Museum in Redding.

4.4 See also

- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

4.5 References

Inline

- [1] Hispanics in the Military

- [2] "USS Newark (C-1)". Naval History & Heritage Command, Department of the Navy.
- [3] "France Silva". Home of Heroes.com.
- [4] NETA
- [5] Pvt. Oscar Upham, USMC, wrote a diary as events occurred. He witnessed Silva being shot on July 1, 1900, on the Tarter Wall, while trying to reconstruct the barricade that would keep the enemy out. Medal of Honor citation
- [6] "Gravesite of MOH Recipient France Silva". Home-OfHeroes.com. Retrieved 2006-07-12.

General

- "France Silva, Medal of Honor recipient". *Contributions of American Hispanics/Latinos Heritage and Ancestry to the United States of America*. Hispanic America USA. Retrieved 2006-07-12.
- "Pvt France Silva, Medal of Honor, 1900, Peking China". *Marines Awarded the Medal of Honor*. United States Marine Corps. Archived from the original on 2006-07-06. Retrieved 2006-07-12.

"Siege of Peking" (Journal of Pvt. Oscar J. Upham, USMC.), Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington, D. C. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D. C. Medal of Honor Society.

4.6 External links

- Boxer Rebellion Medal of Honor recipients at the Naval Historical Center
- Medal of Honor ceremony – December 31, 1901 at www.vallejonews.com
- "France Silva". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2008-07-16.

Chapter 5

David B. Barkley

This article is about the American soldier David B. Barkley. For the Australian rules footballer, see [David Barkley \(footballer\)](#).

David Bennes Barkley, also known as **David B. Barkeley Cantu** (March 31, 1899 – November 9, 1918), was a United States Army private who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during World War I in France. After successfully completing a scouting mission behind enemy lines, he drowned as he swam back across the Meuse River.

5.1 Biography

Barkley was born in Laredo in Webb County in south Texas, to Jose and the former Antonia Barkley. He grew up with his Mexican-American father. He enlisted in the Army when the United States entered what was then known as the Great War. He used his Anglo father's name to avoid being segregated into a non-combat unit.^[1]

As a part of Company A, 356th Infantry, 89th Division in France, he and Sergeant M. Waldo Hatler swam across the Meuse River near Pouilly-sur-Meuse to get behind German lines and gather information about troop strength and deployments. They were able to gather the needed information; however, returning across the river, Barkley was "seized with cramps and drowned". (This is the exact wording from his citation, duplicated below.) Sergeant Hatler survived to bring the information back to their unit.

Barkley was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions, one of three Texans to be awarded the Medal of Honor during World War I.^[2] Additionally, France awarded him the *Croix de Guerre*, and Italy the *Croce al Merito di Guerra*.

Private Barkley lies in state at the Alamo, the second person to ever receive this honor. He was then buried at the San Antonio National Cemetery.^[3]

5.2 Medal of Honor citation

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company A, 356th §→→→§ 89th Division. Place and date: Near Pouilly, France, November 9, 1918. Entered service at: San Antonio, Tex. Birth: Laredo, Tex. G.O. No.: 20, W.D., 1919. **Citation**

When information was desired as to the enemy's position on the opposite side of the Meuse River, Pvt. Barkeley, with another soldier, volunteered without hesitation and swam the river to reconnoiter the exact location. He succeeded in reaching the opposite bank, despite the evident determination of the enemy to prevent a crossing. Having obtained his information, he again entered the water for his return, but before his goal was reached, he was seized with cramps and drowned.

5.3 In memory

Barkley has received three notable posthumous recognitions. In 1921, an elementary school in San Antonio, Texas, was named in his honor. On January 10, 1941, the U.S. Army installation, Camp Barkeley, was named in his honor. A clerical error resulted in the discrepancy in spelling.^[4] Finally, in 1989 when his Hispanic background was discovered, Barkley was recognized as the U.S. Army's first Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient.^{[5][6]}

5.3.1 David B. Barkley Plaza

A memorial honoring the forty-one Hispanic soldiers who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor was built in Laredo in 2002 and named for Barkley. The David B. Barkley Plaza has a bronze statue of David B. Barkley and an American flag measuring 100 ft by 50 ft and is 308 ft tall making it the tallest flagpole in the United States.^{[7][8]} The memorial is located at 27°30′22″N 99°30′8″W﻿ / ﻿27.50611°N 99.50222°W﻿ / .^[9]

The restored chapel at Laredo Community College is also



The David Barkeley Cantu Memorial Chapel at Laredo Community College

named in Barkley's honor. Memorial Day and Veterans Day services are held there each year.

5.4 Awards and decorations

David Bennes Barkley's awards and decorations include the following:

-  Medal of Honor
-  Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster.
-  World War I Victory Medal
-  French Croix de Guerre with Palm medals (2)
-  Croce al Merito di Guerra (War Merit Cross)-Italy

5.5 See also

- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War I
- Private Marcelino Serna who also served in the 86th Division and became the most decorated soldier from Texas in World War I.

5.6 Notes

- [1] D. López. "Saving Private Aztlan: Preserving the History of Latino Service in Wartime". *Diálogo Magazine*. Retrieved 2006-07-14.
- [2] "Texas Medal of Honor recipients". *Home-OfHeroes.com*. Retrieved 2006-07-14.

- [3] James M. Myers: David Bennes Barkley, Medal of Honor recipient from the *Handbook of Texas Online*. Retrieved December 23, 2008.
- [4] Myers, James M. (2005). "Camp Barkeley". *Handbook of Texas Online*. Retrieved 2006-07-14.
- [5] "David Barkley, Hispanic Heritage, Medal of Honor, World War I". *Hispanic Americans USA*. Retrieved 2006-07-12.
- [6] "Celebrating Hispanic Heritage > Medal of Honor Recipients > World War II". *goarmy.com*. U.S. Army. November 21, 2008. See *Quick Facts*. Archived from the original on November 21, 2008. Retrieved 2006-12-24.
- [7] "Laredo Morning Times; Monument to medal holders unveiled early". Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [8] "There's a Flagpole Spec; The story behind the design and construction of the world's tallest flagpoles" (pdf). Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [9] "US Gazetteer files: 2010, 2000, and 1990". United States Census Bureau. 2011-02-12. Retrieved 2011-04-23.

5.7 References

- James M. Myers: Barkley, David Bennes from the *Handbook of Texas Online* (2001). Retrieved December 23, 2008.
- "Camp Barkeley". Archived from the original on June 19, 2006. Retrieved July 14, 2006.

5.8 External links

- "David B. Barkley". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2008-08-19.

Chapter 6

Joe P. Martínez

Private **Joseph Pantillion Martínez** (July 27, 1920–May 26, 1943) born in **Taos, New Mexico**, was a **United States Army** soldier who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** — the United States’ highest military decoration — for his actions on the **Aleutian Islands** during **World War II**. Private Joseph P. Martínez was the first **Hispanic-American** and first **Coloradan**^[1] to receive the Medal of Honor during World War II. His posthumous award was the first act for combat heroism on American soil (other than the 15 at Pearl Harbor) since the **Indian Wars**.^[2]

6.1 Early years

Joe Martínez was one of seven children born to José Manuel Martínez and María Eduvigen Romo, both who were natives of New Mexico. In 1927, his father, who was an agricultural laborer, decided to move from Taos, New Mexico to **Ault, Colorado**. There, Martínez received his primary and secondary education. On August 1942, he was drafted into the **United States Army** and sent to **Camp Roberts, California** where he received his basic training.^[3]

6.2 World War II

On June 6, 1942, **Japanese forces** invaded the island of Kiska and on June 7, the island of Attu. These islands are among the western most islands on the Aleutian chain and are part of **Alaska**. The U.S. feared that the islands would be used as bases from which to launch aerial assaults against the West Coast, and it became a matter of national pride to expel the first invaders to set foot on American soil since the **War of 1812**.

After Martínez completed his basic training, he was assigned to Company K, 32d Infantry, **7th Infantry Division**. The 7th Infantry Division landed at Holtz Bay, Attu. On May 26, 1943, 32nd Infantry Regiment was engaged in combat in the vicinity of Fish Hook Ridge against enemy troops. The regiment was pinned down by enemy fire and Martinez on his own account led two assaults. He fired his rifle into the Japanese foxholes and the men of

his unit followed. Martínez was shot in the head as he approached one final foxhole after the second assault, dying of the wound the following day. Martínez was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Private Martínez was the first Hispanic-American recipient who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for combat heroism on American soil during World War II.^[4]

6.3 Medal of Honor citation

Pvt. JOE P. MARTINEZ

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army,
Company K, 32d Infantry, 7th Infantry
Division.

Place and date: On Attu, Aleutians, May 26,
1943.

Entered service at: Ault, Colorado

Birth: Taos, New Mexico

G.O. No.: 71, October 27, 1943.

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy. Over a period of several days, repeated efforts to drive the enemy from a key defensive position high in the snow-covered precipitous mountains between East Arm Holtz Bay and Chichagof Harbor had failed. On 26 May 1943, troop dispositions were readjusted and a trial coordinated attack on this position by a reinforced battalion was

launched. Initially successful, the attack hesitated. In the face of severe hostile machine gun, rifle, and mortar fire, Pvt. Martinez, an automatic rifleman, rose to his feet and resumed his advance. Occasionally he stopped to urge his comrades on. His example inspired others to follow. After a most difficult climb, Pvt. Martinez eliminated resistance from part of the enemy position by BAR fire and hand grenades, thus assisting the advance of other attacking elements. This success only partially completed the action. The main Holtz-Chichagof Pass rose about 150 feet higher, flanked by steep rocky ridges and reached by a snow-filled defile. Passage was barred by enemy fire from either flank and from tiers of snow trenches in front. Despite these obstacles, and knowing of their existence, Pvt. Martinez again led the troops on and up, personally silencing several trenches with BAR fire and ultimately reaching the pass itself. Here, just below the knife-like rim of the pass, Pvt. Martinez encountered a final enemy-occupied trench and as he was engaged in firing into it he was mortally wounded. The pass, however, was taken, and its capture was an important preliminary to the end of organized hostile resistance^[5]

6.4 Honors

Martínez was buried with full military honors at Ault Cemetery, Ault, Weld County in Colorado. On April 13, 1945, the *United States Navy* named one of its ships, which served as a troop transport during the *Korean War*, the *USNS Private Joe P. Martinez*. The state of Colorado has honored his memory by naming a street and renaming a former base reception center and early officer's club which currently serves as the service center after him. The government named a Disabled American Veterans chapter in Colorado and an American Legion post in California in his honor. Three statues were erected with his likeness and are located in the Colorado cities of Ault, Greeley at the *Weld County Veterans Memorial Park*, and Denver. The U.S. Army also named an *Army Reserve* military installation in Denver, Colorado after Martinez.^[6] The 7th Infantry Division honored him by naming the Fort Ord Welcome Center (originally the Post Headquarters built in 1941) Martinez Hall in 1977. Al-



Bronze Statue of Pvt. Joe P. Martinez by Maxine at the Weld County Veterans Memorial



Statue of Martínez in Denver

though Fort Ord closed in 1993, Martinez Hall still serves as a Veterans Transition Service Center.

6.5 Awards and recognitions

Among Private Joe P. Martínez' decorations and medals were the following:



USS Pvt. Joe P. Martínez

- “USS Pvt. Joe P. Martinez”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Private Joe P. Martinez Bronze Sculpture”. <http://maxinesculptures.com>. Jan 16, 2015. Retrieved March 20, 2015. External link in |website= (help)

6.6 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Weld County Veterans Memorial
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

6.7 Notes

- [1] Dedication of a July 1988 statue of Martinez in Civic Center Park, Denver, reads: “Dedicated to honor Private Joe P. Martínez Colorado’s first Congressional Medal of Honor recipient of World War II”.
- [2] “Invalid Entry”. Retrieved 3 February 2016.
- [3] Hispanics in Americas Defense
- [4] Battle of the Aleutian Islands
- [5] Doug Sterner. “MOH Citation for Joseph P. Martinez”. Retrieved 3 February 2016.
- [6] “Military Installations - States C”. Retrieved 3 February 2016.

6.8 External links

- “Joe P. Martínez”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2008-10-25.
- “Joe P. Martinez Statue”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Joe P. Martinez”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Veterans Transition Center”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Find a Grave”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 7

Lucian Adams

Staff Sergeant **Lucian Adams** (October 26, 1922 – March 31, 2003) was a **United States Army** soldier during World War II who received the **Medal of Honor** for single-handedly destroying enemy machine gun emplacements to re-establish **supply lines** to U.S. Army companies. He also received the **Bronze Star** and **Purple Heart** for his heroic actions in **Italy**.

7.1 Personal

Lucian Adams was born on October 26, 1922, in **Port Arthur, Texas**. He was one of twelve children from a large **Mexican American** family.^[1] He attended Port Arthur High School. Adams enlisted in the Army in February 1943^[2] after spending two years in a wartime plant making **landing craft**- Just like the ones that would carry him to the shores of Italy then France in the American invasion of Europe.

7.2 Service

In the summer of 1944, the 3rd Infantry Division landed near **St Tropez** in the **South of France** and began advancing into central France. By late October, Adam's company was near the town of **Saint-Die** in the Mortagne forest, moving down a country road to open a supply line to two assault companies of his battalion that were cut off by the Germans. When stopped by heavy enemy fire, Adams, was sent forward to scout the German position and reported three enemy machine-gun nests to his company commander. He was then told "You go on out there and make a breakthrough to get those GIs".

Carrying a borrowed **Browning Automatic Rifle**, Adams began walking with his men down the road, which was heavily wooded on both sides. They had advanced just ten yards before the German machine guns opened fire, killing three men immediately and wounding six others. The rest of the men except Adams took cover. Adams pressed forward moving from tree to tree straight through enemy fire to kill the first gunner with a **grenade**. When another German popped up from a **foxhole** a few yards away, Adams killed him with fire from the BAR. Charg-

ing into the fire of the second machine gun, he killed its gunner with another grenade and forced its two supporting infantrymen to surrender. He then ran deeper into the woods; killing five more Germans. He then began taking fire from the third machine gunner who missed his mark; Adams didn't. He killed the gunner, and by the time Adams finished his one-man rampage, he had cleared the woods of enemy soldiers. Adams' men began calling him the Tornado from Texas.

After the action Adams was told by messenger that he was recommended for the Medal of Honor. Since he had heard the same thing at **Anzio, Italy** when he single-handedly destroyed a German machine gun position, he didn't pay too much attention and continued on with his unit fighting their way into Germany. In the spring of 1945, Adams received orders to go home to be awarded the Medal of Honor by President **Franklin D. Roosevelt**. Before he left however, President Roosevelt died.

Adams received the medal from Lieutenant General **Alexander Patch** on April 23, 1945 in **Nuremberg's Zeppelin Stadium**. An American flag was draped over a huge **swastika** on the top of the stadium. After the ceremony, American engineers removed the flag and blew up the swastika. After serving in the **European Theatre** during World War II, he returned to Texas where he worked for the **Veterans Administration** for over 40 years before retiring in 1986.

Adams died on March 31, 2003, in **San Antonio, Texas**; he is buried in the **Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery** in San Antonio.

The Staff Sergeant Lucian Adams Elementary School in Port Arthur is named after Adams^[3]

7.3 Medal of Honor citation

While serving with the 30th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division, in France, SSgt Adams' company was attempting to open supply lines; he single-handedly eliminated the enemy positions.^[4] His citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty

on 28 October 1944, near St. Die, France. When his company was stopped in its effort to drive through the Mortagne Forest to reopen the supply line to the isolated third battalion, S/Sgt. Adams braved the concentrated fire of **machineguns** in a lone assault on a force of German troops. Although his company had progressed less than 10 yards and had lost 3 killed and 6 wounded, S/Sgt. Adams charged forward dodging from tree to tree firing a borrowed **BAR** from the hip. Despite intense machinegun fire which the enemy directed at him and rifle grenades which struck the trees over his head showering him with broken twigs and branches, S/Sgt. Adams made his way to within 10 yards of the closest machinegun and killed the gunner with a **hand grenade**. An enemy soldier threw hand grenades at him from a position only 10 yards distant; however, S/Sgt. Adams dispatched him with a single burst of BAR fire. Charging into the vortex of the enemy fire, he killed another machinegunner at 15 yards range with a hand grenade and forced the surrender of 2 supporting infantrymen. Although the remainder of the German group concentrated the full force of its automatic weapons fire in a desperate effort to knock him out, he proceeded through the woods to find and exterminate 5 more of the enemy. Finally, when the third German machinegun opened up on him at a range of 20 yards, S/Sgt. Adams killed the gunner with BAR fire. In the course of the action, he personally killed 9 Germans, eliminated 3 enemy machineguns, vanquished a specialized force which was armed with **automatic weapons** and **grenade launchers**, cleared the woods of hostile elements, and reopened the severed supply lines to the assault companies of his battalion.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor on March 29, 1945.

7.4 Awards and recognitions

Among Lucian Adams' decorations and medals were the following:

7.5 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

- Hispanic Americans in World War II

7.6 Notes

- [1] Oliver, Myrna (April 8, 2003). "World War II Hero Lucian Adams". *Los Angeles Times* (republished in *South Coast Today*).
- [2] WWII Army Enlistment Records
- [3] "Staff Sergeant Lucian Adams Elementary". *Port Arthur Independent School District*. Retrieved 31 October 2014.
- [4] "Medal of Honor recipients". Archived from the original on April 4, 2005. Retrieved November 21, 2006.

7.7 References

- "U.S. Army Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients". United States Army Center of Military History. Retrieved November 21, 2006.
- "Lucian Adams". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved November 21, 2006.
- "La Medalla de Honora Recipientes: Adams, Lucian". *Hispanic Americans in the United States Army* (in Spanish). U.S. Army. Archived from the original on November 18, 2006. Retrieved November 23, 2006.

7.8 External links

- Ricardo Romo (August 22, 1997). "Above and Beyond". *UT Discovery Magazine*. Retrieved November 21, 2006.

Chapter 8

Marcario García

Staff Sergeant **Marcario García**^[1] also known as **Macario García**^[note 1] (January 20, 1920 – December 24, 1972) was the first **Mexican** immigrant to receive the **Medal of Honor**, the United States' highest military decoration. He received the award for his heroic actions as a soldier during **World War II**.

8.1 Early years

García was born in Villa de Castaños, **Mexico** in the state of **Coahuila**. In 1924, Garcia's family immigrated to the United States in search of a better way of life. He lived in **Sugar Land, Texas** where he worked as a **cotton farmer**.

Upon the outbreak of World War II, Garcia joined the **United States Army** at a recruiting station in his adopted hometown in November 1942.^[2] He was assigned to Company B, **22nd Infantry Regiment**, **4th Infantry Division**.

8.2 World War II

On November 27, 1944, García was the squad leader of his platoon which found itself engaged in combat against the **German** troops in the vicinity of Grosshau, Germany. Realizing that his company could not advance because it was pinned down by enemy **machine gun** fire, Garcia, on his own initiative, went alone and destroyed two enemy emplacements and captured four prisoners. Despite being wounded himself, he continued to fight on with his unit until the objective was taken.

8.3 Medal of Honor citation

Marcario Garcia

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, US Army B Company 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Grosshau, Germany---November 27, 1944.

Entered service at: Sugarland, Texas

Born: January 20, 1920, Villa de Castano, Mexico

G.O. # 74 September 1, 1945.

Citation:

Staff Sergeant Marcario García, Company B, **22nd Infantry**, in action involving actual conflict with the enemy in the vicinity of Grosshau, Germany, 27 November 1944. While an acting squad leader, he single-handedly assaulted two enemy machine gun emplacements. Attacking prepared positions on a wooded hill, which could be approached only through meager cover. His company was pinned down by intense machine-gun fire and subjected to a concentrated artillery and mortar barrage. Although painfully wounded, he refused to be evacuated and on his own initiative crawled forward alone until he reached a position near an enemy emplacement. Hurling grenades, he boldly assaulted the position, destroyed the gun, and with his rifle killed three of the enemy who attempted to escape. When he rejoined his company, a second machine-gun opened fire and again the intrepid soldier went forward, utterly disregarding his own safety. He stormed the position and destroyed the gun, killed three more Germans, and captured four prisoners. He fought on with his unit until the objective was taken and only then did he permit himself to be removed for medical care. S/Sgt. (then Pvt.) Garcia's conspicuous heroism, his inspiring, courageous conduct, and his complete disregard for his personal safety wiped out two enemy emplacements and enabled his company to advance and secure its objective.^{[1][3]}

8.4 Honors and discrimination



President Truman bestows the Medal of Honor on García

On August 23, 1945, the President of the United States, Harry S. Truman presented Staff Sergeant Macario García with the Medal of Honor at a ceremony in the White House. A month after he was awarded the Medal of Honor, García was denied service at a restaurant located in a town just a few miles south of Houston because he was Hispanic. García was beaten with a bat by the owner. No one was arrested and no charges were initially filed. It was only after Walter Winchell cover the incident and labeled Sugar Land the most racist city in America that charges were filed. Then the incident was covered by the news media and caused an uproar amongst the Hispanic community who rallied to his aid. The nation was made aware as to the discriminatory policies that Hispanics were subject to as an indirect result of the trial of which García was eventually acquitted.^[4]

8.5 Later years

García became an American citizen on June 25, 1947 and earned a high school diploma in 1951. On May 18, 1952, he married Alicia Reyes with whom he had three children. For twenty-five years he worked as a counselor in the Veterans' Administration.^[4]

On the evening of November 21, 1963, Marcario García greeted President John F. Kennedy at the door of the Rice Ballroom in Houston Texas. The ballroom was filled with a diverse crowd of attendees that included Hispanic

World War II veterans, Civil Rights advocates and future political activists. The president spoke of U.S. and Latin American Foreign Policy and the importance of recognition and acknowledgement of Hispanic organizations like the United Latin American Citizens (ULAC). Speaking in fluent Spanish, Mrs. Kennedy offered words of inspiration, encouragement and hope. The unprecedented meeting by an American President and First Lady addressing Hispanic minorities is considered by many to be the emergence of the Latino vote in the United States. The day after this meeting Kennedy was dead.

García died on December 24, 1972, from the injuries which he received as a result of a car accident. He was buried with full military honors in the Houston National Cemetery in Houston, Texas. The local government of Houston honored his memory by naming a middle school after him as well as renaming part of 69th Street in Houston "S/SGT Marcario García Street". In 1983 Vice President George Bush dedicated Houston's new Macario García Army Reserve Center, and in 1994 a Sugar Land middle school was named in García's honor.^[4]

8.6 Awards and recognitions

Staff Sergeant Marcario García's decorations and medals were the following:

Foreign award

- Mérito Militar - Mexico

8.7 Notes

- [1] It should be noted that his "Medal of Honor citation" and some websites refer to the subject as "Marcario" while in some other websites the subject is referred to as "Macario"

8.8 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

8.9 References

- [1] "Medal of Honor recipients". *Medal of Honor citations*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved July 1, 2010.

- [2] [WWII Army Enlistment Records](#)
- [3] [Medal of Honor citation at homeofheroes.com](#)
- [4] García, María-Cristina (June 15, 2010). “García, Macario”. *Handbook of Texas Online*. Texas State Historical Association.

8.10 Further reading

The following books make references to Marcario García’s exploits.

- Medal of Honor: Historical Facts And Figures, page 167, by Ron Owens
- The Battle of Hurtgen Forest (West Wall Series) (West Wall), page 133, by Charles Whiting
- The Quest for Tejano Identity in San Antonio, Texas, 1913-2000 (Latino Communities: Emerging Voices—Political, Social, Cultural and Legal Issues), page 56, by Jr., Richard Buitron and Richard Buitron
- *ÁRaza Sí! ÁGuerra No!:* Chicano Protest and Patriotism during the Viet Nam War Era, page 36, by Lorena Oropeza
- Moon Handbooks Charleston and Savannah (Moon Handbooks), page 115, by Mike Sigalas

8.11 External links

- “Discovery UT Austin”. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- “Houston National Cemetery”. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- “The Fearless Mexican”. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- Stanley Jozwiak. “Battle in the Hurtgen Forest”. 1st Battalion 22nd Infantry website.

Chapter 9

José M. López

José Mendoza López (July 10, 1910 – May 16, 2005) was a Mexican and United States Army soldier who was awarded the United States' highest military decoration for valor in combat — the Medal of Honor — for his heroic actions during the Battle of the Bulge, in which he single-handedly repulsed a German infantry attack, killing at least 100 enemy troops.^[2]

9.1 Early years

López was raised by his mother Cándida López in Santiago Ihuatlán, Oaxaca, Mexico. As a young boy he helped his mother sell clothes that she made as a seamstress in the city. However, his time with his mother was cut short due to tuberculosis which took her life when López was only eight years old. López then relocated to Brownsville, Texas, USA, to live with his uncle's family.

While living in Brownsville with his uncle's family, López began working various jobs to bring in income and never returned to school. As a young man, López caught the attention of a boxing promoter and for seven years he traveled the country fighting a total of 55 fights in the lightweight division with the nickname of 'Kid Mendoza'. In 1934, during a boxing match in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, he met a group of Merchant Marines and signed a contract with them. He was accepted in the union in 1936 and spent the next five years traveling the world.

He was en route to California from Hawaii on December 7, 1941, when he learned about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. When he arrived in Los Angeles, the authorities believed he was Japanese and he was forced to prove otherwise.

López returned to Brownsville and, in 1942, married Emilia Herrera. That same year, he received his draft card and relocated to San Antonio where he enlisted in the U.S. Army. López was first sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and then to Camp Roberts, California, where he received his basic training.^[3]

9.2 Medal of Honor citation

José M. López

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, 23d Infantry, 2d Infantry Division

Place and date: Near Krinkelt, Belgium, December 17, 1944

Entered service at: Brownsville, Texas

Born: Santiago Ihuatlán Plumas, Oaxaca

G.O. No.: 47, June 18, 1945

Citation:

On his own initiative, he carried his heavy machinegun from Company K's right flank to its left, in order to protect that flank which was in danger of being overrun by advancing enemy infantry supported by tanks. Occupying a shallow hole offering no protection above his waist, he cut down a group of 10 Germans. Ignoring enemy fire from an advancing tank, he held his position and cut down 25 more enemy infantry attempting to turn his flank. Glancing to his right, he saw a large number of infantry swarming in from the front. Although dazed and shaken from enemy artillery fire which had crashed into the ground only a few yards away, he realized that his position soon would be outflanked. Again, alone, he carried his machinegun to a position to the right rear of the sector; enemy tanks and infantry were forcing a withdrawal. Blown over backward by the concussion of enemy fire, he immediately reset his

gun and continued his fire. Single-handed he held off the German horde until he was satisfied his company had effected its retirement. Again he loaded his gun on his back and in a hail of **small arms** fire he ran to a point where a few of his comrades were attempting to set up another defense against the onrushing enemy. He fired from this position until his **ammunition** was exhausted. Still carrying his gun, he fell back with his small group to Krinkelt. Sgt. López's gallantry and intrepidity, on seemingly suicidal missions in which he killed at least 100 of the enemy, were almost solely responsible for allowing Company K to avoid being enveloped, to withdraw successfully and to give other forces coming up in support time to build a line which repelled the enemy drive.

9.3 Post World War II

López received an enthusiastic reception when his ship landed in New York City and he was greeted by New York Mayor Fiorello La Guardia. On a visit to Mexico City, he was greeted by the president of Mexico, Manuel Ávila Camacho and awarded Mexico's highest military commendation, *la Condecoración del Mérito Militar*.

He later moved his family to San Antonio, where he was hired as a contact representative with the Veterans Administration. Upon the outbreak of the Korean War, López was accidentally ordered to serve for his country and without hesitation was prepared to do so, until President Harry S. Truman, heard of and corrected the matter so that López could remain in the United States.^[4]

José died one year after his wife; they were together for 62 years

9.4 Namesakes

The city of Mission, Texas, López' hometown, has recognized Sgt. López by naming a street and a city park — José M. López Park — in his honor.^[5]

The North East Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas, has recognized Sgt. López by naming a middle school in his honor, José M. López Middle School.

A statue of Sgt. López stands at Brownsville, Texas' Veterans Park.

9.5 Awards and recognitions

Among José M. López's decorations and medals were the following:

9.6 See also

- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

9.7 Notes

- [1] Oliver, Myrna (18 May 2005). "José M. López, 94; Battle of the Bulge Hero Killed 100+ German Soldiers". *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 30 April 2012.
- [2] Medal of Honor citation.
- [3] Jose M. Lopez interview
- [4] Jose M. Lopez interview/continued
- [5] "Sergeant José M. López, U.S. Army, 23rd Infantry, 2nd Infantry Division (1912-2005)". *Famous People*. City of Mission, Texas. Retrieved 2006-07-23.

9.8 References

- Ernie Garrido. "LaGuardia at the dock: When José M. López returned from Europe, he was a hero, the toast of N.Y. and then Mexico City. That's how it is for a Medal of Honor recipient". *Latinos & WWII*. University of Texas at Austin. Retrieved 2006-07-23.

9.9 External links

- "Hispanic Americans in the U.S. Army". Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- "Sgt. López Fought Off Entire Horde with Heavy Machinegun". *Featured Recipient of May–July 2006: José M. López*. Congressional Medal of Honor Society. July 10, 2006. Retrieved 2006-07-23.
- "José López, Medal of Honor in WWII (Obituary)". *Chicago Sun-Times*. May 17, 2005. Retrieved 2006-07-23.

Chapter 10

Jose F. Valdez

Private First Class **Jose F. Valdez** (January 3, 1925 - February 17, 1945) was a **United States Army** soldier who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** — the United States' highest military decoration — for his actions near Rosenkranz, France, in the Battle of the **Colmar Pocket** during World War II.

10.1 Early years

Valdez was a **Mexican-American** born and raised in **Gobernador, New Mexico** (today a ghost town). Though he never lived in **Utah**, he joined the United States Army upon the outbreak of World War II at a recruiting station in **Pleasant Grove, Utah** in June 1944 (thus officially listed as a Utah Congressional Medal of Honor recipient).^[1] After completing his basic training, he was assigned to the **3rd Infantry Division**.

10.2 World War II

The 3rd Infantry Division, which was under the command of Major General **John W. O'Daniel**, fought from North Africa through Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany during World War II. On January 23, 1945, the 3rd Infantry Division was attacking German forces in **Alsace** as part of the Allied offensive to collapse the Colmar Pocket.

On January 25, 1945, Valdez was on patrol with 5 of his fellow soldiers at a small railway station near Rosenkranz, France, (**48°07'49.22"N 07°21'22.32"E / 48.1303389°N 7.3562000°E**) when unexpectedly they confronted an enemy **counterattack**. An enemy tank was headed towards the patrol and Valdez, upon his own initiative, opened fire against the tank with his **automatic rifle**, action which made the tank withdraw. After Valdez killed 3 enemy soldiers in a firefight, the Germans ordered a full attack and sent in two companies of infantrymen.

Valdez offered to cover the members of his patrol when the platoon leader ordered a withdrawal. He fired upon the approaching enemy and his patrol members were able to reach American lines. Valdez was wounded and was able to drag himself back to American lines, however, he

died three weeks later from his wounds.

10.3 Medal of Honor citation

Jose F. Valdez

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company B, 7th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Rosenkrantz, France, January 25, 1945.

Entered service at: Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Born: Governador, New Mexico

G.O. No.: 16, February 8, 1946.

Citation:

He was on outpost duty with 5 others when the enemy counterattacked with overwhelming strength. From his position near some woods 500 yards beyond the American lines he observed a hostile tank about 75 yards away, and raked it with automatic rifle fire until it withdrew. Soon afterward he saw 3 Germans stealthily approaching through the woods. Scorning cover as the enemy soldiers opened up with heavy automatic weapons fire from a range of 30 yards, he engaged in a fire fight with the attackers until he had killed all 3. The enemy quickly launched an attack with 2 full companies of infantrymen, blasting the patrol with murderous concentrations of automatic and rifle fire and beginning an encircling movement which forced the patrol leader to order a withdrawal. Despite the terrible odds, Pfc. Valdez immediately volunteered to cover

the maneuver, and as the patrol 1 by 1 plunged through a hail of bullets toward the American lines, he fired burst after burst into the swarming enemy. Three of his companions were wounded in their dash for safety and he was struck by a bullet that entered his stomach and, passing through his body, emerged from his back. Overcoming agonizing pain, he regained control of himself and resumed his firing position, delivering a protective screen of bullets until all others of the patrol were safe. By field telephone he called for artillery and mortar fire on the Germans and corrected the range until he had shells falling within 50 yards of his position. For 15 minutes he refused to be dislodged by more than 200 of the enemy; then, seeing that the barrage had broken the counter attack, he dragged himself back to his own lines. He died later as a result of his wounds. Through his valiant, intrepid stand and at the cost of his own life, PFC Valdez made it possible for his comrades to escape, and was directly responsible for repulsing an attack by vastly superior enemy forces.^[2]

10.4 Awards and recognitions

10.4.1 Awards



Medal of Honor



Purple Heart



American Campaign Medal



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal



World War II Victory Medal



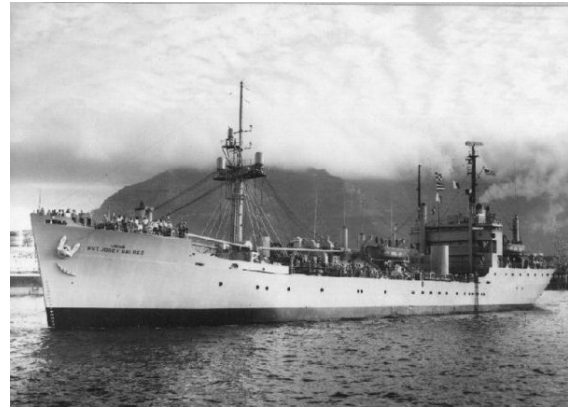
French Croix de guerre



French Croix de guerre Fourragère

10.4.2 Honors

- Valdez was buried with full military honors in the Santa Fe National Cemetery located in Santa Fe, New Mexico.^{[3][4]}
- **USNS *Private Jose F. Valdez* (T-AG-169)**, a technical research ship in operation during the 1960s.^[5]
- **Valdez Elementary School**, an elementary School dedicated in north Denver, Colorado.^[6]



USNS Private Jose F. Valdez

- **PFC Jose F. Valdez Memorial Highway**, a 106 mile stretch of U.S. Route 64, from Tierra Amarilla to Bloomfield, in San Juan County, New Mexico.^{[7][8]}
- **Jose F. Valdez U.S. Army Reserve Center**, located in Pleasant Grove, Utah, headquarters of the 405th Civil Affairs Battalion.
- A memorial to Valdez was dedicated in Gobernador, New Mexico, in 2002.^{[9][10]}
- A memorial at All Veterans Memorial Park in Berg Park, New Mexico, was dedicated in 2009 honoring three northwest New Mexico residents who received the Medal of Honor; Valdez, USMC LCpl. Kenneth Lee Worley, and Army SSG Franklin D. Miller.^[11]

10.5 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

10.6 References

- [1] NM Resident join Army in UT
- [2] Medal of Honor Citation
- [3] Santa Fe National Cemetery
- [4] Find a grave
- [5] USNS *Jose F. Valdez*
- [6] Valdez Elementary School
- [7] Final Agenda
- [8] New Mexico to honor 3rd ID WWII Medal of Honor Recipient

[9] Watch on the Rhine, August, 2002

[10] Valdez memorial

[11] Memorial 'Is a Legacy That Will Go on'

10.7 External links

- “Jose F. Valdez”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Article on Valdez Memorial Dedication”. Retrieved May 11, 2011.

Chapter 11

Cleto Rodríguez

Cleto L. Rodríguez (April 26, 1923 – December 7, 1990) was an American who served in both the U.S. Army, and in the U.S. Air Force, and received the Medal of Honor for actions in Manila, Philippines during World War II.

11.1 Early years

He was born and lived in San Marcos, Texas until his parents died when he was nine years old. After the death of his parents he was sent to live with relatives in San Antonio, Texas. As a boy he worked for the Gunter Hotel as a newsboy. He enlisted in the United States Army in early 1944 where he served as a Private in Company B, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division.

11.2 World War II

In Manila on February 9, 1945 Cleto's platoon was ordered to initiate an offensive assault against the Paco Railroad Station that was being held by the Japanese. While crossing an open field in front of the railroad station his platoon was stopped 100 yards from the railroad station by intense Japanese gunfire. Without being ordered to do so Cleto and a fellow soldier, Private First Class John N. Reese, Jr., left the platoon and continued forward under heavy Japanese gunfire until they made it to a house 60 yards from the railroad station. The two soldiers remained in their position for an hour while firing at targets of opportunity, killing 35 Japanese soldiers and wounding many others. After an hour the 2 soldiers moved forward towards the railroad station where they discovered a group of Japanese replacements attempting to reach pillboxes. Cleto and his fellow soldier opened heavy fire and killed more than 40 Japanese soldiers and stopped any other attempts to reach the pillboxes. The enemy fire increased as the two soldiers came within 20 yards of the railroad station. Cleto's comrade provided cover fire while he moved up to the railroad station where he threw 5 grenades through a doorway killing 7 Japanese soldiers and destroying a 20-mm gun and wrecking a heavy machine gun. With their ammunition running low the 2 sol-

diers made their way back to their platoon while each took turns providing cover fire for the other to move. During the return to their platoon PFC Reese was killed. During the 2½ hours of fighting the two soldiers killed more than 82 Japanese soldiers and completely disorganized the defense of the railroad station, which paved the way for U.S. soldiers overwhelming the railroad station in victory. Two days later Cleto again enabled his platoon to advance when he single-handedly killed 6 Japanese soldiers and destroyed a well placed 20-mm gun. As a result of these actions both Rodriguez and Reese were presented with the Medal of Honor for their determination to destroy the enemy, and courage in the face of tremendous odds. He died December 7, 1990 (aged 67).

11.3 Medal of Honor citation

Cleto Rodríguez

*Rank and organization:*U.S. Army, Company B, 148th Infantry, 37th Infantry Division

*Place and date:*Paco Railroad Station, Manila, Philippines, February 9, 1945

*Entered service at:*San Antonio, TX

*Born:*San Marcos, TX

G.O.

Citation:

He was an automatic rifleman when his unit attacked the strongly defended Paco Railroad Station during the battle for Manila, Philippines. While making a frontal assault

across an open field; his platoon was halted 100 yards from the station by intense enemy fire.

On his own initiative, he left the platoon, accompanied by a comrade, and continued forward to a house 60 yards from the objective. Although under constant enemy observation, the 2 men remained in this position for an hour; firing at targets of opportunity, killing more than 35 hostile soldiers and wounding many more.

Moving closer to the station and discovering a group of Japanese replacements attempting to reach pillboxes, they opened heavy fire, killed more than 40 and stopped all subsequent attempts to man the emplacements. Enemy fire became more intense as they advanced to within 20 yards of the station.

Then, covered by his companion, Pvt. Rodríguez boldly moved up to the building and threw 5 grenades through a doorway killing 7 Japanese, destroying a 20-mm. gun and wrecking a heavy machinegun. With their ammunition running low, the 2 men started to return to the American lines, alternately providing covering fire for each other's withdrawal.. In 2 1/2 hours of fierce fighting the intrepid team killed more than 82 Japanese, completely disorganized their defense, and paved the way for the subsequent overwhelming defeat of the enemy at this strongpoint.

Two days later, Pvt. Rodríguez again enabled his comrades to advance, when he single-handedly killed 6 Japanese and destroyed a well-placed 20-mm. gun by his outstanding skill with his weapons, gallant determination to destroy the enemy, and heroic courage in the face of tremendous odds. Pvt. Rodriguez, on 2 occasions, materially aided the advance of our troops in Manila.^[1]

11.4 Later years

He later served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952 to 1954 and again served in the U.S. Army from 1955 to 1970. He died on December 7, 1990 in San Antonio, Texas and is buried in **Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery**.

11.5 Namesake

He later married Ms. Flora Muniz and had four children: Cleto Jr., Betty, Mary and Joe; one of his grandchildren is also named Cleto Rodríguez and is a comedian and on-air personality for San Antonio's **WOAI-TV** TV station. In 1975, the elementary school that Rodríguez attended during the 1930s in San Antonio was renamed in his honor, becoming the only school in the San Antonio school district to be named in honor of a former alumnus.

An 8.5-mile segment of **U.S. Route 90** in San Antonio, from **Interstate 410** to **Interstate 35**, has been designated the Cleto Rodriguez Freeway in his honor.

A small arms firing range at Ohio National Guard Train-

ing Site, Camp Perry, Ohio has been named in honor of Pvt Rodriguez. Camp Perry is the home of the National Rifle and Pistol Championships.

11.6 Awards and recognitions

Among Cleto L. Rodríguez's decorations and medals were the following:

11.7 See also

- [List of Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II](#)
- [List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [Hispanic Americans in World War II](#)

11.8 References

[1] "Medal of Honor citation". Retrieved October 5, 2010.

- Cynthia E. Orozco (April 5, 2005). "RODRÍGUEZ, CLETO L.". *Handbook of Texas Online*. Retrieved 2006-12-16.
- "Rodriguez Elementary". San Antonio Independent School District. Retrieved 2006-12-16.

11.9 Further reading

Raul Morin (1963). *Among the Valiant: Mexican Americans in World War II and Korea*. Los Angeles: Border.

11.10 External links

- "Cleto Rodríguez". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. *Find a Grave*. Retrieved 2008-01-31.

Chapter 12

Manuel Pérez, Jr.

Private First Class **Manuel Pérez, Jr.** (March 3, 1923 – March 14, 1945) born in **Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**, was a United States Army soldier who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor**, the United States' highest military decoration, for his actions in **Battle of Luzon** during the **Philippines campaign of World War II**.

12.1 Early years

Pérez was a **Mexican-American** born in **Oklahoma City**. As a young boy, he moved to **Chicago, Ill** where he was raised by his father, **Manuel Pérez, Sr.**, and his paternal grandmother. There he received his primary and secondary education. He worked for **Best Foods, Inc.** before joining the United States Army upon the outbreak of **World War II**. After his basic training, the Army sent him to **paratrooper** school.

12.2 World War II

Japanese forces had invaded the **Philippine islands** and had under its control all of the **U.S. Military Installations** including **Fort William McKinley** which was located just south of **Manila** the capital. **Fort William McKinley** was where **USAFPE** (**United States Army Forces - Far East**) had its headquarters for the **Philippine Department** and the **Philippine Division**. The bulk of the **Philippine Division** was stationed here and this was where, under the **National Defense Act of 1935**, specialized artillery training was conducted.

In 1945, Pérez was sent to the **Philippines** and assigned to **Company A 511th Parachute Infantry, 11th Airborne Division** whose mission was to take **Fort William McKinley**. On **February 13**, as the **11th Airborne Division** approached the fort, it encountered a strong enemy fortified sector. The sector was composed of cement pillboxes armed with **.50-caliber dual-purpose machineguns** which defended the entrance to the fort.

Upon the realization that the **pillboxes** (**Blockhouses**) were withholding the advance of his division, Pérez took it upon himself to charge the fortifications and blast them

away with grenades. He killed 18 of the enemy before he was mortally wounded. Due to his actions his unit was able to advance successfully.^[1]

12.3 Medal of Honor citation

PEREZ, MANUEL, JR.

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company A 511th Parachute Infantry, 11th Airborne Division.

Place and date: Fort William McKinley, Luzon, Philippine Islands, February 13, 1945.

Entered service at: Chicago, Ill

Born: March 3, 1923 Oklahoma City, Okla.

G.O. No.: 124, December 27, 1945.

Citation:

He was lead scout for Company A, which had destroyed 11 of 12 pillboxes in a strongly fortified sector defending the approach to enemy-held Fort William McKinley on Luzon, Philippine Islands. In the reduction of these pillboxes, he killed 5 Japanese in the open and blasted others in pillboxes with grenades. Realizing the urgent need for taking the last emplacement, which contained 2 twin-mount .50-caliber dual-purpose machineguns, he took a circuitous route to within 20 yards of the position, killing 4 of the enemy in his advance. He threw a grenade into the pillbox, and, as the crew started withdrawing through a tunnel just to the rear of the emplacement, shot and killed 4 before exhausting his clip. He had

reloaded and killed 4 more when an escaping Japanese threw his rifle with fixed bayonet at him. In warding off this thrust, his own rifle was knocked to the ground. Seizing the Jap rifle, he continued firing, killing 2 more of the enemy. He rushed the remaining Japanese, killed 3 of them with the butt of the rifle and entered the pill-box, where he bayoneted the 1 surviving hostile soldier. Single-handedly, he killed 18 of the enemy in neutralizing the position that had held up the advance of his entire company. Through his courageous determination and heroic disregard of grave danger, Pfc. Perez made possible the successful advance of his unit toward a valuable objective and provided a lasting inspiration for his comrades.^[2]

12.4 Honors

Pérez was buried with full military honors at Fairlawn Cemetery which is located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The state government of Illinois honored the memory of Perez by naming a plaza located in Chicago's Little Village Square and a school after him. The Department of the Army the reserve center of the 221st Unit Army Hospital in Oklahoma City, the Manuel Perez Jr Reserve Center.^[3]

12.5 Date of death

His grave at Fairlawn Cemetery shows a date of death as March 14, 1945,^[4] a date found in the casualty list for the 511th PIR^[5] and division historian Lt. Gen. E.M. Flanagan.^[6]

12.6 Awards and recognitions

Among P.F.C. Manuel Pérez, Jr.' decorations and medals were the following:



Parachutist badge

12.7 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

12.8 Notes

- [1] Manuel Perez, Jr.
- [2] of Honor citation
- [3] National Government Oklahoma city
- [4] Interment.net Cemetery Records Online
- [5] 511th Parachute Infantry Casualties on the Philippine Islands of Leyte & Luzon during WWII
- [6] Flanagan, E.M. (1989). *The Angels: A History of the 11th Airborne Division*. Novato, CA: Presidio Press. p. 283. ISBN 0-89141-358-8.

12.9 External links

- “Chicago War Memorials”. Archived from the original on December 1, 2005. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- “Manuel Perez, Jr. Elementary School”. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- “Manuel Pérez, Jr.”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2008-01-25.

Chapter 13

Silvestre S. Herrera

Silvestre Santana Herrera (July 17, 1917 – November 26, 2007) was a Private First Class of the **United States Army** who received the **Medal of Honor** for his heroic actions in **Mertzwiller, France** during **World War II**.

After his one-man charge on an enemy stronghold resulted in the single-handed capture of eight enemy soldiers, his unit was attacked by a second across a minefield. Herrera again single-handedly took on the enemy, losing both his legs beneath the knees to mine explosions yet continuing to provide covering machine gun fire that allowed his comrades to overrun the enemy position in a flanking action clear of the minefield.^[2]

Born in Mexico of **Hispanic** heritage, Herrera was the only living person authorized to wear both the Medal of Honor and Mexico's **Order of Military Merit** (First Class) at the time of his death.^[3] A legend in the state of Arizona, he was honored by the city of Phoenix officially renaming the portion of 3rd Street that runs from Indian School Road North into the park, "S. Herrera Way".

13.1 Early years

"I am a Mexican-American and we have a tradition. We're supposed to be men, not sissies."

Silvestre S. Herrera ^[3]

Herrera was born in the **Mexican** city of **Camargo, Chihuahua**, and not, as he believed until he was twenty-seven, in **El Paso, Texas**. His parents died in an influenza epidemic^[4] when he was only a year old, and the man he had thought was his father was really an uncle who had brought the 18-month-old Herrera there to provide him with a better life in the **United States**.^[3] Herrera worked as a farm hand, marrying and raising a family in El Paso before moving to **Phoenix, Arizona** with his American wife Ramona and three children, Mary, Elva, Silvestre, Jr. and his uncle. When the United States entered World War II Herrera was drafted into the **Texas National Guard**, 36th Division. Expecting yet another child, Herrera felt it would be important for his parents to be there for him while he was gone and so went to break the news.^[3]

That is when the man Herrera had believed to be his fa-

ther gave him the stunning news of his Mexican birth, and said, "Son, you don't have to go, they can't draft you...you aren't an American citizen." Even in the face of these multiple shocks, and a perfect opportunity to dodge the war, Herrera was unswayed. As he later related, "I thought, I'm going anyway. I didn't want anybody to die in my place... I felt that I had my adopted country that had been so nice to me."^[4] I thought, I have an American wife and the kids and one on the way." It was only the first of several life-changing acts of heroism Herrera would take.^[3]

13.2 World War II

The **142d Infantry** landed in Italy in the Autumn of 1944 to stage for its deployment in France. Upon the completion of **Operation Dragoon** in mid-September Mediterranean French ports were liberated. The 142nd landed in Marseilles in the Fall, then deployed near the front in the **Alsace** region in early March of 1945.



President Truman decorates Silvestre S. Herrera at the White House, August 23, 1945

On March 15, kick-off day of **Operation Undertone**, an attack on German positions along a 75 km line from **Saarbrücken** to **Haguenau**, 1945 Herrera's unit found it-

self engaged in combat in a forest in the vicinity of the Bas-Rhin town of Mertzwiller, 5 miles northwest of Haguenau. His platoon came under heavy enemy machine gun fire from the woods, forcing most of the men to seek cover. Herrera charged the enemy stronghold single-handedly, firing his M1 rifle from his hip and ending the threat with a pair of grenades. Eight enemy soldiers threw down their weapons and surrendered.^{[3][4]}

Later that same day, his platoon was attacked and pinned down by a second enemy stronghold, protected by an extensive mine field. Ignoring the danger Herrera again single-handedly charged, seeking to draw fire away from his comrades. A mine exploded and shattered one leg below the knee. Staggering up on his good leg he stepped on a second, severing that leg below the knee. Still Herrera laid machine gun fire while kneeling, allowing members of his platoon to skirt the mine field and capture the enemy position.^{[3][4]}

As Herrera lay in the Army hospital recovering from his wounds, President Truman was not sure the young man would be well enough for a formal presentation of the Medal of Honor. However, on August 23, 1945, Silvestre rolled his wheelchair across the White House lawn so that the President could present him with his award.^[3]

“He told me he would rather be awarded the Medal of Honor than be president of the United States,” Herrera recalled in a 2005 interview. “That made me even more proud.”^[4]

13.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

Silvestre S. Herrera

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company E, 142d Infantry, 36th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Mertzwiller, France, March 15, 1945.

Entered service at: Phoenix, Arizona

G.O. No.: 75, September 5, 1945.

Citation:

He advanced with a platoon along a wooded road until stopped by heavy enemy machinegun fire. As the rest of the unit took cover, he made a 1-man frontal assault on a strongpoint and captured 8 enemy soldiers. When the platoon resumed its advance and was subjected to

fire from a second emplacement beyond an extensive minefield, Pvt. Herrera again moved forward, disregarding the danger of exploding mines, to attack the position. He stepped on a mine and had both feet severed but, despite intense pain and unchecked loss of blood, he pinned down the enemy with accurate rifle fire while a friendly squad captured the enemy gun by skirting the minefield and rushing in from the flank. The magnificent courage, extraordinary heroism, and willing self-sacrifice displayed by Pvt. Herrera resulted in the capture of 2 enemy strongpoints and the taking of 8 prisoners.^[2]

13.2.2 Portrait of Valor

From the book *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty*:

Silvestre Herrera was twenty-seven years old, married with three children, and working in his hometown of Phoenix, Arizona, when he was drafted into the Army in January 1944. Men with families were no longer exempt from the service—in basic training, he met another draftee who said he was the father of eight.

Private First Class Herrera’s company landed in Italy, by this time largely under Allied control, as part of the 142nd Infantry in the summer of 1944. That fall they landed in France at Marseille and took a troop train to the front. By the end of the year, as his unit reached France, it began to encounter resistance from the retreating Germans. When the fighting became heavy by the spring of 1945, Herrera had to concede a grudging respect for the enemy, regarding them as “muy machos.”

On March 15, Herrera’s platoon was advancing along a wooded road near the French town of Mertzwiller when it ran into two German machine-gun emplacements. Caught in a deadly crossfire between the two guns, the GIs dived for cover. Fearing that his comrades would be cut to pieces, Herrera stood up and ran toward the closest enemy position, firing his rifle from the hip. He tossed two grenades at the machine-gun nest; the concussion knocked the Germans down. Then he was on them, and all eight soldiers threw down their weapons and surrendered to him.

Herrera turned his prisoners over to men in his squad, then started crawling toward the other machine gun, firing as he went. (“My M-1 was talking, and the Germans understood what it was saying,” he commented later.) The position was protected by a minefield; GIs were

throwing rocks into the area in an effort to explode the mines. Herrera got up and charged the Germans anyway, but as he neared the machine-gun nest, he stepped on a mine. He was thrown to the ground, both of his feet blown off at the ankle. Though bleeding heavily, he lay on his stomach and fired at the Germans, forcing them to stay down and thus enabling his squad to skirt the minefield, flank the enemy, and move in for the kill.

Herrera remained conscious for the next few hours. At the aid station, he said to the examining doctor, “Just try to save my knees, Doc.” After two months in an Army field hospital, he was sent to the Army Amputation Center in Utah.

During a ninety-day furlough to Phoenix, he was notified that he was to receive the Medal of Honor and traveled to Washington with an uncle who was given time off from his job to help him make the trip. In time, Silvestre Herrera would be fitted with new prosthetic feet, but on August 23, 1945, at the White House, President Harry Truman bent over his wheelchair to present him with the Medal of Honor.^[5]

13.2.3 More honors

A year after Herrera received his White House presentation of the Medal of Honor from President Truman, the Government of Mexico presented him with its Order of Military Merit (First Class).^[4]

Herrera became the first resident from Arizona to receive the Medal of Honor during World War II. Arizona Governor Sidney P. Osborn declared August 14, 1945 to be “Herrera Day” and welcomed home Pfc. Silvestre S. Herrera with a hero’s parade.^[4] A drive to bestow upon him citizenship of the only country he knew was started and as a result he was granted United States Citizenship. The citizens of Arizona raised \$14,000 to provide him and his growing family with a new home.^[4]

13.3 Later years

Valle Del Sol, Inc. recognized Herrera with a Special Recognition Award in 1994, and with a Hall of Fame award in 1999. On March 13, 1996, Herrera was honored by the United States House of Representatives upon recommendation of Congressman Ed Pastor.^[6] An elementary school in Phoenix, Arizona — the Silvestre S Herrera School — bears his name.^[7]

On October 24, 1998, the United States Army Reserve Center in Mesa, which houses the 164th Corps Support Group and later, the 6253rd United States Army Hospi-

tal, was dedicated in honor of Silvestre S. Herrera. This dedication was thanks in large part to the efforts of neighbor and long time admirer of Herrera, Sergeant Major Douglas Mattson (retired).^[8]

Herrera died at his home in Glendale, Arizona, on November 26, 2007.^[4]

13.4 Awards and decorations

13.5 See also

- [List of Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II](#)
- [List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [Hispanic Americans in World War II](#)

13.6 Notes

- [1] Discharged in March 1946 at the rank of Sergeant. See [Medal of Honor.com profile](#).
- [2] [Medal of Honor citation](#)
- [3] [Home of Heroes Profile](#)
- [4] Obituary in the *Los Angeles Times*
- [5] Peter Collier, *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty*, Artisan, 2003
- [6] Pastor, Ed (March 13, 1996). “Honoring Silvestre S. Herrera — Hon. Ed Pastor; Extension of Remarks in the House of Representatives”. Library of Congress. Retrieved 2006-07-16.
- [7] “Silvestre S Herrera School”. Phoenix Elementary School District #1, Phoenix, Arizona. Retrieved 2006-07-16.
- [8] “164th CorpsSupport Group – History”. U.S. Army Reserve Command. Archived from the original on December 5, 2007. Retrieved 2006-07-16.

13.7 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- “HERRERA, SILVESTRE S., Medal of Honor citation”. *World War II Medal of Honor recipients (G–L)*. United States Army Center of Military History. Retrieved 2006-07-15.

- “Silvestre S. Herrera, Medal of Honor, World War II”. *Profiles*. HomeOfHeroes.com. Retrieved 2006-07-15.
- “Silvestre S. Herrera, Medal of Honor recipient”. *Hispanic American Medal of Honor recipients*. Hispanic America U.S.A. Retrieved 2006-07-15.

Chapter 14

Ysmael R. Villegas

Staff Sergeant **Ysmael R. Villegas** (March 21, 1924 in Casa Blanca, California – March 20, 1945 in Luzon, Philippines), was a United States Army soldier who posthumously received the Medal of Honor – the United States' highest military decoration for his actions during World War II. On March 20, 1945, at age 20, Staff Sergeant Ysmael R. Villegas was killed in action during the Battle of Luzon in the Philippines. Villegas single-handedly cleared five enemy foxholes that had his squad pinned down.

14.1 Early years

Villegas was a Mexican-American born and raised in Casa Blanca, the Hispanic section of Riverside, California. There he received his primary and secondary education and joined the United States Army in July 1944.^[1] After he finished his basic training, he was assigned to Company F, 127th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division which was assigned to the invasion of the Philippines.

14.2 World War II

On March 1, 1945, Villegas' company found itself engaged in combat against Japanese forces at Villa Verde Trail on Luzon Island in the Philippines, in what is known as the Battle of Luzon. His squad was attacked by an enemy machinegun nest. Villegas took it upon himself to save his squad by destroying the nest and its occupants. For his actions he was awarded the Silver Star medal.^[2]

On March 20, 1945, Villegas was ordered to lead his squad in an advance which would result in the taking of a hill. They confronted an enemy which was entrenched and who attacked them with heavy machinegun and rifle fire. He led his men towards the crest of the hill and then upon his own initiative attacked five enemy foxholes, killing all of its occupants. Villegas was mortally wounded when he attacked the sixth foxhole.

On October 19, 1945, President Harry S. Truman posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Villegas, present-

ing the medal to his surviving family.

14.3 Medal of Honor citation

Ysmael R. Villegas

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company F, 127th Infantry, 32d Infantry Division.

Place and date: Villa Verde Trail, Luzon, Philippine Islands, March 20, 1945.

Entered service at: Casa Blanca, California

Born: March 21, 1924 at Casa Blanca, California

G.O. No.: 89, October 19, 1945.

Citation:

He was a squad leader when his unit, in a forward position, clashed with an enemy strongly entrenched in connected caves and foxholes on commanding ground. He moved boldly from man to man, in the face of bursting grenades and demolition charges, through heavy machinegun and rifle fire, to bolster the spirit of his comrades. Inspired by his gallantry, his men pressed forward to the crest of the hill. Numerous enemy riflemen, refusing to flee, continued firing from their foxholes. S/Sgt. Villegas, with complete disregard for his own safety and the bullets which kicked up the dirt at his feet, charged an enemy position, and, firing at point-blank range killed the Japanese in a foxhole. He rushed a second foxhole while bullets missed him by inches, and killed 1 more

of the enemy. In rapid succession he charged a third, a fourth, a fifth foxhole, each time destroying the enemy within. The fire against him increased in intensity, but he pressed onward to attack a sixth position. As he neared his goal, he was hit and killed by enemy fire. Through his heroism and indomitable fighting spirit, S/Sgt. Villegas, at the cost of his life, inspired his men to a determined attack in which they swept the enemy from the field.^[3]

14.4 Honors

Villegas was the first **Riverside County** resident to ever receive the Medal of Honor and the first veteran to be buried at the **Riverside National Cemetery** when the cemetery opened in 1978.^{[4][5]} The **Veterans of Foreign Wars** (VFW) named Post #184 in Riverside the “Ysmael R. Villegas Memorial Casa Blanca Post” in his honor. A statue by sculpture Gary Coutrer, called Villegas Memorial, was dedicated on May 27, 1995, and is located on Main Street Civic Center Courtyard in Riverside. The Ysmael R. Villegas Middle School in Riverside is named in his honor.^[6]

14.5 Awards and decorations

Among Staff Sergeant Ysmael R. Villegas’ decorations and medals were the following:

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- David M. Gonzales, who was also a 32d Infantry Division Medal of Honor recipient.
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

14.7 Notes

[1]

[2] The 32nd Div. in WW II

[3] Medal of Honor citation

[4] Wall, Stephen (March 24, 2014). “Riverside: Medal of Honor recipient honored”. *The Press-Enterprise*.

[5] Following the war he was buried in Riverside’s Olivewood Cemetery. See: Riverside National Cemetery: “Veterans Day Marks Cemetery’s 35th Anniversary”. October 25, 2013

[6] Ysmael R. Villegas middle school

14.8 External links

- “Riverside National Cemetery”.
- “VFW CA Post 184 – Riverside”.
- Russ Dodge (Jun 3, 2000). “Ysmael R Villegas”. *World War II Medal of Honor Recipient*. Find a Grave. Retrieved Nov 3, 2011.

Chapter 15

Harold Gonsalves

Harold Gonsalves (January 28, 1926 – April 15, 1945) was a **United States Marine Corps** private first class who was killed in action during the **Battle of Okinawa** in **World War II**. He was awarded the nation's highest military award for valor, the **Medal of Honor**, posthumously, for his heroic action on April 15, 1945.

15.1 Early years

Gonsalves was born in **Alameda, California**, on January 28, 1926. He attended school at Alameda and after two and one half years of high school, quit to take a job as a stock clerk with **Montgomery Ward** in **Oakland**. In high school he had taken part in football, baseball, track, and swimming, and sang **tenor** in the school **glee club**.

15.2 World War II

U.S. Marine Corps

Gonsalves enlisted in the **Marine Corps Reserve** on May 27, 1943 and was called to active duty on June 17, 1943. He went through recruit training at the **Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego**, **California**, and then, at his own request, was sent to the **Marine Raiders** at **Camp Pendleton, California**. After three weeks, he was transferred to the **artillery** at the same camp. He was classified as a **cannoneer** on 75 and 105 millimeter guns before he joined the **30th Replacement Battalion** in the fall of 1943.

Overseas

Pfc. Gonsalves left the United States on November 8, 1943 and at the end of that month was assigned to the **2nd Pack Howitzer Battalion**, which was then in **Hawaii**. He was promoted to private first class in March 1944 and with his battalion became part of the **22nd Marine Regiment** two months later.

He participated in the assault, capture, and occupation of **Engebi** and **Parry Islands**, in the **Marshall Islands**. The **22nd Marines** was cited by Major General **Thomas E. Watson**, commanding general of **Tactical Group I**, for

their part in the **Marshalls' Campaign**. From **Eniwetok**, Gonsalves accompanied the **22nd Marines** to **Kwajalein**, to **Guadalcanal**, back to **Kwajalein** and **Eniwetok**, then up to **Guam** in July where he took part in the **liberation** of that pre-war American island.

After **Guam**, the **22nd Marines** returned to **Guadalcanal**. In November, he was detached from the regiment and joined **Battery L**, **4th Battalion**, **15th Marine Regiment**, **6th Marine Division**.

Okinawa

Pfc. Gonsalves landed with the **15th Marines** on **Okinawa** on April 1, 1945. On April 15, he was a member of an eight-man forward observer team which was engaged in directing artillery fire in support of an attack by the infantry on Japanese positions on **Motobu Peninsula**. When it finally became necessary for the team to advance to the actual front lines, the officer in charge took Gonsalves and one other man with him. Gonsalves was acting **Scout Sergeant** of the team. He and the other Marine were to lay telephone lines for communication with the artillery battalion. As the team advanced to the front, they were brought under heavy enemy rifle, grenade and mortar fire. Just as the three had reached the front lines, a Japanese **grenade** landed among them. It was less than a foot from the three. Without a moment's hesitation, Gonsalves flung himself on the grenade, taking the full explosion. The other two Marines were not even touched by grenade fragments and successfully completed their mission.

15.3 Post-World War II

Medal of Honor

The **Medal of Honor**, with citation signed by President **Harry S. Truman**, was presented on June 19, 1946 to Pfc. Gonsalves' sister in the presence of his parents at ceremonies in the office of the commanding general of the Department of the Pacific, Major General **Henry Louis Larsen**, **USMC** in **San Francisco, California**.

Burial

Pfc. Gonsalves' remains were returned to the United States for reinternment after the war. He was buried with full military honors in **Golden Gate National Cemetery** in **San Bruno, California**, on March 20, 1949.

15.4 Namesake

In 1958, the Northern Training Area, a US Marine Corps training base located in 20,000 acres (80 km²) of single and double canopy jungle on the northern end of Okinawa, was named after Pfc. Gonsalves in 1986. Its name was later changed in 1998 to the Marine Corps Jungle Warfare Training Center.

15.5 Medal of Honor citation



Gonsalves' headstone

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HAROLD GONSALVES
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Acting Scout Sergeant of a Forward Observer Team, serving with Battery L, Fourth

Battalion, Fifteenth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces in Okinawa Shima in the **Ryūkyū Chain**, 15 April 1945. Undaunted by the powerfully organized opposition encountered on Motobu Peninsula during a fierce assault waged by a Marine infantry battalion against a Japanese strong-hold, Private First Class Gonsalves repeatedly braved the terrific hostile bombardment to aid his Forward Observation Team in directing well-placed **artillery** fire and, when his commanding officer determined to move into the front lines in order to register a more effective bombardment in the enemy's defensive position, unhesitatingly advanced uphill with the officer and another Marine despite a slashing barrage of enemy **mortar** and rifle fire. As they reached the front, a Japanese **grenade** fell close within the group. Instantly Private First Class Gonsalves dived on the deadly missile, absorbing the exploding charge in his own body and thereby protecting the others from serious and perhaps fatal wounds. Stouthearted and indomitable, Private First Class Gonsalves readily yielded his own chances of survival that his fellow Marines might carry on the relentless battle against the fanatic Japanese and his cool decision, prompt action and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon himself and the **United States Naval Service**. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

/S/ HARRY S. TRUMAN

15.6 Military decoration & awards

- Medal of Honor
- Purple Heart Medal
- Combat Action Ribbon
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Navy Unit Commendation with gold 5/16 inch star
- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with bronze service star
- World War II Victory Medal

15.7 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

15.8 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Marine Corps.

- ""Private First Class Harold Gonsalves, USMCR", *Who's Who in Marine Corps History*, History Division, United States Marine Corps.". Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- "Medal of Honor citation". Archived from the original on July 14, 2007. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 16

David M. Gonzales

Private First Class **David M. Gonzales** (June 9, 1923 – April 25, 1945) was a **United States Army** soldier who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** — the United States' highest military decoration — for his actions during **World War II**. On April 25, 1945, at age 21, PFC Gonzales was **killed in action** in the **Philippines** while, in the face of enemy machine gun fire, digging out fellow soldiers who had been buried in a bomb explosion.

16.1 Early years

David Gonzales was a semi-skilled machine shop worker in **Los Angeles** when he joined the U.S. Army at the **San Pedro, California** in March 1944.^[1]

16.2 World War II

On April 25, 1945, Gonzales' company found itself engaged in combat against Japanese forces at Villa Verde Trail on **Luzon** island in the **Philippines**. The **Army Air Corps** was using a tactic called “skip bombing” and were fusing the bombs for delayed action detonation to destroy the labyrinth of Japanese caves and tunnels in the northern Luzon campaign. This fusing allowed the bomb to bury itself deeply into the ground prior to detonation. This event trapped five American soldiers in their standing foxholes.^[2]

On December 8, 1945, President **Harry S. Truman**, posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Gonzales, presenting the medal to his surviving family. On February 2, 1949, Gonzales' body arrived in a funeral train to **San Fernando, California** where he was buried.^[3]

16.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

Pvt. David M. Gonzales

Rank and organization: *Private First Class,
U.S. Army, Company A, 127th Infantry, 32d
Infantry Division.*

Place and date: *Villa Verde Trail, Luzon,
Philippine Islands, April 25, 1945.*



Entered service at: *Pacoima, California*

Birth: *Pacoima, California*

G.O. No: *115, December 8, 1945.*

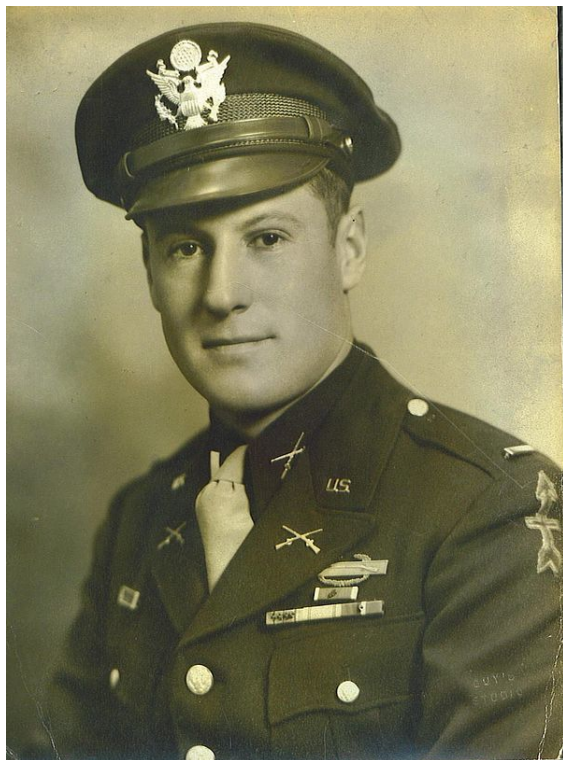
Citation:

He was pinned down with his company. As enemy fire swept the area, making any

movement extremely hazardous, a 500-pound bomb smashed into the company's perimeter, burying 5 men with its explosion. Pfc.

Gonzales, without hesitation, seized an entrenching tool and under a hail of fire crawled 15 yards to his entombed comrades, where his commanding officer, who had also rushed forward, was beginning to dig the men out. Nearing his goal, he saw the officer struck and instantly killed by machinegun fire. Undismayed, he set to work swiftly and surely with his hands and the entrenching tool while enemy sniper and machinegun bullets struck all about him. He succeeded in digging one of the men out of the pile of rock and sand. To dig faster he stood up regardless of the greater danger from so exposing himself. He extricated a second man, and then another. As he completed the liberation of the third, he was hit and mortally wounded, but the comrades for whom he so gallantly gave his life were safely evacuated. Pfc. Gonzales' valiant and intrepid conduct exemplifies the highest tradition of the military service.^[4]

16.3 After the war



Lt. William W. Kouts

In 1999, David Gonzales, Jr. and his wife Bea attended a ceremony for war heroes in Santa Ana, California. There they discovered that the picture the Army was

sending out to military ceremonies was not of his father, but of someone else. Gonzales Jr. wrote to the Army in Washington, D.C. to tell them of their mistake, but did not receive a response. He then wrote to Congressman Howard Berman, who in turn referred the letter to his aide Fred Flores. Flores, who was also from Pacoima, California, immediately called Pentagon officials and had them correct the mistake. However, Flores found out that the family had only been presented with a Medal of Honor and a duplicate Purple Heart — the original one was stolen — and he realized that Gonzales had earned many other medals.^[5] During a November 7, 2002 ceremony at Los Angeles Mission College, Congressman Berman presented David Gonzales, Jr. the following medals earned by his father: the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the World War II Honorable Service Lapel Button, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Expert Rifle Badge. Finally he presented the Gold Star Lapel Button, which identifies the next of kin of members of the military who lost their lives while engaged in action.^[5]

The photo of a soldier who was not Gonzales, but identified as that of the medal winner, had been erroneously displayed in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. The photo was removed and replaced with a correct one of Gonzales after the renovations of the Pentagon — made necessary by the 9/11 attack — were completed on March 31, 2003.^[6]

16.4 In memory

In honor of David M. Gonzales, Pacoima Park in Los Angeles County, California was renamed David M. Gonzales/Pacoima Recreational Center. The local Army recruiting station there also carries his name, as does a county Probation Department camp in Malibu.^[5]

In November 2015 the interchange between the 5 and 118 freeways in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley was renamed the David M. Gonzales Memorial Interchange.

16.5 Awards and recognitions

Among Pvt. David M. Gonzales' decorations and medals were the following:

16.6 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

- Ysmael R. Villegas, who was also a 32d Infantry Division Medal of Honor recipient.
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

16.7 Notes

- [1] WWII Army Enlistment Records
- [2] Castro, Tony (May 25, 2007). "Hero's son finally to meet vet his dad rescued in war". *Los Angeles Daily News*.
- [3] "Funeral of Pfc. David M. Gonzales". *Los Angeles Times*. February 3, 1949. Retrieved 2006-11-23.
- [4] "David M. Gonzales Medal of Honor citation". Home-ofHeroes.com. Retrieved 2006-11-23.
- [5] Dennis McCarthy (November 7, 2002). "Medal of Honor Winner's Son Finally Gets dad's Due". *Daily News*. Retrieved 2006-11-23.
- [6] "Family of Hometown Hero Presented with War Medals". Los Angeles Mission College. November 7, 2002. Retrieved 2006-11-23.

16.8 External links

- "The 32nd Infantry Division in World War II, "The Red Arrow"". Retrieved September 27, 2010.
- "The 32nd "Red Arrow" Veteran Association Medal of Honor recipients from the 32nd "Red Arrow" Infantry Division". Retrieved September 27, 2010.

Chapter 17

Alejandro R. Ruiz

For the footballer, see [Alejandro Ruiz \(footballer\)](#).

Sergeant **Alejandro Renteria Ruiz** ^[1] (June 26, 1923 – November 20, 2009) was a [United States Army](#) soldier who received the [Medal of Honor](#), the United States' highest military decoration, for his actions in the [Battle of Okinawa](#) in the [Ryukyu Islands](#) during [World War II](#).

17.1 Early years

Ruiz was born and raised in [Loving, New Mexico](#) and enlisted in the [United States Army](#) in the town of [Carlsbad, New Mexico](#) upon the outbreak of [World War II](#). He was assigned to the [U.S. 27th Infantry Division](#) after completing basic training.

17.2 World War II

During [World War II](#), the conquest of the Japanese island of [Okinawa](#) was considered vital for the [Allied forces](#) as a step towards an invasion of the [Japanese mainland](#). The invasion (codenamed *Operation Iceberg*) was the largest amphibious operation of the Pacific war, and involved units of the [U.S. Tenth Army](#), commanded by Lieutenant General [Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr.](#) These consisted of [III Amphibious Corps](#) (1st and 6th [Marine Divisions](#), with 2nd [Marine Division](#) as an afloat reserve), and [XXIV Corps](#) (7th, 77th, 96th and 27th [Infantry Divisions](#)).

On April 28, 1945, PFC Ruiz's unit was pinned down by machine gun fire coming from a camouflaged Japanese pillbox and was unable to advance to its assigned objective. Ruiz, on his own initiative, charged the pillbox under a hail of machine gun fire. On his second attempt, he was able to neutralize the pillbox by killing all of its occupants. For his actions he was awarded the [Medal of Honor](#).^[2] On June 26, 1946, President [Harry S. Truman](#) presented Ruiz with the [Medal of Honor](#) in a ceremony held at the [White House](#).

17.3 Medal of Honor citation

ALEJANDRO R. RUIZ

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, 165th Infantry, 27th Infantry Division

Place and date: Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, April 28, 1945

Entered service at: Carlsbad, New Mexico

Born: June 26, 1923, Loving, New Mexico

G.O. No. 60, June 26, 1946.

Citation:

When his unit was stopped by a skillfully camouflaged enemy pillbox, he displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty. His squad, suddenly brought under a hail of machinegun fire and a vicious grenade attack, was pinned down. Jumping to his feet, Pfc. Ruiz seized an automatic rifle and lunged through the flying grenades and rifle and automatic fire for the top of the emplacement. When an enemy soldier charged him, his rifle jammed. Undaunted, Pfc. Ruiz whirled on his assailant and clubbed him down. Then he ran back through bullets and grenades, seized more ammunition and another automatic rifle, and again made for the pillbox. Enemy fire now was concentrated on him, but he charged on, miraculously reaching the position, and in plain view he climbed to the top. Leaping from one opening to another, he sent burst after burst into the pillbox, killing 12 of the enemy and

completely destroying the position. Pfc. Ruiz's heroic conduct, in the face of overwhelming odds, saved the lives of many comrades and eliminated an obstacle that long would have checked his unit's advance.^[3]

- Alejandro R. Ruiz at *Find a Grave*

17.4 Honors

Ruiz resided in Visalia, California and actively participated in activities honoring Medal of Honor recipients. Ruiz died on November 20, 2009,^[4] of congestive heart failure.^[5] The town of Visalia has honored Ruiz by naming the "Alejandro R. Ruiz Sr. Park"^[6] after him, located at North Burke Street and Buena Vista Street.

17.5 Awards and recognitions

Among PFC Alejandro R. Ruiz' decorations and medals were the following:

17.6 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanic Americans in World War II

17.7 References

- [1] Hall of Valor
- [2] "27th Infantry Division". Archived from the original on May 31, 2008. Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [3] "Medal of Honor citation". Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [4] "Home of Heroes-Recent losses". Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [5] Shapiro, T. Rees (December 12, 2009). "Alejandro R. Ruiz Sr. dies at 85; WWII vet received the Medal of Honor". *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved June 9, 2012.
- [6] "Visalia Times-Delta". Archived from the original on September 27, 2007. Retrieved October 5, 2010.

17.8 External links

- "Valley Force". Retrieved September 24, 2010.
- "Dedication events bring together Medal of Honor citation recipients". Retrieved September 24, 2010.

Chapter 18

Rudolph B. Davila

Rudolph B. Davila (April 27, 1916 – January 26, 2002), born in El Paso, Texas, was a United States Army officer, of Spanish-Filipino descent,^{[1][2]} who received the Medal of Honor for his actions in Italy during World War II. He was the only person of Filipino ancestry to receive the medal for his heroic actions in the European theatre.^[3] He was initially awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. However, in 1998, after an extensive review, his medal was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.^[4]

18.1 Early years

Davila was born to a Spanish father and a Filipino mother in El Paso, Texas. His family moved to Watts, California when he was a child. There he was raised and received his primary and secondary education.^[1] Davila enlisted in the Army from Los Angeles in March 1941.^[5]

18.2 World War II

Davila was a United States Army Staff Sergeant assigned to Company H of the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. On May 28, 1944, his company was involved in an offensive, near Ardena, Italy, which broke through the German mountain strongholds surrounding the Anzio beachhead. His company was under a heavy enemy attack and for an unknown reason his machine gunners were reluctant to risk putting their guns into action. Realizing that his company was in danger, Davila crawled 50 yards to the nearest machine gun and fired over 750 rounds into the enemy strongholds in the foothills.

His fellow machine gunners reacted and Davila directed their firepower with hand and arm signals until the two enemy hostile machine guns were silenced. Despite being wounded by the enemy, he continued his assault by engaging the enemy from the turret of a burnt tank.

Davila then spotted what he believed to be a rifle barrel in a farmhouse window. He grabbed a rifle and two grenades and went inside the farmhouse. He tossed the grenades at the attic and shot at the troops inside, destroying two more enemy machine gun nests. The enemy was forced

to abandon their prepared positions.

Davila received a battlefield commission to Lieutenant and even though a Captain in the rifle company said he would recommend Davila for the Medal of Honor,^[6] the highest honor for battlefield valor, Davila was instead awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest military honor.

Davila continued to serve with his company after he recovered from his leg wound. A few months after the Ardena attack, Davila found himself in France's Vosges Mountains. He received a chest wound from a shell which ricocheted off a tree as he was ordering his men to storm a German tank. The tank shell caused injuries that left his right arm paralyzed.

18.3 Back home

Davila was treated for his wounds at a hospital in Modesto, California. There he met a nurse by the name of Harriet and three months later they were married.^[1] He continued his education and earned a bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Southern California, and became a high school history teacher in Los Angeles.^[6] He moved to Vista in 1977 with his wife after he retired from teaching.^[7]

His wife, Harriet Davila, lobbied Army officials to award the Medal of Honor to her husband based on the actions he performed during the Allied offensive in Italy, after she became aware of her husband's heroic actions. For years, she petitioned the government for her husband's medal — making phone calls, writing letters and researching military records to prove her husband deserved the Medal of Honor. No reply ever came.^[8]

18.4 DSC upgraded to Medal of Honor

In 1996, Hawaii Senator Daniel Akaka secured a Congressionally mandated review of records for Asian-Americans who had earned the Distinguished Service

Cross in World War II.^[1] Congress reviewed the records to determine whether they were unfairly denied the military's highest award for valor.

On June 21, 2000, President **Bill Clinton**, bestowed the Medal of Honor on Davila and 21 other World War II servicemen of Asian descent at a **White House** ceremony. Only seven of 22 recipients were still alive when the medals were handed out. Previously only two of the 40,000-plus Asian-Americans who served in World War II had been awarded the Medal of Honor.^[9]

Army Secretary **Louis Caldera** inducted the soldiers into the **Pentagon's Hall of Heroes** on June 22. Harriet Davila, his wife, had died six months before, on December 25, 1999.^[6]

18.5 Medal of Honor citation

Davila, Rudolph B.

Rank and organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army,
Company H, 7th Infantry.

Place and date: Artena, Italy, May 28, 1944

Entered service at: Los Angeles, Calif.

Born: April 27, 1916, El Paso, TX

Citation:

Staff Sergeant Rudolph B. Davila distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action, on 28 May 1944, near Artena, Italy. During the offensive which broke through the German mountain strongholds surrounding the Anzio beachhead, Staff Sergeant Davila risked death to provide heavy weapons support for a beleaguered rifle company. Caught on an exposed hillside by heavy, grazing fire from a well-entrenched German force, his machine gunners were reluctant to risk putting their guns into action. Crawling fifty yards to the nearest machine gun, Staff Sergeant Davila set it up alone and opened fire on the enemy. In order to observe the effect of his fire, Sergeant Davila fired from the kneeling position, ignoring the enemy fire that struck the tripod and passed between his legs. Ordering a gunner to take over, he crawled forward to a vantage point and directed the firefight with hand and arm signals until both hostile machine guns were silenced. Bringing his three remaining

machine guns into action, he drove the enemy to a reserve position two hundred yards to the rear. When he received a painful wound in the leg, he dashed to a burned tank and, despite the crash of bullets on the hull, engaged a second enemy force from the tank's turret. Dismounting, he advanced 130 yards in short rushes, crawled 20 yards and charged into an enemy-held house to eliminate the defending force of five with a hand grenade and rifle fire. Climbing to the attic, he straddled a large shell hole in the wall and opened fire on the enemy. Although the walls of the house were crumbling, he continued to fire until he had destroyed two more machine guns. His intrepid actions brought desperately needed heavy weapons support to a hard-pressed rifle company and silenced four machine gunners, which forced the enemy to abandon their prepared positions. Staff Sergeant Davila's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.^[10]

18.6 Later years

Subsequently, Davila was honored by the city of Vista. He served as the guest speaker at the **Veterans of Foreign Wars' Memorial Day** ceremony in 2001.

Davila died of **cancer** on January 26, 2002, in Vista, California.^[1] He was buried with full military honors at **Arlington National Cemetery**. At the time of his death Davila was survived by his three sons, Roland, Jeffrey and Gregg and two daughters Jill and Tana, and nine grandchildren.^[11]

18.7 Awards and recognitions

Among Davila's decorations and medals were the following:

- **Medal of Honor**
- **Distinguished Service Cross**
- **Purple Heart**
- **American Campaign Medal**
- **European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal**
- **World War II Victory Medal**

Badges:

- [Combat Infantryman Badge](#)

Foreign unit decorations



- [Fourragère cord](#)

[9] Williams, Rudi (June 28, 2000). "22 Asian Americans Inducted into Hall of Heroes". American Forces Press Service.

[10] "Davila, Medal of Honor citation". Home of Heroes.

[11] "Davila". Arlington National Cemetery website.

18.10 External links

- "Rudolph B. Davila, Second Lieutenant, United States Army, Arlington National Cemetery profile". Retrieved October 5, 2010.

18.8 See also

- [List of Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II](#)
- [Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Filipino Americans](#)
- [Hispanic Americans in World War II](#)

18.9 References

- [1] RICHARD GOLDSTEIN (11 February 2002). "Rudolph Davila, 85, Recipient of Highest Award for Valor". *New York Times*. Retrieved 8 December 2009.
- [2] Office of the Press Secretary (3 December 2010). "President William J. Clinton's Comments Honoring Asian American Medal of Honor Recipients". *U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY*. United States Army. Retrieved 18 May 2011. That is why we are proud to honor here today the service of 2nd Lieutenant Rudolph B. Davila, an American of Filipino and Spanish descent, who risked his life to help break through the German lines near Anzio
- [3] [Somos Primos](#)
- [4] [Hispanic Recipients of the Medal of Honor](#)
- [5] "Rudolph B. Davila, Second Lieutenant". Arlington National Cemetery.
- [6] Stout, David (14 May 2000). "21 Asian-Americans Receive Medal of Honor". *New York Times*. Retrieved 8 December 2009.
- [7] Dwight Daniels (22 June 2000). "Belated recognition Asian-Americans get top honor -- Vista man waited 56 years". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 8 December 2009.
- [8] News releases.Arlington National Cemetery website.

Chapter 19

Pedro Cano

Pedro Cano (June 19, 1920 – June 24, 1952) is a World War II veteran who received the **Medal of Honor** for his actions in combat near Schevenhütte, Germany in December 1944.

Cano was born in La Morita, **Nuevo Leon, Mexico**. He moved to the United States into the small community of **Edinburg, Texas** when he was 2 months old. There he served as a farm laborer until he volunteered to serve in the Army during **World War II**. As a private, he was deployed to the European theater to serve with the 4th Infantry Division where he engaged in battles both in France and in Germany. He exhibited extraordinary courage and valor in battle and later sustained injuries that left him permanently disabled. He returned to South Texas to join his wife and children and resumed his work as a farm laborer.^[1]

Private Cano received two **Silver Star** medals, a **Purple Heart**, and a **Distinguished Service Cross**.^[2] On March 18, 2014 the Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the **Medal of Honor**.^[3]

After repeated requests during war time to become a U.S. citizen and being ignored by his commanding officer due to other pressing matters, Cano finally achieved his longest-lasting ambition, to become an American citizen, in May 1946. He died six years later on June 24, 1952 at the age of 32 in a tragic automobile accident. He left a wife and three children.

19.1 Early life

Pedro Cano was the child of Secundino Cano and Nicolasa Gonzalez Cano. He was born in La Morita, Nuevo Leon, Mexico on July 7, 1920.^[1] His family moved to the Rio Grande Valley when he was 2 months old. He grew up and worked as a farm laborer in Hidalgo County prior to joining the army.^[2] Very little is known about Cano's early life. However, it is known that he had a wife, Herminia Garza Cano, two daughters, Dominga and Maria, and a son, Susano.^[1]



19.2 Service record

When he joined the army during World War II, Mr. Cano, a slight man with limited knowledge of English, had little wish to leave his family. He reported for duty nevertheless and subsequently deployed to the European theater. In the fall of 1944 he was with the 4th Infantry Division when that force, after helping to liberate Paris, launched an attack on the Siegfried Line.^[4]

In the course of that push against German defense, Private Cano fought in the months-long battle of Hurtgen Forest, and it was during that struggle that he etched his name in the annals of military valor. He was advancing with his company near Schevenhutte, Germany, in December 1944 when the unit came under withering fire from German machine guns. With his comrades pinned down, Private Cano worked his way forward alone, through a hail of fire and over more than 100 yards of heavily mined terrain until he was within 30 feet (9.1 m) of the nearest German emplacement. Firing one round with his hand-held rocket launcher, he destroyed the position and killed its two gunners and five supporting riflemen. He then moved on toward a second emplacement, which he attacked with his rifle and hand grenades, killing several more soldiers. With another American company nearby similarly immobilized, Private Cano crept to within 15 yards of a third emplacement, killed its two gunners with a rocket, and then destroyed yet another emplacement and killed its gunners, enabling that company to also advance.^[4]



American troops march down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Paris, in the 'Victory' Parade

The next day, the Americans once more encountered heavy German resistance, and Private Cano again moved forward alone with his bazooka. Crossing open, fire-swept ground, he succeeded in suppressing three more machine-gun positions and killing their gunners, bringing to nearly 30 the number of German soldiers he killed during that two-day period.^[4]

Sometime later, while on patrol, Private Cano and his platoon were surprised by German soldiers, who inflicted heavy casualties. Private Cano lay motionless on the ground until the assailants closed in, then tossed a grenade into their midst, wounding or killing all of them. It was in this engagement, or shortly thereafter, that Pedro Cano sustained injuries that left him permanently disabled. He was returned to the States and placed in a Veterans hospital in Waco, Texas. After which, he returned home to his wife and daughter in Edinburg.^[4]

19.3 Military awards and honors

Cano unceremoniously received the Distinguished Service Cross in the mail, which he put away in a closet after showing to some of his friends. They recognized the significance of the medal and wrote to the Army that it was not ceremoniously pinned on his chest per custom. American Legion posts in his community immediately began drafting messages to the Army's Eighth Service Command requesting a military ceremony for Cano. At first, Cano was opposed to having a ceremony.^[4]

Allan Engleman, publisher of the Edinburg Review, wired Senators and Representatives to tell them of Cano's story.^[4]

It is customary for the President of the United States to present the Medal of Honor, which is the honor one step above the Distinguished Service Medal. His community believed that his award deserved a formal military ceremony. They requested that the War Department pro-

vide the ceremony with the award being presented by a General.^[4]



Pedro Cano is pinned with Distinguished Service Cross medal by General Jonathan Wainwright

General Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright IV, Admiral Joseph J. Clark, as well as General J. Trinidad Rodriguez and Colonel J. Tiburcio Garza Zamorra of the Mexican Army were present at the Pedro Cano Day ceremony on April 26, 1946. Also present were valley military heroes William G. Harrell, Luis N. Gonzalez, and Jose M. Lopez. The community held a parade. Schools dismissed students for the day. Approximately 4,000 people were in attendance. General Wainwright did mention during the ceremony that Pedro Cano deserved a higher award, the Medal of Honor.^[2]

On that day, Wainwright, and other dignitaries rode with Cano in the parade from the Missouri Pacific Railroad station, on the East side of town, towards the Hidalgo county courthouse where the Fourth Army commander presented the Distinguished Service Cross. In the parade besides the Army and Navy officers were veterans groups, high school bands from Edinburg and McAllen high schools and the Corpus Christi Naval base band, and Edinburg High School pep clubs.^[5]

It is believed that Cano did not get the Medal of Honor because he was not an American citizen. Texas State Senator Rogers Kelley, learned of Cano's desire to become an American citizen. The Senator began making arrangements for Cano's speedy naturalization. In addition, Cano was given 40 acres (160,000 m²) of land and some accompanying farm equipment, and he returned to the farming life he'd left behind when he went to war.^[4]

The city of Edinburg, Texas named Cano Street after the war hero.

Texas State Representative Aaron Peña sponsored H.R. 1427 to honor the Edinburg, Texas hero during the 81st Legislative Session.

19.4 Desire For Citizenship

Being that Pedro Cano was born in La Morita, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and then moved to Edinburg, Texas when he was two months old, his longest-lasting ambition was to become a United States citizen. Citizenship was, of course, no barrier to his serving his homeland, but he wanted to make it official. So it was that during the European campaign, Cano expressed his desire to become an American citizen to his commanding officer on several occasions, but he was rebuffed time and again because he was “in combat.”^[2]

Thanks to the recognition Cano received upon returning home from Europe, State Senator Rogers Kelley got wind of Cano’s lifelong ambition, and began the naturalization process. In May 1946 at the U.S. Federal District Court in Brownsville, Texas, Cano officially gained American citizenship, signing his naturalization documents in front of deputy district clerk Frances Hines.^[6] Unfortunately, his greatest desire satisfied, he only had six more years to live.^[2]

19.5 Death and funeral



Cano’s grave site

Those six years after returning from war were difficult for Pedro Cano. He suffered from what was at the time described as being “shell-shocked.” Today, a better description would be showing symptoms of **posttraumatic stress disorder**. He was noted to be quiet and moody by a family member. He seemed nervous and took on heavy drinking. He had trouble sleeping and had anxiety attacks.^[7]

On June 24, 1952 at age 32, Pedro Cano died when the truck he was driving back to his home in Edinburg collided with an oncoming vehicle in Pharr, Texas. His children, Dominga, Maria, and Susano, were 9, 5, and 2 years old respectively.^[8] Cano’s wife, Herminia died on Sunday October 30, 1975 at age 55. Susano never married and had no children. Dominga has four sons: Marcos, Salvador Jr, Roberto, and Armando; and two daughters:

Esperanza and Rosalinda. Maria has four sons: Pedro, Joaquin Jr, Andres, and David.^[9]

The funeral service was held at the Sacred Heart Church in Edinburg Texas by Rev. Fr. Jerry Meagher. A squad of honor, assigned to that duty by Lieut. R. W. Byrd of Harlingen Air Field Base, guarded the body as it lay in state at the family home. A military truck of Co. I, 112th Armored Cavalry, transported the remains to Sacred Heart Catholic church for the services, and to the cemetery after Rev. Fr. Jerry Meagher had completed the service.^[10]

A detachment of Co. I, 112th Armored Cavalry of the Texas National Guard, provided an escort of honor and pallbearers included friends and former comrades—Joe Avila, S. M. Cardenas, Leonard Stewart, J. J. Poinboeuf, Louis Kroupa, Tom Simmons, Charles Flores and Ralph Hinojosa.^[10]

19.6 Subsequent honors

Since that time a public elementary school (Cano-Gonzalez Elementary) in the city of Edinburg was named after him. Also the parade route (Kruttschnitt Street) upon which the celebration progressed on April 26, 1946 has been changed to Cano Street in his honor.

On April 21, 2009 the Texas House of Representatives passed House Resolution 1427 recognizing the life and sacrifice of Pedro Cano. In addition to this recognition, the Texas House of Representatives adjourned on that day in honor of Private Pedro Cano. The Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives presented the Speaker’s gavel for presentation to the City of Edinburg in memory of the brave Private from South Texas.

On April 25, 2009 the City of Edinburg, in conjunction with the Office of Texas State Representative Aaron Peña, holds a Pedro Cano Day celebration reaffirming the life and sacrifice of Pedro Cano.

The Texas House of Representatives is further considering House Concurrent Resolution 5 to award the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor. This award is the highest award given by the State of Texas to a soldier who has distinguished himself in the service to his country.

On April 29, 2009, the Texas House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 5.

On May 15, 2009, the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor Committee - composed of the Texas Adjutant General (General Jose Mayorga), the Texas Lieutenant Governor (David Dewhurst), the Speaker of the Texas House (Joe Straus), the chair of Veterans Affairs and Military Installations (Sen. Leticia Van De Putte), and the chair of Defense & Veterans Affairs (Chairman Frank Corte) - convened. After review, General Jose Mayorga made the motion for the nomination of Pedro Cano to be the Leg-

islative Medal of Honor recipient for the 81st Legislative Session.

Now President Barack Obama is awarding Pvt. Pedro Cano the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving with Company C, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Schevenhutte, Germany on December 3, 1944. ^[11]

19.7 The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor Ceremony

The City of Edinburg, Texas hosted a second ceremony for Pedro Cano 64 years later on May 18, 2010 at the municipal auditorium. Texas Governor Rick Perry personally presented the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to the surviving family of Pedro Cano.



Gov. Rick Perry presents the Legislative Medal of Honor to the Cano family.

About 30 family members travelled to Edinburg from California to participate in the award ceremony. Amongst the family in attendance were Cano's sister, Alvina Cano Martinez, and his two daughters, Dominga Cano and Maria Cano.

The event began with the presentation of colors by the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office Color Guard, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by the Cano-Gonzalez Elementary School student council president. Edinburg Mayor, Richard Garcia, officially welcomed the Cano family and visiting dignitaries to the ceremony. The Mayor's welcome was followed by speeches from other elected officials, State Representatives Veronica Gonzales and Aaron Peña, and State Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa. Governor Perry spoke to the Edinburg citizens in attendance before presenting the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to the Cano family. After the presentation, Stephen Cano spoke a few words of appreciation on behalf of the Cano family.

19.8 References

- [1] Texas House of Representatives Resolution 1427 (passed April 21, 2009).
- [2] Valley Town Crier, North McAllen-Edinburg; September 7, 2005: Vol 41 No. 36, Page 1
- [3] "Private Pedro Cano". Army.mil. Retrieved March 19, 2014.
- [4] Edinburg Valley Review Page 1, Friday March 29, 1946, "Local Ceremony to Honor Edinburg Winner of DSC"
- [5] Edinburg Valley Review Page 1 Wednesday Morning April 24, 1946 "Study in Contrast: Hero Returns"
- [6] The Brownsville Herald Sunday May 19, 1946 "Hero Now US Citizen"
- [7] Valley Town Crier, North McAllen-Edinburg; September 7, 2005: Section I, Page 2
- [8] The Pharr Press Friday June 27, 1952 "War Hero, Pedro Cano, Killed In Car Accident"
- [9] Edinburg Daily Review, Page 1, Tuesday November 1, 1975, "Rosary For Mrs. Cano To Be Held"
- [10] Hidalgo County News Thursday July 3, 1952 "Pedro Cano Buried With Military Honors"
- [11] http://www.history.army.mil/news/2014/140221a_moh.html

Chapter 20

Joe Gandara

Joe Gandara (April 25, 1924 – June 9, 1944) was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[1]

Gandara was awarded the Medal of Honor by President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 ceremony in the **White House**. The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[2]



Gandara's niece Miriam Adams accepts the Medal of Honor on his behalf during a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014.

20.1 Biography

Gandara joined the Army from **Los Angeles** in February 1943.^[3]

According to Gandara's U.S. Army's biography:^[1]

Gandara was born in Santa Monica, Calif., April 25, 1924.

Gandara was bestowed the Medal of Honor to recognize his heroic actions on June 9, 1944, in Amfreville, France. His detachment came under devastating enemy fire from a strong German force, pinning the men to the ground for a period of four hours. Gandara advanced voluntarily and alone toward the enemy position and destroyed three hostile machine-guns before he was fatally wounded.

Gandara received the Medal of Honor, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star and Bronze Arrowhead Device, Presidential Unit Citation, French Fourragere, Combat Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge-Basic with one Bronze Service Star.

[2] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

[3] WWII Army Enlistment Records

20.2 References

[1] me "Private Joe Gandara" Check url= value (help). Army.mil. Retrieved March 19, 2014.

Chapter 21

Salvador J. Lara

Salvador J. Lara (1920 – September 1, 1945) was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[1]

21.1 Background

Members of Lara's family received the Medal of Honor flag from Secretary of Defense **Chuck Hagel** in a March 19, 2014, ceremony when Lara was inducted into the **Pentagon Hall of Heroes**. They received the actual medal from President **Barack Obama** at the **White House** on March 18, 2014.^[2]

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[3]

Lara was born in **Riverside, California**,^[4] and died on September 1, 1945, shortly after World War II ended, while serving with the 602d Ordnance Armament Maintenance Battalion in Europe.^[5] He is buried at the **Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial** in **Saint-Avold, Moselle, France**.^[6]

21.2 Medal of Honor action

According to Lara's U.S. Army biography:^[1] Then-Pfc. Salvador Lara was bestowed the Medal of Honor to recognize his valorous actions in Aprilia, Italy, May 27–28, 1944. During the fight, May 27, he aggressively led his rifle squad in neutralizing multiple enemy strong points and inflicting large numbers of casualties on the enemy. The next morning, as his company resumed the attack, Lara sustained a severe leg wound, but did not stop to receive first aid. Lara continued his exemplary performance until he captured his objective.

21.3 See also

- **List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II**



Lara's brother Alfonzo accepted the Medal of Honor on behalf of his late brother during a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014.

21.4 References

- [1] "Staff Sergeant Salvador J. Lara Medal of Honor Biography".
- [2] Hood, David (March 20, 2014). "Two Days of Honor End on a Strong Note". *The Press-Enterprise* (Riverside, California). p. A2.
- [3] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.
- [4] Santschi, Darrell R. (February 23, 2014). "Riverside men to get top honor: Jesus S. Duran and Salvador J. Lara will be awarded the Medal of Honor". *The Press-Enterprise*.
- [5] World War II SSgt. Salvador Lara Receives Posthumous Medal of Honor Nearly 70 Years Later
- [6] Salvador J. Lara at *Find a Grave*

Chapter 22

Manuel V. Mendoza

Manuel Verdugo Mendoza^[1] (June 15, 1922 – December 12, 2001^[2]) is a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[3]

Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Italian Cross for Merit of War Unit Citation.^[3]

22.1 Background

Mendoza joined the Army from **Phoenix, Arizona** in November 1942^[4] and served in World War II, during which his actions in Italy earned him the Medal of Honor. He later served in the **Korean War**, and left the Army in 1953.^[5]

22.2 Medal of Honor action

According to Mendoza's U.S. Army biography,^[3] Mendoza received the Medal of Honor to recognize his actions on Oct. 4, 1944, in Mt. Battaglia, Italy, where he is credited with single-handedly breaking up a German counterattack.

Mendoza was awarded the Medal of Honor by President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 ceremony in the **White House**. The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[6]

22.3 Honors and awards

Mendoza received the Medal of Honor, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with five Bronze Service Stars, Presidential Unit Citation with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge (Second Award), Honorable Service Lapel Button-World War II, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea Korean War Service



Mendoza's wife Alice accepted the Medal of Honor on his behalf during a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014.

22.4 References

- [1] Hall of Valor
- [2] "Manuel Verdugo "Arizona Kid" Mendoza (1922-2001)". Retrieved June 13, 2016.
- [3] "Master Sergeant Manuel V. Mendoza". Army.mil. Retrieved March 19, 2014.
- [4] WWII Army Enlistment Records
- [5] Service profile
- [6] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

Chapter 23

Baldomero López

Baldomero López (August 23, 1925 – September 15, 1950) was a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor for smothering a hand grenade with his own body during the Inchon Landing on September 15, 1950.

23.1 Biography

López was born on August 23, 1925, in Tampa, Florida, and grew up in the neighborhood of Ybor City.^{[1][2]} His father, also named Baldomero López, had immigrated to the United States from the Asturias region of Spain as a young man.^[3] The younger Lopez attended Hillsborough High School, where he was an accomplished basketball player and a regimental commander in the school's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.^{[1][2]} He enlisted in the United States Navy on July 8, 1943, shortly after graduating from high school, and served until June 11 of the next year.^[1]

He was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in the midst of World War II, and because of the ongoing war he and his classmates were placed in an accelerated three-year program.^[2] Upon graduating on June 6, 1947, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He attended The Basic School at Quantico, Virginia, after which he became a platoon commander in the Platoon Leaders Class Training Regiment.^[1]

In 1948, López went to China, where he served as a mortar section commander and later as a rifle platoon commander at Tsingtao and Shanghai. On his return from China he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, California. He was serving there when, shortly after the outbreak of the Korean war, he volunteered for duty as an infantry officer in Korea. He was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant on June 16, 1950.^[1]

23.1.1 Korean War – Medal of Honor action

In Korea, López served as Platoon Commander of A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Divi-

sion (Reinforced). On September 15, 1950, he took part in the amphibious invasion of Inchon.^[4] After landing on the beach, he was captured in an iconic photograph leading his men over a seawall by Marguerite Higgins.^[2] Moments later, while preparing to throw a hand grenade into a North Korean bunker, he was struck by automatic weapon fire in the chest and right shoulder, causing him to drop the activated device. Although wounded, he crawled toward the grenade and, unable to throw it because of his injuries, pulled it under his body to shield others from the blast.^[4] He was killed in the resulting explosion and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Secretary of the Navy Dan A. Kimball presented the medal to Lopez's parents during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on August 30, 1951.^[1]

News of his death spread quickly among fellow Marines on the battlefronts. A Scripps-Howard war correspondent, Jerry Thorp, said in a news story on López's deed that he "died with the courage that makes men great."^[1]

López was buried at the Centro Asturiano Memorial Park Cemetery in Tampa.^[5]

23.2 Decorations

In addition to the Medal of Honor, López's decorations include the Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star, World War II Victory Medal, China Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars and the United Nations Service Medal.^[1]

23.3 Medal of Honor citation

Lopez's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Marine platoon commander



Lieutenant López leading his men over the seawall at Inchon several minutes before his death.

of Company A, in action against enemy aggressor forces. With his platoon 1st Lt. Lopez was engaged in the reduction of immediate enemy beach defenses after landing with the assault waves. Exposing himself to hostile fire, he moved forward alongside a bunker and prepared to throw a hand grenade into the next pillbox whose fire was pinning down that sector of the beach. Taken under fire by an enemy automatic weapon and hit in the right shoulder and chest as he lifted his arm to throw, he fell backward and dropped the deadly missile. After a moment, he turned and dragged his body forward in an effort to retrieve the grenade and throw it. In critical condition from pain and loss of blood, and unable to grasp the hand grenade firmly enough to hurl it, he chose to sacrifice himself rather than endanger the lives of his men and, with a sweeping motion of his wounded right arm, cradled the grenade under him and absorbed the full impact of the explosion. His exceptional courage, fortitude, and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon 1st Lt. Lopez and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.^[4]

23.4 Legacy and honors

Several structures have been named in López's honor, including a state nursing home and a school in Seffner, Florida.^[2] A Korean War memorial at the Ed Radice

Sports Complex in Tampa was opened on November 11, 2007, and dedicated to Lopez. The memorial features a rock from the beach at Incheon.^[6] A public swimming pool across from Macfarlane Park in West Tampa is named for him. The U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command named a container ship after him, the USNS *1st Lt. Balmoro Lopez* (T-AK-3010).^[7] In Bancroft Hall, the U.S. Naval Academy dormitory, a room is dedicated to him (Room No. 3021), with a display including his photo and a bronze plaque of his Medal of Honor citation. There is also the Balmoro Lopez State Veteran' nursing home in Land O'Lakes FL at 6919 Parkway Blvd.

López's Medal of Honor remains in the possession of his extended family.^[2]

23.5 See also

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps
- Hispanics in the United States Naval Academy

23.6 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- [1] "First Lieutenant Balmoro Lopez, USMC (Deceased)". *Who's Who in Marine Corps History*. United States Marine Corps History Division. Retrieved 2009-09-23.
- [2] Steele, Kathy (September 9, 2009). "Memorial, display to honor war hero". *South Tampa News & Tribune* (Tampa, Florida). Retrieved 2009-09-23.
- [3] United States Marine Corps History Division (2007). "U.S. Marines in the Korean War". Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office. p. 111. Retrieved June 23, 2010.
- [4] "Medal of Honor recipients – Korean War". United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved 2009-09-23.
- [5] "Centro Asturiano Memorial Park Cemetery". *Hillsborough County, Florida Cemeteries*. Retrieved March 10, 2010.
- [6] Norris, Jimmy (August 15, 2007). "Mailing a rock: \$1,200. Honoring veterans: priceless". *Stars and Stripes*. Retrieved 2009-09-23.
- [7] "USNS 1ST LT Balmoro Lopez (T-AK 3010)". Military Sealift Command. October 24, 2006. Retrieved 2009-09-23.

23.7 External links

- "www.HomeofHeroes.com". Retrieved September 24, 2010.
- "USNS *1st LT. Baldomero Lopez*". Navsource.org. Retrieved September 24, 2010.

Chapter 24

Eugene A. Obregon

Eugene Arnold Obregon (November 12, 1930 – September 26, 1950) was a **United States Marine** who was posthumously awarded the **United States'** highest military decoration for valor — the **Medal of Honor** — for sacrificing his life to save that of a wounded comrade during the **Second Battle of Seoul**. On September 26, 1950, Private First Class Obregon was fatally wounded by enemy **machine gun** fire while using his body to shield a wounded fellow Marine.

24.1 Biography

Eugene Arnold Obregon, who was of Mexican American descent, was born on November 12, 1930 in **Los Angeles, California**. He attended elementary school and **Theodore Roosevelt High School** in **Los Angeles** before enlisting in the **United States Marine Corps** on June 7, 1948, at the age of 17.

Following **recruit training** at **Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego**, **California**, he was assigned to the **Marine Corps Supply Depot** in **Barstow, California**, where he served as a **fireman** until the outbreak of the **Korean War**. He was transferred to the **1st Marine Provisional Brigade** and served as a **machine gun ammunition carrier**. His unit departed the **United States** on July 14, 1950 and arrived at **Pusan, Korea** on August 3, 1950.

He was in action by August 8, 1950, along the **Naktong River**, and participated in the **Inchon landing**. Then, on September 26, 1950, during the **assault on the city of Seoul** he was killed in action while using his body to shield a wounded fellow Marine. For this action, he was posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor**.

The **Medal of Honor** was presented to PFC Obregon's parents by **Secretary of the Navy Daniel A. Kimball** on August 30, 1951.

The wounded comrade was PFC Bert M. Johnson, 19, of **Grand Prairie, Texas**. He was hospitalized, recovered, and returned to duty in the **United States** at **Camp Lejeune**, **North Carolina**.

24.2 Decorations

In addition to the **Medal of Honor**, PFC Obregon also was posthumously awarded the **Purple Heart**, **Presidential Unit Citation**, **Korean Service Medal** with three bronze stars and the **United Nations Service Medal**.

24.3 Medal of Honor citation

The **President of the United States** takes pride in presenting the **MEDAL OF HONOR** posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EUGENE A. OBREGON **UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company G, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces at **Seoul, Korea**, on September 26, 1950. While serving as an **ammunition carrier** of a **machine gun** squad in a **Marine Rifle Company** which was temporarily pinned down by hostile fire, Private First Class Obregon observed a fellow Marine fall wounded in the line of fire. Armed only with a pistol, he unhesitatingly dashed from his covered position to the side of the casualty. Firing his pistol with one hand as he ran, he grasped his comrade by the arm with his other hand and, despite the great peril to himself, dragged him to the side of the road. Still under enemy fire, he was bandaging the man's wounds when hostile troops of approximately platoon strength began advancing toward his position. Quickly seizing the wounded Marine's **carbine**, he placed his own body as a shield in front of him and lay there

firing accurately and effectively into the hostile group until he himself was fatally wounded by enemy machine-gun fire. By his courageous fighting spirit, fortitude and loyal devotion to duty, Private First Class Obregon enabled his fellow Marines to rescue the wounded man and aided essentially in repelling the attack, thereby sustaining the highest traditions of the **United States Naval Service**. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

/S/ HARRY S. TRUMAN

24.4 Foundation

The Eugene A. Obregon Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation is working to erect a monument in downtown Los Angeles honoring Obregon, 40 Latino Medal of Honor recipients, and all Medal of Honor recipients. The group's goal is to see the monument dedicated on May 22, 2016.

24.5 Namesakes and honors

A US Navy ship, a school, a Marine Corps barracks, an American Legion post, and three parks have been named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient Eugene Obregon.

- The **Maritime Prepositioning ship USNS Pfc. Eugene A. Obregon (T-AK 3006)** entered into service in January 1985.^{[1][2]}
- In 1966, the new Eugene A. Obregon Elementary School in **Pico Rivera, California**, was named for Eugene A. Obregon.^[3]
- Obregon Park, just outside the main gate of the **Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Yermo Annex**, in Barstow, California, is named in honor of Obregon.^[4]
- The **East Los Angeles Interchange** was named the Eugene A. Obregon Memorial Interchange, to honor Eugene A. Obregon.^{[5][6][7]}
- A monument in Pershing Square, in **Downtown Los Angeles** is dedicated in honor of Obregon.^{[8][9][10]}
- Obregon Road, on Marine Corps Air Station Miramar has been named for Obregon.
- On Flag Day 2001, Eugene Obregon Park in Pico Rivera, California was dedicated in his memory, in June.^[11]
- The Eugene A. Obregon Park, in East Los Angeles, is the first Los Angeles County reclaimed water and sustainable landscaping designed regional park, and it honors Eugene A. Obregon.^{[12][13]}

24.6 See also

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

24.7 References

Inline

- [1] MSC Ship Inventory: SS PFC Eugene A. Obregon (T-AK 3006), United States Navy. Retrieved on 2006-06-29
- [2] SS PFC Eugene A. Obregon (T-AK 3006), NavySite.de. Retrieved on 2006-06-29
- [3] <http://www.education.com/schoolfinder/us/california/district/el-rancho-unified-school-district/> . accessed 7/27/2010
- [4] Hurt, LCpl Andy J. Park Dedicated to Hispanic Medal of Honor recipient First Class Eugene A. Obregon, Marine Corps Times, October 9, 2003. Retrieved on 2006-06-29
- [5] http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0101-0150/scr_109_bill_20080416_introduced.html SCR 109 Senate Concurrent Resolution . accessed 7/27/2010
- [6] http://dist22.casen.govoffice.com/index.asp?Type=B_PR&SEC=%7B913470AD-5BA2-4465-B4DA-8752413DD5B0%7D&DE=%7BC225E4D5-7043-430F-AFE1-0A45C171006E%7D Senator Gilbert Cedillo -- SCR 109 Medal of Honor Eugene Obregon Memorial Interchange . accessed 7/27/2010
- [7] <http://egpnews.com/?p=18426> Freeway Sign Points to War Veteran's Courage . accessed 7/27/2010
- [8] LATimes article from above.
- [9] Eugene A. Obregon Congressional Medal of Honor Monument, LULAC Resolution, June 29, 2002. Retrieved on 2006-06-29
- [10] Obregon-CMH Foundation. Retrieved on 2006-06-29
- [11] <http://www.ci.pico-rivera.ca.us/news/jul/July2001.pdf> . accessed 7/27/2010
- [12] http://www.lacountyparks.org/Parkinfo.asp?URL=cms1_033232.asp&Title=Eugene%20A.%20Obregon%20Park Los Angeles County Parks and Rec. Eugene A. Obregon Park . accessed 7/27/2010
- [13] http://www.intersectionssouthla.org/index.php/blog/story/los_angeles_county_sees_first_green_park/ The South Los Angeles Report . accessed 7/27/2010

General This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Marine Corps.

- “Private First Class Eugene A. Obregon, USMC, *Who’s Who in Marine Corps History*, History Division, United States Marine Corps. Retrieved on 2006-06-29”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “PFC Eugene A. Obregon, Medal of Honor, 1950, 3/5/1, Korea, Medal of Honor citation. Retrieved on 2006-06-29”. Archived from the original on July 11, 2007. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 25

Mike C. Pena

Mike Castaneda Pena (November 6, 1924 – September 5, 1950)^[1] was U.S. Army veteran of World War II and The Korean War, and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[2]

which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[3]

25.1 Biographical details

Pena was born in Corpus Christi, Texas on November 6, 1924, joining the U. S. Army as an infantryman in 1941 when he was 16 years old.^[2] He served in both World War II and the Korean War.^[2]

25.2 Medal of Honor

The bestowal of the Medal recognized Pena's actions on the evening of Sept. 4, 1950, near Waegwan, Korea, when his unit was fiercely attacked.^[2] During the course of the counter-attack, Pena realized that their ammunition was running out, and ordered his unit to retreat.^[2] Pena then manned a machine-gun to cover their withdrawal and single-handedly held back the enemy until morning when his position was overrun and he was killed.^[2]

Pena received the Medal of Honor posthumously in 2014.



Pena's son Michael David Pena accepted the Medal of Honor for his father, from President Obama in a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014.

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act

25.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to:

MIKE C. PENA
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Master Sergeant Mike C. Pena distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a member of Company F, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Waegwan, Korea, on September 4, 1950.

That evening, under cover of darkness and a dreary mist, an enemy battalion moved to within a few yards of Master Sergeant Pena's platoon. Recognizing the enemy's approach, Master Sergeant Pena and his men opened fire, but the enemy's sudden emergence and accurate, point blank fire forced the friendly troops to withdraw. Master Sergeant Pena rapidly reorganized his men and led them in a counterattack which succeeded in regaining the positions they had just lost. He and his men quickly established a defensive perimeter and laid down devastating fire, but enemy troops continued to hurl themselves at the defenses in overwhelming numbers. Realizing that their scarce supply of ammunition would soon make their positions untenable, Master Sergeant Pena ordered his men to fall back and manned a machinegun



to cover their withdrawal. He singlehandedly held back the enemy until the early hours of the following morning when his position was overrun and he was killed.

Master Sergeant Pena's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.^[2]

25.3 Honors and awards

In addition to receiving the Medal of Honor, Pena received:^[2]

- Bronze Star Medal

- Purple Heart with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- Army Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Clasp and two Loops
- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four Bronze Service Stars
- Bronze Arrowhead Device
- World War II Victory Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp
- National Defense Service Medal
- Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd Award)
- Honorable Service Lapel Button- World War II
- Philippine Liberation Ribbon
- Philippine Independence Ribbon
- United Nations Service Medal
- Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal
- Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
- Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
- Gold Bravery Medal of Greece Unit Citation

25.4 References

- [1] [Find a Grave](#)
- [2] "Master Sergeant Mike C. Pena". U.S. Army. Retrieved March 19, 2014.
- [3] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

25.5 See also

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients

Chapter 26

Joseph C. Rodríguez

Colonel **Joseph Charles Rodríguez** (November 14, 1928 – November 1, 2005), born in **San Bernardino, California**, was a **United States Army** soldier who received the **Medal of Honor** - the United States' highest military decoration for his actions near Munye-ri, Korea during the **Korean War**.

26.1 Biography

26.1.1 Early years

Rodríguez, a **Mexican-American**, was raised in the town of San Bernardino where he also received his primary and secondary education. In October 1950, Rodríguez was drafted into the **United States Army** and ordered to report for induction in his hometown.

He received his basic training at **Camp Carson** in **Colorado**. There he was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion of the 196th Regimental Combat Team. Private Rodríguez completed his basic training in February 1951 and volunteered for duty in Korea. He was promoted to **Private First Class** and sent overseas and assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment of the **7th Infantry Division**.

26.1.2 Korean War

In June 1950, General **Douglas MacArthur** decided on an amphibious invasion of **North Korea's** west coast, entrusting the **1st Marine Division** and the 7th Infantry Division for the mission. The division landed in **Pusan** and continued to drive toward the southeast to seize key terrain, and also to cut off possible enemy escape routes. On November 27, the terrain gained by the division came under heavy attack from the **Chinese Communist Forces (CCF)** that had intervened in the war. The enemy attack caught the 7th scattered out, with some elements as far as 250 miles apart.

On May 21, 1951, Company F was assigned the mission of occupying some high ground near the Korean village of Munye-ri. The high ground was firmly entrenched with Communist Forces, that were unwilling to give up the

ground. Three times Company F attacked the ridge and three times they were thrown back.^[1]

PFC Joseph C. Rodríguez was the assistant squad leader of the 2d Platoon. His squad's advance was halted by enemy hostile fire coming from 5 different emplacements. Rodríguez then took the mission upon himself of destroying these emplacements. He charged the emplacements and hurled **grenades** into each of the foxholes. Rodríguez destroyed the emplacements and annihilated 15 enemy soldiers. As a result, the enemy was routed and the strategic strongpoint secured. PFC. Rodríguez was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant** and nominated for the Medal of Honor.

On February 5, 1952, President **Harry S. Truman** bestowed upon Sgt. Rodríguez the Medal of Honor in a ceremony held in the **Rose Garden** in the **White House**.

26.1.3 Later years

After the Korean War, Rodríguez decided to make the military his career. He was assigned to the administrative staff at the ORC headquarters in San Bernardino.

On April 24, 1952, Rodríguez and his fiancée Miss Rose Aranda were the invited guests on "You Bet Your Life," a 1950s **television** gameshow hosted by **Groucho Marx**. The following is part of the conversation between Rodríguez and Marx in the show:

Groucho: If you don't win any money here tonight it won't be my fault, son! Well, Joe, that's the most amazing thing I ever heard. There's just one thing I'd like to know – when you were running through all that lead, what were you thinking about?

Joe: Well, I wasn't thinking – I was just mad, I guess.

Groucho: You wiped out a whole army just because you got mad? Joe...if I said anything here tonight that you resent, I was just being facetious.

Groucho: What are your plans for the future, Joe?

Joe: I hope to make a career in the Army.

Groucho: Well, I'm sure glad you're on our side. Rose, take good care of this fella. My advice is, don't ever make him mad – he's liable to wipe out Los Angeles! Well, you're a fine couple, and I'm sure you're going to have many happy, handsome, bright, and brave children.^[2]

In 1953, Rodríguez married Rose and together they had three children. He subsequently became a commissioned officer in the **US Army Corps of Engineers**, serving more than 30 years in the U.S., through four **Latin American** assignments, and unaccompanied tours in Korea and **Vietnam**. In 1980, Rodríguez retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel.

Rodríguez was residing with his wife, Rose, in El Paso, Texas, at the time of his retirement. He spent the next ten years as Facilities Director at the **University of Texas**. He dedicated much of his time of his last fifteen years to national speech engagements addressing young people and soldiers, encouraging them to pursue their education.^[3]

Colonel Joseph C. Rodríguez died on November 1, 2005, in El Paso and was buried with full military honors at Mountain View Cemetery in San Bernardino, California. Rodríguez is survived by his wife Rose; his sons, Lt. Gen. Charles G. Rodríguez and Lawrence R. Rodríguez; daughter, Karen Sharp; 11 grandchildren; 10 sisters and 2 brothers.

26.2 Medal of Honor citation

JOSEPH C. RODRÍGUEZ

Rank and organization: Sergeant (then Pfc.), U.S. Army, Company F, **17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division**.

Place and date: Near Munye-ri, Korea, May 21, 1951.

Entered service at: California

Born: November 14, 1928, San Bernardino, Calif.

G.O. No.: 22, February 5, 1952.

Citation:^{[4][5]}

Sgt. Rodríguez, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations. Sgt. Rodríguez, an assistant squad leader of the 2d Platoon, was participating in an attack against a fanatical hostile force occupying well-fortified positions on rugged commanding terrain, when his squad's advance was halted within approximately 60 yards by a withering barrage of automatic weapons and small-arms fire from 5 emplacements directly to the front and right and left flanks, together with grenades which the enemy rolled down the hill toward the advancing troops. Fully aware of the odds against him, Sgt. Rodríguez leaped to his feet, dashed 60 yards up the fire-swept slope, and, after lobbing grenades into the first foxhole with deadly accuracy, ran around the left flank, silenced an automatic weapon with 2 grenades and continued his whirlwind assault to the top of the peak, wiping out 2 more foxholes and then, reaching the right flank, he tossed grenades into the remaining emplacement, destroying the gun and annihilating its crew. Sgt. Rodríguez' intrepid actions exacted a toll of 15 enemy dead and, as a result of his incredible display of valor, the defense of the opposition was broken, and the enemy routed, and the strategic strongpoint secured. His unflinching courage under fire and inspirational devotion to duty reflect highest credit on himself and uphold the honored traditions of the military service.

26.3 Awards and recognitions

Among Joseph C. Rodríguez's decorations and medals were the following:

Badges:



Combat Infantryman Badge

26.4 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

26.5 Notes

- [1] History of the 7th Infantry Division
- [2] Joe Hero
- [3] Joseph Charles Rodriguez
- [4] ""JOSEPH C. RODRIGUEZ" entry". *Medal of Honor recipients: Korean War*. United States Army Center of Military History. June 8, 2009. Retrieved 2007-01-01.
- [5] Medal of Honor citation

26.6 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- "Joseph C. Rodríguez". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2007-12-28.
- ""JOSEPH C. RODRIGUEZ" entry". *Medal of Honor recipients: Korean War*. United States Army Center of Military History. June 8, 2009. Retrieved 2007-01-01.
- "In Memory of Most Recently deceased MoH recipients". Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- "Medal of Honor recipient Stays Humble". Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- "Medal of Honor recipients". Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 27

Rodolfo P. Hernández

For other people named Rudy Hernandez, see [Rudy Hernandez \(disambiguation\)](#).

Rodolfo Pérez “Rudy” Hernández (April 14, 1931 – December 21, 2013) was an American combat soldier who received the **Medal of Honor** — America’s highest military decoration — for his actions on May 31, 1951, during the **Korean War**. Despite his wounds, Hernández took actions during an enemy counterattack near Wonton-ni that allowed his platoon to retake their defensive position.

27.1 Biography

27.1.1 Early years

Hernández, a **Mexican-American**, was one of eight children born to a farmworker. At a young age his family moved from **Colton** where Hernandez was born, to **Fowler, California**, where he received his primary education. In 1948, when he was 17 years old, he joined the **United States Army** with his parents’ consent.

After completing his basic training, Hernández volunteered for **paratrooper** school. Upon the completion of his paratrooper training he was sent to **Germany**, where he was stationed until the outbreak of the **Korean War**.^[1]

27.1.2 Korean War

On August 27, 1950, the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment was reorganized and redesignated as the **187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team**. The unit was quickly sent to Korea. The 187th Airborne performed operations into **Munsan-ni Valley**, and fought bloody battles at **Inje** and **Wonton-ni**.

Hernández was reassigned to Company G of the 2nd Battalion, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. His platoon was ordered to defend Hill 420, located near Wonton-ni. On May 31, 1951, his platoon was the object of a numerically superior enemy counterattack. A close-quarters firefight broke out when enemy troops surged up the hill and inflicted numerous casualties on the platoon.

Hernandez was wounded during the attack, but was able to fire upon the rushing enemy troops. After a cartridge in his **rifle** ruptured, he continued attacking the enemy with his **bayonet**. His attack enabled his comrades to regroup and take back the hill.



Hernández in uniform

A **grenade** explosion that blew away part of his brain knocked him unconscious. Hernández, who had received grenade, bayonet, and bullet wounds, appeared dead to the first medic who reached him, Keith Oates.^[2] Oates realized, however, that Hernandez was still alive when he saw him move his fingers. Hernandez woke up a month later in a military hospital, unable to move his arms or legs or to talk.

On April 12, 1952, President **Harry S. Truman** bestowed upon Hernández the Medal of Honor in a ceremony held in the **White House Rose Garden**.

After many surgeries and physical therapy over a five-year

period, Hernández regained limited use of his right arm and learned to write with his left hand.

27.1.3 Later life

Hernández married and had three children. He retired from a job at the Veterans Administration and lived in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Carteret County Veterans Council named Hernandez one of two grand marshals of its November 11, 2006, annual Veterans Day Parade held in downtown Morehead City.^[3] On November 10, 2007, he was again co-grand marshal of the Morehead City Veterans Day Parade. During the event, he was reunited with his rescuer “from a long and far away battlefield,” the former Korean War Army medic and current Morehead City resident, Keith Oates.^[4]

Hernández was also the Grand Marshal of the 2012 North Carolina Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony held each Memorial Day in Thomasville, NC, and attended as an honored guest in 2013.

27.1.4 Death

Hernández died at Womack Army Medical Center in Fayetteville on December 21, 2013. He had been battling “cancer and several other ailments” in the last month of his life.^[5]

27.2 Medal of Honor



Army version of the Medal of Honor

Hernandez’s Medal of Honor citation reads:

Rodolfo P. Hernández

Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Army, Company G, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team

Place and date: Near Wontong-ni, Korea, May 31, 1951

Entered service at: Fowler, California

Born: April 14, 1931, Colton, California

G.O. No.: 40, April 12, 1952

Cpl. HERNANDEZ, a member of Company G, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. His platoon, in defensive positions on Hill 420, came under ruthless attack by a numerically superior and fanatical hostile force, accompanied by heavy artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire which inflicted numerous casualties on the platoon. His comrades were forced to withdraw due to lack of ammunition but Cpl. HERNANDEZ, although wounded in an exchange of grenades, continued to deliver deadly fire into the ranks of the onrushing assailants until a ruptured cartridge rendered his rifle inoperative. Immediately leaving his position, Cpl. HERNANDEZ rushed the enemy armed only with rifle and bayonet. Fearlessly engaging the foe, he killed 6 of the enemy before falling unconscious from grenade, bayonet, and bullet wounds but his heroic action momentarily halted the enemy advance and enabled his unit to counterattack and retake the lost ground. The indomitable fighting spirit, outstanding courage, and tenacious devotion to duty clearly demonstrated by Cpl. HERNANDEZ reflect the highest credit upon himself, the infantry, and the U.S. Army.^[6]

27.3 Military decorations and awards

Hernández’s military awards include:

Foreign unit decorations

-  Fourragère cord

27.4 Portrayals

Christopher Alexander McCowan in “A Man Comes To Fowler” by the Cornerstone Theater Company. Play took place in Fowler, California August 11, 2011 to August 13, 2011

27.5 See also

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

27.6 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- [1] Readers' Digest — Medal of Honor Profiles of Courage.
- [2] Carteret County Newst-Times Salute Editorial Friday November 9, 2007 accessed November 10, 2007 See Talk
- [3] Daily News
- [4] Carteret County Newstimes Letter by Marcus Innus Friday November 9, 2007 Accessed Nov 10, 2007
- [5] Brooks, Drew (December 22, 2013). “Medal of Honor recipient Rudy Hernandez dead at 82”. *The Fayetteville Observer* (Fayetteville, North Carolina). Archived from the original on December 22, 2013.
- [6] “Medal of Honor Recipients - Korean War”. *Medal of Honor Citations*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 5, 2010. Retrieved November 21, 2010.

Chapter 28

Edward Gómez

*Not to be confused with **Eduardo C. Gomez** (1919–1972), who also received a Medal of Honor for action in the Korean War*

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EDWARD GOMEZ
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

Private First Class **Edward Gómez** (August 10, 1932 – September 14, 1951) was a **United States Marine** from **Omaha, Nebraska** who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** — the **United States'** highest decoration for valor — for gallantly sacrificing his life to save the lives of four fellow-Marines on his machine gun team. PFC Gomez was the 18th Marine to receive the Medal of Honor for heroism during the **Korean War**.

28.1 About

Gómez attended **Omaha High School** before enlisting in the **Marine Corps Reserve** on August 11, 1949, at the age of 17. After recruit training at **MCRD San Diego**, California, he trained at **Camp Pendleton**, California, and went to **Korea** with the 7th Replacement Draft.

28.2 Awards and decorations

The **United States'** highest decoration for valor was awarded to Gómez for extraordinary heroism on September 14, 1951, at Kajon-ni, during the **Battle of the Punchbowl** when he smothered a hand grenade with his own body to prevent destruction of his Marine machine gun team. In addition to the Medal of Honor, PFC Gomez was awarded the **Purple Heart** with a Gold Star in lieu of a second award, the **Korean Service Medal** with bronze star, and the **United Nations Service Medal**.

28.3 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the **United States** in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the **MEDAL OF HONOR** posthumously to

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Ammunition Bearer in Company E, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on September 14, 1951. Boldly advancing with his squad in support of a group of riflemen assaulting a series of strongly fortified and bitterly defended hostile positions on Hill 749, Private First Class Gómez consistently exposed himself to the withering barrage to keep his machine gun supplied with ammunition during the drive forward to seize the objective. As his squad deployed to meet an imminent counterattack, he voluntarily moved down an abandoned trench to search for a new location for the gun and, when a hostile grenade landed between himself and his weapon, shouted a warning to those around him as he grasped the activated charge in his hand. Determined to save his comrades, he unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and, diving into the ditch with the deadly missile, absorbed the shattering violence of the explosion in his own body. By his stouthearted courage, incomparable valor and decisive spirit of self-sacrifice, Private First Class Gómez inspired the others to heroic efforts in subsequently repelling the outnumbering foe, and his valiant conduct throughout sustained and enhanced the finest traditions of the **United States Naval Service**. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

/S/HARRY S. TRUMAN

28.4 See also

- **List of Medal of Honor recipients**

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

28.5 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Marine Corps.

- “Private First Class Edward Gomez, USMCR”. *Who’s Who in Marine Corps History*, USMC. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Medal of Honor citation”. Archived from the original on July 14, 2007. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 29

Fernando Luis García

Fernando Luis García (October 14, 1929 – September 5, 1952), was a **United States Marine Corps** private first class who was killed in action during the **Korean War** and posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor** for heroism above and beyond the call of duty on September 5, 1952. He was the first of nine Puerto Rican servicemen to be awarded the Medal of Honor and is the only Marine to be awarded the medal.

29.1 Biography

García (birth name: **Fernando Luis García Ledesma** ^[note 1]) was born in **Utuado, Puerto Rico** where he received his primary and secondary education. He moved to **San Juan** where he hired by the **Texas Company** as a file clerk.

29.1.1 U.S. Marine Corps

Korean War

On September 19, 1951, García joined the United States Marines Corps and received his recruit training at **Parris Island, South Carolina**. After he graduated from “boot camp”, he was promoted to private first class in December^[1] and was sent to **Camp Lejeune, North Carolina** for more training before being sent to Korea in March 1952.

García was a member of Company I, **3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division**. On the night of his death, he and his company were posted about one mile from the enemy lines at “Outpost Bruce” in the “Bunker Hill” area.^[2] Chinese soldiers were attacking with artillery, mortars, and **grenades**. García was wounded and getting **hand grenades** from his acting platoon sergeant when an enemy grenade landed near them.^[3] García covered the grenade with his body, sacrificing himself to save the life of his fellow Marine who was wounded by the blast. García died instantly. For this heroic action, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

García’s remains were never recovered.

29.1.2 Medal of Honor citation

On October 25, 1953, PFC García’s parents were presented his Medal of Honor at a ceremony held in the Utuado City Hall.



The President of the United States in the name of U.S. Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to:

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FERNANDO L. GARCIA
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a member of Company I, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on September 5, 1952. While participating in the defense of a combat outpost located more than one mile forward of the main line of resistance during a savage night attack by a fanatical enemy force employing grenades, mortars and artillery, Private First Class García, although suffering painful wounds, moved through the intense hall of hostile fire to a supply point to secure more hand grenades. Quick to act when a hostile grenade landed nearby, endangering the life of another Marine, as well as his own, he unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and immediately threw his body upon the deadly missile, receiving the full impact of the explosion. His great personal valor and cool decision in the face of almost certain death sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the **United States Naval Service**. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

29.2 Military awards

García's decorations and awards include:^[4]

29.3 In memory

- There is a headstone with García's name in the **Puerto Rico National Cemetery** in the city of Bayamón, Puerto Rico.^[5]
- On February 5, 1959 the United States Marines Corps named a military camp in **Vieques, Puerto Rico**, "Camp García" in his honor.^[6]
- The United States Navy named the *García* class of ships in his honor, with the lead ship in the class (USS *García*) bearing his name, as well.^[7]
- His name is inscribed in "El Monumento de la Recordación" (Monument of Remembrance), dedicated to Puerto Rico's fallen soldiers and situated



El Monumento de la Recordación

in front of the Capitol Building in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- His name is also inscribed in the "Wall of the Missing" located in the National Memorial of the Pacific in **Honolulu, Hawaii**, which honors the Medal of Honor recipients whose bodies have never been recovered.^[8] A monument commemorating his actions stands in his hometown of Utuado, Puerto Rico.
- On November 11, 2008, the Government of Puerto Rico unveiled in the Capitol Rotunda the oil portrait of PFC Fernando Luis García.^[9]
- The **American Legion** Post 42 in Utuado, Puerto Rico was named American Legion Auxiliary, 42 Pfc Fernando Luis García^[10] and a low income housing project, the Caserío Fernando Luis García in Utuado, is also named after García.^[11]

29.4 See also

- List of Puerto Rican military personnel
- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients
- Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

29.5 Notes

- [1] This name uses **Spanish naming customs**: the first or paternal family name is **García** and the second or maternal family name is **Ledesma**.

29.6 References

- [1] Marine Corps History Division http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Who's%20Who/G-I/Garcia_FL.aspx
- [2] Marine Corps History and Museum Division, Korean War Commemorative Series, 2001, Dept. of Defense- 50th Anniversary of Korean War- "Stalemate, U.S. Marines from Bunker Hill to Hook" by Bernard Nalty http://www.koreanwar2.org/kwp2/usmckorea/PDF_Monographs/KoreanWar.Stalemate.pdf
- [3] Marine Corps History Division http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Who's%20Who/G-I/Garcia_FL.aspx
- [4] Decorations information was obtained from "Who's Who in Marine Corps History"; History Division, United States Marine Corps.
- [5] Puerto Rico National Cemetery
- [6] Camp Garcia Closes; AFWTF, VC-8 to Disestablish
- [7] USS Garcia
- [8] "National Memorial of the Pacific". Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [9] 5th Marine Regiment - 3rd Battalion
- [10] American Legion Auxiliary 42 Pfc Fernando Luis Garcia.
- [11] Caserio Fernando Luis Garcia
 - "Private First Class Fernando Luis García, USMC". *Who's Who in Marine Corps History. History Division, United States Marine Corps. Retrieved 2006-05-08.*
 - "PFC Fernando L. García, Medal of Honor, 1952, 3/5/1, Korea". *Marines Awarded the Medal of Honor. United States Marine Corps. Archived from the original on 2006-05-04. Retrieved 2006-05-08.*

29.7 Further reading

- *Puertorriquenos Who Served With Guts, Glory, and Honor. Fighting to Defend a Nation Not Completely Their Own*; by : Greg Boudonck; ISBN 978-1497421837

Chapter 30

Benito Martinez (soldier)

Corporal **Benito Martinez** (April 21, 1932 – September 6, 1952) was a **United States Army** soldier who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** — the United States’ highest military decoration — for his actions on the near Satae-ri in Korea during the **Korean War**. Martinez was mortally wounded while solely defending his outpost. His actions enabled his company to take back the terrain which they had lost.

30.1 Early years

Martinez was a **Mexican-American** born to Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Martinez in **Fort Hancock, Texas**. There, he received his primary and secondary education. He joined the **United States Army** in 1950 at the recruiting station in his hometown.^[1] Martinez completed his **basic training** and was eventually assigned to Company A (Able Company) of the **27th Infantry Regiment**.

30.2 Korean War

The **North Korean Communist forces** invaded the **Republic of Korea** on June 25, 1950. The 27th Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (whose nickname was “Wolfhounds”) was stationed in **Hawaii** and in July was put on alert. By July 18, the entire division was in **Pusan** in Republic of Korea.

On February 23, 1952, the 25th Division, under the command of Major General Ira P. Swift, was in the front line in the center of the X Corps sector near Mundungni northeast of the Hwach'on Reservoir. The division assumed the front line routine of patrols, ambushes, artillery exchanges, and bunker maintenance. The division also secured and defended forward outposts beyond the main line of resistance.^[2]

Martinez’s unit, the 2nd Platoon of A Company, inherited a position known as Sandbag Castle from Charlie Company (C Company). On the night of September 5, 1952, Corporal Martinez was in Outpost Agnes performing forward listening post duties. Outpost Agnes was a **bunker** large enough to hold four soldiers. Shortly after midnight,

the North Koreans began shelling Sandbag Castle. During a lull in the shelling, the men of the 27th inside the castle were able to spot crawling North Korean soldiers whose intentions were to cut off the forward bunkers and Outpost Agnes.

Martinez ordered the three men in his bunker to return to the Sandbag Castle. His commanding officer, Lieutenant McLean called him on the sound power telephone and ordered him to get out. Martinez, knowing the situation better than anyone, replied that he would have to stay on and delay the North Koreans as long as possible. Martinez remained at his post and with his **machinegun** inflicted numerous casualties on the attacking troops. When he ran out of **ammunition** he retreated to a bunker destroyed by enemy shelling and from there continued his assault with a **Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR)**. Martinez was mortally wounded before his unit was able to counterattack and regain their terrain.^[3]

On December 29, 1953, President **Harry S. Truman** presented the family of Benito Martinez with the Medal of Honor.

30.3 Medal of Honor citation

BENITO MARTINEZ

*Rank and organization:*Corporal, U.S. Army, Company A, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

*Place and date:*Near Satae-ri Korea, September 6, 1952.

*Entered service at:*Fort Hancock, Texas

Born: March 21, 1931, Fort Hancock, Texas

G.O. No.: 96, December 29, 1953

Citation:

Cpl. Martinez, a machine gunner with Company A, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. While manning a listening post forward of the main line of resistance, his position was attacked by a hostile force of reinforced company strength. In the bitter fighting which ensued, the enemy infiltrated the defense perimeter and, realizing that encirclement was imminent, Cpl. Martinez elected to remain at his post in an attempt to stem the onslaught. In a daring defense, he raked the attacking troops with crippling fire, inflicting numerous casualties. Although contacted by sound power phone several times, he insisted that no attempt be made to rescue him because of the danger involved. Soon thereafter, the hostile forces rushed the emplacement, forcing him to make a limited withdrawal with only an automatic rifle and pistol to defend himself. After a courageous 6-hour stand and shortly before dawn, he called in for the last time, stating that the enemy was converging on his position. His magnificent stand enabled friendly elements to reorganize, attack, and regain the key terrain. Cpl. Martinez' incredible valor and supreme sacrifice reflect lasting glory upon himself and are in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service.^{[4][5]}

30.4 Honors

Cpl. Benito Martinez was buried in Fort Hancock Cemetery and exhumed in the 1980s to be buried with full military honors at [Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso, Texas](#). Both cities, El Paso and Fort Hancock, have honored his memory by naming elementary schools after him.

30.5 Awards and recognitions

Among Benito Martinez's decorations and medals were the following:

30.6 See also

- [List of Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients](#)

30.7 Notes

- [1]
- [2] [25th Infantry Division Association: The Division](#)
- [3] [Benito Martinez and Outpost Agnes](#)
- [4] [Medal of Honor citation](#)
- [5] [""BENITO MARTINEZ" entry". *Medal of Honor recipients: Korean War*. United States Army Center of Military History. June 8, 2009. Retrieved 2007-12-31.](#)

30.8 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the [United States Army Center of Military History](#).

- ["Benito Martinez". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. *Find a Grave*. Retrieved 2007-12-28.](#)
- [""BENITO MARTINEZ" entry". *Medal of Honor recipients: Korean War*. United States Army Center of Military History. June 8, 2009. Retrieved 2007-12-31.](#)
- ["Great Schools". Retrieved September 24, 2010.](#)
- ["Medal of Honor recipients M-O". Retrieved September 24, 2010.](#)

Chapter 31

Ambrosio Guillen

Staff Sergeant **Ambrosio Guillen** (December 7, 1929 – July 25, 1953) was a **United States Marine** who was posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor**—the **United States'** highest military award for valor—for his heroic actions and sacrifice of life on July 25, 1953, two days before the **ceasefire**, during the **Korean War**. He was responsible for his **infantry** platoon's turning an overwhelming enemy attack into a defeat and disorderly retreat.

31.1 Biography

Ambrosio Guillen was born on December 7, 1929 in La Junta, Colorado. He came from a **Mexican American** family and grew up in **El Paso, Texas** where he attended **Bowie High School**.^[1]

US Marine Corps

Guillen enlisted in the **United States Marine Corps** at the age of 18. He completed **recruit training** at **San Diego, California**, and was assigned to the **7th Marine Regiment**. Later he was chosen for Sea School, and after graduation, served on the **USS Curtiss**. Following his tour of sea duty, he was appointed a **drill instructor** at the **Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego**.

He trained two recruit honor platoons and was given a Letter of Appreciation by his Commanding General. In that letter, MajGen John T. Walker stated, "your success in training these two platoons has demonstrated your outstanding ability as a leader." That ability was proven in combat soon after SSgt. Guillen arrived in **Korea**.

Medal of Honor; Korea

On July 25, 1953, while defending a forward outpost against a large enemy attack, near Songuch-on, Korea, SSgt. Guillen and his platoon were able to defeat the enemy and put them in retreat. After the fighting, he died from being wounded during the battle. For his heroic leadership and sacrifice of life, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Burial

After the Korean War truce, his body was escorted to the United States by his brother, who had been serving in the Far East with the **United States Army**. SSgt. Guillen was buried in **Fort Bliss National Cemetery** on October 20, 1953, in **El Paso, Texas**.

Medal of Honor presentation

The Medal of Honor awarded to SSgt. Guillen was presented to his parents on his behalf by the **Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas**, during a special ceremony in his office on August 18, 1954.

31.2 Public namings

- The Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home in El Paso is named in his honor.
- Guillen Middle School in the **El Paso Independent School District**.

31.3 Medal of Honor

SSgt. Guillen's Medal of Honor citation reads:

The **President of the United States** in the name of **The Congress** takes pride in presenting the **MEDAL OF HONOR** posthumously to

STAFF SERGEANT AMBROSIO GUILLEN
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following
CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a platoon Sergeant of Company F, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced),

in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on July 25, 1953. Participating in the defense of an outpost forward of the main line of resistance, Staff Sergeant GUILLEN maneuvered his platoon over unfamiliar terrain in the face of hostile fire and placed his men in fighting positions. With his unit pinned down when the outpost was attacked under cover of darkness by an estimated force of two enemy battalions supported by mortar and artillery fire, he deliberately exposed himself to the heavy barrage and attacks to direct his men in defending their positions and personally supervise the treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Inspired by his leadership, the platoon quickly rallied and engaged the enemy force in fierce hand-to-hand combat. Although critically wounded during the course of the battle, Staff Sergeant Guillen refused medical aid and continued to direct his men throughout the remainder of the engagement until the enemy was defeated and thrown into disorderly retreat. Succumbing to his wounds within a few hours, Staff Sergeant GUILLEN, by his outstanding courage and indomitable fighting spirit, was directly responsible for the success of his platoon in repelling a numerically superior enemy force. His personal valor reflects the highest credit upon himself and enhances the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

- “Medal of Honor citation”. Retrieved September 24, 2010.

31.6 External links

- Ambrosio Guillen Texas State Veterans Home

/S/ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

31.4 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

31.5 References

[1] Chapter Twenty Two

This article incorporates **public domain material** from websites or documents of the **United States Marine Corps**.

- “Staff Sergeant Ambrosio Guillen, USMC”. Who’s Who in Marine Corps History. United States Marine Corps. Retrieved September 24, 2010.

Chapter 32

Joe R. Baldonado

Joe R. Baldonado (August 28, 1930 – November 25, 1950) was a **United States Army** veteran of the **Korean War** and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[1]

32.1 Biography

Baldonado was born in Colorado on Aug. 28, 1930, joining the U.S. Army as a light weapons infantryman (parachutist) during the Korean War.^[1] In that conflict, Baldonado was killed in an action for which he was to posthumously receive the Medal of Honor. The family of Baldonado included his wife Theresa Baldonado, his brother Charles Baldonado, and his two daughters Lupe Baldonado and Josephine Baldonado.^[1]

32.2 Medal of Honor

Baldonado distinguished himself on Nov. 25, 1950, while serving as a machine-gunner in the vicinity of Kangdong, Korea. Baldonado's platoon was occupying Hill 171 when the enemy attacked, attempting to take their position.^[1] Baldonado held an exposed position, cutting down wave after wave of enemy troops even as they targeted attacks on his position.^[1] During the final assault by the enemy, a grenade landed near Baldonado's gun, killing him instantly.^[1]



Baldonado's brother Charles accepted the Medal of Honor on his brother's behalf in a March 18, 2014 White House ceremony.

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[2]

32.2.1 Citation

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to:

JOE R. BALDONADO
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Corporal Joe R. Baldonado distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting machinegunner in 3d Squad, 2d Platoon, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kangdong, Korea on November 25, 1950. On that morning, the enemy launched a strong attack in an effort to seize the hill occupied by Corporal Baldonado and his company. The platoon had expended most of its ammunition in repelling the enemy attack and the platoon leader decided to commit his 3d Squad, with its supply of ammunition, in the defensive action. Since there was no time to dig in because of the proximity of the enemy, who had advanced to within twenty-five yards of the platoon position, Corporal Baldonado emplaced his weapon in an exposed position and delivered a withering stream of fire on the advancing enemy, causing them to fall back in disorder. The enemy then concentrated all their fire on Corporal Baldonado's gun and attempted to knock it out by rushing the position in small groups and hurling hand grenades.



32.3 Other awards, citations and commendations

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Baldonado also received^[1] the following:

- Purple Heart
- National Defense Service Medal
- Korean Service Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- United Nations Service Medal
- Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal

32.4 References

- [1] “Corporal Joe R. Baldonado”. U.S. Army. Retrieved March 19, 2014. “Biography” and “Citation” tabs.
- [2] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). “Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans”. *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

32.5 See also

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients

Several times, grenades exploded extremely close to Corporal Baldonado but failed to interrupt his continuous firing. The hostile troops made repeated attempts to storm his position and were driven back each time with appalling casualties. The enemy finally withdrew after making a final assault on Corporal Baldonado's position during which a grenade landed near his gun, killing him instantly. Corporal Baldonado's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Chapter 33

Victor H. Espinoza

Victor Hugo Espinoza (July 15, 1929 – April 17, 1986)^{[1][2]} was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.

33.1 Biography

Espinoza was born in El Paso, Texas on July 15, 1929.^[2] Espinoza's actions in the U.S. Army during the Korean War in 1952 caused him to be posthumously awarded with the Medal of Honor in 2014.^[2]

After leaving the Army, Espinoza resided in El Paso until his death on April 17, 1986.^[2] Espinoza is buried at Fort Bliss National Cemetery.^[2]

33.2 Medal of Honor

Espinoza was recognized for his actions on Aug. 1, 1952, at Chorwon, Korea.^[2]

While spearheading an attack to secure "Old Baldy," Espinoza's unit was pinned down by withering fire from fortified enemy positions.^[2] In daring succession, Espinoza single-handedly silenced a machine-gun and its crew, discovered and destroyed a covert enemy tunnel, and wiped out two bunkers.^[2] His actions inspired his unit and enabled them to secure the strong-point against great odds.^[2]

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[3]

33.2.1 Medal of Honor Citation

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963),



Espinoza's son Tyronne accepted the Medal of Honor on his father's behalf during a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014

takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to:

VICTOR H. ESPINOZA
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Corporal Victor H. Espinoza distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an Acting Rifleman in Company A, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Chorwon, Korea on August 1, 1952. On that day, Corporal Espinoza and his unit were responsible for securing and holding a vital enemy hill. As the friendly unit neared its objective, it was subjected to a devastating volume of enemy fire, slowing its progress. Corporal Espinoza, unhesitatingly and being fully aware of the hazards involved, left his place of comparative safety and made a deliberate one man assault on the enemy with his rifle and grenades, destroying a machinegun and killing its crew. Corporal Espinoza continued across the fire-swept terrain to an exposed vantage point where he attacked an enemy mortar position and two bunkers with grenades and rifle



fire, knocking out the enemy mortar position and destroying both bunkers and killing their occupants. Upon reaching the crest, and after running out of rifle ammunition, he called for more grenades. A comrade who was behind him threw some Chinese grenades to him. Immediately upon catching them, he pulled the pins and hurled them into the occupied trenches, killing and wounding more of the enemy with their own weapons. Continuing on through a tunnel, Corporal Espinoza made a daring charge, inflicting at least seven more casualties upon the enemy who were fast retreating into the tunnel. Corporal Espinoza was quickly in pursuit, but the hostile fire from the opening prevented him from overtaking the retreating enemy. As a result, Corporal Espinoza destroyed the tunnel with TNT, called for more

grenades from his company, and hurled them at the enemy troops until they were out of reach. Corporal Espinoza's incredible display of valor secured the vital strong point and took a heavy toll on the enemy, resulting in at least fourteen dead and eleven wounded. Corporal Espinoza's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

33.3 Other honors and awards

Besides the Medal of Honor, Espinoza received:^[2]

- National Defense Service Medal
- Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- United Nations Service Medal
- Republic of Korea-Korean War Service Medal

33.4 References

- [1] Find a Grave page for "Victor Hugo Espinoza"
- [2] "Sergeant Victor H. Espinoza". U.S. Army. 2014. Retrieved March 19, 2014.
- [3] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

33.5 See also

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients

Chapter 34

Eduardo C. Gomez

*Not to be confused with **Edward Gomez** (1932–1951), who also received a Medal of Honor for action in the Korean War*

Eduardo Corral Gomez (28 October 1919 – 29 January 1972)^[1] was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[2]

34.1 Biography

Gomez was born in Los Angeles, California on October 28, 1919, and enlisted in the U.S. Army on February 9, 1949.^[2]

His actions during his time of service in the Korean War resulted in his being posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on March 18, 2014.^[2]

34.2 Medal of Honor

Gomez distinguished himself by defending his company as it was ruthlessly attacked by a hostile force, maneuvering across open ground to successfully assault a manned enemy tank.^[2] Wounded during his retreat from the tank, Gomez refused medical attention, instead manning his post and firing upon the enemy until his company formed a defensive perimeter.^[2]

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[3]

34.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to:



Gomez' nephew Pete Corral accepted the Medal of Honor on his uncle's behalf from President Barack Obama during a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014.

EDUARDO CORRAL GOMEZ
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Sergeant Eduardo C. Gomez distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Tabu-dong, Korea on September 3, 1950. That afternoon, while conducting combat patrol, Sergeant Gomez' company was ruthlessly attacked by a hostile force which moved within seventy-five yards of the command post before it was immobilized by rocket fire. However, an enemy tank and multiple enemy machineguns continued to rake the company perimeter with devastating fire. Realizing the tank posed a serious threat to the entire perimeter, Sergeant Gomez voluntarily crawled thirty yards across an open rice field vulnerable to enemy observation and fire, boarded the tank, pried open one of the hatches on the turret and dropped an activated grenade into the hull, killing the crew. Wounded in the left side while returning to his position, Sergeant Gomez refused evacuation. Observing that the tripod of a .30 caliber machine-



gun was rendered inoperable by enemy fire, he cradled the weapon in his arms, returned to the forward defensive positions, and swept the assaulting force with withering fire. Although his weapon overheated and burned his hands and his painful wound still bled, Sergeant Gomez maintained his stand and, upon orders to withdraw in the face of overwhelming enemy superiority, remained to provide protective fire. Sergeant Gomez continued to pour accurate fire into the enemy ranks, exacting a heavy toll in casualties and retarding their advance. Sergeant Gomez would not consent to leave his post for medical attention until the company established new defensive positions. Sergeant Gomez's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of

military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

34.3 Other honors and awards

In addition to receiving the Medal of Honor, Gomez received:^[2]

- Bronze Star Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device
- Purple Heart with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star
- World War II Victory Medal
- Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp
- National Defense Service Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Honorable Service Lapel Button-WWII
- Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
- Gold Bravery Medal of Greece Unit Citation

34.4 See also

- List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients

34.5 References

- [1] CMOHS Society
- [2] "Sergeant First Class Eduardo Corral Gomez". U.S. Army. 2014. Retrieved March 19, 2014.
- [3] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

Chapter 35

Miguel Vera

Miguel Armando “Nando” Vera^[lower-alpha 1] was U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a recipient of the Medal of Honor.^{[1][2]}

35.1 Biographical details

Vera was born in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico and joined the U.S. Army when he was 17 years old.^[1]

After Vera was killed in action in the Korean war, his body was transferred to Puerto Rico where he was buried with full military honors in the Utuado Municipal Cemetery, Utuado, Puerto Rico. Years later, in November 2014, Pvt. Miguel A. Vera was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.^[3]

35.2 Medal of Honor

The bestowal of the Medal of Honor recognized Vera for his actions at Chorwon, Korea, on September 21, 1952.^[1] While Vera’s unit attempted to retake the right sector of “Old Baldy”, it came under heavy fire at close range and was forced back.^[1] Vera selflessly chose to stay and cover the troops’ withdrawal, and lost his life during this action.^[1]

Vera was posthumously bestowed the Medal of Honor by President Obama in a March 18, 2014 White House ceremony.

The bestowal of the Medal of Honor was in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^{[4][5]}

35.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States of America, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved, July 9, 1918 (amended by



Vera’s nephew Joe Rodriguez accepted the Medal of Honor on his late uncle’s behalf.

act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to:

PRIVATE
MIGUEL A. VERA
UNITED STATES ARMY

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Private Miguel A. Vera distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an automatic rifleman with Company F, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division in Chorwon, Korea, on September 21, 1952.



That morning, despite suffering from wounds inflicted in a previous battle, Private Vera voluntarily left the aid station to join his comrades in an attack against well-fortified enemy positions on a hill of great importance. When the assaulting elements had moved within twenty yards of the enemy positions, they were suddenly trapped by a heavy volume of mortar, artillery and small-arms fire. The company prepared to make a limited withdrawal, but Private Vera volunteered to remain behind to provide covering fire. As his companions moved to safety, Private Vera remained steadfast in his position, directing accurate fire against the hostile positions despite the intense volume of fire which the enemy was concentrating upon him. Later in the morning, when the friendly force returned, they discovered Private Vera in the same position, fac-

ing the enemy. Private Vera's noble intrepidity and self-sacrifice saved many of his comrades' lives.

Private Vera's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.^[1]

35.3 Honors and awards

Vera's decorations include:^[6]

35.4 See also

- [List of Puerto Ricans](#)
- [List of Puerto Rican military personnel](#)
- [List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor](#)
- [List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients](#)

35.5 Notes

- [1] This name uses [Spanish naming customs](#): the first or paternal family name is *Vera*.

35.6 References

- [1] "Private Miguel A. Vera | Valor 24 | Medal of Honor | The United States Army". [army.mil](#). Retrieved 2014-03-31.
- [2] "Obama to Award Medal of Honor to 24 Army Veterans - ABC News". [abcnews.go.com](#). Retrieved 2014-02-22.
- [3] [Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States](#)
- [4] [Pub.L. 107-107](#)
- [5] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.
- [6] "Private Miguel A. Vera | Valor 24 | Medal of Honor | The United States Army". [army.mil](#). Retrieved 2014-03-31.

Chapter 36

Daniel D. Fernández

For other people named Daniel Fernández, see [Daniel Fernández \(disambiguation\)](#).

Daniel D. Fernández (June 30, 1944 – February 18, 1966) was a [United States Army](#) soldier in the [Vietnam War](#) who received the U.S. military's highest decoration, the [Medal of Honor](#). Fernández was awarded the medal for his actions in [Hậu Nghĩa](#) province, [Republic of Vietnam](#), in February 1966 — throwing himself on a live grenade, he sacrificed his life to save lives of the soldiers around him.

36.1 Biography

Born in [Albuquerque, New Mexico](#), on June 30, 1944, Fernández grew up in nearby [Los Lunas](#).^{[1][2]} He had two younger brothers, Peter and James.^[2]

Fernández joined the Army from Albuquerque in 1962^[3] and by 1966 was on his second tour of duty in Vietnam. During that deployment, he served as a [specialist four](#) in Company C, 1st Battalion, [5th Infantry Regiment \(Mechanized\)](#), [25th Infantry Division](#). On February 18, 1966, in [Củ Chi](#), [Hậu Nghĩa](#) province, his 16-man patrol was ambushed by a [Viet Cong](#) rifle company and forced to fall back. Fernández and two others volunteered to follow a sergeant back to the ambush site and rescue a wounded soldier who had been left behind. After reaching the injured man, the sergeant was shot in the knee and Fernández took over command of the patrol. All five men were pinned down by heavy fire when a [rifle grenade](#) landed in their midst. In the scramble to get away from the device, Fernández accidentally kicked it closer to the rest of the group. He then shouted “move out”, jumped over the immobile sergeant, and threw himself on the grenade. He was killed in the resulting explosion, but successfully saved the lives of his fellow soldiers.^{[1][2]}

For this action, Fernández was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in November 1966.^[2] He was the first of nine [Mexican Americans](#) to receive the medal in Vietnam.^[4]

A [Requiem Mass](#) was held for Fernández at Los Lunas High School prior to his burial at [Santa Fe National](#)

[Cemetery](#).^[2] His name is inscribed on the [Vietnam Veterans Memorial](#) (“The Wall”) on Panel 05E, Row 046.^[5]

36.2 Honors

In Fernández's hometown of Los Lunas, a number of structures have been named in his honor. In March 1966, the newly opened Los Lunas Junior High School was renamed Daniel Fernández Junior High School in his honor. It has since been reorganized as Daniel D. Fernández Intermediate School. A park and recreation facility, Daniel D. Fernández Memorial Park, was dedicated in 1972. The local [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#) post bears his name, as does a road, Fernandez Street.^[2]

Students at Daniel D. Fernández Intermediate School wrote of biography of him, titled *Man of Honor: The Story of Daniel D. Fernández*, which was published in 2009 by Author House Publishing.^[2]

36.3 Medal of Honor citation

His official Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sp4c. Fernández demonstrated indomitable courage when the patrol was ambushed by a Viet Cong rifle company and driven back by the intense enemy automatic weapons fire before it could evacuate an American soldier who had been wounded in the Viet Cong attack. Sp4c. Fernández, a sergeant and 2 other volunteers immediately fought their way through devastating fire and exploding grenades to reach the fallen soldier. Upon reaching their fallen comrade the sergeant was struck in the knee by machine gun fire and immobilized. Sp4c. Fernández took charge, rallied the left flank of his patrol and began to assist in the recovery of the wounded sergeant. While first aid was being administered to the

wounded man, a sudden increase in the accuracy and intensity of enemy fire forced the volunteer group to take cover. As they did, an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the group, although some men did not see it. Realizing there was no time for the wounded sergeant or the other men to protect themselves from the grenade blast, Sp4c. Fernández vaulted over the wounded sergeant and threw himself on the grenade as it exploded, saving the lives of his 4 comrades at the sacrifice of his life. Sp4c. Fernández' profound concern for his fellow soldiers, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.^[1]

36.4 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

36.5 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- [1] "Medal of Honor Recipients - Vietnam (A–L)". *Medal of Honor Citations*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved November 15, 2010.
- [2] Bowley, Dana (November 13, 2010). "A genuine hero remembered". *Valencia County News-Bulletin*. Archived from the original on November 13, 2010.
- [3] Service Profile
- [4] Contreras, Raoul Lowery (2002). *The new American majority: Hispanics, republicans & George W. Bush*. Lincoln, Nebraska: iUniverse. pp. 200–201. ISBN 978-0-595-23249-9.
- [5] "Daniel D. Fernández, SP4, Army, Los Lunas, NM". The Virtual Wall. Retrieved 2006-07-12.

36.6 External links

- Daniel Fernández, Medal of Honor at mishalov.com
- SP4 Daniel Fernandez by Rattler/Firebird Association

Chapter 37

Eurípides Rubio

Captain **Eurípides Rubio** (March 1, 1938 – November 8, 1966) was a **United States Army** officer and one of nine **Puerto Ricans** who were **posthumously** awarded the **United States'** highest military decoration for valor, the **Medal of Honor**, for actions on November 8, 1966, during the **Vietnam War**. Rubio was a member of the **United States Army**, **Headquarters & Headquarters Company**, **1st Battalion**, **28th Infantry Regiment (Black Lions)**, **1st Infantry Division**, **Republic of Vietnam**.

37.1 Early years

Rubio was born in the city of **Ponce, Puerto Rico**, in the southern region of **Puerto Rico**. There, he received his primary and secondary education. In 1956, Rubio joined the **Army** at **Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico**.^[1]

37.2 Action in Vietnam

On November 8, 1966 at **Tay Ninh Province** in the **Republic of Vietnam**, Captain Rubio's company came under attack from the **North Vietnamese Army**; leaving the safety of his post, Rubio received two serious wounds as he braved the intense enemy fire to distribute **ammunition**, re-establish positions and render aid to the wounded. Despite his pain, he assumed command when a rifle company commander was medically evacuated. He was then wounded a third time as he tried to move amongst his men to encourage them to fight with renewed effort.^{[2][3]}

While aiding the evacuation of wounded personnel, he noted that a **US smoke grenade**, which was intended to mark the **Viet Cong's** position for an **air strike**, had fallen dangerously close to friendly lines. He ran to move the grenade but was immediately struck to his knees by enemy fire. Despite his wounds, Rubio managed to collect the grenade and again run through enemy fire to within 20 m of the enemy position to throw the by-then already smoking grenade into the enemy before he fell for the final time. Using the now-repositioned grenade as a marker, friendly air strikes were directed to destroy the

hostile positions.^{[2][3]}

Rubio's singularly heroic act turned the tide of the battle, and for his extraordinary leadership and valor, he **posthumously** received the **Medal of Honor** in 1968. His remains were buried in **Puerto Rico National Cemetery** in the city of **Bayamón, Puerto Rico**.^{[2][3]}

37.3 Medal of Honor citation

RUBIO, EURIPIDES

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, RVN.

Place and date: Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam, November 8, 1966.

Entered service at: Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

Born: March 1, 1938, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Rubio, Infantry, was serving as communications officer, 1st Battalion, when a numerically superior enemy force launched a massive attack against the battalion defense position. Intense enemy machine-gun fire raked the area while mortar rounds and rifle grenades exploded within the perimeter. Leaving the relative safety of his post, Capt. Rubio received 2 serious wounds as he braved the withering fire to go to the area of most intense action where he distributed ammunition, re-established positions and rendered aid to the wounded. Disregarding the painful wounds, he



unhesitatingly assumed command when a rifle company commander was medically evacuated. Capt. Rubio was wounded a third time as he selflessly exposed himself to the devastating enemy fire to move among his men to encourage them to fight with renewed effort. While aiding the evacuation of wounded personnel, he noted that a smoke grenade which was intended to mark the Viet Cong position for air strikes had fallen dangerously close to the friendly lines. Capt. Rubio ran to reposition the grenade but was immediately struck to his knees by enemy fire. Despite his several wounds, Capt. Rubio scooped up the grenade, ran through the deadly hail of fire to within 20 meters of the enemy position and hurled the already smoking grenade into the midst of the enemy before he fell for the final time. Using the repositioned grenade as a marker, friendly

air strikes were directed to destroy the hostile positions. Capt. Rubio's singularly heroic act turned the tide of battle, and his extraordinary leadership and valor were a magnificent inspiration to his men. His remarkable bravery and selfless concern for his men are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on Capt. Rubio and the U.S. Army.^[4]

37.4 Honors

The United States Army Reserve Center located at the Puerto Nuevo sector of San Juan, PR was named posthumously named Capt. Eurípides Rubio United States Army Reserve Center.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Out-patient Clinic in Ponce, PR was also named in memory of Captain Eurípides Rubio.

The American Legion Post 142 in San Juan, Puerto Rico was named after Capt. Eurípides Rubio.

Capt. Eurípides Rubio's name is inscribed in "El Monumento de la Recordación" (Monument of Remembrance), dedicated to Puerto Rico's fallen soldiers and situated in front of the Capitol Building in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The name Eurípides Rubio is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") on Panel 12E, Row 044.^[5] On November 11, 2008, the Government of Puerto Rico unveiled in the Capitol Rotunda the oil portrait of Captain Eurípides Rubio.

37.5 Military decorations awarded

Among the military decorations which Capt. Rubio earned were the following:^[1]

Fourragère

- Fourragère

Badges:

-  Combat Infantryman Badge
-  Parachutist badge

Tabs:



- 1st Infantry Division

- “Euripides Rubio”. mishalov.com. Retrieved 2006-07-14.
- “Euripides Rubio”. *Medal of Honor recipients, Americans of Hispanic Heritage*. Hispanic America U.S.A. Retrieved 2006-07-14.
- “Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Virtual Wall”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

37.6 See also

- List of Puerto Ricans
- List of Puerto Rican military personnel
- Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War

37.7 References

- [1] Service Profile
- [2] “Vietnam War War (M-Z); Rubio, Euripides entry”. *Medal of Honor recipients*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved July 13, 2010.
- [3] “Euripides Rubio”. mishalov.com. Retrieved 2006-07-14.
- [4] “Medal of Honor citation Medal of Honor citation”. Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [5] “Euripides Rubio, CPT, Army”. The Virtual Wall. Retrieved 2006-07-14.

37.8 Further reading

- *Puertorriquenos Who Served With Guts, Glory, and Honor. Fighting to Defend a Nation Not Completely Their Own*; by : Greg Boudonck; ISBN 978-1497421837

37.9 External links

- “Vietnam War War (M-Z); Rubio, Euripides entry”. *Medal of Honor recipients*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved July 13, 2010.

Chapter 38

Elmelindo Rodrigues Smith

Sergeant First Class **Elmelindo Rodrigues Smith** ^[note 1] (July 27, 1935 – February 16, 1967) born in **Wahiawa, Hawaii**, was a **United States Army** soldier, of **Hispanic-Asian** descent,^{[1][2]} who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the **Vietnam War**. Despite being severely wounded, Smith inspired his men to beat back an enemy assault.

38.1 Early years

Smith, an American of **Hispanic/Asian** descent,^[1] was born in **Wahiawā** a town located in the center of **Oahu Island** in the County of **Honolulu**. There he received his primary and secondary education. He joined the **United States Army** in 1953 and was stationed in various countries overseas, among them was **Okinawa**.

During his stay in **Okinawa**, he met a **Hawaiian** born **WAC** by the name of **Jane** and soon they were married. They established their home in a military post in **Tacoma, Washington** and had two daughters.^[3]

38.2 Vietnam War

On July 23, 1966, Smith was sent to the **Republic of Vietnam** and served as Platoon Sergeant of the 1st Platoon, Company C, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry of the **4th Infantry Division**. The division conducted combat operations in the western Central Highlands along the border between **Cambodia** and **Vietnam**. The division experienced intense combat against **North Vietnamese Army** (NVA) regular forces in the mountains surrounding **Kontum**.

On February 16, 1967, Sergeant Rodrigues Smith was leading his platoon in a reconnaissance patrol, when suddenly it came under attack. NVA forces attacked the patrol with **machinegun**, **mortar** and rocket fire. Despite the fact that he was wounded, he coordinated a counterattack by positioning his men and distributing ammunition. He was struck by a rocket, but continued to expose himself in order to direct his men's fire upon the approaching enemy. Even though he perished from his wounds, his actions resulted in the defeat of the enemy.

For his actions, he was recommended for the Medal of Honor. In October 1968, his family received the medal from the hands of **Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor**, because **President Lyndon B. Johnson** was ill at the time. However, after the ceremony, which was held at the **White House**, the family which included his widow **Jane** and two daughters, **Kathleen 10** and **Pamela 6**, were taken to **President Johnson's bedroom**.^{[4][5]}

38.3 Medal of Honor citation

SMITH, ELMELINDO RODRIGUES

Rank and organization:Platoon Sergeant (then S/Sgt.), U.S. Army, 1st Platoon, Company C, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division.

Place and date:Republic of Vietnam, 16 February 1967

Entered service at:Honolulu, Hawaii

Born:27 July 1935, Honolulu, Hawaii

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. During a reconnaissance patrol. his platoon was suddenly engaged by intense machinegun fire hemming in the platoon on 3 sides. A defensive perimeter was hastily established, but the enemy added mortar and rocket fire to the deadly fusillade and assaulted the position from several directions. With complete disregard for his safety, P/Sgt. Smith moved through the deadly fire along the defensive line, positioning soldiers, distributing ammunition and encouraging his men to repel the

enemy attack. Struck to the ground by enemy fire which caused a severe shoulder wound, he regained his feet, killed the enemy soldier and continued to move about the perimeter. He was again wounded in the shoulder and stomach but continued moving on his knees to assist in the defense. Noting the enemy massing at a weakened point on the perimeter, he crawled into the open and poured deadly fire into the enemy ranks. As he crawled on, he was struck by a rocket. Moments later, he regained consciousness, and drawing on his fast dwindling strength, continued to crawl from man to man. When he could move no farther, he chose to remain in the open where he could alert the perimeter to the approaching enemy. P/Sgt. Smith perished, never relenting in his determined effort against the enemy. The valorous acts and heroic leadership of this outstanding soldier inspired those remaining members of his platoon to beat back the enemy assaults. P/Sgt. Smith's gallant actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and they reflect great credit upon him and the Armed Forces of his country.^[6]

38.4 Postscript

Sergeant First Class Elmelindo Rodrigues Smith's remains were buried with full military honors in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific located in Honolulu, Hawaii. His name is inscribed in the Vietnam War Memorial located in Washington, D.C. in Panel 15E – Row 051.^[7]

38.5 Awards and recognitions

Among Smith's decorations and medals were the following:

Foreign unit decorations



- Fourragère cord

38.6 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

38.7 Notes

- [1] This name uses Spanish naming customs: the first or paternal family name is *Smith* and the second or maternal family name is *Rodrigues*.

38.8 References

- [1] Somos Primos; December 2007; Dedicated to Hispanic Heritage and Diversity Issues, Society of Hispanic Historical and Ancestral Research
- [2] Rodrigues a surname of Spanish origin
- [3] News Tribune, Tacoma WA (21 Feb 1967)
- [4] News Tribune, Tacoma WA
- [5] St. Petersburg Times
- [6] Rodrigues Smith's Medal of Honor citation
- [7] United States Department of Veterans Affairs

38.9 External links

- “American Forces News Information”. Archived from the original on September 29, 2007. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “U.S. ARMY Medal of Honor recipients, Vietnam”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Home Town Heroes from the State of Hawaii”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Elmelindo Rodrigues Smith”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2007-12-15.

Chapter 39

Maximo Yabes

First Sergeant **Maximo Yabes** (January 29, 1932 – February 26, 1967) born in **Lodi, California**, was a **United States Army** soldier who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** — the United States’ highest military decoration — for his actions near **Phu Hoa Dong** in **South Vietnam** during the **Vietnam War**. Yabes distinguished himself when he used his body as a shield to protect others in a bunker, moved two wounded men to a safer position where they could be given medical treatment and destroyed an enemy machine gun position before being mortally wounded.

launcher fired upon the enemy, halting a further penetration of the perimeter. Yabes then assisted two fallen comrades before he noticed an enemy machinegun within the perimeter which threatened the whole position. Yabes then proceeded to attack the enemy machine gun crew. He was able to kill the entire crew before falling mortally wounded.^[1] 24 American soldiers and over 113 Vietcong were killed in the attack.

President **Lyndon B. Johnson**, presented Yabes’ wife and children with the Medal of Honor in a ceremony held at the **White House**.

39.1 Early years

Yabes was born in **Lodi, California**, and at a young age moved with his family to **Oakridge, Oregon** where he received his primary and secondary education. In 1950, he dropped out of **Oakridge High School** and joined the **United States Army**.

39.2 Vietnam War

By 1967, Yabes was a First Sergeant with a total of 15 years in the Army. He was assigned to **Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry**, of the **25th Infantry Division** in **South Vietnam**. The division had been stationed at **Củ Chi Base Camp**, northwest of **Saigon** since January 1966.

Yabes’ company — **Alpha Company** — was assigned to protect a squad of Army engineers whose assignment was to bulldoze a swath between the village and a plantation. The objective of this assignment was to deny the enemy ambushers and snipers the protective cover of the lush jungles.

On February 26, 1967, waves of **Vietcong**, attacked **Company A**’s position, blowing whistles and laying down deadly **automatic weapons** fire. The **Vietcong**, who penetrated the barbed wire perimeter, hurled grenades towards the command bunker. Yabes ran inside the bunker and covered its occupants with his body, all the while receiving wounds from numerous grenade fragments. Yabes then moved to another bunker and with a grenade

39.3 Medal of Honor citation

MAXIMO YABES

Rank and organization: First Sergeant, U.S. Army, **Company A, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division**.

Place and date: Near **Phu Hoa Dong**, Republic of **Vietnam**, February 26, 1967.

Entered service at: **Eugene, Oregon**

Born: January 29, 1932, **Lodi, California**.

Citation:^[2]

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. 1st Sgt. Yabes distinguished himself with **Company A**, which was providing security for a land clearing operation. Early in the morning the company suddenly came under intense automatic weapons and mortar fire followed by a battalion sized assault from 3 sides. Penetrating the defensive perimeter the enemy advanced on the company command post bunker. The command post received increasingly heavy fire and was in danger of being

overwhelmed. When several enemy grenades landed within the command post, 1st Sgt. Yabes shouted a warning and used his body as a shield to protect others in the bunker. Although painfully wounded by numerous grenade fragments, and despite the vicious enemy fire on the bunker, he remained there to provide covering fire and enable the others in the command group to relocate. When the command group had reached a new position, 1st Sgt. Yabes moved through a withering hail of enemy fire to another bunker 50 meters away. There he secured a grenade launcher from a fallen comrade and fired point blank into the attacking Viet Cong stopping further penetration of the perimeter. Noting 2 wounded men helpless in the fire swept area, he moved them to a safer position where they could be given medical treatment. He resumed his accurate and effective fire killing several enemy soldiers and forcing others to withdraw from the vicinity of the command post. As the battle continued, he observed an enemy machinegun within the perimeter which threatened the whole position. On his own, he dashed across the exposed area, assaulted the machinegun, killed the crew, destroyed the weapon, and fell mortally wounded. 1st Sgt. Yabes' valiant and selfless actions saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers and inspired his comrades to effectively repel the enemy assault. His indomitable fighting spirit, extraordinary courage and intrepidity at the cost of his life are in the highest military traditions and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

39.4 Honors

First Sergeant Maximo Yabes was buried with full military honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colorado.

Dozens of individuals, businesses and organizations in Oakridge, Oregon, donated time, money, labor and supplies to build a memorial to honor Yabes. They hired sculptor Tim Outman to create the memorial which features a fountain, a flag pole and a bronze bust with the likeness of Yabes set on a granite pedestal. Engraved on the base are the details of Yabes' Medal of Honor exploits. The memorial is located in Oakridge in the Greenwaters Park. Greenwaters Park is located on the east side of Oakridge, south of highway 58. The city of El Paso, Texas also honored Yabes by naming an avenue after him. His name can be found on panel 15E, line 102 of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.^[3]

39.5 Awards and recognitions

Among Maximo Yabes' decorations and medals were the following:

Badges

-  Parachutist badge
-  Combat Infantryman Badge

Foreign unit decorations

-  Fourragère cord

39.6 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

39.7 Notes

- [1] "Night of Horror, Mystery Lives in Memory of GIs Over-run By Viet Cong Ch Chi, Vietnam". *Faces from the Wall*.
- [2] "Medal of Honor citation for Maximo Yabes". *Home-ofHeroes.com*.
- [3] OAK RIDGE HONORS FALLEN HERO-The Register-Guard

39.8 Further reading

References to First Sergeant Maximo Yabes exploits can be found in the following books:

- Shelby L. Stanton (2003). *Vietnam Order of Battle: A Complete Illustrated Reference to U.S. Army Combat and Support Forces in Vietnam 1961-1973*. Stackpole Books. ISBN 0-8117-0071-2.
- Richard C. Campbell (1995). *Two Eagles in the Sun: A Guide to U.S. Hispanic Culture*. Two Eagles Press. ISBN 1-884512-74-7.
- Edward F. Murphy (1987). *Vietnam Medal of Honor Heroes*. Ballantine Books. ISBN 0-345-33890-1.
- Ron Owens (2004). *Medal of Honor: Historical Facts And Figures*. Turner Publishing Company. ISBN 1-56311-995-1.

39.9 External links

- “FACES FROM THE WALL”. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- “Maximo Yabes”. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- “Amazon”. Retrieved October 4, 2010.

Chapter 40

Carlos Lozada

Carlos James Lozada (September 6, 1946 – November 20, 1967) was a member of the **United States Army** who was one of nine **Puerto Ricans** who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** for their actions in combat.

40.1 Early years

Lozada was born in **Caguas, Puerto Rico**. His family moved to **New York City** in the early 1950s. They settled in the **Bronx** section of the city, where Lozada received both his primary and secondary education. He graduated from high school in 1966 and soon married. Lozada then joined the **Army**, intending to use his **G.I. benefits** to attend college after his term of service.^{[1][2]}

40.2 Vietnam War

The United States at that time was involved in the **Vietnam War** and on June 11, 1967, Lozada was sent to Vietnam and assigned to Co. A, 2nd Battalion, 503 Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

On November 20, 1967, at **Dak To** in the **Republic of Vietnam**, PFC Lozada spotted a **North Vietnamese Army** company rapidly approaching his outpost. He alerted his comrades and opened fire with a **machine gun**, killing at least twenty of the enemy soldiers and disrupting their initial attack. He realized that if he abandoned his position there would be nothing to hold back the surging North Vietnamese soldiers and that his entire company withdrawal would be jeopardized – as a result he told his comrades to move to the back and that he would supply cover for them. He continued to deliver a heavy and accurate volume of suppressive fire against the enemy until he was mortally wounded and had to be carried during the withdrawal.^{[1][2]}

Lozada was posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor** in December 1969, for distinguishing himself in the **Battle of Dak To**.

40.3 Medal of Honor citation



The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to:

LOZADA, CARLOS JAMES

Rank and organization: Private First Class,
U.S. Army, Company A, 2d Battalion, 503d
Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade.

Place and date: Dak To, Republic of
Vietnam, November 20, 1967.

Entered service at: New York, N.Y.

Born: September 6, 1946, Caguas, Puerto
Rico.

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Pfc. Lozada, U.S. Army, distinguished himself at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in the battle of Dak To. While serving as a machine gunner with 1st platoon, Company A, Pfc. Lozada was part of a 4-man early warning outpost, located 35 meters from his company's lines. At 1400 hours a North Vietnamese Army company rapidly approached the outpost along a well-defined trail. Pfc. Lozada alerted his comrades and commenced firing at the enemy who were within 10 meters of the outpost. His heavy and accurate machinegun fire killed at least 20 North Vietnamese soldiers and completely disrupted their initial attack. Pfc. Lozada remained in an exposed position and continued to pour deadly fire upon the enemy despite the urgent pleas of his comrades to withdraw. The enemy continued their assault, attempting to envelop the outpost. At the same time enemy forces launched a heavy attack on the forward west flank of Company A with the intent to cut them off from their battalion. Company A was given the order to withdraw. Pfc. Lozada apparently realized that if he abandoned his position there would be nothing to hold back the surging North Vietnamese soldiers and that the entire company withdrawal would be jeopardized. He called for his comrades

to move back and that he would stay and provide cover for them. He made this decision realizing that the enemy was converging on 3 sides of his position and only meters away, and a delay in withdrawal meant almost certain death. Pfc. Lozada continued to deliver a heavy, accurate volume of suppressive fire against the enemy until he was mortally wounded and had to be carried during the withdrawal. His heroic deed served as an example and an inspiration to his comrades throughout the ensuing 4-day battle. Pfc. Lozada's actions are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.^[3]

40.4 In memory

PFC Lozada was buried with full military honors in Long Island National Cemetery located in Farmingdale, New York. His name is located in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall Panel 30E-Row 045. His name is also inscribed in "El Monumento de la Recordación" (Monument of Remembrance), dedicated to Puerto Rico's fallen soldiers and situated in front of the Capitol Building in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Bronx honored him by naming a playground in his honor located behind 175 Willis Ave. On November 11, 2008, the Government of Puerto Rico unveiled in the Capitol Rotunda the oil portrait of PFC Carlos James Lozada.^{[1][2]}

40.5 Military decorations awarded

El Monumento de la Recordación

Badges:

-  Combat Infantryman Badge
-  Parachutist badge

40.6 See also

- List of famous Puerto Ricans
- List of Puerto Rican military personnel
- Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War

40.7 References

- [1] Puerto Rico Herald
- [2] “Carlos Lozada”. *Hall of Valor*. Military Times. Retrieved September 6, 2010.
- [3] “Medal of Honor citation”. Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- “Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients”. Retrieved September 24, 2010.

40.8 Further reading

- *Puertorriquenos Who Served With Guts, Glory, and Honor. Fighting to Defend a Nation Not Completely Their Own*; by : Greg Boudonck; ISBN 978-1497421837

40.9 External links

- “Carlos Lozada”. *Hall of Valor*. Military Times. Retrieved September 6, 2010.
- “Carlos Lozada”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. June 29, 2000. Retrieved September 6, 2010.

Chapter 41

Alfredo Cantu Gonzalez

Alfredo Cantu “Freddy” Gonzalez (May 23, 1946 – February 4, 1968) was a **United States Marine Corps sergeant** who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** for service in the **Battle of Huế** during the **Vietnam War**.

41.1 Biography

Gonzalez was born on May 23, 1946, in **Edinburg, Texas**, the only child of mother **Dolia Gonzalez**.^{[1][2]} He graduated from **Lamar Grammar School** in 1955, and from **Edinburg High School** in 1965.^[3] Despite his small size, weighing only 135 pounds (61 kg), he was an All-District football player in high school.^[2]

He enlisted in the **U.S. Marine Corps Reserve** from **San Antonio, Texas**, on June 3, 1965, but was discharged and enlisted in the regular Marine Corps a month later, on July 6. He completed recruit training at **Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California**, the following September, and individual combat training at **Camp Pendleton, California**, that October.^[3]

He then became a rifleman with Headquarters and Service Company, **1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division**, and served in that capacity until January 1966. Promoted to private first class on January 1, he served a one-year tour of duty in **Vietnam** as a rifleman and squad leader with Company L, **3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division**. He was promoted to lance corporal on October 1 and to corporal on December 1 before his tour ended in February 1967. Upon his return to the United States, he saw duty as a rifleman with the **2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division**, at **Camp Lejeune** in **North Carolina**.^[3]

He became an instructor at **Camp Lejeune**, teaching Marines the techniques of **guerrilla warfare**, and expected to serve out the rest of the war in that capacity. His plans changed when he learned that an entire platoon, including men who had served under him during his tour, had been killed in an ambush in **Vietnam**. Gonzalez requested to be sent back for a second deployment.^[2] Ordered to the **West Coast** in May 1967, he joined the **3rd Replacement Company, Staging Battalion**, at **Camp Pendleton** in **California**, for transfer to **East Asia**. On July 1, 1967, he was

promoted to sergeant, and later that month arrived in the **Republic of Vietnam**. He served as a squad leader and platoon sergeant with the **3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division**.^[3]

During the initial phase of the **Battle of Huế** in late January 1968, Gonzalez and his unit were sent by truck convoy to reinforce units in the city. When the convoy came under fire near the village of **Lang Van Long** on January 31, he led his men in clearing the area. Further down the road, he received shrapnel wounds while carrying an injured man to safety. When the convoy was halted by a machine gun bunker, he led his platoon towards the position and destroyed it with hand grenades. Eventually reaching the city of **Huế**, his unit became engaged in heavy combat there. Gonzalez was seriously wounded on February 3, but refused medical treatment. The next day, when a large North Vietnamese force inflicted heavy casualties on his company, he used anti-tank weapons to fire on the fortified positions. He successfully checked the North Vietnamese advance and silenced a rocket emplacement before being mortally wounded by a rocket. He took cover in the **Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church**, where he died.^[2]

For his actions during the **Battle of Huế** from January 31 to February 4, 1968, Gonzalez was awarded the **Medal of Honor**. Vice President **Spiro T. Agnew** formally presented the medal to Gonzalez’s mother on October 31, 1969, during a ceremony at the **White House**.^[2]

He is buried at **Hillcrest Memorial Park** in his hometown of **Edinburg, Texas**.^[4]

41.2 Awards and decorations

[3][5]

41.3 Medal of Honor citation

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps, Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF. Place and date: Near **Thua Thien**, Republic of Vietnam, 4 February 1968. Entered service

at: San Antonio, Tex. Born: 23 May 1946, Edinburg Tex.

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as platoon commander, 3d Platoon, Company A. On 31 January 1968, during the initial phase of Operation Hue City, Sgt. Gonzalez' unit was formed as a reaction force and deployed to Hue to relieve the pressure on the beleaguered city. While moving by truck convoy along Route No. 1, near the village of Lang Van Long, the Marines received a heavy volume of enemy fire. Sgt. Gonzalez aggressively maneuvered the Marines in his platoon, and directed their fire until the area was cleared of snipers. Immediately after crossing a river south of Hue, the column was again hit by intense enemy fire. One of the Marines on top of a tank was wounded and fell to the ground in an exposed position. With complete disregard for his safety, Sgt. Gonzalez ran through the fire-swept area to the assistance of his injured comrade. He lifted him up and though receiving fragmentation wounds during the rescue, he carried the wounded Marine to a covered position for treatment. Due to the increased volume and accuracy of enemy fire from a fortified machine gun bunker on the side of the road, the company was temporarily halted. Realizing the gravity of the situation, Sgt. Gonzalez exposed himself to the enemy fire and moved his platoon along the east side of a bordering rice paddy to a dike directly across from the bunker. Though fully aware of the danger involved, he moved to the fire-swept road and destroyed the hostile position with hand grenades. Although seriously wounded again on 3 February, he steadfastly refused medical treatment and continued to supervise his men and lead the attack. On 4 February, the enemy had again pinned the company down, inflicting heavy casualties with automatic weapons and rocket fire. Sgt. Gonzalez, utilizing a number of light antitank assault weapons, fearlessly moved from position to position firing numerous rounds at the heavily fortified enemy emplacements. He successfully knocked out a rocket position and suppressed much of the enemy fire before falling mortally wounded. The heroism, courage, and dynamic leadership displayed by Sgt. Gonzalez reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps, and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.^[1]

41.4 Honors



Dolia Gonzalez accepts a painting of her son from Commander Brian Fort during a change of command ceremony for the USS Gonzalez in 2009

The United States Navy guided missile destroyer USS *Gonzalez* (DDG-66), commissioned in 1996, is named in his honor. His mother, Dolia, has an uncommonly close relationship with the ship and its crew. She attends many of the ship's major ceremonies, including departures and arrivals from deployments and changes of command. The crewmen exchange letters with Dolia Gonzalez, known as the ship's "mother," and call her during deployments.^[2]

The Alfredo Gonzalez Texas State Veterans Home in McAllen, Texas is named in his honor.

Two biographies by former Edinburg resident John W. Flores; "When The River Dreams: The Life of Marine Sgt. Freddy Gonzalez," printed in fall 2006, and "Marine Sgt. Freddy Gonzalez: Vietnam War Hero," scheduled for release by McFarland Publishing Company, in fall 2013.

The Museum of South Texas History holds a permanent display containing Gonzalez's uniform and medals. At The Basic School in Stafford County, Virginia, where Marine Corps officers are trained, there is an Alfredo Gonzalez Hall.^[2] In Edinburg, both an elementary school and a major east-west thoroughfare (Freddy Gonzalez Drive) are named in his honor.

41.5 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

41.6 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- [1] “Medal of Honor recipients - Vietnam (A-L)”. United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved 2009-08-13.
- [2] Mink, Micheal (August 21, 2009). “The Mother of the USS Gonzalez”. Digital Video & Imagery Distribution System. Retrieved 2009-08-23.
- [3] “SERGEANT ALFREDO GONZALEZ, USMC (DECEASED)”. *Who’s Who in Marine Corps History*. United States Marine Corps History Division. Retrieved 2009-08-13.
- [4] Alfredo Gonzalez, Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients at *Find a Grave*
- [5] CSHCR 121 resolves that the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas posthumously confer the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on Sergeant Alfredo “Freddy” Gonzalez in recognition of his heroic service and expresses to his family its deepest appreciation on behalf of all his fellow Texans

Chapter 42

Jay R. Vargas

Jay R. Vargas (born July 29, 1938), is an American and a retired United States Marine Corps colonel who served in the Vietnam War. He received the Medal of Honor for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty” in action, in 1968.

Vargas is one of four brothers who has served in combat in the United States Armed Forces in time of war — World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, 1st Marine Amphibious Force.

For his actions at Dai Do, Republic of Vietnam in 1968 as a major, Vargas was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard M. Nixon in a May 1970 ceremony at the White House.

After almost thirty years of service, Vargas retired from the Marine Corps in 1992 as a colonel.

42.1 Education

Vargas attended high school in Winslow, Arizona where he was born. He graduated from Arizona State University in 1962 with a B.S. Degree in Education and completed a Master of Arts Degree with “Honors” at U.S International University in San Diego, California.

42.2.2 Later years

After leaving the military, Vargas served as the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs from 1993 to 1998. On July 9, 2001, he was appointed to the position of Regional Veterans Liaison for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi. He served in this position until January 2009.

42.2 Military career

42.2.1 U.S. Marine Corps

After completing The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, in June 1963, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He is also a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School, the Command and Staff College, Quantico, Virginia, and the National War College, Washington, D.C.

Vargas served as a Weapons and Rifle Platoon Commander; Rifle Company Executive Officer; three times as a Rifle Company Commander (two of which were in combat); S-3 Operations Officer; Recruit Depot Series Commander; Instructor, Staff Planning School, LFTCPAC; Headquarters Company Commander, 3rd Marine Division; Commanding Officer and Executive Officer, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division; Commanding Officer of the 7th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton, California, 1st Marine Division; Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; Marine Officer Instructor, NROTC Unit, University of New Mexico; Head, Operations Branch, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington D.C.; and as

42.3 Family

Jay Vargas is one of four brothers who has served in the United States Armed Forces in time of war. Like Vargas, each of his brothers are decorated veterans — Angelo, Iwo Jima, World War II; Frank, Okinawa, World War II; and Joseph, Korean War. In honor of his mother, Vargas had her name engraved on his Medal of Honor.^[1] She died before he received his Medal of Honor; he requested that her name be engraved on the medal and be added to the rolls. As such, the actual recorded recipient of this Medal of Honor is “VARGAS, M. Sando.”^[2]

42.4 Military awards

Vargas’ military decorations and awards include:

42.4.1 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

MAJOR JAY R. VARGAS
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Commanding Officer, Company G, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, Ninth Marine Amphibious Brigade in action against enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 30 April to 2 May 1968. On 1 May 1968, though suffering from wounds he had incurred while relocating his unit under heavy enemy fire the preceding day, Major (then Captain) Vargas combined Company G with two other companies and led his men in an attack on the fortified village of Dai Do. Exercising expert leadership, he maneuvered his Marines across 700 meters of open rice paddy while under intense enemy mortar, rocket and artillery fire and obtained a foothold in two hedgerows on the enemy perimeter, only to have elements of his company become pinned down by the intense enemy fire. Leading his reserve platoon to the aid of his beleaguered men, Major Vargas inspired his men to renew their relentless advance, while destroying a number of enemy bunkers. Again wounded by grenade fragments, he refused aid as he moved about the hazardous area reorganizing his unit into a strong defense perimeter at the edge of the village. Shortly after the objective was secured, the enemy commenced a series of counterattacks and probes which lasted throughout the night but were unsuccessful as the gallant defenders of Company G stood firm in their hard-won enclave. Reinforced the following morning, the Marines launched a renewed assault through Dai Do on the village of Dinh To, to which the enemy retaliated with a massive counterattack resulting in hand-to-hand combat. Major Vargas remained in the open, encouraging and rendering assistance to his Marines when he was hit for the third time in the three-day battle. Observing his battalion commander sustain a serious wound, he disregarded his excruciating pain, crossed the fire-swept area and carried his commander to a covered position, then resumed supervising and encouraging his men simultaneously assisting in organizing the battalion's perimeter defense. His gallant actions uphold the highest

traditions of the Marines Corps and the United States Naval Service.

/S/ RICHARD M. NIXON

42.5 Other awards

- Vargas is one of a few recipients in the United States to be awarded the American Academy of Achievement's "Golden Plate Award" presented to national leaders in all professional fields.
- He has also received the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Commemorative Plaque presented by the United States Collegiate Athletic Directors and Coaches, in Houston, Texas, for excelling in collegiate athletics and having made a significant contribution to his country.

42.6 See also

- List of living Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

42.7 Notes

- [1] "Medal of Honor facts". HomeofHeros.com. Retrieved 2006-06-10.
- [2] "'Jay R. Vargas", Hispanic-American Medal of Honor recipients". *Las Culturaz*. Retrieved 2006-06-10.

42.8 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Marine Corps.

- "Colonel Jay R. Vargas, USMC (retired)". *Who's Who in Marine Corps History*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. Retrieved 2007-11-02.
- "Maj Jay R. Vargas, Medal of Honor, 1968, 2/4/9, Vietnam (Medal of Honor citation)". *Marines Awarded the Medal of Honor*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. Archived from the original on 2007-02-20. Retrieved 2006-06-10.

- “Biography: Jay R. Vargas, Congressional Medal of Honor” (Word document). Phoenix Veterans Administration. Retrieved 2006-06-10.

42.9 Further reading

- “"Battle for Dong Ha", in *The Operations and The Battles, The 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion* (Amtrac.org)". Archived from the original on September 12, 2006. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- Jordan, Kenneth N. *Men of Honor: Thirty-Eight Highly Decorated Marines of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam*, A Schiffer Military History Book, 1997. (ISBN 0-7643-0247-7)
- Nolan, Keith William. *The Magnificent Bastards The Joint Army-Marine Defense of Dong Ha, 1968*, Presidio Press, 1994. (ISBN 0-89141-485-1)

Chapter 43

Roy Benavidez

Master Sergeant **Raul Perez “Roy” Benavidez** (August 5, 1935 – November 29, 1998) was a member of the United States Army Special Forces (Studies and Observations Group) and retired United States Army master sergeant who received the Medal of Honor for his valorous actions in combat near Lộc Ninh, South Vietnam on May 2, 1968.

43.1 Childhood and early life

Roy P. Benavidez was born in Lindenau near Cuero, Texas in DeWitt County. He was the son of a Mexican father, Salvador Benavidez and a Yaqui Indian mother, Teresa Perez. When he was two years old, his father died of tuberculosis and his mother remarried. Five years later, his mother died from tuberculosis as well. Benavidez and his younger brother Roger moved to El Campo, where their grandfather, uncle and aunt raised them along with eight cousins.

Benavidez shined shoes at the local bus station, labored on farms in California and Washington, and worked at a tire shop in El Campo. He attended school sporadically, and at age 15 he dropped out to work full-time to help support the family.

43.2 Military career

43.2.1 US Army

Benavidez enlisted in the Texas Army National Guard in 1952 during the Korean War. In June 1955, he switched from the Army National Guard to Army active duty. In 1959, he married Hilaria Coy Benavidez, completed airborne training, and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

43.2.2 Army Special Forces

Benavidez returned to Fort Bragg and began training for the elite Army Special Forces. Once qualified and ac-

cepted, he became a member of the 5th Special Forces Group; and the Studies and Observations Group (SOG).

Vietnam

In 1965 he was sent to South Vietnam as an advisor to an Army of the Republic of Vietnam infantry regiment. He stepped on a land mine ^[1] during a patrol and was evacuated to the United States, where doctors at Fort Sam Houston concluded he would never walk again and began preparing his medical discharge papers. As Benavidez noted in his 1981 MOH acceptance speech, stung by the diagnosis, as well as flag burnings and media criticism of the US military presence in Vietnam he saw on TV, he began an unsanctioned nightly training ritual in an attempt to redevelop his ability to walk. Getting out of bed at night (against doctors' orders), Benavidez would crawl using his elbows and chin to a wall near his bedside and (with the encouragement of his fellow patients, many of whom were permanently paralyzed and/or missing limbs), he would prop himself against the wall and attempt to lift himself unaided, starting by wiggling his toes, then his feet, and then eventually (after several months of excruciating practice that by his own admission often left him in tears) pushing himself up the wall with his ankles and legs.^[2] After over a year of hospitalization, Benavidez walked out of the hospital in July 1966, with his wife at his side, determined to return to combat in Vietnam. Despite continuing pain from his wounds, he returned to South Vietnam in January 1968.

6 Hours in Hell

On May 2, 1968, a 12-man Special Forces patrol which included nine Montagnard tribesmen, was surrounded by a NVA infantry battalion of about 1,000 men. Benavidez heard the radio appeal for help and boarded a helicopter to respond. Armed only with a knife, he jumped from the helicopter carrying his medical bag and ran to help the trapped patrol. Benavidez “distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions... and because of his gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be

stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men.” After the battle, he was evacuated to the base camp, examined, and thought to be dead. As he was placed in a body bag among the other dead in body bags, he was suddenly recognized by a friend who called for help. A doctor came and examined him but believed Benavidez was dead. The doctor was about to zip up the body bag when Benavidez managed to spit in his face, alerting the doctor that he was alive.^[3](see medal citation below) Benavidez had a total of 37 separate bullet, bayonet, and shrapnel wounds from the six-hour fight with the enemy battalion.^[4]

Benavidez was evacuated once again to Brooke Army Medical Center, where he eventually recovered. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism and four Purple Hearts. In 1969, he was assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas. In 1972, he was assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas where he remained until retirement.

43.3 Medal of Honor

In 1973, after more detailed accounts became available, Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel Ralph R. Drake insisted that Benavidez receive the Medal of Honor. By then, however, the time limit on the medal had expired. An appeal to Congress resulted in an exemption for Benavidez, but the Army Decorations Board denied him an upgrade of his Distinguished Service Cross to the Medal of Honor. The Army board required an eyewitness account from someone present during the action; however, Benavidez believed that there were no living witnesses of the “Six Hours in Hell.”

Unbeknownst to Benavidez, there was a living witness, who would later provide the eyewitness account necessary: Brian O'Connor, the former radioman of Benavidez's Special Forces team in Vietnam. O'Connor had been severely wounded (Benavidez had believed him dead), and he was evacuated to the United States before his superiors could fully debrief him.

O'Connor had been living in the Fiji Islands when, in 1980, he was on holiday in Australia. During his holiday O'Connor read a newspaper account of Benavidez from an El Campo newspaper, which had been picked up by the international press and reprinted in Australia. O'Connor immediately contacted Benavidez and submitted a ten-page report of the encounter, confirming the accounts provided by others, and serving as the necessary eyewitness; Benavidez's Distinguished Service Cross accordingly was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

On February 24, 1981, President Ronald Reagan presented Roy P. Benavidez with the Medal of Honor. Reagan turned to the press and said, “If the story of his heroism were a movie script, you would not believe it”. He then read the official award citation.

BENAVIDEZ, ROY P.

Rank and organization: Master Sergeant. *Organization:* Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group, Republic of Vietnam

Place and date: West of Loc Ninh on May 2, 1968

Entered service at: Houston, Texas June 1955

Born: August 5, 1935, DeWitt County, Cuero, Texas.



Army Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez (center) is flanked by United States Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger (left) and President Ronald Reagan at his Medal of Honor presentation ceremony in 1981.

Master Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. BENAVIDEZ United States Army, distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions on 2 May 1968 while assigned to Detachment B56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam.

On the morning of 2 May 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters of the 240th Assault Helicopter Company in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the

ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire.

Sergeant BENAVIDEZ was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters, of the 240th Assault Helicopter Company, returned to off-load wounded crew members and to assess aircraft damage. Sergeant *Benavidez* voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team.

Prior to reaching the team's position he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head. Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft, and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke canisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and classified documents on the dead team leader.

When he reached the leader's body, Sergeant BENAVIDEZ was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sergeant *Benavidez* secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter. Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, reinstilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a buildup of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sergeant BENAVIDEZ mustered his strength, began calling in tactical air strikes and directed the fire from supporting gunships to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction at-

tempt.

He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier. In the ensuing hand-to-hand combat, he sustained additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary.^[5]^[note 1] He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed, and to bring in the remaining wounded.

Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft, Sergeant BENAVIDEZ's gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.^[6]

43.4 Post-military retirement

In 1976, Benavidez, his wife, and their three children returned home to El Campo, Texas. He devoted his remaining years to the youth of America, speaking to them about the importance of staying in school and getting an education. His message was simple: "An education is the key to success. Bad habits and bad company will ruin you."

In 1983, Benavidez told the press that the **Social Security Administration** planned to cut off disability payments he had been receiving since his retirement, as well as the disability payments for thousands of other veterans. He went to Capitol Hill and pleaded with the **House Select Committee on Aging** to abandon their plans, which they finally did.

Speaker

Benavidez was in demand as a speaker by United States

armed forces, schools, military and civic groups, and private businesses. He also spoke in Greece, Panama, Korea, and Japan, where he visited American military personnel and even joined them on field exercises. He received complimentary letters from students, service members, and private citizens throughout the world.

Author

He wrote three autobiographical books about his life and military experience. In 1986, he published *The Three Wars of Roy Benavidez*, which described his struggles growing up as a poor Mexican-American orphan, his military training and combat in Vietnam, and the efforts by others to get recognition for his actions in Vietnam.^[7] Benavidez later wrote *The Last Medal of Honor* (Texas: Swan Publishers, 1991) with Pete Billac and *Medal of Honor: A Vietnam Warrior's Story* in 1995.^[8]





43.5 Death














Roy Benavidez died on November 29, 1998, at the age of 63 at Brooke Army Medical Center, having suffered respiratory failure and complications of diabetes.^[9] His body was escorted to St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, where he had married, where his three children were married, and where he attended Mass every Sunday. His body was then returned to Fort Sam Houston's Main Chapel for a public viewing. Family friend Archbishop Patrick Flores of the Archdiocese of San Antonio (now archbishop emeritus) presided over a Catholic funeral Mass at San Fernando Cathedral located in San Antonio.

Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

43.6 Military decorations and awards

Benavidez' military awards include:^[10]

-  Medal of Honor
-  Purple Heart with four Oak Leaf Clusters
-  Defense Meritorious Service Medal
-  Meritorious Service Medal

-  Army Commendation Medal
-  Army Good Conduct Medal with one silver and one bronze service star
-  Army of Occupation Medal
-  National Defense Service Medal
-  Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
-  Vietnam Service Medal with four campaign stars
-  Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960- Device
-  Presidential Unit Citation
-  Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
-  Texas Legislative Medal of Honor
-  Combat Infantryman Badge
-  Master Parachutist Badge
-  Army Special Forces Tab

43.7 Personal honors

Benavidez' personal honors include:

- 1981 Texan of the Year
- Honorary Associate in Arts from the New Mexico Military Institute
- Special USPS Pictorial Cancellation Stamp
- Lifetime Achievement Award from St. Mary's University Alumni Law School in San Antonio, Texas
- Listed on the Medal of Honor Memorial in Indianapolis, Indiana



Roy P. Benavidez Elementary School in Gulfton, Houston, Texas



The Texas National Guard armory in El Campo



USNS Benavidez

- Listed on the The Medal of Honor Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California
- Texas Legislative Medal of Honor
- GI Joe, Roy P. Benavidez Commemorative Edition – Released August 31, 2001 (First Hispanic to be honored.)

- Memorial Bench at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

Buildings and institutions with Benavidez's name include:

- Roy P. Benavidez American Legion Post #400 in San Antonio, Texas
- Roy P. Benavidez Army Reserve Center, NAS Corpus Christi, Texas
- Roy P. Benavidez Artillery Training Area 67 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma
- Roy P. Benavidez City Park in Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Roy P. Benavidez Elementary School in Gulfton, Houston, Texas
- Roy P. Benavidez Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas
- Roy P. Benavidez Foundation, Inc.
- Roy P. Benavidez Military Range at Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Roy P. Benavidez National Guard Armory in El Campo, Texas
- Roy P. Benavidez Scholarship Fund in El Campo
- Roy P. Benavidez Special Operations Logistic Complex at Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- USNS Benavidez, a Bob Hope-class roll on roll off vehicle cargo ship
- Roy P. Benavidez Recreation Center in Eagle Pass, Texas

The conference room owned and operated by the Department of Military Instruction of the United States Military Academy is the “Benavidez Room”. Inside the “Benavidez Room” there are signed pictures of MSG Benavidez, the citation from his Medal of Honor, and a G.I. Joe toy created in his likeness. The room is used primarily for planning Cadet Summer Military Training and hosting visitors.

The Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez Noncommissioned Officer Academy of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, Fort Benning, GA

Roy Benavidez's Medal of Honor is on display at the Ronald Reagan Library along with a video of him receiving the medal from President Reagan.

43.8 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

43.9 Notes

Footnotes

- [1] The original, commonly quoted citation as published contained an error that essentially left out a line of text. DA GO 2001–25 corrected that error and replaced it with the text found in the previous two sentences.

Citations

- [1] It is alternatively reported that it may have been a grenade thrown at the back of him.
- [2] MSG Roy Benavidez, MOH acceptance speech, Time index 10:27 on YouTube.
- [3] Roman Catholic Saints, Roy Benavidez
- [4] 2EtZ8UC&pg=PA72&dq=Benavidez+nva+battalion&cd=2#v=snippet&q=%22sog%20team%20made%20direct%20contact%22&f=false Last Full Measure of Devotion: A Tribute to America's Heroes of the Vietnam War at Google Books
- [5] "Department of the Army General Order 2001–25, Individual and Unit Awards, Sec XIV, Medal of Honor – Amendment" (PDF). Headquarters, Department of the Army.
- [6] "Department of the Army General Order 1981-08, Award of the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez" (PDF). Headquarters, Department of the Army.
- [7] Roy Benavidez with Oscar Griffin, *The Three Wars of Roy Benavidez*. New York: Ballantine, 1986. ISBN 0671652362
- [8] Roy Benevidez with John R. Craig, *Medal of Honor: One Man's Journey From Poverty and Prejudice*, Washington, DC: Potomac Books, 1995. ISBN 0028810988
- [9] Goldstein, Richard. "Roy P. Benavidez, Recipient Of Medal of Honor, Dies at 63", *New York Times*, New York City, December 04, 1998. Retrieved on 2011-02-05.
- [10] "A Guide to the Roy P. Benavidez Papers, 1943-2007".
- Benavidez, Roy P. with John R. Craig (1995). *Medal of Honor: A Vietnam Warrior's Story*. Brassey's Inc. ISBN 0-02-881098-8. LCCN 94027283.
- Benavidez, Roy P. with Pete Billac (1991). *The Last Medal of Honor*. Swan Publishers. ASIN B000J3KLN4.
- Benavidez, Roy; Griffin, Oscar (1986). *The three wars of Roy Benavidez*. San Antonio, Texas: Corona Publishing Co. ISBN 0-931722-58-6. LCCN 86070715.
- "A Guide to the Roy P. Benavidez Papers, 1943–2007". The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

43.11 External links

- "Biography on Psywarrior site".
- "Handbook of Texas Online".
- "Roy Benavidez." Texas State Cemetery
- "Benavidez' daughter writes about his death from diabetes".
- Elder, Daniel K. "Remarkable Sergeants: Ten Vignettes of Noteworthy NCOs", *Center for the Advanced Studies of the US Army Noncommissioned Officer*, April 30, 2003. (URL accessed on November 8, 2008).
- "Late sergeant's family donates papers to UT". The Daily Texan.
- "Texas War Hero Roy Benavidez Honored in Exhibit at Center for American History". The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.
- "Exhibit honors Texas hero". The Daily Texan.
- "West Point honors EC's fallen hero". El Campo Leader News.

43.10 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Army Center of Military History.

- "Profiles: Staff Sgt Roy Benavidez". *Hispanic Americans in the U.S. Army*. U.S. Army. Retrieved March 23, 2010.
- Gilmore, Gerry J. (September 19, 2000). "USNS Benavidez Honors Army Medal of Honor Hero". *DefenseLINK News* (Department of Defense). Archived from the original on October 28, 2006. Retrieved November 18, 2006.

Chapter 44

Héctor Santiago Colón

Héctor Santiago-Colón^[note 1] (December 20, 1942 – June 28, 1968) is one of nine Puerto Ricans who have been posthumously presented with the **Medal of Honor**, the highest military decoration awarded by the United States. His actions on June 28, 1968 during the **Vietnam War** saved the lives of his comrades.

44.1 Early years

Santiago-Colón was one of twelve siblings born to Pablo Santiago and Petronila Colón in **Salinas, Puerto Rico**. There he received his primary and secondary education. In 1960 his family moved to the **United States** and lived in **New York City**. After living in the city for a short time, Santiago-Colón decided that he wanted to be part of the **NYPD (New York City Police Department)**, however, at the time, in order to become a member of the NYPD you had to be a veteran. Santiago-Colon then volunteered to join the **United States Army**. He was engaged to be married to his elementary school sweetheart at the time. After completing his basic training, he was assigned to a unit stationed in the **Republic of Vietnam**.^[1]

44.2 Action in Vietnam

On June 28, 1968, members of Santiago-Colón's Company B of the 5th Battalion, **7th Cavalry**, 1st Cavalry Division were engaged in combat at **Quang Tri Province**. An enemy (North Vietnamese) soldier lobbed a **hand grenade** into Santiago-Colón's **foxhole**. Realizing that there was no time to throw out the grenade, he tucked it in to his stomach and turning away from his comrades, absorbed the full impact of the blast, sacrificing his life to save his fellow soldiers from certain death.

Santiago-Colón **posthumously** received the **Medal of Honor** for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty. The award was presented to his family in a ceremony at the **White House** by **President Richard M. Nixon** on April 7, 1970. His remains are buried in the city of **Salinas, Puerto Rico**.

44.3 Medal of Honor citation



The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to:

SANTIAGO-COLON, HECTOR

Rank and organization: Specialist Four, U.S. Army, Company B, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

Place and date: Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam, June 28, 1968.

Entered service at: New York, N.Y.

Born: December 20, 1942, Salinas, Puerto Rico.

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Realizing that there was no time to throw the grenade out of his position, he retrieved the grenade, tucked it in to his stomach and, turning away from his comrades, absorbed the full impact of the blast. Sp4 Santiago-Colón distinguished himself at the cost of his life while serving as a gunner in the mortar platoon of Company B. While serving as a perimeter sentry, Sp4 Santiago-Colón heard distinct movement in the heavily wooded area to his front and flanks. He alerted his fellow sentries in the area to move to their foxholes and remain alert for any enemy probing forces. From the wooded area around his position heavy enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire suddenly broke out, but extreme darkness rendered difficult the precise location and identification of the hostile force. Only the muzzle flashes from enemy weapons indicated their position. Sp4 Santiago-Colón and the other members of his position immediately began to repel the attackers, utilizing hand grenades, antipersonnel mines and small-arms fire. Due to the heavy volume of enemy fire and exploding grenades around them, a North Vietnamese soldier was able to crawl, undetected, to their position. Suddenly, the enemy soldier lobbed a hand grenade into

Sp4 Santiago-Colón's foxhole. Realizing that there was no time to throw the grenade out of his position, Sp4 Santiago-Colón retrieved the grenade, tucked it in to his stomach and, turning away from his comrades, absorbed the full impact of the blast. Heroic self-sacrifice saved the lives of those who occupied the foxhole with him, and provided them with the inspiration to continue fighting until they had forced the enemy to retreat from the perimeter. By his gallantry at the cost of his life and in the highest traditions of the military service, Sp4 Santiago-Colón has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.^[2]

44.4 Legacy

On July 1975, The Puerto Rico National Guard renamed their training base "Camp Salinas", which is located close to Santiago-Colón's birth town, with the name **Camp Santiago** in his honor. He was the second Puerto Rican to be so honored. The first Puerto Rican who has a military installation named after him is **Marine PFC Fernando Luis García**, who was the first Puerto Rican **Medal of Honor** recipient. The base is "Camp Garcia" located in the island municipality of **Vieques**. Santiago-Colón's name on the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** is located at Panel 54W Line 013.^[3] Santiago-Colón's name is also inscribed in "El Monumento de la Recordación" (Monument of Remembrance), dedicated to Puerto Rico's fallen soldiers and situated in front of the Capitol Building in San Juan, Puerto Rico. On November 11, 2008, the Government of Puerto Rico unveiled in the Capitol Rotunda the oil portrait of Santiago-Colón. In 1977 a gym at Sand Hill in **Fort Benning** was named Santiago Fitness Center on Sand Hill in honor of SPC Héctor Santiago Colón.

44.5 Military decorations awarded**44.6 See also**

- List of famous Puerto Ricans
- List of Puerto Rican military personnel
- Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients



El Monumento de la Recordacion

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War

44.7 Notes

- [1] This name uses Spanish naming customs: the first or paternal family name is *Santiago* and the second or maternal family name is *Colón*.

44.8 References

- [1] “Puerto Rico Herald”. Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [2] “Medal of Honor citation”. Retrieved October 5, 2010.
- [3] “Hector Santiago-Colon”. *The Virtual Wall*. Retrieved 2006-10-21.

44.9 Further reading

- *Puertorriquenos Who Served With Guts, Glory, and Honor. Fighting to Defend a Nation Not Completely Their Own*; by : Greg Boudonck; ISBN 978-1497421837

44.10 External links

- “Sp4c. Hector Santiago-Colón”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- “Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients”. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 45

José F. Jiménez

José Francisco Jiménez (March 20, 1946 – August 28, 1969) was a United States Marine Corps Lance Corporal who posthumously received the Medal of Honor for heroism in the Vietnam War in August 1969.

45.1 Biography

José Jiménez was born on March 20, 1946, in Mexico City, Mexico. He attended Benito Juárez School and José María Morelos School in Morelia, Michoacán. He graduated from Red Rock Elementary School, Red Rock, Arizona, in June 1964, and from Santa Cruz Valley Union High School, Eloy, Arizona, in June 1968.^[1]

Enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserve at Phoenix, Arizona on June 7, 1968, Jiménez was discharged to enlist in the regular Marine Corps, August 12, 1968. He completed recruit training with the 1st Recruit Training Battalion at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California, in October 1968. He was promoted to private first class on October 1, 1968. Transferred to the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, he underwent individual combat training with Company G, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Training Regiment and with the Rifle Training Company of the 2nd Infantry Training Regiment, completing the latter in December 1968.^[1]

Ordered to the Republic of Vietnam in February 1969, Jiménez was assigned duty as a guide and fire team leader with Company K, 3rd Battalion 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was promoted to lance corporal on June 16, 1969. While participating in action against the enemy south of Da Nang, Quảng Nam Province, on August 28, 1969, he was killed in action.^{[1][2]}

45.2 Awards and honors

Jiménez's medals include:

- Jiménez's name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Panel 18W Line 002.^[3]

- The Marine Barracks in Rota, Spain is named "Jiménez Hall" in honor of Jiménez.

45.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

LANCE CORPORAL JOSE F. JIMÉNEZ
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Fire Team Leader with Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 August 1969. On that date Lance Corporal Jimenez' unit came under heavy attack by North Vietnamese Army soldiers concealed in well-camouflaged emplacements. Lance Corporal Jimenez reacted by seizing the initiative and plunging forward toward the enemy positions. He personally destroyed several enemy personnel and silenced an antiaircraft weapon. Shouting encouragement to his companions, Lance Corporal Jimenez continued his aggressive forward movement. He slowly maneuvered to within ten feet of hostile soldiers who were firing automatic weapons from a trench and, in the face of vicious enemy fire, destroyed the position. Although he was by now the target of concentrated fire from hostile gunners intent upon halting his assault, Lance Corporal Jimenez continued to press forward. As he moved to attack another enemy soldier, he was mortally wounded. Lance Corporal Jimenez' indomitable courage, aggressive fighting spirit and unfaltering devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.^[4]

/S/RICHARD M. NIXON

the Army and Marines in Hiep Duc Valley during August 1969 – further reading; “DEATH VALLEY” – The Summer Offensive I Corps, August 1969 ; author Keith William Nolan (copyright 1987)

45.3 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

45.4 Notes

- [1] “Lance Corporal Jose Francisco Jimenez, USMC, Medal of Honor recipient”. *Who’s who in Marine Corps history*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. September 18, 2003. Retrieved 2007-06-16.
- [2] Smith, Charles (1988). *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown 1969*. History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. p. 367. ISBN 978-1494287627.
- [3] “Jose Jimenez, LCPL, Marine Corps”. *The Virtual Wall*. Retrieved 2006-06-16.
- [4] “Medal of Honor — LCpl Jose F. Jimenez (Medal of Honor citation)”. *Medal of Honor, 1969, 3/7/1, Vietnam*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. Archived from the original on 2006-06-13. Retrieved 2007-11-10.

45.5 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Marine Corps.

- “Lance Corporal Jose Francisco Jimenez, USMC, Medal of Honor recipient”. *Who’s who in Marine Corps history*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. September 18, 2003. Retrieved 2007-06-16.
- “Medal of Honor — LCpl Jose F. Jimenez (Medal of Honor citation)”. *Medal of Honor, 1969, 3/7/1, Vietnam*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. Archived from the original on 2006-06-13. Retrieved 2007-11-10.
- “José F. Jiménez”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2007-11-10.
- Unit Action involving Lance Corporal Jimenez, His MOH Bravery, and the ferocious battles fought by

45.6 External links

- “Medals of Honor (7th Marines)”. Twentynine Palms, United States Marine Corps. Archived from the original on 2007-07-05. Retrieved 2007-11-10.

Chapter 46

Ralph E. Dias

Private First Class **Ralph Ellis Dias** (July 15, 1950–November 12, 1969) was a **United States Marine** who posthumously received the **Medal of Honor** for heroism in Vietnam in November 1969.

46.1 Biography

Ralph Dias was born on July 15, 1950, in **Indiana County, Pennsylvania**. He graduated from elementary school in 1965, then attended Elderton Joint High School in **Elderton, Pennsylvania**, for two years.

He enlisted in the **United States Marine Corps** on October 9, 1967, at **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**, and underwent recruit training with the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, **Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina**.

Upon completion of recruit training in December, he was transferred to the 2nd Infantry Training Battalion, 1st Infantry Training Regiment, **Camp Lejeune, North Carolina**, for special infantry training. In February 1968, he was ordered to the Marine Corps Base, **Camp Pendleton, California**, for duty with Company B, 1st Battalion 28th Marines, **5th Marine Division**.

In April 1969, he was ordered to the **Republic of Vietnam** for duty as a rifleman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, **Fleet Marine Force**.

His medals and decorations include: the **Medal of Honor**, the **Purple Heart**, the **Combat Action Ribbon**, the **Meritorious Unit Commendation** with one bronze star, the **National Defense Service Medal**, the **Vietnam Service Medal** with three bronze stars, the **Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Commendation (Gallantry Cross Color)** with palm and frame, the **Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Commendation (Civil Action Medal, First Class Color)** with palm and frame, and the **Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal** with device.

Private Dias was **killed in action** on November 12, 1969, while participating in combat in **Quảng Nam Province**. His heroic actions on that date were recognized with his nation's highest military honor — the **Medal of Honor**. He is buried in **Oakdale Cemetery, Leetonia, Ohio**.^{[1][2]}

46.2 Medal of Honor citation

The **President of the United States** in the name of The **Congress** takes pride in presenting the **MEDAL OF HONOR** posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RALPH E. DIAS **UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, while serving as a Rifleman with Company D, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam on November 12, 1969. As a member of a reaction force which was pinned down by enemy fire while assisting a platoon in the same circumstance, Private First Class Dias, observing that both units were sustaining casualties, initiated an aggressive assault against an enemy **machine gun bunker** which was the principal source of hostile fire. Severely wounded by enemy **snipers** while charging across the open area, he pulled himself to the shelter of a nearby rock. Braving enemy fire for a second time, Private First Class Dias was again wounded. Unable to walk, he crawled fifteen meters to the protection of a rock located near his objective and, repeatedly exposing himself to intense hostile fire, unsuccessfully threw several **hand grenades** at the machine gun emplacement. Still determined to destroy the emplacement, Private First Class Dias again moved into the open and was wounded a third time by sniper fire. As he threw a last grenade which destroyed the enemy position, he was mortally wounded by another enemy round. Private First Class Dias' indomitable courage, dynamic initiative, and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the **United States Naval Service**. He gallantly gave his life in service to his country.

/S/ RICHARD M. NIXON

46.3 Legacy

The name Ralph E. Dias is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (“The Wall”) on Panel 16W, Line 063.^[3] A section of state rt 344 in Leetonia has been renamed in his honor. More information may be found at <http://www.morningjournalnews.com/page/content.detail/id/511243/A-day-for-Dias.html>.

46.4 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

46.5 Notes

- [1] “Ralph E. Dias”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2007-11-17.
- [2] Smith, Charles (1988). *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown 1969*. History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. p. 364. ISBN 978-1494287627.
- [3] “Ralph Dias, PFC, Marine Corps”. *The Virtual Wall*. Retrieved 2006-07-20.

46.6 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Marine Corps.

- “Ralph E. Dias”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2007-11-17.
- “Ralph E. Diaz, Medal of Honor recipient”. *Who’s who in Marine Corps history*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. Retrieved 2007-11-17.
- “Medal of Honor — Pvt Ralph E. Dias”. *Marines Awarded the Medal of Honor*. History Division, United States Marine Corps. Archived from the original on 2007-03-05. Retrieved 2007-11-17.

Chapter 47

Emilio A. De La Garza

Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. (June 23, 1949 – April 11, 1970) was a United States Marine who was posthumously presented the nation's highest military honor — the Medal of Honor — for his heroism on April 11, 1970 in Vietnam.

47.1 Early years

Emilio Albert De La Garza, Jr. was born on June 23, 1949, in East Chicago, Indiana. He graduated from E.C. Washington High School in 1968. He was married to Rosemary Rejon and they have a daughter Renee (Lugo). He was employed by Inland Steel Company in East Chicago (Indiana Harbor), Indiana, before enlisting in the Marine Corps.

47.2 Marine Corps service

De La Garza enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on February 4, 1969, in Chicago, Illinois. He received recruit training with the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment at the MCRD San Diego, California.

Upon completion of recruit training, he was ordered to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, where he joined the 2nd Infantry Training Regiment (ITR) and underwent individual combat training with the 1st and 2nd Battalions, and weapons training with the Basic Infantry Training Battalion.

Promoted to Private First Class on July 1, 1969, he arrived in the Republic of Vietnam on the July 25, 1969 for duty as a machinegun team ammo carrier with Company H, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. On September 29, 1969, he was reassigned to the 1st Marine Division and served as a Marine Corps exchange man with Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, until the following December. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on February 1, 1970.

LCpl. De La Garza joined Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. On April 11,

1970, LCpl. De La Garza was serving as a machine gunner on a squad night patrol with Company E, 3rd platoon, approximately four miles south of Da Nang. The Marine rifle squad took hit and run fire in the morning and pursued the enemy. De La Garza spotted one of the VC hidden in a deep pond and went into the water with his knife taking the VC prisoner. As the VC was being brought to shore the VC pulled a hidden grenade. De La Garza yelled "Grenade" and was killed by the blast.

47.3 Awards and honors

Honors

- American Legion Emilio De La Garza, Jr. Post 508, East Chicago, Indiana
- Ivy Tech State College, LCpl Emilio De La Garza Jr. Campus, East Chicago, Indiana

47.4 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

LANCE CORPORAL EMILIO A. DE LA GARZA,
JR.
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Company E, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, in the Republic of Vietnam on April 11, 1970. Returning with his squad from a night ambush operation, Lance Corporal De La Garza joined

his Platoon commander and another Marine in searching for two enemy soldiers who had been observed fleeing for cover toward a small pond. Moments later, he located one of the enemy soldiers hiding among the reeds and brush. As the three Marines attempted to remove the resisting soldier from the pond, Lance Corporal De La Garza observed him pull the pin on a **grenade**. Shouting a warning, Lance Corporal De La Garza placed himself between the other two Marines and the ensuing blast from the grenade, thereby saving the lives of his comrades at the sacrifice of his own. By his prompt and decisive action, and his great personal valor in the face of almost certain death, Lance Corporal De La Garza upheld and further enhanced the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and the **United States Naval Service**.

/S/ **RICHARD M. NIXON**

47.5 See also

- **List of Medal of Honor recipients**
- **List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War**
- **List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients**
- **Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps**

47.6 References

This article incorporates **public domain material** from websites or documents of the **United States Marine Corps**.

- **“Official Marine Corps biography”**. Retrieved September 29, 2010.
- **“Medal of Honor citation”**. Retrieved September 29, 2010.

Chapter 48

Miguel Keith

Miguel Keith (June 2, 1951 – May 8, 1970) was a United States Marine who posthumously received the United States's highest military decoration — the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam in May 1970. Despite being severely wounded, he advanced on enemy attackers, allowing his platoon to rout the attack of a numerically superior enemy force.

48.1 Biography

Miguel Keith was born on June 2, 1951 in San Antonio, Texas. He left North High School in Omaha, Nebraska in December 1968, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at Omaha on January 21, 1969. He was discharged from the Reserves on April 30, 1969, and the following day, on May 1, 1969, he enlisted in the regular Marine Corps.

Ordered to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, on May 2, 1969 for recruit training, he completed training with the 1st Recruit Training Battalion on July 17, 1969. He was transferred to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, for individual combat training with Company B, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Training Regiment. On August 1, 1969, he was promoted to the rank of Private First Class.

Upon completion of individual combat training on September 18, 1969 he received orders to the Far East. On November 6, 1969, he arrived in the Republic of Vietnam and was assigned as a rifleman with the 1st Combined Action Group, III Marine Amphibious Force. On April 1, 1970, he was promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal.

While participating in combat in Quang Ngai Province on May 8, 1970, he was mortally wounded in the action for which he received the Medal of Honor. When his platoon was under heavy attack from a numerically superior enemy, Keith was seriously wounded. Despite his wounds, he advanced on the enemy with machine gun fire, killing three of the enemy advancing on the command post and dispersing the others. He was severely wounded by a grenade during this charge. In spite of his wounds and loss of blood, he charged a group of 25 attackers, caus-

ing them to retreat for cover. He was mortally wounded by enemy fire. His actions contributed significantly to his platoon's success in routing the enemy.

Lance Corporal Keith was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska.^[1]

48.2 Decorations

His medals and decorations include: the Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze star, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

48.3 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

LANCE CORPORAL MIGUEL KEITH UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner with Combined Action Platoon 1-3-2, III Marine Amphibious Force, operating in Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam. During the early morning of 8 May 1970, Lance Corporal Keith was seriously wounded when his platoon was subjected to a heavy ground attack by a greatly outnumbering enemy force. Despite his painful wounds, he ran across the fire-swept terrain to check the security of vital defensive positions, and then, while completely exposed

to view, proceeded to deliver a hail of devastating machine gun fire against the enemy. Determined to stop five of the enemy approaching the command post, he rushed forward, firing as he advanced. He succeeded in disposing of three of the attackers and in dispersing the remaining two. At this point, a **grenade** detonated near Lance Corporal Keith, knocking him to the ground and inflicting further severe wounds. Fighting pain and weakness from loss of blood, he again braved the concentrated hostile fire to charge an estimated twenty-five enemy soldiers who were massing to attack. The vigor of his assault and his well-placed fire eliminated four of the enemy while the remainder fled for cover. During this valiant effort, he was mortally wounded by an enemy soldier. By his courageous and inspiring performance in the face of almost overwhelming odds, Lance Corporal Keith contributed in large measure to the success of his platoon in routing a numerically superior enemy force, and upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

/S/ RICHARD M. NIXON

48.4 In memory

The Wall Miguel Keith has his name inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial ("The Wall") on Panel 11W Line 132.^[2]

Henderson Hall barracks Keith Hall, a new barracks at Henderson Hall, Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington, Virginia was dedicated on March 18, 1983, honoring LCPL Miguel Keith. A bronze plaque in the lobby recounts the heroic actions of LCPL Keith.^[3]

48.5 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

48.6 Notes

- [1] Leatherwood, Art. "Keith, Miguel (1951-1970)", *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. " ", <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fkeyj> (accessed June 21, 2006).

- [2] Miguel Keith, LCPL, Marine Corps, *The Virtual Wall*. Retrieved on 2006-06-21.

- [3] Pettiey, Cpl. Kris. "PME to Focus on Medal of Honor recipient Miguel Keith", *Henderson Hall News*, dcmilitary.com, September 15, 2000. Retrieved on 2006-06-21.

48.7 References

This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the United States Marine Corps.

- "Lance Corporal Miguel Keith, USMC, *Who's Who in Marine Corps History*, History Division, United States Marine Corps". Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "LCpl Miguel Keith, Medal of Honor, 1970, 1/3/2, III MAF, Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam, Medal of Honor citation. Retrieved on 2006-06-21". Retrieved October 4, 2010.

Chapter 49

Louis R. Rocco

Chief Warrant Officer Two **Louis Richard Rocco** (November 19, 1938 – October 31, 2002) was a **United States Army** soldier who received the **Medal of Honor**—the United States’ highest military decoration—for his actions near the village of Katum, in the **Republic of Vietnam**, during the **Vietnam War**. Despite being wounded, Rocco saved three comrades from a burning **helicopter**.

49.1 Biography

49.1.1 Early years

Born on November 19, 1938, in **Albuquerque, New Mexico**, Rocco was the third of nine children of an **Italian-American** father and a **Mexican-American** mother. In 1948, the family moved to a housing project in the **San Fernando Valley** and later to a **barrio** called **Wilmington**. He joined a local gang and was frequently in trouble with the law. Rocco dropped out of high school and in 1954, when he was 16 years old, was arrested for armed robbery.

Rocco was in court for his sentencing and during a break he walked into a **United States Army** recruiters office. The recruiting officer, Sergeant Martinez, accompanied Rocco to the court and spoke to the judge. The judge gave him a suspended sentence and told him that he could join the Army when he was 17 if he stayed in school, obeyed a curfew and shunned his gang.

Rocco joined the Army in 1955 and, after completing his basic training, was sent to Germany. He earned his high school **general equivalency diploma** during his tour there.

A few years later, Rocco was serving as a medic at **Fort MacArthur** in **San Pedro, California**, when he spotted his recruiter, Sgt. Martinez, lying badly wounded on a litter. Rocco ensured that the sergeant received special attention and constant care.

49.1.2 Vietnam War

Rocco served two tours of duty in the **Republic of Vietnam** during the Vietnam War. His first tour was from 1965 to 1966. In 1969, Rocco, who was by then a

sergeant first class, returned for another tour of duty in Vietnam and was assigned to Advisory Team 162 of the **U.S. Military Assistance Command**.

On May 24, 1970, Rocco volunteered to accompany a medical evacuation team on an urgent mission to pick up eight critically wounded South Vietnamese soldiers near the village of **Katum**. The helicopter in which the team was riding in came under heavy fire as it approached the landing zone. The pilot was shot in the leg and the helicopter crashed into a field. Under intense fire, Rocco was able to carry each of the unconscious crash survivors to the perimeter of the **Army of the Republic of Vietnam**. Despite having suffered a fractured wrist and hip and a severely bruised back, he was able to help administer **first aid** to his wounded comrades before collapsing and losing consciousness.

Lieutenant Lee Caubareaux, the helicopter’s co-pilot, later lobbied for Rocco to receive the Medal of Honor. On December 12, 1974, President **Gerald Ford** formally presented Rocco with the medal during a ceremony at the **White House**.

49.1.3 Later years

Rocco made a career of the Army and earned an associate degree. He retired from the military in 1978 as a **Chief Warrant Officer Two**.^[1]

Returning to New Mexico, Rocco was named director of New Mexico’s Veterans Service Commission. During his tenure, he established the Vietnam Veterans of New Mexico organization, opened a Veterans’ Center which provided peer counseling to Vietnam veterans, started a shelter for the homeless and a nursing home for veterans, and persuaded New Mexico legislators and voters to waive tuition for all veterans at state colleges.

Rocco returned to active duty in 1991 during the **Gulf War** and was stationed at **Fort Sam Houston** in **San Antonio, Texas**, where he recruited medical personnel. When he returned home, he met his fourth wife, Maria Chavez Schneider, an assistant director of New Mexico **AIDS Services**. The couple lived in **San Miguel de Allende, Mexico**, from 1992 until 1998, when they moved to San Antonio, Texas. On July 11, 2000, Rocco was appointed

the new Deputy State Director for Texas in San Antonio. He became instrumental in promoting Veterans Against Drugs, a nationwide school program.^[2]

In 2002, Rocco was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer; he died at his San Antonio home on October 31 of that year. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio. He was survived by his wife, Maria; two sons, Roy and Brian Rocco; one daughter, Theresa Rocco; his mother, Lita Rocco and five grandchildren (Dell Rocco, Cameron DuBois, Ashley Rocco, James Rocco & Thomas Rocco).

The local government of San Antonio honored Rocco by naming a youth center the Louis Rocco Youth & Family Center. The Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) offers a scholarship named in his honor.^[3]

On October 31, 2011, Rocco's Duplicate Medal of Honor was stolen from his widow's San Antonio home. The original medal was given to his oldest son at his funeral. After a visit to her husband's grave on the ninth anniversary of his death, Maria Rocco returned home to find her house burglarized. The thieves took a number of electronic items as well as the medal.^[4]

49.2 Medal of Honor citation

LOUIS R. ROCCO

Rank and organization: Warrant Officer (then Sergeant First Class), U.S. Army, Advisory Team 162, U.S. Military Assistance Command.

Place and date: Northeast of Katum, Republic of Vietnam, May 24, 1970

Entered service at: Los Angeles, California

Born: November 19, 1938, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Citation:

WO Rocco distinguished himself when he volunteered to accompany a medical evacuation team on an urgent mission to evacuate 8 critically wounded Army of the Republic of Vietnam personnel. As the helicopter approached the landing zone, it became the target for intense enemy automatic weapons fire. Disregarding his own safety, WO Rocco identified and placed accurate suppressive fire on the enemy positions as the aircraft descended toward the landing zone. Sustaining major damage from the enemy fire, the aircraft was forced

to crash land, causing WO Rocco to sustain a fractured wrist and hip and a severely bruised back. Ignoring his injuries, he extracted the survivors from the burning wreckage, sustaining burns to his own body. Despite intense enemy fire, WO Rocco carried each unconscious man across approximately 20 meters of exposed terrain to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam perimeter. On each trip, his severely burned hands and broken wrist caused excruciating pain, but the lives of the unconscious crash survivors were more important than his personal discomfort, and he continued his rescue efforts. Once inside the friendly position, WO Rocco helped administer first aid to his wounded comrades until his wounds and burns caused him to collapse and lose consciousness. His bravery under fire and intense devotion to duty were directly responsible for saving 3 of his fellow soldiers from certain death. His unparalleled bravery in the face of enemy fire, his complete disregard for his own pain and injuries, and his performance were far above and beyond the call of duty and were in keeping with the highest traditions of self-sacrifice and courage of the military service.

49.3 Awards and recognitions

Among Rocco's decorations were the following:

Badges

-  Combat Medical Badge
-  Parachutist badge

49.4 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Italian American Medal of Honor recipients

49.5 Notes

[1] Oral History Interview with CW2 Louis R. Rocco

- [2] Selective Service Celebrates 60th Anniversary
- [3] Latgest AAAA Scholarship Year Yet at the Wayback Machine (archived May 9, 2007)
- [4] Anaya, Phil (November 2, 2011). "S.A. widow says someone stole her late husband's Medal of Honor". San Antonio, Texas: KENS. Archived from the original on November 5, 2011.

49.6 External links

- "Louis Rocco". Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "Remarks on Awarding the Congressional Medal of Honor to WO Louis R. Rocco and S. Sgt. Jon R. Cavaiani, United States Army.". Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "Sports Fans Salute Military Heroes". Archived from the original on September 29, 2007. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "Hero Medic Recalls Days of Terror, Years of Anguish". Archived from the original on September 29, 2007. Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "Hero Medic Recalls Days of Terror Years of Anguish". Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "About the Louis Rocco Youth & Family Center". Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "Warrant Officer History Book Cover". Retrieved October 4, 2010.
- "Louis R. Rocco". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved 2008-07-30.

Chapter 50

Alfred V. Rascon

Alfred Velazquez Rascon^[1] (born September 10, 1945) is a retired **United States Army** lieutenant colonel. In 2000, he was awarded the **Medal of Honor**—the United States' highest military decoration—for his actions as a medic near **Long Khánh Province** during the **Vietnam War**.

On more than one occasion Rascon exposed himself to enemy fire and grenades by covering the bodies of those whom he was aiding with his own. In addition to Vietnam, Rascon also served as a medical officer in the wars in **Afghanistan** and **Iraq**.

50.1 Biography

50.1.1 Early years

Rascon was born in **Chihuahua, Mexico** on September 10, 1945, as the only child of Alfredo and Andrea Rascon. The Rascon family, in search of a better way of life, emigrated to the **United States**. They settled in **Oxnard, California**, where Rascon received his primary and secondary education. On August 1963, he graduated from **Oxnard High School** and enlisted in the **United States Army**.

Rascon received his **Basic** training in **Fort Ord, California**, and after completing he was assigned to **Fort Sam Houston, Texas** for basic and specialist medical training. After he graduated from his medical training, he volunteered for airborne training and attended the **Army's Airborne school** in **Fort Benning, Georgia**.

50.1.2 Vietnam War

In February 1964, Rascon was then assigned to Medical Platoon, Headquarters Company, **1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne)** of the **173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)** stationed in **Okinawa**.

In May 1965, Rascon and his unit were deployed to the **Republic of Vietnam** where he served as a medic for a platoon of paratroopers. The brigade was the first major ground combat unit of the **United States Army** to serve

there. They were the first to go into **War Zone D** to destroy enemy base camps and to introduce the use of small long-range patrols.^[2]

On March 16, 1966, Rascon was assigned as a medic to a Reconnaissance Platoon of the **173rd Airborne Brigade**. The Reconnaissance Platoon's mission was to reinforce a sister battalion which was under intense enemy attack near **Long Khánh Province**, when it found itself under heavy fire from a numerically superior enemy force. Several point squad soldiers were wounded and **Specialist Four** Rascon made his way forward to aid his fallen comrades. In more than one occasion Rascon exposed himself to enemy fire and grenades by covering the bodies of those whom he was aiding and absorbing the blast and fragments of the grenades with his own body. Each time he would drag his comrades to safety and crawled back to aid someone else. Rascon was so badly wounded that day that he was given his **last rites**.

Rascon was transferred to **Johnson Army Hospital** in **Japan** where he spent six months recovering from his wounds. For his actions, he was nominated for the **Medal of Honor**. However, his nomination for some unknown reason did not go through and instead he was awarded a **Silver Star** Medal. In May 1966, he was honorably discharged from active duty and placed in the **Army Reserves**. Rascon attended college after he was discharged and in 1967 he became a **Naturalized** **United States Citizen**.

In 1970 he graduated from the **Army's Infantry Officers Candidate School** and was commissioned as a **Second Lieutenant of Infantry**. He then returned to Vietnam for a second tour, this time as a military adviser. In 1976, Rascon was once again honorably discharged from active duty with the rank of **Captain**, but continued serving in the **US Army Reserve** until 1984.

50.1.3 Post Vietnam

In 1976, Rascon was offered the position of **U.S. Army military liaison officer**, in the **Republic of Panama** and he accepted. Rascon has also worked for the **Department of Justice's, Drug Enforcement Administration, INTERPOL (U.S. National Central Bureau)**, and



President Clinton presents the Medal of Honor to Rascon in a 2000 ceremony



Alfred Rascon as captain

the Immigration & Naturalization Service.^[3]

During a 1985 reunion of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Rascon's comrades discovered that he never received the Medal of Honor. His former platoon members Ray Compton, Neil Haffey and Larry Gibson, whose lives he saved, sought to correct the oversight and renewed their efforts in favor of a Medal of Honor for Rascon. The Pentagon would not reconsider Rascon's case because so much time had elapsed. Therefore, Rascon's comrades sought the help of Congressman Lane Evans from Illinois. In 1997, Evans gave President Bill Clinton a packet con-

taining the information about Rascon. The President then convinced the Pentagon to reopen the case.^[4]

On February 8, 2000, President Bill Clinton bestowed upon Rascon the Medal of Honor in a ceremony held in the East Room of the White House.

50.1.4 Later years



Alfred Rascon as the 10th Director of the Selective Service System.

On May 22, 2002, Rascon was confirmed by the United States Senate as the 10th Director of the Selective Service System, he served in this position until 2003.^[5]

On September 1, 2002, Rascon returned to the Army as an Army Reserve Major in the Army Medical Service Corps. His position was Individual Mobilization Augmentee to the Surgeon General's Office. Rascon served in Afghanistan and Iraq for the Medical Service Corps. He retired from the military with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.^[6]

50.2 Medal of Honor citation

ALFRED V. RASCON

Rank and organization: Specialist Four, U.S. Army, Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)

Place and date: Republic of Vietnam, March 16, 1966

Entered service at: ----

Born: 1945, Chihuahua, Mexico

Citation:



Army version of the Medal of Honor

Specialist Four Alfred Rascon, distinguished himself by a series of extraordinarily courageous acts on March 16, 1966, while assigned as a medic to the Reconnaissance Platoon, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). While moving to reinforce its sister battalion under intense enemy attack, the Reconnaissance Platoon came under heavy fire from a numerically superior enemy force. The intense enemy fire from crew-served weapons and grenades severely wounded several point squad soldiers. Specialist Rascon, ignoring directions to stay behind shelter until covering fire could be provided, made his way forward. He repeatedly tried to reach the severely wounded point machine-gunner laying on an open enemy trail, but was driven back each time by the withering fire. Disregarding his personal safety, he jumped to his feet, ignoring flying bullets and exploding grenades to reach his comrade. To protect him from further wounds, he intentionally placed

his body between the soldier and enemy machine guns, sustaining numerous shrapnel injuries and a serious wound to the hip. Disregarding his serious wounds he dragged the larger soldier from the fire-raked trail. Hearing the second machine-gunner yell that he was running out of ammunition, Specialist Rascon, under heavy enemy fire crawled back to the wounded machine-gunner stripping him of his bandoleers of ammunition, giving them to the machine-gunner who continued his suppressive fire. Specialist Rascon fearing the abandoned machine gun, its ammunition and spare barrel could fall into enemy hands made his way to retrieve them. On the way, he was wounded in the face and torso by grenade fragments, but disregarded these wounds to recover the abandoned machine gun, ammunition and spare barrel items, enabling another soldier to provide added suppressive fire to the pinned-down squad. In searching for the wounded, he saw the point grenadier being wounded by small arms fire and grenades being thrown at him. Disregarding his own life and his numerous wounds, Specialist Rascon reached and covered him with his body absorbing the blasts from the exploding grenades, and saving the soldier's life, but sustaining additional wounds to his body. While making his way to the wounded point squad leader, grenades were hurled at the sergeant. Again, in complete disregard for his own life, he reached and covered the sergeant with his body, absorbing the full force of the grenade explosions. Once more Specialist Rascon was critically wounded by shrapnel, but disregarded his own wounds to continue to search and aid the wounded. Severely wounded, he remained on the battlefield, inspiring his fellow soldiers to continue the battle. After the enemy broke contact, he disregarded aid for himself, instead treating the wounded and directing their evacuation. Only after being placed on the evacuation helicopter did he allow aid to be given to him. Specialist Rascon's extraordinary valor in the face of deadly enemy fire, his heroism in rescuing the wounded, and his gallantry by repeatedly risking his own life for his fellow soldiers are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.^[7]

50.3 Honors

Rascon received the degree of Doctor of Medical Jurisprudence, Honoris Causa on May 17, 2003, from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences'

(USUHS) F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing.^[8] The Army has honored Rascon by renaming their training school for medics at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the Alfred V. Rascon School of Combat Medicine.

Rascon has been honored by the American Immigration Lawyers Association and Foundation in Washington, D.C., for his past contributions in the military. The Washington-based CATO Institute also honored him in its annual honors of past and present military contributors of Hispanic Americans. He resides in Laurel, Maryland and is married and has a daughter and a son.

50.4 Awards and recognitions



Rascon in 2011

Among Alfred V. Rascon's decorations and medals are the following:

50.5 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

50.6 References

- [1] "HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALFRED VELAZQUEZ RASCON -- (House of Representatives - September 18, 2013)". *Thomas*. Library of Congress. 18 September 2013. Retrieved 9 June 2015.
- [2] 173d Airborne Brigade
- [3] La Prensa San Diego
- [4] Award of the Medal of Honor
- [5] Rascon, Director of Selective Service
- [6] DC Military

[7] Medal of Honor citation

[8] USUHS celebrates 24th commencement

[9] Hopkins, MC3 Jeff; Stelle, TSgt James (2007). "Medal of Honor recipient visits USU" (PDF). *USU Newsletter* (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences) 2 (12): 1–2. Retrieved 3 February 2013.

50.7 External links

- "Alfred Rascon". Archived from the original on 2009-10-27. Retrieved September 24, 2010. (Archived 2009-10-25)
- "Power Point Presentation" (PDF). Retrieved September 24, 2010.
- "Medal of Honor recipient speaks at Fort Detrick". Retrieved September 24, 2010.
- "MOH recipient speaks to students" (PDF). Retrieved September 24, 2010.
- "Interview at the Pritzker Military Museum & Library". Retrieved April 30, 2014.

Chapter 51

Humbert Roque Versace

Captain Humbert Roque “Rocky” Versace (July 2, 1937 – September 26, 1965) was a United States Army officer of Puerto Rican-Italian descent who was awarded the United States’ highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his heroic actions while a prisoner of war (POW) during the Vietnam War. He was the first member of the U.S. Army to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions performed in Southeast Asia while in captivity.^[1]

51.1 Early years

Humbert Roque Versace was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 2, 1937. He was the eldest of five children born to Marie Teresa Ríos (1917–1999)—the author of three books, including the *Fifteenth Pelican*, on which *The Flying Nun* (starring Sally Field), the TV series of the 1960s, was based—and Colonel Humbert Joseph Versace (1911–1972).^[2] Versace grew up in Alexandria, Virginia and attended Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C. during his freshman and sophomore years. His junior year he attended Frankfurt American High School in Germany. He graduated from Norfolk Catholic High School in his senior year.^[3] He joined the Armed Forces in Norfolk, Virginia. As had his father before him, Versace entered the United States Military Academy West Point. He graduated in 1959 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Armor in the U.S. Army.^[4]

He was a member of Ranger Class 4–60 and was awarded the Ranger Tab on December 18, 1959. Upon graduation from Ranger School, Capt. Versace attended Airborne School and was awarded the parachutist badge. He then served with 3rd Battalion, 40th Armor, 1st Cavalry Division in the Republic of Korea as an M-48 tank platoon leader from March 1960 to April 1961. Captain Versace was then assigned to the 3d U.S. Infantry (Old Guard), where he served as a tank platoon leader in Headquarters and Headquarters Company. After volunteering for duty in Vietnam, he attended the Military Assistance Institute, the Intelligence course at Fort Holabird, Maryland, and the USACS Vietnamese language Course at the Presidio of Monterey.^[5]

51.2 Vietnam War

On May 12, 1962, Versace began his first tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam as an intelligence advisor. In May 1963 he volunteered for a six-month extension of his tour, planning to attend seminary at the conclusion of his service and join the Catholic priesthood, hoping to return to Vietnam as a missionary working with orphans.^[6]

Less than two weeks before the end of his tour, on October 29, 1963, while visiting a Military Academy classmate in Detachment A-23, 5th Special Forces Group in the Mekong Delta, Versace accompanied several companies of South Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense (CIDG) troops who had attacked to remove a Viet Cong (VC) command post located in the U Minh Forest, a VC stronghold. A VC Main Force battalion ambushed and overran Versace’s unit, wounding him in the process. He was able to provide enough covering fire so that the CIDG forces could withdraw from the killing zone.^[7]

A second government force of about 200 men operating only a few thousand yards from the main fight learned of the disaster too late to help. U.S. authorities said the communist radio jammers had knocked out both the main channel and the alternate channel on all local military radios.^[8] Versace was captured and taken to a prison deep in the jungle along with two other Americans, Lieutenant Nick Rowe and Sergeant Dan Pitzer.^[8] He tried to escape four times, but failed in his attempts. Versace insulted the Viet Cong during the indoctrination sessions and cited the Geneva Convention treaty time after time. The Viet Cong separated Versace from the other prisoners. The last time the prisoners heard his voice, he was loudly singing “God Bless America”. On September 26, 1965, North Vietnam’s “Liberation Radio” announced the execution of Captain Humbert Roque Versace.^[9] Versace’s remains have never been recovered. His headstone at Arlington National Cemetery stands above an empty grave and can be located in the Memorial section MG-108.^[9]

Upon learning of their son’s fate, Marie Teresa Rios Versace and her husband, Colonel Versace, tried to find out what they could about the circumstances. She went to Paris in the late 1960s, trying unsuccessfully to see the North Vietnamese delegation as it arrived for peace talks.

Rios Versace expressed her frustration and anguish in poems.^[10]

Nominations to award Versace the Medal of Honor were initiated in 1969, but the nomination failed and he was posthumously awarded the **Silver Star** instead. The quest for a Medal of Honor for Versace languished until the “Friends of Rocky Versace” reinitiated the crusade once more in 1999. Language added by Congress in the 2002 Defense Authorization Act ended the standoff and authorized the award of the nation’s highest military decoration for combat valor to Versace.^[11]

On July 8, 2002, in a ceremony in the **White House** East Room, Versace was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by **President George W. Bush** for his heroism, the first time an Army POW had been awarded the nation’s highest honor for actions in captivity. Present were his surviving siblings, Dr. Stephen Versace, **Richard** (former coach of the **Indiana Pacers**), Michael and Trilby Versace.^[1] On November 7, 2008, the Department of the Army announced that the Silver Star awarded to Versace was revoked because the Silver Star award was upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

HEADQUARTERS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

WASHINGTON, DC, 29 December 2009

IV—SILVER STAR-REVOKE. So much of Department of the Army General Orders, No. 31, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., dated 1 July 1971, pertaining to the award of the Silver Star to Captain Humbert R. Versace, United States Army, is herein revoked; as announced in United States Human Resources Command, Permanent Orders 312-07, dated 7 November 2008.^[12]

51.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

Humbert Roque Versace

Rank and organization: Captain, U.S. Army,
Intelligence Advisor, Special Operations

Place: Republic of Vietnam

Entered service at: Norfolk, Virginia

Born: Honolulu, Hawaii

Citation:



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while a prisoner of war during the period of October 29, 1963 to September 26, 1965 in the Republic of Vietnam. While accompanying a Civilian Irregular Defense Group patrol engaged in combat operations in Thoi Binh District, An Xuyen Province, Republic of Vietnam on October 29, 1963, Captain Versace and the CIDG assault force were caught in an ambush from intense mortar, automatic weapons, and small arms fire from elements of a reinforced enemy Main Force battalion. As the battle raged, Captain Versace fought valiantly and encouraged his

CIDG patrol to return fire against overwhelming enemy forces. He provided covering fire from an exposed position to enable friendly forces to withdraw from the killing zone when it was apparent that their position would be overrun, and was severely wounded in the knee and back from automatic weapons fire and shrapnel. He stubbornly resisted capture with the last full measure of his strength and ammunition. Taken prisoner by the Viet Cong, he demonstrated exceptional leadership and resolute adherence to the tenets of the Code of Conduct from the time he entered into a prisoner of war status. Captain Versace assumed command of his fellow American prisoners, and despite being kept locked in irons in an isolation box, raised their morale by singing messages to popular songs of the day, and leaving inspiring messages at the latrine. Within three weeks of captivity, and despite the severity of his untreated wounds, he attempted the first of four escape attempts by dragging himself on his hands and knees out of the camp through dense swamp and forbidding vegetation to freedom. Crawling at a very slow pace due to his weakened condition, the guards quickly discovered him outside the camp and recaptured him. Captain Versace scorned the enemy's exhaustive interrogation and indoctrination efforts, and inspired his fellow prisoners to resist to the best of their ability. When he used his Vietnamese language skills to protest improper treatment of the American prisoners by the guards, he was put into leg irons and gagged to keep his protestations out of earshot of the other American prisoners in the camp. The last time that any of his fellow prisoners heard from him, Captain Versace was singing God Bless America at the top of his voice from his isolation box. Unable to break his indomitable will, his faith in God, and his trust in the United States of America and his fellow prisoners, Captain Versace was executed

by the Viet Cong on September 26, 1965. Captain Versace's extraordinary heroism, self-sacrifice, and personal bravery involving conspicuous risk of life above and beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army, and reflect great credit to himself and the U.S. Armed Forces.^[13]

51.3 In memory

mantengamos vivo aquello que tanto atesoraban... la democracia, la libertad y el respeto a la divergencia. Por eso, hoy quedarían grabados para la posteridad los nombres de nuestros héroes... nombres que veremos en las paredes de este solemne monumento, pero que debe ser motivo de **reflexión, orgullo y esperanza** para todas y todos...

Reflexión por las circunstancias en que dieron la vida. **Orgullo** para un pueblo y unos familiares que cada día reciben la fortaleza para recordar las virtudes que tenía ese soldado caído. Y **esperanza** por que mientras haya personas dispuestas a sacrificar lo más preciado por defender los valores que hacen grande a los pueblos, tenemos que ver el futuro llenos de optimismo.

Hoy develaremos los nombres de **Ángel Mercado, Yull Estrada, Jesús Montalvo, Francisco Martínez, Karl Soto, Ed Santini, Jason Nuñez, y David Mejías**, que nos dieron su vida en Iraq, pero cuyo esfuerzo NO puede ser olvidado por su pueblo. Quisiera también, de forma especial, recordar a tres soldados de padres puertorriqueños que aunque no nacieron aquí, siempre profesaron orgullo de sus raíces. Me refiero a **Manuel Rivera Jr.**, quien falleció durante la misión *Operation Desert Shield*, en el Golfo Pérsico... a **Humbert Roque**, quien recibiera la Medalla de Honor por sus actuaciones heroicas como prisionero de guerra en Vietnam... y a **Rafel Toro**, quien recibió póstumamente la cruz del Navy, durante la ocupación de Estados Unidos en Nicaragua.

Quisiera dejarles con las palabras de un sargento del Ejército, de nombre Roger Robicheau, quien escribió sobre lo que ofrecen nuestros héroes en su poesía titulada,

'What heroes gave':

*"Each donned their uniform to be,
Defenders of our liberty*

*Their mission sure, their spirits bright,
Guard
freedom's home, be brave to fight*

*One final day each faced their call,
Each gave their best enduring all*

*We'll never know what they went through,
But know they loved this country true*

*Deep down inside we should all feel,
What heroes gave, their cost so real*

*We must stay thankful, grateful of,
The gift of
freedom through their love*

Portion of Memorial Day dedication speech by Puerto Rico Senate President Kenneth McClintock

The name Humbert R Versace is inscribed on the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** ("The Wall") on Panel 01E, Row 033.^[14] On July 6, 2002, Rocky Versace Plaza in Alexandria, Virginia was dedicated in honor of Humbert R. Versace.^[6] There is a statue with the likeness of Versace in the Plaza, which was made possible with a donation of \$125,000 raised by the citizens of Alexandria, Virginia.^[15] On July 9, 2002, the day after the White House Medal of Honor ceremony, Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White and Army Chief of Staff General Eric K. Shinseki inducted Versace into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes.^[16]

In 2003, he was inducted into the Military Intelligence

Corps Hall of Fame.^[17] The Military Intelligence Hall of Fame is a Hall of Fame established by the Military Intelligence Corps of the United States Army in 1988 to honor soldiers and civilians who have made exceptional contributions to Military Intelligence. The Hall is administered by the United States Army Intelligence Center at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.^[18]

The name of Humbert Roque Versace was engraved in “El Monumento de la Recordación” (Monument of Remembrance), dedicated to Puerto Rico’s fallen military members and situated in front of the Capitol Building in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and unveiled by Puerto Rico Senate President Kenneth McClintock (see copy of speech) and PR National Guard Adjutant General Col. David Carrión on Memorial Day, 2007.^[19]

51.4 Awards and decorations

Among Capt. Humbert Roque Versace’s military decorations are the following:

-  Medal of Honor
-  Purple Heart
-  POW Medal
-  Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
-  National Defense Service Medal
-  Vietnam Service Medal
-  Vietnam Campaign Medal

Badges:

-  Combat Infantryman Badge
-  Parachutist badge

Tabs:

-  Special Forces Tab
-  Ranger Tab



51.5 See also

- List of famous Puerto Ricans
- List of Puerto Rican military personnel
- Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of Italian American Medal of Honor recipients

51.6 References

- [1] “President Awards Posthumous Medal of Honor to Vietnam War Hero”. July 8, 2002. Remarks by the President Bush at the Presentation of the Medal of Honor in the East Room of the White House.
- [2] “Marie Teresa Rios Versace (Tere Rios), Military Spouse & Author”. Arlington National Cemetery.
- [3] Mark Zafra – Director of Alumni relations at Bishop Sullivan High school, formally Norfolk Catholic High School
- [4] “Humberto Roque “Rocky” Versace, MOH”. *My MIA's*. Touch the Wall.
- [5] Steve Vogel (May 27, 2001). “Honoring the Defiant One”. *The Washington Post*.
- [6] “Rocky Versace Plaza Dedicated in Alexandria”. *FYI Online*. University of Maryland University College. August 2002. Retrieved 2006-07-19.
- [7] David Eberhart (July 18, 2000). “Top Marine Endorses Medal of Honor for Army Hero”. *Stars and Stripes*.
- [8] “3 Aides Seized in Vietnam Battle”. *Pacific Stars and Stripes, Five Star Edition, Vol. 19, No. 304*. November 1, 1963. Retrieved 2006-07-17.
- [9] “Humbert Roque Versace”. *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. Find a Grave. Retrieved December 5, 2007.
- [10] Steve Vogel (July 8, 2002). “A Mission Inspired By a POW’s Persistence”. *The Washington Post*.

- [11] Ellen Sorokin (July 4, 2002). “Special Report: Medal of Honor”. *The Washington Times*.
- [12] United States Human Resources Command, Permanent Orders 312-07
- [13] “Medal of Honor citation for Humbert Roque Versace”. HomeofHeroes.com.
- [14] “Humbert Roque Versace”. *The Virtual Wall*. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Retrieved 2006-07-18.
- [15] A Mission Inspired By a POW’s Persistence, Monday July 8, 2002, By Steve Vogel
- [16] Joe Burlas (July 9, 2002). “Vietnam War POW gets Medal of Honor”. Army News Service.
- [17] The National Cryptologic Museum and the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame
- [18] “Military Intelligence Service Honors and Awards”. Retrieved 20 October 2010.
- [19] Memorial Day Speech

51.7 Further reading

- *Puertorriquenos Who Served With Guts, Glory, and Honor. Fighting to Defend a Nation Not Completely Their Own*; by : Greg Boudonck; ISBN 978-1497421837
- Rowe, James N. (May 1984). *Five Years to Freedom: The True Story of a Vietnam POW* (reissue ed.). Presidio Press. ISBN 0-345-31460-3.

51.8 External links

- “Vietnam War War (M-Z); Versace, Humbert Roque entry”. *Medal of Honor recipients*. United States Army Center of Military History. August 3, 2009. Retrieved July 13, 2010.
- “Humbert Roque Versace, Captain, United States Army”. Arlington National Cemetery. Retrieved 2006-07-17.
- “Roque Rocky Versace—Medal of Honor Hero”. HomeOfHeroes.com. Retrieved 2006-07-17.

Chapter 52

Leonard L. Alvarado

Leonard Louis Alvarado^[1] (born February 13, 1947 – August 12, 1969)^[2] was a U.S. Army veteran of Vietnam and a recipient, posthumously, of the **Medal of Honor**.

52.1 Biography

Alvarado was born in Bakersfield, California on Feb. 13, 1947, and enlisted in the U. S. Army on July 25, 1968, serving in the Vietnam War.^[2] He was killed in action, leaving behind his wife and a young daughter.^[2]

52.2 Medal of Honor



Alvarado's daughter Lenora accepted the Medal of Honor on his behalf in 2014

Alvarado distinguished himself on Aug. 12, 1969, while serving as a rifleman during a mission to relieve a sister platoon, in Phuoc Long Province, Vietnam. Alvarado was killed in action after disrupting an enemy raid and saving the lives of several comrades.^[2]

Alvarado's daughter Lenora accepted the Medal of Honor on his behalf from President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 White House ceremony.

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[3]

52.3 Medal of Honor Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Specialist Four Leonard L. Alvarado distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Rifleman with Company D, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during combat operations against an armed enemy in Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam on August 12, 1969. On that day, as Specialist Four Alvarado and a small reaction force moved through dense jungle en route to a beleaguered friendly platoon, Specialist Four Alvarado detected enemy movement and opened fire. Despite his quick reaction, Specialist Four Alvarado and his comrades were soon pinned down by the hostile force that blocked the path to the trapped platoon. Specialist Four Alvarado quickly moved forward through the hostile machine-gun fire in order to engage the enemy troops. Suddenly, an enemy grenade exploded nearby, wounding and momentarily stunning him. Retaliating immediately, he killed the grenadier just as another enemy barrage wounded him again. Specialist Four Alvarado crawled forward through the fusillade to pull several comrades back within the hastily-formed perimeter. Realizing his element needed to break away from the hostile force, Specialist Four Alvarado began maneuvering forward alone. Though repeatedly thrown to the ground by exploding satchel charges, he continued advancing and firing, silencing several emplacements, including one enemy machinegun position. From his dangerous forward position, he persistently laid suppressive fire on the hostile forces, and after the enemy troops had broken contact, his comrades discovered that he had succumbed to his wounds. Specialist Four Alvarado's extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and be-

yond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.^[2]

52.4 Other awards and decorations

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Alvarado received the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with “V” Device, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with “60” Device, Valorous Unit Award, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm Device, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal Unit Citation First Class, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle, Auto Rifle and Machine-Gun Bars.^[2]

52.5 See also

List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War

52.6 References

- [1] Find a Grave
- [2] “Specialist 4 Leonard L. Alvarado”. Army.mil. Retrieved March 19, 2014.
- [3] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). “Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans”. *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

Chapter 53

Jesus S. Duran

Jesus Santiago Duran (July 26, 1948 – February 17, 1977) was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.

53.1 Biography

Duran was born, July 26, 1948, in Juarez, Mexico. He was the sixth of twelve siblings.^[1]

Duran joined the U.S. Army on May 13, 1968, and was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) to support Search and Destroy missions.^[1] During his service in the Vietnam war, his actions resulted in him being bestowed, posthumously in 2014, with the Medal of Honor.^[1]

After leaving the military, Duran pursued a career as a corrections officer at a juvenile detention center in San Bernardino, California, dedicating personal time to mentoring youths and leading them on educational trips.^[1] He married twice and had two children.^[1] Duran died on February 17, 1977 and is buried at Olivewood Cemetery, in Riverside, California.^[2]

53.2 Medal of Honor

Duran's daughter, Tina Duran-Ruvalcaba, received the Medal of Honor on his behalf from President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 White House ceremony.^[3] The following day, she received the Medal of Honor flag from Secretary of Defense, **Chuck Hagel**, in a ceremony where Duran was inducted into the **Pentagon Hall of Heroes**.^[3]

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[4]

53.2.1 Citation



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to:

JESUS S. DURAN
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Specialist Four Jesus S. Duran distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting M-60 machinegunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during combat operations against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1969. That afternoon, the reconnaissance platoon was moving into an elaborate enemy bunker complex when the lead elements began taking concentrated ambush fire from every side. The command post was in imminent danger of being overrun. With an M-60 machinegun blazing from his hip, Specialist Four Duran rushed forward and assumed a defensive position near the command post. As hostile forces stormed forward, Specialist Four Duran stood tall in a cloud of dust raised by the impacting rounds and bursting grenades directed



towards him and thwarted the enemy with devastating streams of machinegun fire. Learning that two seriously wounded troopers lay helplessly pinned down under harassing fire, Specialist Four Duran assaulted the suppressive enemy positions, firing deadly bursts on the run. Mounting a log, he fired directly into the enemy's foxholes, eliminating four and cutting down several others as they fled. Specialist Four Duran then continued to pour effective fire on the disorganized and fleeing enemy. Specialist Four Duran's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.^[1]

53.3 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War

53.4 References

- [1] "Sergeant Jesus S. Duran / "Biography" and "Citation" tabs". U.S. Army. 2014. Retrieved June 25, 2014.
- [2] Santschi, Darrell R. (February 23, 2014). "Riverside men to get top honor: Jesus S. Duran and Salvador J. Lara will be awarded the Medal of Honor". *The Press-Enterprise*.
- [3] Hood, David (March 20, 2014). "Two Days of Honor End on a Strong Note". *The Press-Enterprise* (Riverside, California). p. A2.
- [4] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

53.5 External links

- Jesus S. Duran at *Find a Grave*

Coordinates: 33°57′19″N 117°22′37″W﻿ / ﻿33.95538°N 117.37687°W﻿ /

Chapter 54

Santiago J. Erevia

Santiago Jesus Erevia^[1] (December 15, 1946 – March 22, 2016) was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[2]

54.1 Biography

Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Santiago Erevia was born in Nordheim, Texas, in 1946, volunteering to join the U.S. Army in San Antonio when he was 22 years old.^[3]

Serving in the Vietnam War, his conduct resulted in his being presented with the Medal of Honor: while a Spc. 4, Erevia distinguished himself May 21, 1969, while serving as a radio-telephone operator during a search-and-clear mission near **Tam Ky City**, in the Republic of Vietnam.^[3]

In 1970, Erevia left active service with a two-year reserve obligation. In 1972, he joined the Texas National Guard and went on to serve 17 years.^[3] Erevia worked as a **mail carrier** for the **United States Postal Service**, retiring in 2002 after thirty-two years of service.^{[3][4]} Erevia died on March 22, 2016 in **San Antonio, Texas** at the age of 69.^[5]

54.2 Medal of Honor award

Mr. Erevia was one of two dozen veterans who received the Medal of Honor in an unusual White House ceremony led by President Obama in March 2014. They were selected for the award after a Pentagon review, mandated by Congress in 2002, of past discrimination in the bestowal of the military's highest honor for valor. Erevia was awarded the **Medal of Honor** by President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 ceremony at the **White House**. The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^{[3][6]}

54.3 Medal of Honor citation

Erevia's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Specialist Four Santiago J. Erevia distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a radio telephone operator in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during search and clear mission near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam on May 21, 1969. After breaching an insurgent perimeter, Specialist Four Erevia was designated by his platoon leader to render first aid to several casualties, and the rest of the platoon moved forward. As he was doing so, he came under intense hostile fire from four bunkers to his left front. Although he could have taken cover with the rest of the element, he chose a retaliatory course of action. With heavy enemy fire directed at him, he moved in full view of the hostile gunners as he proceeded to crawl from one wounded man to another, gathering ammunition. Armed with two M-16 rifles and several hand grenades, he charged toward the enemy positions behind the suppressive fire of the two rifles. Under very intense fire, he continued to advance on the insurgents until he was near the first bunker. Disregarding the enemy fire, he pulled the pin from a hand grenade and advanced on the bunker, leveling suppressive fire until he could drop the grenade into the bunker, mortally wounding the insurgent and destroying the fortification. Without hesitation, he employed identical tactics as he proceeded to eliminate the next two enemy positions. With the destruction of the third bunker, Specialist Four Erevia had exhausted his supply of hand grenades. Still under intense fire from the fourth position, he courageously charged forward behind the fire emitted by his M-16 rifles. Arriving

at the very edge of the bunker, he silenced the occupant within the fortification at point blank range. Through his heroic actions the lives of the wounded were saved and the members of the Company Command Post were relieved from a very precarious situation. His exemplary performance in the face of overwhelming danger was an inspiration to his entire company and contributed immeasurably to the success of the mission. Specialist Four Erevia's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Citation represents Soldier's rank at time of action.^[3]

- [6] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

54.4 Other awards and citations

In addition to receiving the Medal of Honor, Erevia received the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with five Bronze Service Stars, Combat Infantryman Badge, Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Auto Rifle Bar, Marksman Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star Device and Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class.^[3]

54.5 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War

54.6 References

- [1] Hall of Valor
- [2] Langer, Emily (March 25, 2016) "Santiago J. Erevia, 70: Veteran was belated recipient of Medal of Honor", *The Washington Post*, page B6
- [3] "Sergeant Santiago J. Erevia | Valor 24 | Medal of Honor | The United States Army". army.mil. Retrieved 2014-03-31. Click "Biography" and "Citation" tabs.
- [4] Simon, Richard (2014-03-14). "A Medal of Honor, long delayed". *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-04-09.
- [5] Christenson, Sig (March 22, 2016). "Medal of Honor recipient Everia dies in San Antonio". San Antonio Express. Retrieved March 22, 2016.

Chapter 55

Félix Conde Falcón

Félix Modesto Conde Falcón^[lower-alpha 1] (February 28, 1938 – April 4, 1969) was a **United States Army** soldier and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**. Born in **Juncos, Puerto Rico**, he joined the United States Army in April 1963 in **Chicago, Illinois**. He was killed during combat operations in Ap Tan Hoa, South Vietnam, on April 4, 1969.^[1] He was posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor** by President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 ceremony in the **White House**. The award comes through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^{[2][3]}

55.1 Awards and badges

55.1.1 Military awards

Conde Falcón's awards include:

-  **Medal of Honor**
-  **Bronze Star with an oak leaf cluster and a "V device" which identifies the award as resulting from an act of *combat heroism***
-  **Purple Heart**
-  **Army Commendation Medal**
-  **Army Good Conduct Medal**
-  **National Defense Service Medal**
-  **Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer**
-  **Vietnam Campaign Medal**
-  **Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars**
-  **Vietnam Civil Actions Medal with oak leaf cluster**

55.1.2 Badges

-  **Combat Infantryman Badge**
-  **Parachutist badge**
-  **Expert Marksmanship Badge with rifle bar.**
-  **Marksmanship Badge**

55.1.3 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to:

STAFF SERGEANT
FELIX M. CONDE-FALCON
UNITED STATES ARMY

For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company D, 1st Battalion, 505th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division:

Conde-Falcon distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions, April 4, 1969, while serving as platoon leader during a sweep operation in the vicinity of Ap Tan Hoa, Vietnam. Entering a heavily wooded section on the



route of advance, the company encountered an extensive enemy bunker complex, later identified as a battalion command post. Following tactical artillery and air strikes on the heavily secured communist position, the platoon of Conde-Falcon was selected to assault and clear the bunker fortifications. Moving out ahead of his platoon, he charged the first bunker, heaving grenades as he went. As the hostile fire increased, he crawled to the blind side of an entrenchment position, jumped to the roof, and tossed a lethal grenade into the bunker aperture. Without hesitating, he proceeded to two additional bunkers, both of which he destroyed in the same manner as the first. Rejoined with his platoon, he advanced about one hundred meters through the trees, only to come under intense hostile fire. Selecting three men to ac-

company him, he maneuvered toward the enemy's flank position. Carrying a machine-gun, he single-handedly assaulted the nearest fortification, killing the enemy inside before running out of ammunition. After returning to the three men with his empty weapon and taking up an M-16 rifle, he concentrated on the next bunker. Within ten meters of his goal, he was shot by an unseen assailant and soon died of his wounds.

His great courage, his ability to act appropriately and decisively in accomplishing his mission, his dedication to the welfare of his men mark him as an outstanding leader. Conde-Falcon's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

55.2 See also

- [List of Puerto Ricans](#)
- [List of Puerto Rican military personnel](#)
- [List of Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor](#)
- [List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War](#)
- [Puerto Ricans in the Vietnam War](#)

55.3 Notes

- [1] This name uses Spanish naming customs: the first or paternal family name is *Conde* and the second or maternal family name is *Falcón*.

55.4 References

- [1] "Staff Sergeant Felix M. Conde-Falcon | Valor 24 | Medal of Honor | The United States Army". army.mil. Retrieved 2014-03-31.
- [2] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.
- [3] "Obama to Award Medal of Honor to 24 Army Veterans – ABC News". abcnews.go.com. Retrieved 2014-02-22.

Chapter 56

Candelario Garcia

Candelario Garcia, Jr. (February 26, 1944 – January 10, 2013) was a **United States Army** veteran of the Vietnam War, and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[1]

56.2.1 Citation

56.1 Biography

Garcia was born in Corsicana, Texas, Feb. 26, 1944.^[1]

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on May 28, 1963, and his actions on December 8, 1968 while serving in Vietnam caused him to receive the Medal of Honor, posthumously, in 2014.^[1] Garcia died on January 10, 2013.^[1]

56.2 Medal of Honor

Garcia distinguished himself on December 8, 1968, as a team leader during a reconnaissance-in-force mission near **Lai Khê**, Vietnam.^[1] Garcia destroyed two enemy machine-gun positions in an attempt to aid casualties that were in the open and under fire, then rejoining his company in a successful assault on the remaining enemy positions.^[1] Garcia was originally awarded a **Distinguished Service Cross** on 4 April 1969 for this action. The award was rescinded on 18 March 2014 under Permanent Order 077-34.

He received the Medal of Honor, posthumously, from President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 White House ceremony.^[1] As Garcia had been a former “Big Red One” (1st Infantry Division) soldier, the 1st Infantry Division’s Command Sgt. Maj. Michael A. Grinston received the medal on behalf of Garcia and his surviving family members.^[2] Garcia’s surviving Family members had asked the division to represent him in the White House ceremony and the Pentagon ceremony inducting him into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes.^[2]

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[3]



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July

9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (posthumously) to:

CANDELARIO GARCIA
United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Sergeant Candelario Garcia distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting Team Leader for Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Lai Khe, Republic of Vietnam on December 8, 1968. On that day, while conducting reconnaissance, Sergeant Garcia and his platoon discovered communication wire and other signs of an enemy base camp leading into a densely vegetated area. As the men advanced, they came under intense fire. Several men were hit and trapped in the open. Ignoring a hail of hostile bullets, Sergeant Garcia crawled to within ten meters of a machinegun bunker, leaped to his feet and ran directly at the fortification, firing his rifle as he charged. Sergeant Garcia jammed two hand grenades into the gun port and then placed the muzzle of his weapon inside, killing all four occupants. Continuing to expose himself to intense enemy fire, Sergeant Garcia raced fifteen meters to another bunker and killed its three defenders with hand grenades and rifle fire. After again braving the enemies' barrage in order to rescue two casualties, he joined his company in an assault which overran the remaining enemy positions. Sergeant Garcia's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.^[1]

of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citations with Palm Device and Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal Unit Citation, First Class^[1]

56.4 See also

- [List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War](#)

56.5 References

- [1] "Sergeant Candelario Garcia". U.S. Army. Retrieved March 19, 2014. "Biography" or "Citation" tabs.
- [2] Lavigne, Mike, Master Sgt. (March 24, 2014). "Division CSM accepts Medal of Honor on veteran's behalf". *army.mil*. U.S. Army. Retrieved June 26, 2014.
- [3] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.

56.6 External link

- [Garcia's entry at Find a Grave](#)

56.3 Other honors, awards and decorations

Besides the Medal of Honor, Garcia received the Silver Star, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Silver Service Stars and one Bronze Service Star, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60" Device, Republic

Chapter 57

Jose Rodela

Jose Rodela (born June 15, 1937) is a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and a recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.

57.1 Background

Rodela joined the Army in 1955 at age 17, and retired with the rank of **master sergeant** in 1975.^[1]

Rodela was awarded the **Medal of Honor** by President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 ceremony in the **White House**. The award comes through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American, African American and Hispanic American veterans from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^[2]

57.2 Medal of Honor action

According to his U.S. Army biography,^[1] the Medal of Honor recognized Rodela's valorous actions on Sept. 1, 1969, while serving as the company commander in Phuoc Long Province, Vietnam. Rodela commanded his company throughout 18 hours of continuous contact when his battalion was attacked and taking heavy casualties. Throughout the battle, in spite of his wounds, Rodela repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire to attend to the fallen and eliminate an enemy rocket position.

57.3 Medal of Honor citation

^[3] For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Sergeant First Class Jose Rodela distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as the company commander, Detachment B-36, Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces during combat operations against an armed enemy in Phuoc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam on September 1, 1969. That afternoon,

Sergeant First Class Rodela's battalion came under an intense barrage of mortar, rocket, and machine gun fire. Ignoring the withering enemy fire, Sergeant First Class Rodela immediately began placing his men into defensive positions to prevent the enemy from overrunning the entire battalion. Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy fire, Sergeant First Class Rodela moved from position to position, providing suppressing fire and assisting wounded, and was himself wounded in the back and head by a B-40 rocket while recovering a wounded comrade. Alone, Sergeant First Class Rodela assaulted and knocked out the B-40 rocket position before successfully returning to the battalion's perimeter. Sergeant First Class Rodela's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Citation represents Soldier's rank at time of action.



Rodela receives the Medal of Honor during a White House ceremony on March 18, 2014.

57.4 Other awards

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Rodela received:^[1]

- the Bronze Star Medal
- Purple Heart with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- Air Medal with "V" Device

- Army Commendation Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- Army Good Conduct Medal with Silver Clasp and one Loop
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Service Star
- Korea Defense Service Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Master Parachutist Badge
- Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar
- Special Forces Tab
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with “60” Device
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm Device
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal Unit Citation First Class
- Republic of Vietnam Special Forces Honorary Jump Wings
- Columbian Army Parachutist Badge

57.5 See also

- List of Medal of Honor recipients for the Vietnam War
- List of living Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients

57.6 References

- [1] “Master Sergeant Jose Rodela | Valor 24 | Medal of Honor | The United States Army”. *army.mil*. Retrieved 2014-03-31.
- [2] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). “Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans”. *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.
- [3] . US Army http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/valor24/recipients/rodela/?f=recipient_list. Missing or empty title= (help)

Chapter 58

Demensio Rivera

Private **Demensio Rivera** (April 29, 1933 – March 19, 1967) was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War and a posthumous recipient of the **Medal of Honor**.^[1]

58.1 Biographical details

Rivera (birth name: **Demensio Rivera y Avilés** ^[note 1]) was the youngest of five children born in **Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico**^[1] to Demensio Rivera Y Negrón and Dolores Avilés De Rivera. He was still a child when his parents moved to **New York City** where he was raised.

On September 26, 1950, Rivera joined the United States Army in New York.^[1] In 1951, he was deployed to the Republic of Korea as a member of Company G, 2d Battalion, **7th Infantry Regiment**, 3d Infantry Division of the **U.S. Army**. When his unit was attacked by the enemy, he delivered continuous and devastating fire at them with his automatic rifle until his weapon became inoperative. He employed his pistol and grenades and stopped the enemy within a few feet of his position. Rivera was seriously wounded and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest military decoration. His DSC was upgraded to the Medal of Honor and was posthumously awarded to him in 2014.

Rivera was residing in New York City where he died on March 19, 1967. His body was transferred to Puerto Rico. He was buried with full military honors in section C row K –184 at the Cementerio San Miguel Arcangel located in Carretera PR-308, Parcelas Puerto Real, Cabo Rojo.^[2]

58.2 Medal of Honor

The bestowal of the Medal of Honor recognized Rivera for his actions at Changyongni, Korea, May 22–23, 1951.^[1] When the outpost area occupied by his platoon was assaulted during the night, Rivera, an automatic rifleman, held his forward position tenaciously, although exposed to very heavy fire.^[1] When his rifle became inoperative, Rivera employed his pistol and grenades, and eventually fought the enemy hand-to-hand and forced them

back.^[1]

Rivera was posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor** by President **Barack Obama** in a March 18, 2014 White House ceremony. Rivera was one of four Puerto Ricans to be honored that day and one of nine Puerto Ricans to have received the Medal of Honor.^[3]



Rivera's granddaughter, U.S. Army Sgt. Ashley Randall, received the Medal of Honor on her late grandfather's behalf, from President Obama in 2014.

The award came through the Defense Authorization Act which called for a review of Jewish American and Hispanic American veterans from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor.^{[4][5]}

58.2.1 Medal of Honor citation

The President of the United States of America, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to:

PRIVATE
DEMENSIO RIVERA
UNITED STATES ARMY

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Private Demensio Rivera distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and



beyond the call of duty while serving as an automatic rifleman with 2d Platoon, Company G, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Changyong-ni, Korea on May 23, 1951.

Early that morning, a large hostile force emerged from a dense fog and viciously attacked Private Rivera and his comrades. Private Rivera immediately responded by firing with deadly accuracy until his weapon jammed. Without hesitating, he threw his rifle down and began to engage the enemy with his pistol and grenades. At one point, Private Rivera fearlessly crawled from his emplacement to engage an infiltrating enemy soldier in fierce hand-to-hand combat. With only the sound of footsteps and obscure shadows to guide his aim, Private Rivera held his position against tremendous odds, inflicting numerous casualties on

the enemy until he found himself without ammunition of any kind except one grenade. Displaying a peerless fighting spirit and an utterly selfless devotion to duty, Private Rivera pulled the pin from his last grenade and calmly waited for the enemy to reach his position. As enemy troops leaped inside his bunker, Private Rivera activated the grenade with the full knowledge that it meant his almost certain death. When the debris from the explosion had cleared, friendly forces recovered a severely wounded Private Rivera and discovered the bodies of four dead or dying enemy soldiers surrounding him.

Private Rivera's extraordinary heroism and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

58.3 Honors, awards and decorations

Among Private Rivera's military decorations are the following:

58.4 Note

- [1] This name uses [Spanish naming customs](#): the first or paternal family name is **Rivera** and the second or maternal family name is *Avilés*.

58.5 See also

- [List of Korean War Medal of Honor recipients](#)
- [List of Puerto Ricans](#)
- [List of Puerto Rican military personnel](#)
- [List of Puerto Rican recipients of the Medal of Honor](#)
- [List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients](#)

58.6 References

- [1] "Private First Class Demensio Rivera | Valor 24 | Medal of Honor | The United States Army". [army.mil](#). Retrieved 2014-03-31.
- [2] [Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States](#)

- [3] Obama to award Medal of Honor to 24 Army veterans.
- [4] Daniel Rothberg (2014-02-21). "Obama will award Medal of Honor to 24 overlooked Army veterans". *The Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 2014-02-21.
- [5] "Obama to Award Medal of Honor to 24 Army Veterans - ABC News". abcnews.go.com. Retrieved 2014-02-22.

Chapter 59

Leroy Petry

Leroy Arthur Petry (born 29 July 1979) is a retired United States Army soldier and recipient of the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his actions in Afghanistan in 2008 during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Born in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Petry had an active youth, and joined the Army after high school. Completing the Ranger Indoctrination Program, he saw extensive deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan as a member of the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. On 26 May 2008 during his seventh deployment, Petry was a member of a team on a mission to capture a Taliban target in Paktia Province. Despite being wounded in both legs by gunfire, Petry continued to fight and give orders. When a grenade landed between him and two other soldiers, Petry grabbed it and attempted to throw it away from them when it exploded, saving the soldiers' lives but severing his right hand.

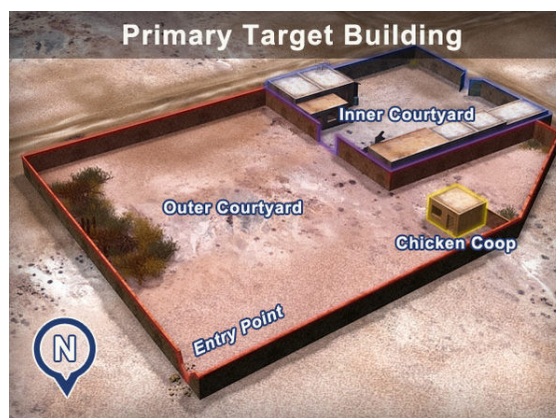
Petry, who now wears a prosthesis, became the second recent living recipient of the medal for the war in Afghanistan when he received the award from U.S. President Barack Obama in 2011. Opting to reenlist in spite of his wounds, Petry remained on active duty in the U.S. Army until his retirement on 29 July 2014. As part of paying tribute to Missing in Action/Prisoners of War (MIA/POW) of whom over 80,000 servicemembers are still unaccounted for from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, Leroy participated and completed a 10-day cross country Run For The Wall (RFTW) in May 2015 to pay honor for those who can't ride in a customized Harley Davidson TriGlide motorcycle. He was part of a four-man ceremonial team to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Virginia in May 2015.

59.1 Early life and education

Petry was born on 29 July 1979, in Santa Fe, New Mexico,^[1] to Larry Petry and Lorella Tapia Petry. In his youth he was described as very active and likable by his friends and family. He is the third of five sons, with older brothers Larry Armando and Lloyd, and younger brothers Lyn-

don and Lincoln. Petry attended Santa Fe High School but was a poor student and had to repeat his freshman year. As a sophomore, he transferred to St. Catherine Indian School, a private school in Santa Fe, where his academic performance substantially improved. Growing up, Petry was active in a number of activities including football and basketball, and he also enjoyed fixing cars and cooking in his spare time. He graduated in 1998; his was the last class to graduate from St. Catherine before its closure. He spent the next year studying at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico.^[2] He also worked at the vehicle maintenance department of Pecos Public Transportation with his father and grandfather, and made signs at a local business, Al's Signs.^[3]

59.2 Career



Map of the target building and surrounding area.

Influenced by a cousin who joined the U.S. Army Rangers,^[2] Petry enlisted in the Army in Santa Fe in September 1999 and also became a Ranger. He attended Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia.^[1] At the time of the September 11th attacks he was in the process of training to become a Ranger.^[3]

Upon completion of his training, Petry was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment based at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, in Washington state. Petry saw a to-



Petry re-enlists in the U.S. Army at Fort Lewis, Washington, in May 2010.



Petry after receiving the Medal of Honor at the White House in 2011.



Petry – seated to his left, Santa Fe mayor David Coss, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez, and sculptor and governor of Pojoaque Pueblo, George Rivera.

tal of eight deployments: two supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and six supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. In all, Petry had spent a total of 28 months deployed. During his time in Iraq and Afghanistan, Petry served in a number of positions including as a grenadier, squad automatic rifleman, fireteam leader, squad leader, operations sergeant, and a weapons squad leader.^[1]

59.2.1 Medal of Honor

On 26 May 2008, Staff Sergeant Petry and his unit were on a mission in Paktia Province, Afghanistan. He was assigned to D Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment,^{[1][4]} which was on a daylight raid to capture a high-value target from the Taliban. Petry was to locate himself with the platoon headquarters in the target building once it was secured. Once there, he was to serve as the senior noncommissioned officer at the site for the remainder of the operation.^[5] The operation involved about 70 Rangers, who encountered about 40 Taliban, 12 of them armed.^[6] Almost immediately after getting out of the helicopters that delivered the unit to the attack site, the Rangers came under strong fire.^[4] Petry provided additional supervision to an assaulting squad during the clearance of a building, and afterward he took Private First Class Lucas Robinson to clear the outer courtyard that had not yet been cleared.^[3]

Three Taliban fighters were in the courtyard, which had a chicken coop within it. The Taliban fired on Petry and Robinson; Petry was wounded by one round which went through both his legs,^[1] and Robinson was wounded, being hit on the armor plate protecting his side. Petry led Robinson to the cover of the chicken coop and reported the contact and their wounded condition. Petry threw a thermobaric grenade from cover. There at the chicken coop, they were joined by Sergeant Daniel Higgins, who assessed the wounds of the two soldiers.^{[3][6]}

A Taliban fighter threw a grenade at their position which landed 10 meters from them; it detonated, and the blast knocked the three soldiers to the ground, wounding Higgins, and further wounding Robinson.^[3] Shortly thereafter the three were joined by Staff Sergeant James Roberts and Specialist Christopher Gathercole. Another grenade was thrown by a Taliban fighter which landed a few feet from Higgins and Robinson. Petry, knowing the risk to his life, moved toward the grenade, picked it up, and attempted to throw it in the direction of the Taliban.^[7] Petry later recalled his immediate reaction was “get it out of here, get it away from the guys and myself. And I reached over, leaned over to the right, grabbed it with my hand, and I threw it as hard as I could, what I thought was at the time. And as soon as I opened my hand to let it go, it just exploded instantly. And I came back, and the hand was completely severed off.”^[8] The detonation amputated his right hand, and sprayed his body with shrapnel.^[9] In throwing the grenade away, Petry likely saved the two other soldiers from serious injury or death.^{[10][6]}

Petry placed a tourniquet on his right arm.^[1] Roberts began to fire at the Taliban fighters, suppressing them in the courtyard. An additional fighter on the east end of the courtyard fired, fatally wounding Gathercole.^[3] Higgins and Robinson returned fire, killing that fighter.^[1] They were then joined by Sergeant First Class Jerod Staidle, the platoon sergeant, and Specialist Gary Depriest, a medic.

Directing the medic to treat Gathercole, Petry was assisted by Staide and Higgins to the casualty collection point.^[3]

59.2.2 Return to service

Petry's wounds resulted in the loss of his right arm below the elbow. He was evacuated to an American hospital in Germany, where he spent several weeks in recovery before being transferred to Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Fort Hood, Texas.^[2] He now uses an advanced prosthetic in place of his right hand. On the prosthetic is a small plaque listing the names of the fallen Rangers of his regiment.^[11] After recovering, Petry did not seek a medical discharge; instead, he deployed to Afghanistan between recovering and receiving the Medal of Honor.^[3] He was later promoted to the rank of sergeant first class.^[4]

Petry received the Medal of Honor from U.S. President Barack Obama on 12 July 2011 in a ceremony at the White House. He was the second living recipient of the medal, after Army Staff Sergeant Salvatore Giunta, for actions occurring after the Vietnam War, and the ninth recipient for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan.^[12] Giunta was in attendance at the awarding ceremony.^[10] Petry later attended the Medal of Honor ceremony of the third living recipient of the medal since Vietnam, U.S. Marine Sergeant Dakota Meyer in 2011.^[13] Following this award, Petry made a long string of appearances on talk shows and other gatherings, starting with *Good Morning America*.^[2] In his spare time, he took to staying active, and has learned to golf, hunt, water ski, and drive all terrain vehicles with his prosthetic hand.^[14] He received several honors; in late 2012, a statue of Petry was constructed in Pojoaque, New Mexico to honor his accomplishments.^[15]

In 2010, Petry re-enlisted in the U.S. Army for an indefinite term of service.^[2] Petry was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, where he served as a liaison officer for United States Special Operations Command's Care Coalition Northwest Region. He assisted ill and injured Rangers as well as their families.^[12] In 2011, Petry also began attending Pierce College, pursuing a bachelor of science degree in business management.^[3]

Although initially wanting to complete twenty years of active duty service, due to medical and "psychological issues", Petry decided to seek medical retirement.^[16] On 23 July 2014, Petry was promoted to Master Sergeant and was awarded the Legion of Merit during his retirement ceremony as well as being inducted into the Honorable Order of Saint Maurice. He officially retired from the United States Army after nearly 15 years of service on 29 July 2014.^[17]

59.3 Awards and decorations

MSG Petry has received the following awards:^{[3][18]}

59.3.1 Medal of Honor citation



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya Province, Afghanistan, on 26 May 2008. As a Weapons Squad Leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sergeant Petry moved to clear

the courtyard of a house that potentially contained high-value combatants. While crossing the courtyard, Staff Sergeant Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters. Still under enemy fire, and wounded in both legs, Staff Sergeant Petry led the other Ranger to cover. He then reported the situation and engaged the enemy with a hand grenade, providing suppression as another Ranger moved to his position. The enemy quickly responded by maneuvering closer and throwing grenades. The first grenade explosion knocked his two fellow Rangers to the ground and wounded both with shrapnel. A second grenade then landed only a few feet away from them. Instantly realizing the danger, Staff Sergeant Petry, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his safety, deliberately and selflessly moved forward, picked up the grenade, and in an effort to clear the immediate threat, threw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers. As he was releasing the grenade it detonated, amputating his right hand at the wrist and further injuring him with multiple shrapnel wounds. Although picking up and throwing the live grenade grievously wounded Staff Sergeant Petry, his gallant act undeniably saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed. Despite the severity of his wounds, Staff Sergeant Petry continued to maintain the presence of mind to place a tourniquet on his right wrist before communicating the situation by radio in order to coordinate support for himself and his fellow wounded Rangers. Staff Sergeant Petry's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, 75th Ranger Regiment, and the United States Army.^[3]

59.4 Personal life

Petry and his wife Ashley have four children: son Landon as well as three children from Ashley's previous relationship; Brittany, Austin, and Reagan.^[2]

59.5 Honors

On 24 June 2013, a 9-foot tall bronze and stainless steel statue of Petry by Pueblo of Pojoaque Governor, George Rivera, was unveiled at Santa Fe City Hall. Among the visiting dignitaries, and seated next to Petry during the ceremony was Medal of Honor recipient Bruce Crandall. Earlier in the day Leroy had entered Santa Fe by

parachuting into Fort Marcy with several retired U.S. servicemen.

The city of Santa Fe announced that as of 25 June 2013 the South Meadows Bridge over the Santa Fe River will be rededicated as the "Sgt. First Class Leroy Arthur Petry Bridge."^[20]

59.6 See also

- Salvatore Giunta
- Dakota Meyer
- Clinton Romesha
- Ty Carter
- William D. Swenson
- Kyle J. White
- Kyle Carpenter
- Ryan M. Pitts
- List of living Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients
- List of Afghanistan Medal of Honor recipients
- Recipients of the Legion of Merit

59.7 References

Footnotes

- [1] Collier & Del Calzo 2011, p. 322.
- [2] Peerman, Lucas (4 June 2011), "Medal of Honor recipient a hero to his family, too", *Las Cruces Sun-News* (Las Cruces, New Mexico), archived from the original on 4 June 2011, retrieved 22 January 2013
- [3] *Medal of Honor: Sergeant First Class Leroy A. Petry, Operation Enduring Freedom*, Washington, D.C.: United States Army, 26 May 2008, retrieved 22 January 2013
- [4] Markovics & Pushies 2012, p. 6.
- [5] "Wounded Ranger to be awarded Medal of Honor", *Navy Times* (Washington, D.C.), 31 May 2011, retrieved 22 January 2013
- [6] Murphy, Kim (10 June 2011), "Soldier to receive Medal of Honor", *Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles, California), retrieved 22 January 2013
- [7] Markovics & Pushies 2012, p. 7.
- [8] Matinez, Luis (13 July 2011), *Pentagon Honors Medal of Honor Recipient, Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry*, New York City, New York: ABC News, retrieved 22 January 2013

- [9] Collier & Del Calzo 2011, p. 329.
- [10] Markovics & Pushies 2012, p. 8.
- [11] French, Alex (November 2011). “Leroy Petry, Real Action Hero”. *Men’s Journal* (Wenner Media). Retrieved 4 March 2015.
- [12] Collier & Del Calzo 2011, p. 332.
- [13] Meyer & West 2012, p. 190.
- [14] Matlock, Staci (13 July 2011), “Son, father, husband, hero: Santa Fe native Leroy A. Petry’s path to the Medal of Honor”, *Santa Fe New Mexican* (Santa Fe, New Mexico), retrieved 22 January 2013
- [15] Greenfogel, Alana (22 November 2012), *Wounded soldier honored with bronze statue*, Albuquerque, New Mexico: KOAT-TV, retrieved 22 January 2013
- [16] Tan, Michelle (6 February 2014). “MoH recipient Petry ponders future after retirement”. *Army Times*. Retrieved 4 March 2015.
- [17] Curthoys, Kathleen (23 July 2014). “Medal of Honor recipient SFC Leroy Petry retires today”. *Army Times* (Gannett Government Media). Retrieved 24 July 2014.
Wong, Lui Kit (23 July 2014). “MSG Leroy A. Petry Retirement Ceremony”. *The News Tribune*. Retrieved 24 July 2014.
- [18] McLemore, Lucian W. (20 November 2009).  *DD214*. United States Army. Wikisource. p. 4.
- [19]
- [20] The New Mexican, Tuesday 24 June 2013, p. 4-A

Sources

- Collier, Peter; Del Calzo, Nick (2011), *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty, Third Edition*, New York City, New York: Workman Publishing Company, ISBN 978-1-57965-462-7
- Markovics, Joyce L.; Pushies, Fred J. (2012), *Today’s Army Heroes*, New York City, New York: Bearport Publishing, ISBN 978-1-61772-445-9
- Meyer, Dakota; West, Bing (2012), *Into the Fire: A Firsthand Account of the Most Extraordinary Battle in the Afghan War*, New York City, New York: Random House, ISBN 978-0-8129-9340-0

59.8 External links

- United States Army website honoring Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry
- General Orders No. 2012–23 Award of the Medal of Honor to Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry

Chapter 60

Rafael Peralta

Sergeant Rafael Peralta (April 7, 1979 – November 15, 2004), assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, was a United States Marine killed in combat during Second Battle of Fallujah in the city of Fallujah, Iraq. In September 2008 his family was notified that he was awarded the Navy Cross, the second-highest award a United States Marine can receive.^[1] In February 2012, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that a new *Arleigh Burke*-class destroyer would be named the *USS Rafael Peralta*.

empty on the ground floor he opened a third door and was hit multiple times with AK-47 fire, leaving him severely wounded. Peralta fell to the floor, moving aside to enable the Marines behind him to return fire.^[5]

The insurgents threw a hand grenade at the Marines, and the two Marines with Peralta tried to get out of the room but could not. Still conscious on the floor, despite his wounds Peralta reportedly pulled the grenade under his body (absorbing most of the blast and shrapnel). He died instantly, but saved the lives of his fellow Marines.^{[5][7]} Sgt. Peralta is buried in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, California.^[8]

60.1 Biography

Peralta was born on April 7, 1979 in Mexico City. The son of Rafael and Rosa Peralta and the oldest of four (his siblings are Icela, Karen, Luis and Ricardo), he emigrated to the United States.^[2] Peralta's father died in a workplace accident, leaving him head of the household.^[3] After his 1997 graduation from Morse High School in San Diego he attended San Diego City College and served in the California Conservation Corps as a crewleader from 1998-1999.^[2] He joined the United States Marine Corps when he received his green card in 2000^[2] and became an American citizen while serving in the Marine Corps.^[4]

Peralta reportedly served the United States with enthusiasm and patriotism: "In his parents' home, on his bedroom walls hung only three items - a copy of the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights and his boot camp graduation certificate. Before he set out for Fallujah he wrote to his 14-year-old brother, 'Be proud of me, bro ...and be proud of being an American.'"^[5]

60.1.1 Death

On November 15, 2004, the 25-year-old Sgt. Peralta deployed to Iraq as a scout team leader assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment to clear houses in Operation Phantom Fury. Although Peralta was not assigned to enter the buildings, he did so.^[6]

Peralta led his team through three house-clearings before charging into the fourth house. After finding two rooms

60.2 Posthumous award

First Marine Division commander Lt Gen Richard Natonski recommended Peralta for the Medal of Honor,^[9] based on reports by seven Marines present (or nearby) when he died.^[10] In December 2004, Congressman Bob Filner of California introduced legislation awarding Sgt. Peralta the Medal of Honor.^[11]

On September 17, 2008, Natonski notified Peralta's family that he would receive the Navy Cross instead of the Medal of Honor. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates rejected the Marine Corps recommendation, saying that his panel unanimously confirmed that Peralta's actions did not meet the Medal of Honor standard "without any possibility of error or doubt". Gates' central argument related to whether the already-mortally-wounded Peralta could have intentionally reached for the grenade, shielding his fellow Marines from the blast. During a Marine Corps investigation of the attack Natonski had said, "I believe beyond a shadow of a doubt" that the gravely-wounded Peralta covered the grenade.^[12] Doubt arose when some believed that Peralta was clinically dead when the grenade was thrown.^{[13][14]}

After it was announced that Peralta would receive the Navy Cross instead, a number of people requested reconsideration,^{[15][16]} with the congressional delegations from California and Hawaii and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus requesting a presidential review of Gates' decision.^{[17][18]} Lawmakers continued their efforts;^[19] of

seven nominations for the Medal of Honor reaching the Secretary of Defense, Peralta's was the only one not approved.^[20]

In March 2012 the *Marine Corps Times* reported that Navy officials were reviewing new evidence related to Peralta's case, including two videos (one by Marine combat photographer Steve Sebby)^{[21][22]} and a pathology report.^[23] The evidence was provided by California Representative Duncan D. Hunter,^[24] who served with 1st Battalion, 11th Marines during Operation Vigilant Resolve (the first battle for Fallujah).^[25] In December 2012 the Department of Defense announced that the Navy Cross would not be upgraded, with Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta saying that he did not want to overturn his predecessor's decision.^[26] Hunter said he would appeal,^[27] introducing a resolution co-sponsored by fellow California Representative Xavier Becerra which recommended that Peralta receive the Medal of Honor.^[28] When Chuck Hagel replaced Panetta as Secretary of Defense, Hunter hoped he would be more receptive to the new evidence.^[29] However, in February 2014 Hagel announced that Peralta's Medal of Honor nomination would not be reconsidered.^[30] In June 2015 Peralta's mother, Rosa Maria, received the Navy Cross at a Camp Pendleton ceremony.^[31]

post the night of 14 November, allowing fellow Marines more time to rest. The following morning, during search and attack operations, while clearing the seventh house of the day, the point man opened a door to a back room and immediately came under intense, close-range automatic weapons fire from multiple insurgents. The squad returned fire, wounding one insurgent. While attempting to maneuver out of the line of fire, Sergeant Peralta was shot and fell mortally wounded. After the initial exchange of gunfire, the insurgents broke contact, throwing a fragmentation grenade as they fled the building. The grenade came to rest near Sergeant Peralta's head. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sergeant Peralta reached out and pulled the grenade to his body, absorbing the brunt of the blast and shielding fellow Marines only feet away. Sergeant Peralta succumbed to his wounds. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Sergeant Peralta reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."^[33]

60.3 Awards and honors

Peralta's awards include:^[32]

60.3.1 Navy Cross citation

"The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the NAVY CROSS posthumously to

SERGEANT
RAFAEL PERALTA
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism while serving as Platoon Guide with 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division, in action against Anti-Coalition Forces in support of Operation AL FAJR, in Fallujah, Iraq on 15 November 2004. Clearing scores of houses in the previous three days, Sergeant Peralta' asked to join an under strength squad and volunteered to stand

60.4 Legacy

On April 24, 2006, San Diego Police Department Chief of Police William Lansdowne posthumously awarded Sgt. Peralta the honorary title of San Diego police officer for his heroism in Iraq. Peralta had long wanted to be a San Diego police officer, and the badge was presented to his mother.^[34]

On September 21, 2007, the 31st MEU command-post building 2533 at Camp Hansen, Okinawa was renamed Peralta Hall in his honor.^[35] The History Channel produced a one-hour documentary in Spanish and English about Peralta, *Act of Honor*, which appeared on *THC Classroom*.^{[36][37]}

With Peralta's death benefit, his mother purchased a home in Chula Vista.^[38] Inspired by his older brother's actions, Rafael's brother Ricardo also enlisted in the Marine Corps and graduated from the School of Infantry in 2010.^{[3][39]} He was honorably discharged in January 2014, after serving in Afghanistan.^[10]

Following legislative action by Congressman Hunter,^[40] Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced on February 16, 2012 that one of several new Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers would be named the USS *Rafael Peralta* (DDG-115),^{[41][42]} According to Peralta's mother, the destroyer will carry his Navy Cross.^[31] In Quantico, Virginia, Peralta's rifle and the last letter he wrote will be placed on display.^[31]

60.5 See also

- *USS Rafael Peralta*
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

60.6 References

- [1] Fuentes, Gidget (September 17, 2008). "Peralta to be given Navy Cross posthumously — No Medal of Honor for sergeant hit by 'friendly fire'". *Marine Corps Times*. Retrieved 2008-09-18.
- [2] Rother, Caitlin (November 21, 2004). "Another tragedy for grieving family". *San Diego Union Tribune* (Union-Tribune Publishing Co.). Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved August 4, 2009.
- [3] Dan Lamothe (17 August 2010). "Peralta brother carries on legacy as Marine". *Marine Corps Times*. Retrieved 21 May 2015.
- [4] Gonzalez, Emilio (22 August 2006). "Citizenship through military service". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 17 December 2012. Peralta enlisted the same day he received his green card and earned his citizenship while on active duty.
- [5] North, Oliver (2004-12-16). "Hero in Fallujah: Marine Laid Himself on Top of Grenade to Save Rest of Squad". *HumanEvents.com*. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 2006-05-30.
- [6] Trowbridge, Gordon (20 November 2004). "Marine sacrifices his life for others in grenade blast". *Seattle Times*. Retrieved 15 March 2012.
- [7] Ephron, Dan (February 11, 2008). "Where's the Respect?". *Newsweek*.
- [8] Kathrine Zoepf (27 May 2010). "What Happened to Valor?". *New York Times*. Retrieved 15 March 2012. Peralta is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.
- [9] Jennifer Hlad (21 May 2015). "No medal upgrade for Marine who will receive Navy Cross in June". *Stars and Stripes*. Retrieved 21 May 2015. Lt. Gen. Richard Natonski, who at the time was commander of 1st Marine Division, recommended Peralta for the Medal of Honor. Chelsea J. Carter (19 September 2008). "Mother to ask Congress to award son Medal of Honor". *USA Today*. Associated Press. Retrieved 21 May 2015. In a rare move, the Marine Corps Thursday released a redacted copy of the Medal of Honor nomination by Lt. Gen. Richard Natonski and an investigative report detailing the "friendly fire" shooting of the sergeant.
- [10] Gretel C. Kovach (25 February 2014). "Peralta report rekindles medal debate". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 21 May 2015.
- [11] Filner, Bob (January 2005). "A Salute to An American Patriot: Sgt. Rafael Peralta". *Congressman Bob Filner's Congressional Update*. Retrieved 2008-09-18.
- [12] Zoroya, Gregg (September 17, 2008). "No Medal of Honor for Kaneohe Marine". *Honolulu Advertiser*. Retrieved 2008-09-18.
- [13] Barnes, Julian E. (12 July 2011). "White House Considers Another Nominee for the Medal of Honor". *Wall Street Journal*. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 13 July 2011.
- [14] Perry, Tony (15 October 2008). "IRAQ: No change for Sgt. Peralta, Navy secretary says". *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 13 July 2011.
- [15] Fuentes, Gidget (October 5, 2008). "Former Marine protests Peralta MoH denial". *Marine Corps Times*. Retrieved 2008-09-05.
- [16] Lamothe, Dan (September 30, 2008). "Honor or insult for a fallen Marine? Marine who smothered grenade deserved Medal of Honor, family says, but he got the Navy Cross". *Marine Corps Times*. Retrieved 2008-10-05.
- [17] Fuentes, Gidget (September 23, 2008). "Lawmakers ask Bush to review Peralta award: Seek highest honor for Marine". *Marine Corps Times*. Retrieved 2008-09-05.
- [18] Cole, William (October 1, 2008). "More members of Congress ask for Peralta review". *The Honolulu Advertiser* (Republished in the *Marine Corps Times*).
- [19] Walker, Mark (2009-01-05). "MILITARY: Lawmakers not giving up on Marine denied Medal of Honor" (article). Escondido: North County Times. Retrieved 2009-01-17.; Walker, Mark (2009-01-30). "MILITARY: Hunter presses Peralta Medal of Honor case". North County Times. Retrieved 2009-01-31.; "Citing Peralta, lawmaker seeks MOH review". *Marine Corps Times* (Army Times Publishing Company). 2009-01-30. Retrieved 2009-01-31.; Cole, William (2009-01-30). "City urges Obama to review Marine's case". *The Honolulu Advertiser*. Retrieved 2009-01-31.; Gretel C. Kovach (15 March 2012). "New video evidence submitted for Peralta medal nomination: Navy Secretary reviewing Medal of Honor resubmission". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 15 March 2012.
- [20] Freking, Kevin (August 2, 2009). "Lawmaker questions low Medal of Honor count". *Associated Press*. Retrieved August 4, 2009. It's unclear exactly how many soldiers have been nominated for the award from the two wars. But, seven have made it all the way to the secretary of defense, and six were approved. The exception is Sgt. Rafael Peralta of San Diego, Calif. Hunter said the Peralta case shows that a higher standard is being used for the medal than in previous wars.
- [21] Gretel C. Kovach (15 March 2012). "Video evidence submitted in Peralta medal push". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 17 December 2012.
- [22] Stephen Dinan (12 December 2012). "Top medal denied twice to Marine". *Stephen Dinan*. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 17 December 2012.

- [23] Cavallaro, Gina (March 20, 2012). "Navy reopens Marine Corps Medal of Honor case". *Marine Corps Times*. Retrieved 2012-10-28.
- [24] Wilkens, John (16 November 2012). "Medal of Honor Review Expected to Finish Soon". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 16 November 2012.
- [25] Scott Horsley (18 April 2007). "Military Call Disrupts Hunters' House Plans". *NPR*. Retrieved 16 November 2012.
- [26] John Wilkens (12 December 2012). "Hunter: No Medal of Honor for Peralta". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 17 December 2012.
- [27] Duncan Hunter (16 December 2012). "Peralta Deserves Medal of Honor for Heroism". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 17 December 2012.
- [28] Mark Walker (16 January 2013). "Lawmaker won't leave Peralta behind: Rep. Duncan Hunter won't quit in quest for Medal of Honor for fallen Marine". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 16 January 2013.
- [29] Dan Lamothe (4 March 2013). "New Medal of Honor push started for Peralta". *Marine Corps Times*. Retrieved 22 June 2013.
- [30] Perry, Tony (21 February 2014). "Hagel refuses to reopen Medal of Honor bid for Sgt. Rafael Peralta". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 22 February 2014.
- [31] Kovach, Gretel C. (8 June 2015). "Peralta: Navy Cross medal 'bittersweet'". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 10 June 2015.
- [32] "House Concurrent Resolution 19 HD1" (PDF). *25th Legislature*. Hawaii House of Representatives. 2009. Retrieved 2009-08-05.
- [33] "Navy Cross Citation" (PDF). *The Secretary of the Navy*. Retrieved 2009-01-31.
- [34] "San Diego Police Honors Fallen Marine" (PDF). *Flight Jacket* (Marine Corps Air Station Miramar) **8** (17). April 28, 2006. Retrieved 2008-09-18.
- [35] Mathews, Kenneth (January 31, 2014). "Mandeville native hopes to see fellow Marine posthumously awarded Medal of Honor". *The Times-Picayune*. Archived from the original on 2014-06-16. Retrieved 2014-06-16.
- [36] "Act of Honor". *THC Classroom*. The History Channel. Retrieved 2008-09-18.
- [37] "Act of Honor" (in Spanish). The History Channel.
- [38] Perry, Tony (22 February 2014). "Doubt cast over circumstances of San Diego Marine's 2004 death". *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 21 May 2015.
- [39] Tony Perry (12 July 2010). "Marine hero's brother makes good on his promise". *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved 21 May 2015.
- [40] Gary Robbins (8 December 2011). "Naming of warships causing dissent in Congress". *San Diego Union Tribune*. Retrieved 22 December 2011.
- [41] "Navy To Name Ships After Servicemen With Local Ties". *KGTV San Diego*. 15 February 2012. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 16 February 2012.
- [42] Perry, Tony (15 February 2012). "Navy to name ships after three San Diego war heroes". *Los Angeles Times*. Archived from the original on June 16, 2014. Retrieved 16 February 2012.

60.7 External links

- Act of Honor documentary on YouTube by The History Channel
- Marine Sgt. Rafael Peralta, *Fallen Heroes Memorial*.
- Personal Photos of Sgt. Peralta
- Rafael Peralta at *Find a Grave*

Chapter 61

Guy Gabaldon

Guy Louis Gabaldon (March 22, 1926 – August 31, 2006) was a United States Marine who, at age 18, captured or persuaded to surrender Japanese soldiers and civilians during the battles for Saipan and Tinian islands in 1944 during World War II. Though Gabaldon was recommended for the Medal of Honor, he received the Silver Star, which was upgraded by the Marine Corps to the Navy Cross in 1960.

In 1960, a friend of Gabaldon's with Hollywood connections influenced the industry to make a movie about Gabaldon's version of events on Saipan called *Hell to Eternity*. He was called 'Gabby' by his friends, and was an outspoken member of right-wing political organizations. In 1964, he unsuccessfully ran for US Congressman in his Southern California district. In 1990, he authored a book entitled, *Saipan: Suicide Island*.

61.1 Early years

Gabaldon was born in Los Angeles, California. His family was Mexican-American, and he was one of seven children. He was raised in East Los Angeles and, as a ten-year-old, he helped his family by shining shoes on Skid Row.^[1] Gabaldon became a member of a multi-ethnic gang known as the "Moe Gang".^[2] At age 12, he moved out of his home to live with the Nakano family, which was of Japanese-American heritage and whom he considered his extended family. He attended language school every day with their children and learned to speak Japanese. He also learned about their customs and culture.^[3]

61.2 World War II

At the outbreak of World War II the Nakanos, his "adopted"^[note 1] family, were sent to a relocation camp named the Heart Mountain Relocation Center, in Wyoming. He traveled to Alaska to work in a cannery. On March 22, 1943, Gabaldon's 17th birthday, he joined the United States Marine Corps. He received his basic training at Camp Pendleton, completed the Enlisted Marine Japanese Language School at Camp Elliot in San

Diego, and was assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, as a scout and observer.

61.2.1 The Pied Piper of Saipan

The United States considered the possibility of a full scale invasion of the Japanese mainland but later decided that such a feat would be costly, with an estimated one million American casualties. The capture of Saipan was considered essential for the establishment of airfields which would accommodate the B-29 Superfortress bombers to be used for the planned invasion. On June 15, 1944, an armada of 535 ships carrying 127,570 U.S. military personnel which included Marines from the 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions, began the invasion of Saipan. Japanese soldiers seldom surrendered during World War II and, as the American military invasion went badly for the Japanese, they were ordered by their superiors on Saipan to kill seven American Marines or soldiers for every soldier they lost, or commit suicide.^[4]

According to Gabaldon, he began taking and bringing in prisoners the night of the first day that he arrived on Saipan. According to Gabaldon:

The first night I was on Saipan, I went out on my own...I always worked on my own, and brought back two prisoners using my back-street Japanese.

—Guy Gabaldon

Gabaldon was reprimanded by his superior officers, and threatened with a court-martial for leaving his post. However, according to him the next night he went out and did it again. He carefully approached a cave, shot the enemy guards outside, moved off to one side of the cave, and yelled in Japanese, "You're surrounded and have no choice but to surrender. Come out, and you will not be killed! I assure you will be well-treated. We do not want to kill you!"^[1]

The next morning he says he returned with 50 Japanese prisoners. As a result, Gabaldon was permitted by his commanding officer to act as a "lone wolf" operator.^[1]



Private Guy Gabaldon (right) poses with a few of the Japanese soldiers and civilians who surrendered to him in 1944 during World War II

The next day, on July 8, Gabaldon captured two more enemy guards. He convinced one of them to return to his cave, with an offering of surrender. Shortly thereafter, a Japanese officer showed up. After speaking to Gabaldon, the officer accepted the conditions of surrender—and over eight hundred Japanese soldiers and civilians surrendered to Gabaldon, who turned them over to the U.S. military authorities. For his exploits, according to Gabaldon, he became known as *The Pied Piper of Saipan*.^[1]

61.2.2 Tinian

Gabaldon continued to capture more Japanese people on **Tinian**. While back on Saipan fighting Japanese **guerrillas** still on the island, he was seriously wounded in an enemy **machine gun** ambush. Gabaldon claimed he was credited with the capture of approximately 1,500 Japanese soldiers and civilians on Saipan and Tinian and was recommended for the Medal of Honor by his commanding officer Captain John Schwabe, who noted that Gabaldon single-handedly captured more than *ten times* the number of prisoners taken by legendary Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. **Alvin C. York**, in **World War I**. Despite this recommendation, Gabaldon was awarded a **Silver Star Medal**.^{[1][5]}

61.3 Post-war

Gabaldon received an **Honorable Discharge** from the Marine Corps as a result of his **combat** wounds. In 1960, the Marine Corps elevated his Silver Star Medal to the Navy Cross, the second highest US military decoration for valor.^[6]

After returning to civilian life, he moved to **Mexico**



and ventured into various businesses such as a furniture store, fishing, and the import-export of Mexican goods.^[7] When his first marriage to June Gabaldon ended in divorce, he met the woman who became his second wife, Ohana Suzuki, while working in Mexico.^[3]

Gabaldon's World War II exploits became public when in 1957, he was the invited guest of *This is Your Life*,^[2] a popular television program aired by **NBC** in the 1950s. Hosted by **Ralph Edwards**, the show presented the life stories of entertainment personalities and "ordinary" people who had contributed in some way to society.^[8]

The fact that Gabaldon captured at least 1,500 Japanese prisoners was verified on the national program by Marines Corps intelligence officers Colonel Walter Layer, Colonel John Schwabe, Major James High, and several enlisted men from military intelligence.^[9]

Hollywood producers became interested in Gabaldon's story and in 1960 released the film *Hell to Eternity* where his actions on Saipan were memorialized. He was portrayed by actors **Jeffrey Hunter** as an adult and by **Richard Eyer** as a boy. Gabaldon himself served as an adviser in the filming of the movie.^[6]

61.4 Navy Cross



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

Citation:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the NAVY CROSS to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GUY L.
GABALDON

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following
CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism while serving with Headquarters and Service Company, **Second Marines, Second Marine Division**, in action against enemy Japanese forces on **Saipan and Tinian, Mariana Islands, South Pacific Area**, from 15 June to 1 August 1944. Acting as a **Japanese Interpreter** for the Second Marines, Private First Class GABALDON displayed extreme courage and initiative in single-handedly capturing enemy civilian and military personnel during the Saipan and Tinian operations. Working alone in front of the lines, he daringly entered enemy caves, **pillboxes**, buildings, and **jungle** brush, frequently in the face of hostile fire, and succeeded in not only obtaining vital military information, but in capturing well over one thousand enemy civilians and troops. Through his valiant and distinguished exploits, Private First Class GABALDON made an important contribution to the successful prosecution of the Campaign and, through his efforts, a definite humane treatment of civilian prisoners was assured. His courageous and inspiring devotion to duty throughout reflects the highest credit upon himself and the **United States Naval Service**.

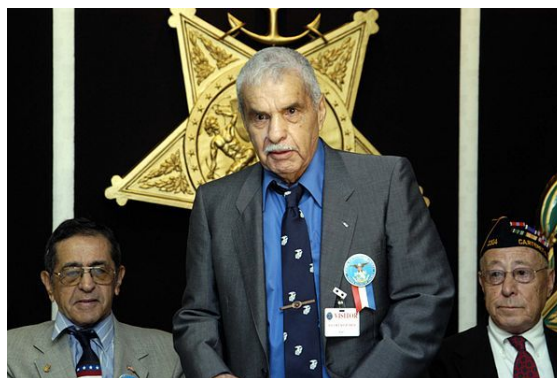
For the President,

W. B. FRANKE,

Secretary of the Navy

(Approved by the Secretary of the Navy on November 23, 1960)

61.5 Later years



Guy Gabaldon speaking at Pentagon ceremony honoring Hispanic World War II veterans, September 2004.

In 1964, he unsuccessfully ran for the **United States Congress** as a Republican in **California**.

In 1970, he moved to Saipan with his wife where he established a seafood business and ran a youth camp. He lived there for 20 years.^[3]

In 1990, he authored and self-published a book; *Saipan: Suicide Island*, also re-printed as *America Betrayed*.

In 1995, he returned to California.

In 2003, he moved to **Old Town, Florida**.

In September 2004, Gabaldon was honored by the **Pentagon**, in a ceremony which recognized the contributions of Hispanic American World War II veterans.

Various organizations have requested the Medal of Honor for Gabaldon, but their requests have been rejected. After lobbying by the Hispanic community, the case to upgrade his Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor is currently under review by the **Department of Defense**.^[9]

61.6 Death

On August 31, 2006, Gabaldon died in Old Town, Florida of heart disease. He was buried with full military honors at **Arlington National Cemetery**.^[10] Gabaldon is survived by his wife, Ohana; his sons Guy Jr., Ray, Tony, Yoshio, Jeffrey and Russell; his daughters Aiko, Hanako and Manya.^[6] Two members of his “adopted” family were actor **Lane Nakano** and his twin Lyle.^[11]

61.7 Awards and recognitions

On November 23, 1960, the Marine Corps upgraded Gabaldon's Silver Star Medal to a **Navy Cross**. Next to the Medal of Honor, this is the second highest US military decoration.^[6]

During his lifetime, Gabaldon received many awards and recognitions, including resolutions honoring him from the City of Los Angeles, the City of **Chicago**, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas.

On November 12, 2005, he was the recipient of the **Chesty Puller Award** from the **World War II Veterans Committee**, a prominent organization which showcases the veterans of World War II and their history.^{[12][13]}

On July 7, 2006, he was honored by Mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa** of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles City Council. The Mayor and the City Council sent a resolution to the **White House** requesting the Medal of Honor for Gabaldon. That same year the World War II Veteran's Committee in **Washington, D.C.**, featured Gabaldon on the cover of their quarterly magazine. Also in July, Gabaldon was honored by the **National Council of La Raza**, a national organization and a leading Latino civil rights advocate.

In addition to the Hollywood movie *Hell to Eternity*, which recounted Gabaldon's heroism during World War II, Hollywood producer Steve Rubin made a documentary film about Gabaldon titled *East L.A. Marine: The Untold True Story of Guy Gabaldon*. Military artist Henry Godines also unveiled a commissioned portrait, titled *The Pied Piper of Saipan, Guy Gabaldon*.^[9]

61.8 Military awards and decorations

Gabaldon's military awards include:

61.9 See also

- **Hispanic Americans in World War II**
- **List of Historically Important U.S. Marines**
- **Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps**

61.10 Notes

- [1] "Gabaldon was not legally adopted by the Nakano family per se, he considered them his adopted family"

61.11 References

- [1] *War Times Journal*, Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [2] *A Friendship Like No Other*, Retrieved November 4, 2007 Archived May 16, 2008, at the *Wayback Machine*.
 - [3] *Honolulu Star*, Sunday, June 6, 2004, Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [4] *The Battle of Saipan*, Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [5] *Medal of Honor Nominees Portrayed On Film*, November 5, 2007
 - [6] *Guy Gabaldon, 80, Hero of Battle of Saipan, Dies*; New York Times; By Richard Goldstein; Published: September 4, 2006, Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [7] Sendensky, Matt (2006-09-05). "Pied Piper of Saipan coaxed Japanese soldiers to give up". *The Virginian Pilot (obituaries)* (The Associated Press). p. B9.
 - [8] *This is your Life*, Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [9] *Guy Gabaldon, American Hero of the 20th Century*, Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [10] *Arlington National Cemetery* (private web site), Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [11] Varzally, Allison (2008). *Making a Non-White America*. Los Angeles: University of California Press. pp. 114–115. ISBN 978-0-520-25344-5.
 - [12] *Guy Gabaldon*, Retrieved November 4, 2007
 - [13] *The Washington Times, WWII Veterans Honored*, Nov. 30, 2005. Retrieved March 8, 2014.
- *Guy Gabaldon (1990). Saipan: Suicide Island.*
 - *Guy Gabaldon (1990). America Betrayed.* ASIN B000EBA0Y6.
 - *Goldstein, Richard (September 4, 2006). "Guy Gabaldon, 80, Hero of Battle of Saipan, Dies". New York Times.* Retrieved 2007-11-04.
 - *"Guy Gabaldon, WWII hero, dies". Washington Post.* September 5, 2006. Retrieved 2006-10-16.
 - *Sainz, Adrian (May 4, 2008). "Top Honor Sought For Marine Whose Weapon Was Words". San Diego Union-Tribune.*

61.12 External links

- *Guy Gabaldon at Find a Grave*
- *"East L.A. Marine– Full Movie"*
- *Guy Gabaldon's Website.*
- *Get Guy Gabaldon the Medal of Honor*

- Film-Forward review of East L.A. Marine – Documentary on Gabaldon’s life
- Guy Gabaldon at the Internet Movie Database
- James Burbeck. “An Interview With Guy Gabaldon”. *War Times Journal*.
- *Hell to Eternity* on Internet Movie Database.
- Medal of Honor Nominees on Film
- “Resolution: Medal of Honor for Guy Louis Gabaldon”. LULAC. June 29, 2002. Archived from the original on 2006-06-15.. Resolution supporting the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Guy Gabaldo
- Kathleen T. Rhem (September 15, 2004). “Pentagon Hosts Salute to Hispanic World War II Veterans”. *DefenseLINK News* (U.S. Department of Defense). Archived from the original on 2006-06-25.
- Gregg K. Kakesako (June 6, 2004). “‘Pied Piper’ returning to Saipan: The Chicano recipient of the Navy Cross will revisit the site of a historic WWII battle”. *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.

Chapter 62

Marcelino Serna

Private Marcelino Serna (April 26, 1896 – February 29, 1992) was an undocumented Mexican immigrant ^[note 1] who joined the United States Army and became the most decorated soldier from Texas in World War I. Serna was the first Hispanic to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

62.1 Early years

Serna was born in the city of Chihuahua, in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, to a poor family. In 1916, when he was 20 years old, Serna decided to enter the United States, by crossing the Rio Grande and going to El Paso, Texas in search of a job and better way of life. Serna, did not know how to speak English and could only find employment that paid low wages. It wasn't long before he found himself working as a farm hand in a sugar beet field in Denver, Colorado.^[1]

The United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917. Serna was with a group of men in Denver, when he was picked up by federal officials. He faced the possibility of being deported and before that could happen he volunteered to serve in the Army.^[1]

62.2 World War I

After his basic training Serna was sent overseas and assigned to Company B, 355th Infantry of the 89th Division. When the Army realized that he was a Mexican National, he was offered a discharge. Serna, however refused and chose to stay with his new friends.^[2]

Serna's unit was ordered to begin an advance towards the Meuse River and Argonne Forest in France. When his unit arrived at St. Mihiel, they encountered a German machine gunner who killed 12 soldiers. Serna crawled up to the machine gunner's left flank. Even though his helmet was hit twice with bullets, Serna was able to get close enough to throw four grenades into the nest. Eight Germans surrendered and the rest in the nest were dead.^[3]

On September 12, 1918, Serna's unit was engaged in combat inside the Meuse-Argonne region when he spot-

ted a German sniper and wounded him with his Enfield rifle. Serna followed the wounded soldier to a trench. He threw three grenades into the trench which resulted in the death of 26 enemy soldiers and the capture of 24 prisoners.^[1]

Serna was wounded in both of his legs by sniper fire, four days before the Armistice. During his recovery, General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, pinned on his chest the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military decoration of the United States Army to the Medal of Honor. Serna was told by an officer that "Buck Privates" were not eligible for the Medal of Honor, and that he did not know enough English to be promoted.^[4] The officer in question was wrong because Private David B. Barkley who also served in the 89th Division, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions. It so happens that years later it was discovered that Barkley was Hispanic, thus the only Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War I.^[5] Field Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Supreme Commander of the Allied troops, awarded Serna the French Croix de Guerre for bravery.

62.3 Distinguished Service Cross Citation

SERNA, MARCELINO

Private, U.S. Army

Company B, 355th Infantry Regiment, 89th Division,
A.E.F.

Date of Action: September 12, 1918

Citation:

"The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Marcelino Serna, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Flirey, France, September 12, 1918. Private Serna displayed exceptional coolness and courage in



single handed charging and capturing 24 Germans.”

General Orders No. 27, W.D., 1919 Home Town: Fort Morgan, CO.^[6]

62.4 Later years

Serna returned to the U.S. as the most decorated soldier from Texas and was discharged at Camp Bowie, Texas in May 1919.^[7] In 1924, Serna became a citizen of the United States and soon after he married and settled down in El Paso, Texas. He went to work at the Peyton Packing Company. In 1960, he retired as a plumber from William Beaumont Hospital. On February 29, 1992, Marcelino Serna died at the age of 95. He was buried with full military honors at Fort Bliss National Cemetery, of El Paso, Texas.^[8]

On January 17, 1995, Congressman Ronald D'Emory Coleman introduced legislation before the House of Representatives that requested that Serna be awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously, to no avail.^[9]

In 2007 at the 78th Annual LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Convention the following resolution was adopted by the National Assembly: Congressional Medal of Honor Recommendation for Guy Louis Gabaldon, Rafael Peralta and Marcelino Serna.^[10]

62.5 Awards and decorations

Among Serna's many military decorations are the following:^[note 2]

62.6 Notes

- [1] an **undocumented** immigrant is also referred to as an **illegal** immigrant
- [2] According to some cited references, such as *Borderlands*, Serna was awarded the “British Medal of Honor”. There is not, nor has ever been, such a decoration.

62.7 See also

- Private David Bennes Barkley who also served in the 89th Division and was the only Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War I.

62.8 References

- [1] Marcelino Serna
- [2] “Hispanic hero:Marcelino Serna” (PDF). Retrieved 2012-06-28.
- [3] Hispanic Military History Archived May 11, 2011, at the Wayback Machine.
- [4] *Hispanics in America's Defense* By DIANE Publishing Company. Books.google.com. 1918-09-12. Retrieved 2012-06-28.
- [5] D. López. “Saving Private Aztlan: Preserving the History of Latino Service in Wartime”. *Diálogo Magazine*. Retrieved 2006-07-14.
- [6] Serna DSC Citation Archived August 29, 2006, at the Wayback Machine.
- [7] Armistice and After
- [8] “find a Grave”. find a Grave. Retrieved 2012-06-28.
- [9] “Sernas of the World”. Sernasoftheworld.blogspot.com. Retrieved 2012-06-28.
- [10] LULAC-2007 Archived May 16, 2008, at the Wayback Machine.

62.9 Further reading

- Hispanics in America's Defense Publisher: Diane Pub Co (August 1989); Language: English; ISBN 0-7881-4722-6; ISBN 978-0-7881-4722-7
- Hispanics in America's Defense: by Department of Defense; Publisher: U.S. Government Printing Office (1990); ASIN: B000GWLOMU

Chapter 63

Modesto Cartagena

Sergeant First Class **Modesto Cartagena** (July 21, 1921 – March 2, 2010) was a member of the United States Army who served in the 65th Infantry Regiment, a military regiment consisting of Puerto Rican enlisted soldiers and officers from the continental United States also known as "The Borinqueneers," during World War II and the Korean War, becoming the most decorated Hispanic soldier in that war. He was the most decorated Puerto Rican soldier in history.^[1]

63.1 Early years

Cartagena (birth name: **Modesto Cartagena de Jesús** ^[note 1]) was born in a poor family, and raised in the mountains of Cayey, Puerto Rico during the Great Depression. Cartagena enlisted in the U. S. Army in San Juan, Puerto Rico and was assigned to the 65th Infantry, also known as The Borinqueneers because, with the exception of the officer staff, it was made up of Puerto Rican enlisted men. During World War II he served in units guarding military installations in the Caribbean and later in the Allied occupation of Germany. Cartagena was discharged after the 65th Infantry Regiment returned to Puerto Rico.^{[1][2][3]}

63.2 Korean War

Upon the outbreak of the Korean War, Cartagena reenlisted and entered the Army with the rank of Sergeant. He was assigned to Company C, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division and sent to Korea.

The men of the 65th, now attached to the Army's 3d Infantry Division, were among the first infantrymen to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Korea. After November, 1950, they fought daily against units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army after the Chinese entered the war on the North Korean side. One of the hardships suffered by the Puerto Ricans was the lack of warm clothing during the cold and harsh winters.^[4] Among the battles and operations in which the 65th participated was *Operation Killer* in January 1951, becoming the first Regiment to cross the Han River in South Korea during the



Company "C" on patrol

operation. On April 1951, the Regiment participated in the Uijonbu Corridor drives.^[5]

On April 19, 1951, Cartagena, "with no regard for his own safety," as the official record states, left his position and charged directly into devastating enemy fire, single-handedly destroying two enemy emplacements on Hill 206 near "Yonch'on," North Korea. After taking out the emplacements, he was knocked to the ground twice by exploding enemy grenades. Nevertheless, he got up and attacked three more times, each time destroying an enemy emplacement until he was wounded. On October 19, 2002, during a ceremony honoring the 65th Infantry, when he was asked about the battle, Cartagena responded that he just hurled back at the Chinese the grenades thrown at him. He thought that the rest of the squad was behind him, and didn't realize most of them had been wounded and forced to take cover. Later they found 33 dead Chinese in the machine gun and automatic emplacements and they found 15 more dead in the positions he had destroyed on his way up the hill.^[5] Cartagena, who had lost a lot of blood, was sent to Taibu in a helicopter and then to Japan to the 128th Marines Hospital where he was hospitalized for 62 days. According to 1st Lt. Reinaldo Deliz Santiago:

"Sgt. Cartagena's actions prevented much heavier casualties within my platoon and I feel

that his courage and superior leadership and own initiative were decisive factors for the accomplishment of the mission of the unit”^[6]

Cartagena was awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** (DSC) which is the second highest military decoration of the United States Army (second to the Medal of Honor), awarded for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force.

63.3 Distinguished Service Cross citation



CARTAGENA, MODESTO

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Modesto Cartagena (RA10404100),

Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division. Sergeant Cartagena distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Yonch'on, Korea, on 19 April 1951. On that date, Company C was assigned the mission of capturing Hill 206, a terrain feature dominating a critical road junction. When the company assaulted the summit, it encountered stubborn resistance from a well-entrenched and fanatically determined hostile force. Sergeant Cartagena, directed to move his squad forward in order to approach the enemy positions from another ridgeline, led his men toward the objective, but, almost immediately, the group was forced to seek cover from an intense and accurate volume of small-arms and automatic-weapons fire. Locating the hostile emplacements that posed the greatest obstacle to the advance of the friendly forces, Sergeant Cartagena left his position and, charging directly into the devastating enemy fire he hurled a grenade at the first emplacement, totally destroying it. Ordering his squad to remain under cover, he successfully and single-handedly assaulted the second enemy position. Although knocked to the ground by exploding enemy grenades, Sergeant Cartagena repeated this daring action three more times. Finally, an increased volume of fire from the remaining hostile emplacements was concentrated on him and he was wounded. The extraordinary heroism and completely selfless devotion, to duty displayed by Sergeant Cartagena throughout this action enabled the company to secure its objective successfully with a minimum of casualties, reflect great credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service. Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 698 (September 16, 1951) Home Town: , Puerto Rico^[7]

63.4 Later years

Cartagena spent 20 years in the Army before retiring as a Sergeant First Class, in 1971. He continued to be an active figure around the 65th Infantry Headquarters in Puerto Rico long after his retirement. He also had family in **El Paso, Texas**. His family, upon learning of Modesto's actions, had taken it upon themselves to make a request to **Congress**, that he be awarded the **Medal of Honor**. They received support on this quest from the Republican Veterans Committee. His supporters argued that

the segregation policy of the army, at the time, and the limited English capacity of his company members when filling out the forms for the application, resulted in the awarding of the nations' second highest decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross.^[8]

On March 2, 2010, the day that Puerto Rico commemorated the 93rd anniversary of American citizenship, Cartagena died in his home in the town of Guayama, of a heart attack following a long battle with stomach cancer, he is survived by his sisters María and Virginia and his children Modesto Jr., Luis Antonio, Fernando, Sara, Wilma and Víctor. Cartagena was buried with military honors in the Puerto Rico National Cemetery located in the city of Bayamon. While no Federal government representative attended the interment ceremony for this highly decorated veteran, Puerto Rico's second-highest official, Secretary of State Kenneth McClintock attended. He delivered to Cartagena's family a personal letter from Governor Luis Fortuño and stated that while Cartagena was actually being buried with a Distinguished Service Cross, "in our hearts we're sending him off with the Medal of Honor he deserves" and made a commitment to seek it posthumously.^{[9][10][11]}

63.5 Legacy

January 4, 2007, was officially declared as "SFC Modesto Cartagena Day" in the City of Hartford, Connecticut.^[12] The proclamation by Mayor Eddie A. Perez can be viewed here: "SFC Modesto Cartagena Day" Proclamation. An avenue in his native town of Cayey is named after him.

63.6 Military awards and decorations

According to a photo published by the New York Times, Cartagena's numerous decorations are the following:^[13]

-  Distinguished Service Cross
-  Silver Star
-  Legion of Merit
-  Bronze Star with an oak leaf cluster and a "V" device" which identifies the award as resulting from an act of *combat heroism*
-  Purple Heart
-  Army Good Conduct Medal with three Good Conduct Loops.
-  American Defense Service Medal





Cartagena in a Korean War memorial service in 2000.

-  American Campaign Medal
-  World War II Victory Medal
-  Army of Occupation Medal
-  National Defense Service Medal
-  Korean Service Medal with a silver star device.
-  United Nations Service Medal
-  Army Service Ribbon
-  Army Overseas Service Ribbon
-  Presidential Unit Citation
-  Meritorious Unit Commendation
-  Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

Puerto Rican Legislative Award





-  Military Medal of Honor of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico
-  Military Medal of Honor of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico ribbon

Foreign decoration

The Bravery Gold Medal of Greece was given by the Government of Greece to the 65th Infantry Regiment and to the members of the regiment who fought in the Korean War.

-  Chryssoun Aristion Andrias (Bravery Gold Medal of Greece)

Badges:

-  Combat Infantryman Badge (2nd award)
-  Rifle Marksmanship Badge

Congressional Gold Medal

On June 10, 2014, President Barack Obama, signed the legislation known as “The Borinqueneers CGM Bill” at an official ceremony. The Bill honors the 65th Infantry Regiment with the Congressional Gold Medal.^{[14][15][16][17]}

63.7 See also

- List of Puerto Ricans
- List of Puerto Rican military personnel
- Puerto Rican recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross
- List of Korean War veterans who are recipients of the Bronze Star

63.8 Notes

- [1] This name uses Spanish naming customs: the first or paternal family name is *Cartagena* and the second or maternal family name is *de Jesús*.

63.9 References

- [1] Caribbean Business
- [2] Modesto Cartagena, the most decorated Hispanic soldier of the Korean War: National Archives
- [3] NY Times
- [4] The 65th Infantry at Jackson Heights-Why?, by Lt. Col. Baltazar Soto, Retrieved September 8, 2007
- [5] “Outpost Kelly”. Retrieved October 10, 2006.
- [6] Medal of Honor
- [7] Cartagena’s Distinguished Service Cross Citation
- [8] Cartagena’s family’s Medal of Honor campaign site-Archived June 17, 2004, at the Wayback Machine.
- [9] Alcalde de Cayey lamenta fallecimiento del soldado puertorriqueño más condecorado en la historia de EE.UU.
- [10] Modesto Cartagena, Hero of Korea, Is Dead at 87
- [11] <http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/03/07/marco-rubio-requests-medal-honor-for-puerto-rican-soldier/>
- [12] “SFC Modesto Cartagena Day”.
- [13]
- [14] Obama honors Puerto Rican Infantry Regiment with Congressional Gold Medal, *Washington Post*, June 10, 2014.
- [15] Dan Friedman, “Puerto Rico’s Borinqueneers recognized with Congressional Gold Medal,” *New York Daily News*, June 11, 2014.
- [16] Obama awards Borinqueneers Congressional Medal of Honor, *NBC News*, June 10, 2014.
- [17] Richard Payerchin, “President Obama to honor Army’s Puerto Rican regiment the Borinqueneers,” *The Morning Journal*, June 9, 2014.

Chapter 64

Angel Mendez

Sergeant **Angel Mendez** (August 8, 1946 – March 16, 1967) was a United States Marine who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross. In 1967, during the Vietnam War, Mendez saved the life of his platoon commander, Lieutenant Ronald D. Castille, who is currently the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. U.S. Senator Charles Schumer has recommended that Mendez' award be upgraded to Medal of Honor, the United States highest military decoration. The St. George Post Office in Staten Island was renamed and is now known as the “Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office.”

64.1 Early years

Angel Mendez' parents — Antonio Méndez Pomales, a native of Fajardo and Martina Rivera García from Naguabo — moved from Puerto Rico to New York City seeking a better life. His father owned and attended a grocery store in the South Bronx while his mother cared for their eight children at home. When Mendez' mother became ill and the family's economic situation worsened, his father could not raise him and his siblings, therefore 2 were sent to foster homes and 6 were placed in the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, an orphanage on Mount Loretto, Staten Island.^[1] There he received his primary and secondary education. Mendez was a member of the cadet corps along with his brothers and many of the “Mount” kids. At a young age, he became fascinated with military life and with his friends would often imagine that he was on a “patrol” while camping at Stokes State Forest and Worthington State Forest.^[2]

In 1964, he was among the young men during the Vietnam War era who volunteered to join the Marine Corps right after graduating from high school. Mendez received his basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina. After he graduated from his recruit training, he was sent to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina to attend the School of Infantry. Mendez was assigned to Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

64.2 Vietnam War

64.2.1 Operation Desoto



Cpl. Angel Mendez (1966)

Operation Desoto, initiated on 27 January 1967, was the last major battle for Marine units in the Quang Ngai Province of Vietnam. The 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines was part of the Special Landing Force (SLF) and took part in operations throughout the Marines Corps area of responsibility and saw extensive action throughout the 4 month long operation. The 7th Marines, with elements of the 5th Marine Regiment, bore the brunt of most of the patrolling and contact with the enemy, whose presence continued in Chu Lai.^[3]

Upon his deployment to Vietnam, Mendez was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. On March 16, 1967, Mendez was conducting a Search and destroy mission with his company when they came under attack from a Viet Cong battalion. Half of his platoon was pinned down in a rice paddy under enemy fire, and Mendez volunteered to lead a squad to assist the pinned-down Marines in returning to friendly

lines with their two dead and two seriously wounded men. Mendez exposed himself while returning fire with his **M79 grenade launcher** on the enemy. His Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Ronald D. Castille was seriously wounded and he fell, unable to move. Using his own body, Mendez shielded Lt. Castille as he applied a dressing to the wound, he then picked up the Lieutenant and started to carry him to friendly lines, which were more than seventy-five meters away. Mendez was hit in the shoulder and two of his comrades rushed to help him with their commander, Mendez however refused to let go of his platoon commander and chose to act as rear man. Mendez continued to shield his Lieutenant with his own body until he was mortally wounded. Mendez was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross and promoted to Sergeant.^[2]

64.3 Navy Cross citation



The President of the United States takes

pride in presenting the NAVY CROSS posthumously to:

SERGEANT ANGEL MENDEZ

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following citation:

For extraordinary heroism while serving as a Platoon Right Guide of the Third Platoon, Company F, Second Battalion, Seventh Marines, in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 March 1967. During Operation DE SOTO in Quang Ngai Province, Company F was conducting a **search and destroy** mission when the rear elements of the company were taken under intense 50-caliber **machine gun** and **automatic weapons** fire from an estimated hard-core Viet Cong battalion. One half of the Second Platoon was pinned down in an open rice paddy and all attempts to relieve the pressure on the beleaguered Marines had proven futile. Sergeant (then Corporal) Mendez, unhesitatingly volunteered to lead a squad into the face of the devastating and extremely accurate machine gun fire to assist the pinned-down Marines in returning to friendly lines with their two dead and two seriously wounded. The Viet Cong fire increased to a fever pitch as Sergeant Mendez calmly and courageously moved out onto a paddy dike, completely exposed to the intense fire, and commenced firing his M-79 at the enemy positions with deadly accuracy. He fired round after round as he stood, bravely defying the enemy, to give covering fire to his comrades. Sixty meters across the rice paddy from Sergeant Mendez, his Platoon Commander was seriously wounded and he fell, unable to move. Immediately Sergeant Mendez raced through the hail of bullets to his Platoon Commander's side. Shielding him with his body as he applied a dressing to the wound, he picked up the Lieutenant and started to carry him to friendly lines, which were more than seventy-five meters away. Exhibiting exceptional

courage he moved toward the lines as the Viet Cong attempted to hit this double target. Twenty meters short of his goal, he was hit in the shoulder and two of his comrades ran out to assist him. Even though painfully wounded, Sergeant Mendez chose to be the rear man, refusing to relinquish his hold on his Lieutenant's legs as they carried him toward the hedgerow. He was shielding his Lieutenant with his own body when he was mortally wounded. By his dauntless courage, initiative and selfless efforts on behalf of another, Sergeant Mendez saved his Platoon Commander's life and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the **United States Naval Service**. He gallantly gave his life for his country.^[4]

64.4 Legacy



Name of Sgt. Angel Mendez inscribed in "El Monumento de la Recordación"

In March 1967, Mendez's body was sent to **Puerto Rico** for funeral services upon the request of his father. Mendez's siblings believed that their brother should be buried in New York and two weeks later, his body was sent to Staten Island where he was buried with **full military honors** on the grounds of the mission where he grew up at Mount Loretto.^[2] He was survived by his parents and his siblings, Ismael, Edwin, Carmen, Anibal, Maria, Betty and Anthony. The name of Angel Mendez is inscribed on the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** ("The Wall") on Panel 16E – Line 94.^[5]

Senator **Charles Schumer**, senior U.S. Senator from the state of New York prompted by the men of the Island's **Marine Corps League** detachment and supported by the man whom Mendez saved, the Honorable Ronald D. Castille, former district attorney of **Philadelphia** and now Chief Justice of Pennsylvania,^[6] are calling for Mendez

to be recognized with the highest military honor of the United States, the Medal of Honor.

The request lacked some vital information and in 2003, a meeting was held in Mt. Loretto, by Mr. Al Richichi, President and the Board of managers of the Mt. Loretto Alumni Association, Bruce W. Barraclough, Sr., John C. Gallo and Ismael Mendez and his wife Aida Mendez next of kin to Angel Mendez. This meeting was held to bring those involved up to date on the intentions of Barraclough and Gallo quest to honor Angel Mendez, and to get the family's permission to submit a new request for the Medal of Honor. In October, 2003 Barraclough and Gallo had finished writing up the new request which had presented only the facts, and added a petition signed by many organizations, Society's, along with many signatures from Staten Island, New Yorkers.^[2]

On January 14, 2008, the Honorable Ronald D. Castille was sworn in as Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. In his speech he is quoted as saying the following:

[7]

"I remember my Platoon Sgt. Angel Mendez, a Marine who was raised in an orphanage in Staten Island and who called the Marine Corps his family. It was Sgt. Mendez who braved heavy enemy machine gun fire to pull me to safety as I lay wounded in that rice paddy in Vietnam at Duc Pho while leading my own Marines in an effort to bring in other wounded and fallen Marines to safety in Operation DeSoto. Angel saved my life that day, but he was mortally wounded and was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest medal awarded by the Marine Corps for personal bravery. NY Senator Charles Schumer is now leading an effort to upgrade Angel's Navy Cross to the Medal of Honor."


On May 26, 2008 during the Memorial Day celebrations held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the inscription of the name of Angel Mendez in "El Monumento de la Recordación" (Monument of Remembrance) was unveiled. The monument is dedicated to Puerto Rico's fallen military members and situated in front of the Capitol Building. The unveiling was done by then Puerto Rico Senate President **Kenneth McClintock** and PR National Guard Adjutant General Col. David Carrión.^[8]

A bill (H.R. 2422), that would permit the naming of a Staten Island Post Office, located at 45 Bay Street, after Mendez was approved by the **US House of Representatives** on November 14, 2011. The bill was introduced by **US Congressman Michael G. Grimm**, representative of New York's 13th District, and cosponsored by every House member of the New York congressional delegation.^[9] The Bill was signed off on legislation by President Obama and the St. George Post Office was re-

named and will be known as the “Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office.”^[10]

64.5 Awards and decorations


Among Angel Mendez’s awards and decorations are the following:

-  Navy Cross
-  Purple Heart
-  Air Medal
-  Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with “V” Device for Valor
-  Combat Action Ribbon
-  Navy Presidential Unit Citation
-  Navy Unit Commendation
-  Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
-  Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal
-  National Defense Service Medal
-  Vietnam Service Medal with two (2) Campaign Stars

Military decorations of the Republic of Vietnam

-  Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross
-  Vietnam Campaign Medal
-  Vietnam Military Merit Medal
-  Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal 1st Class Unit Citation with Palms
-  Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal 2nd Class (Individual Award)
-  Vietnam Wound Medal

Others

- New York State Conspicuous Service Cross Medal with Silver Cross Device
- New York State Conspicuous Service Star Medal
-  Cold War Victory Medal and Certificate

64.6 See also

- List of Puerto Ricans
- List of Puerto Rican military personnel
- Puerto Rican recipients of the Navy Cross
- Hispanics in the United States Marine Corps

64.7 References

- [1] The Mission of the Immaculate Virgin was founded in 1871 by Father John Christopher Drumgoole, and is the largest childcare institution in the United States. See The History of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin at Mount Loretto.
- [2] “Angel Mendez”. VirtualWall.org. Retrieved 2007-12-20.
- [3] Operation DeSoto
- [4] Mendez’ Navy Cross citation
- [5] Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- [6] Honorable Ronald D. Castille
- [7] Castilles Swearing in speech
- [8] Noticias
- [9] Rep. Grimm’s Bill to Name S.I. Post Office after Vietnam War Hero Sergeant Angel Mendez passes the House
- [10] St. George Post Office will be renamed in honor of Staten Island war hero Sgt. Angel Mendez

64.8 Further reading

- *Puertorriquenos Who Served With Guts, Glory, and Honor. Fighting to Defend a Nation Not Completely Their Own*; by : Greg Boudonck; ISBN 978-1497421837

64.9 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

64.9.1 Text

- **Joseph H. De Castro** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_H._De_Castro?oldid=708309664 *Contributors:* GreatWhiteNorth-erner, Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, Koavf, Jaraalbe, Gadget850, Hmains, ERcheck, Sadads, Jwillbur, Elendil's Heir, The Frog, Murcielago, Spacini, Cydebot, CommonsDelinker, Boothferry, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, RogDel, Lightbot, Yobot, H3llBot, Cyberbot II, KasparBot and Anonymous: 2
- **John Ortega** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Ortega?oldid=709765054 *Contributors:* Kirk!, Marine 69-71, Lockesdonkey, ERcheck, Jwillbur, Cydebot, Cefaro, Egpetersen, Xeno, Lasherp, Johnpacklambert, Bahamut0013, BOTijo, Kumioko (renamed), IForThe-Money, Lightbot, Yobot, AnomieBOT, Updatehelper, KasparBot and Anonymous: 7
- **Philip Bazaar** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Bazaar?oldid=717613857 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Discospinster, Rich Farmbrough, Scott Mingus, RussBot, SluggoOne, Pseudomonas, Gadget850, ERcheck, AWeenieMan, Jwillbur, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, General Ization, Courcelles, Cydebot, Cefaro, Magioladitis, Johnpacklambert, Bahamut0013, Kumioko (renamed), Cyfal, Niceguyedc, Excirial, Subash.chandran007, BlackBeast, DOI bot, Damiens.rf, Yobot, MaterialsScientist, Ruodyssey, Dcirovic, ClueBot NG, Nickpen, Nightenbelle, BG19bot, MusikAnimal, FrozenInsanity, KasparBot, Seaweinercfkhndgkhn, Seawiener, GibsonLesPaulMcCartney and Anonymous: 24
- **France Silva** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France_Silva?oldid=708216780 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, PoccilScript, Pol098, Tabletop, Rjwilmsi, Windyjarhead, SmackBot, ERcheck, Jwillbur, DelDav, Skapur, Cydebot, Darklilac, Nyttend, Subspace1250, Adavidb, Plasticup, Boothferry, SgtMinton, Bahamut0013, Kingbird1, Kumioko (renamed), Foofbun, Searcher 1990, DumZiBoT, MayRyan44, Fyrael, Yobot, Highlytech, I dream of horses, Michael Jester, John of Reading, H3llBot, SkateTier, KasparBot and Anonymous: 6
- **David B. Barkley** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_B._Barkley?oldid=708232864 *Contributors:* Zoe, Docu, Bevo, Postdlf, Folks at 137, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Ham II, Discospinster, Rich Farmbrough, Circus, Polylerus, Trjumpet, Dhartung, Richard Arthur Norton (1958-), Bellhalla, Graham87, Deltabeignet, David Levy, Valentinejoesmith, Notorious4life, Moroboshi, Bgwhite, Joelr31, Looper5920, Honbicot, ERcheck, Static Universe, Jprg1966, Can't sleep, clown will eat me, Jwillbur, Sayden, Murcielago, Nobunaga24, Makyen, Billy Hathorn, Cydebot, MWaller, Lugnuts, Aldis90, Cefaro, Dawkeye, GregML, Bluetooth954, Douglas Whitaker, JaGa, Marc-sin, Xnuala, AMAPO, Maxim, Kingbird1, Kumioko (renamed), Txnomad, Auntof6, Excirial, Searcher 1990, SoxBot, Botpankonin, NelliBly, Lightbot, Yobot, ThaddeusB, DeadLinkBOT, Robvanvee, RjwilmsiBot, CanadianPenguin, H3llBot, SporkBot, PetrB, ClueBot NG, O.Koslowski, Widr, Mark Arsten, BattyBot, ÄDA - DÄP, Lugia2453, Danny123+ jack, Yellow Dingo, KasparBot and Anonymous: 35
- **Joe P. Martínez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_P._Mart%C3%ADnez?oldid=709784834 *Contributors:* PBS, Elf, Marine 69-71, O'Dea, Rich Farmbrough, A2Kafir, Andrewpmk, MZMcBride, Jaraalbe, Jwillbur, Levereth, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Murcielago, Nobunaga24, GiantSnowman, Cydebot, Lugnuts, Cefaro, Reedy Bot, Samtheboy, EricSerge, BOTijo, Comayagua99, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, EoGuy, Ras07, Botpankonin, Jejonas, Lightbot, Yobot, DocYako, Catlemur, Tlavigil, KasparBot and Anonymous: 8
- **Lucian Adams** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucian_Adams?oldid=711461632 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, Bender235, Circus, Valentinejoesmith, RussBot, GeeJo, Ms2ger, Windyjarhead, SmackBot, IstvanWolf, ERcheck, Sadads, Jwillbur, Ohconfucius, Iridescent, Betaeleven, Cydebot, N5iln, Deathbunny, Alanlarue, Vagus, Magioladitis, MikeMullins, KylieTastic, BOTijo, Gbawden, Rogermx, Kumioko (renamed), EoGuy, Searcher 1990, DumZiBoT, KayoRu, RogDel, Botpankonin, Penale52, Damiens.rf, De-bresser, Lightbot, Yobot, AdjustShift, Mikeymangler, DocYako, Cnwiliams, H3llBot, Bullmoosebell, ClueBot NG, BG19bot, MusikAnimal, Lorelei52462, Dmanrock29, Stamptrader, KasparBot and Anonymous: 17
- **Marcario García** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcario_Garc%C3%ADa?oldid=711482881 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, Gene Nygaard, Woohookitty, Marky48, Stephenb, Poldy Bloom, ERcheck, Jwillbur, RJN, Pen of bushido, Nobunaga24, CmdrObot, Cydebot, Studerby, Doug Weller, Cefaro, Johnpacklambert, Rbailey61, Comayagua99, Hourick, Kumioko (renamed), The Thing That Should Not Be, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Kbdankbot, Liam-e lanoitpo, Damiens.rf, Yobot, LilHelpa, Srich32977, FrescoBot, ScottMHoward, DocYako, Andres0246, Eve27 2009, John of Reading, Akerans, Bullmoosebell, ClueBot NG, BG19bot, Kumioko-CleanStart, KasparBot and Anonymous: 19
- **José M. López** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_M._L%C3%B3pez?oldid=724093185 *Contributors:* Bearcat, Elf, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Rich Farmbrough, Woohookitty, Bgwhite, Welsh, SmackBot, ERcheck, Jwillbur, Badbilltucker, IronGargoye, Mike Doughney, WilliamJE, Joseph Solis in Australia, CmdrObot, Drinibot, Cydebot, Aille, R'n'B, Johnpacklambert, Kingbird1, Comayagua99, Kumioko (renamed), CARLMART, ImageRemovalBot, Timeineurope, Knitwriter, Searcher 1990, XLinkBot, RogDel, Botpankonin, Hechoenusa, Ejosse1, Addbot, Zarcadia, Glane23, Luckas-bot, Yobot, Pegna, Quazgaa, J04n, Anotherclown, MHR65, DocYako, Bullmoosebell, ClueBot NG, BG19bot, ComputerJA, CommanderT1562, Mogism, SteenthIwbot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 27
- **Jose F. Valdez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jose_F._Valdez?oldid=709814511 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, Tabletop, ERcheck, Colonies Chris, Derekbridges, Jwillbur, Nobunaga24, Cydebot, Xnuala, W. B. Wilson, GirasoleDE, Kumioko (renamed), Niceguyedc, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Lightbot, Yobot, OgreBot, DocYako, Bullmoosebell, Cyberbot II, KasparBot, Ringof-Sauron and Anonymous: 6
- **Cleto Rodríguez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleto_Rodr%C3%ADguez?oldid=717323759 *Contributors:* GTBacchus, Marine 69-71, Discospinster, Rich Farmbrough, Pearle, Gene Nygaard, Kmg90, Paxsimius, Kinu, Consumed Crustacean, TexasAndroid, RussBot, Wbfergus, Easter Monkey, SmackBot, ERcheck, Dual Freq, Jwillbur, DIDouglass, Wikipedical, Nobunaga24, CmdrObot, Cydebot, DumbBOT, KrakatoaKatie, MarshBot, Bunnyclaws, Comayagua99, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), Txnomad, Mlaffs, Botpankonin, Willking1979, Jojhutton, Tassedethe, Tide rolls, Lightbot, Quantumobserver, Yobot, Dodgerblue777, Srich32977, DocYako, ClueBot NG, Bob bob1234567890, Dizmaster, BattyBot, Mogism, Louis Peer, KasparBot, Grayrules33 and Anonymous: 18
- **Manuel Pérez, Jr.** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_P%C3%A9rez%2C_Jr.?oldid=709793911 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Rich Farmbrough, Jaraalbe, AP1787, Jwillbur, IronGargoye, Nobunaga24, Cydebot, Lugnuts, BOTijo, Comayagua99, Kumioko (renamed), Botpankonin, Tassedethe, Lightbot, Yobot, DocYako, H3llBot, ClueBot NG, BG19bot, MusikAnimal, Cyberbot II, Account10, KasparBot and Anonymous: 3
- **Silvestre S. Herrera** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silvestre_S._Herrera?oldid=709415158 *Contributors:* Olivier, Alexf, Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, Circus, Canadian Paul, Xiong Chiamiov, Platypus222, Rune.welsh, Nicapicella, Wavelength, RussBot,

- Jamesderry, SmackBot, Looper5920, Melchoir, Smylere Snape, Hmains, ERcheck, Jwillbur, Bolivian Unicyclist, RFD, AnonEMouse, Murcielago, Nobunaga24, Eluchil404, Snakemike, Cydebot, Nmajdan, Oldwildbill, Cefaro, Youngandsenile, MichaelMaggs, RobotG, Seaphoto, Aille, Johnpacklambert, KylieTastic, BOTijo, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Searcher 1990, RogDel, Botpankonin, Wikius100, Yobot, Quazgaa, FrescoBot, DocYako, Eve27 2009, H3llBot, Bullmoosebell, McOleo, Krenair, Trevor Goodchild, Cyberbot II, Curlyhair99, KasparBot and Anonymous: 16
- **Ysmael R. Villegas** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ysmael_R._Villegas?oldid=718302356 *Contributors:* Btphelps, Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, Jaraalbe, Quidam65, GoodDay, Jwillbur, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Cydebot, Lugnuts, Davehi1, MissionInn.Jim, BOTijo, NTHRIWZ, Kumioko (renamed), Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Lightbot, Yobot, Fragg81, Srich32977, RightCowLeftCoast, DocYako, Bullmoosebell, BattyBot, DavidLeighEllis and Anonymous: 10
 - **Harold Gonsalves** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Gonsalves?oldid=707379055 *Contributors:* Raul654, Marine 69-71, Eep², Rich Farmbrough, Avriette, LordAmeth, PoccilScript, Jaraalbe, Windyjarhead, Zywx, ERcheck, Rlevse, Jwillbur, RFD, Amakuru, Cydebot, Lugnuts, Barticus88, BrokenSphere, EricSerge, BOTijo, Kumioko (renamed), Lightbot, Yobot, Quazgaa, Terrortank, H3llBot, YahwehSaves, Cyberbot II, KasparBot and Anonymous: 2
 - **David M. Gonzales** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_M._Gonzales?oldid=709744713 *Contributors:* AntonioMartin, Lumos3, Btphelps, Antandrus, Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, Bender235, Darwinek, BanyanTree, Jaraalbe, Bgwhite, Bartleby, GeeJo, Brandon, Sandstein, Troutrooper, SmackBot, ERcheck, Sumahoy, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Rklawton, Murcielago, Nobunaga24, Amakuru, GiantSnowman, Cydebot, Lugnuts, Gimmetrow, Biruitorul, SGGH, Dugwiki, Sumoeagle179, CTF83!, VirtualDelight, Duke Thomas, Jrefree, Evb-wiki, Shaqqerty, Xnuala, Voorlandt, Mbouts, Abraham, B.S., Fratrep, Kumioko (renamed), Jons63, Artichoker, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Damians.rf, Yobot, M0tty, FrescoBot, DocYako, ScottyBerg, H3llBot, SporkBot, Bullmoosebell, Targaryen, Helpful Pixie Bot, BG19bot, KasparBot, Max Azzopardi and Anonymous: 15
 - **Alejandro R. Ruiz** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alejandro_R._Ruiz?oldid=709808387 *Contributors:* Michael Hardy, Capnned, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Rich Farmbrough, Mandarax, Wbfergus, GeeJo, GMan552, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Cydebot, Rosarinagazo, Nick Number, Magioladitis, Connormah, Dekimasu, BOTijo, Kumioko (renamed), ClueBot, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Yobot, Brian in denver, Mentalexursions, DocYako, Diannaa, Alph Bot, Mr.Ajedrez, H3llBot, Wgolf, Dru of Id, Sabre ball, Cyberbot II, Enterprisy, KasparBot and Anonymous: 13
 - **Rudolph B. Davila** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolph_B._Davila?oldid=706067165 *Contributors:* MusiCitizen, Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, CanisRufus, Alai, Dysepsion, Spot87, BrainyBroad, Jpbowen, Groyolo, SmackBot, ERcheck, Chris the speller, Colonies Chris, Jwillbur, Xdamr, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Nobunaga24, Makyen, Myasuda, Cydebot, Benstown, Rich257, Johnpacklambert, Ibn Batuta, Wiki Raja, Kumioko (renamed), Dandvsp, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Buster7, Yobot, RightCowLeftCoast, OgreBot, Debbyryanfan 2412, DocYako, Bullmoosebell, KasparBot and Anonymous: 8
 - **Pedro Cano** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pedro_Cano?oldid=712798726 *Contributors:* YUL89YYZ, LtNOWIS, Woohookitty, Rjwilmsi, Gareth E. Kegg, Michael Slone, RadioFan, Malcolma, Shainelee, C.Fred, Jwillbur, OrphanBot, Xdamr, SEWalk, General Iztation, WilliamJE, Cydebot, Cefaro, Magioladitis, Waacstats, CommonsDelinker, SDiskell, NewEnglandYankee, Gamsbart, Gbawden, TJRC, Lightmouse, Kumioko, ImageRemovalBot, Sun Creator, Arjayay, Yobot, AnomieBOT, MaterialsScientist, Drilnoth, RCraig09, Erik9bot, Stuchaney, RjwilmsiBot, Donner60, ClueBot NG, Scano63, Fraulein451, Fbruno777, Domrel, Domrel1, Domrel2 and Anonymous: 20
 - **Joe Gandara** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Gandara?oldid=724126392 *Contributors:* TenOfAllTrades, Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Yobot, Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, BG19bot, Dreambeaver, Domrel, KasparBot and Anonymous: 2
 - **Salvador J. Lara** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvador_J._Lara?oldid=710917733 *Contributors:* Dysepsion, Ground Zero, Jwillbur, Racklever, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Penale52, Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, BattyBot and Anonymous: 2
 - **Manuel V. Mendoza** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_V._Mendoza?oldid=725182466 *Contributors:* Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Yobot, Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, Bilhartz, Barbobby, KasparBot and Anonymous: 1
 - **Baldomero López** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baldomero_L%C3%B3pez?oldid=725632735 *Contributors:* Raul654, Marine 69-71, Rich Farmbrough, SteinbDJ, PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, Gaius Cornelius, Moreau36, Windyjarhead, Easter Monkey, Looper5920, CMD Beaker, ERcheck, Bluebot, Jwillbur, Rklawton, Nobunaga24, Clarityfiend, Amakuru, Ehistory, Cydebot, CommonsDelinker, Davecrosby uk, Nikthestunned, Kingbird1, Comayagua99, Fratrep, Kumioko (renamed), Fadesga, Searcher 1990, Otr500, Ad-dbot, SpBot, Luckas-bot, Yobot, Reenem, Delta-2030, AustralianRupert, TampAGS, DocYako, TexianPolitico, HappyMidnight, Kpears11, ProudIrishAspie, -riley, Irondome, Hyletic, KasparBot and Anonymous: 20
 - **Eugene A. Obregon** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_A._Obregon?oldid=708086881 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Woohookitty, PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, D-Clancy, Windyjarhead, GMan552, Looper5920, ERcheck, Rlevse, Jwillbur, Nobunaga24, Clarityfiend, Ibadibam, Cydebot, CommonsDelinker, Num1dgen, Xnuala, EricSerge, S2grand, Kingbird1, Kumioko (renamed), Randomstein, DumZiBoT, KayoRu, DragonFury, Kbdankbot, The Sage of Stamford, Yobot, Guy1890, RightCowLeftCoast, DocYako, Montiel22, Look2See1, GoingBatty, Midas02, H3llBot, BG19bot, -riley, Cyberbot II, MattLansford, KasparBot and Anonymous: 2
 - **Mike C. Pena** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mike_C._Pena?oldid=724126319 *Contributors:* FeanorStar7, Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, BG19bot, MusikAnimal, Elmouseo, Elmouseo55, Domrel1, KasparBot and Anonymous: 2
 - **Joseph C. Rodríguez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_C._Rodr%C3%ADguez?oldid=711485644 *Contributors:* Alexwcovington, Marine 69-71, Bobo192, ItemCol16527, RussBot, Wbfergus, GeeJo, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Nobunaga24, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, Lugnuts, CommonsDelinker, Kingbird1, Comayagua99, COBot, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, RogDel, Botpankonin, Lightbot, Yobot, Archsmith, RightCowLeftCoast, ChrisRod78, DocYako, Camelmeal, BG19bot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 6
 - **Rodolfo P. Hernández** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodolfo_P._Hern%C3%A1ndez?oldid=709828490 *Contributors:* Deb, Leandrod, Gbleem, Marine 69-71, Jeltz, Jaraalbe, Wbfergus, GeeJo, Phsoffer, Ario, ERcheck, Icemuon, Schmiteye, Jwillbur, SilverStar, Hestemand, Clarityfiend, Will314159, Chicheley, Cydebot, Joshru123, Davidhorman, Drouillm, Keith D, CommonsDelinker, Kingbird1, Comayagua99, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Yun-Yuuzhan (lost password), Botpankonin, Lightbot, Yobot, RightCowLeftCoast, Tumunu, FrescoBot, DocYako, YahwehSaves, Frze, Dmanrock29, Khazar2, BrianCollier13, KasparBot and Anonymous: 9

- **Edward Gómez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_G%C3%B3mez?oldid=719627106 *Contributors:* Freechild, Marine 69-71, PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, Windyjarhead, ERcheck, Rlevse, Jwillbur, Clarityfiend, Amakuru, Cydebot, Barticus88, CommonsDelinker, Y, Kingbird1, Comayagua99, Kumioko (renamed), FieldMarine, KayoRu, Yobot, Srich32977, DocYako, Mztourist, H3llBot, Cyberbot II, Liamkasbar, KasparBot and Anonymous: 3
- **Fernando Luis García** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando_Luis_Garc%C3%ADa?oldid=719574112 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, D6, Cburnett, Brookie, PoccilScript, The wub, Who, Jaraalbe, Bgwhite, Ageekgal, Windyjarhead, Looper5920, ERcheck, Bluebot, Colonies Chris, Rlevse, Jwillbur, Clarityfiend, CapitalR, Cydebot, Damifb, Nyttend, CommonsDelinker, Davecrosby uk, Bahamut0013, Ipankonin, Kingbird1, Aspects, Fratrep, Kumioko (renamed), Seedbot, ImageRemovalBot, Jack6128, SchreiberBike, Otr500, Botpankonin, Damiens.rf, Karl gregory jones, Yobot, Againme, AnomieBOT, Ahnoneemoos, DocYako, H3llBot, BG19bot, YahwehSaves, Ivan Quiles, Corlier, KasparBot and Anonymous: 12
- **Benito Martinez (soldier)** *Source:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benito_Martinez_\(soldier\)?oldid=711485192](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benito_Martinez_(soldier)?oldid=711485192) *Contributors:* AntonioMartin, Marine 69-71, Orlady, Schissel, SteinbDJ, Woohookitty, Davewild, Gilliam, ERcheck, GoodDay, Jwillbur, ArglebargleIV, Clarityfiend, Location, Cydebot, Deathbunny, CommonsDelinker, Bahamut0013, Kingbird1, Comayagua99, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Yobot, Quazgaa, Full-date unlinking bot, DocYako, Jan.carey26, BG19bot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 11
- **Ambrosio Guillen** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambrosio_Guillen?oldid=707413526 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, SteinbDJ, PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, Windyjarhead, Vrael, ERcheck, Rlevse, Jwillbur, Badbilltucker, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, Seaphoto, Davecrosby uk, Kingbird1, Kumioko (renamed), Dreamcast88, Mild Bill Hiccup, DumZiBoT, KayoRu, Yobot, FrescoBot, TexianPolitico, K6ka, YahwehSaves, KasparBot and Anonymous: 4
- **Joe R. Baldonado** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_R._Baldonado?oldid=724126252 *Contributors:* FeanorStar7, Dysepsion, Bgwhite, Jwillbur, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Yobot, Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, Widr, Madreterra, KasparBot and Anonymous: 4
- **Victor H. Espinoza** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_H._Espinoza?oldid=724126263 *Contributors:* Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Waacstats, Y, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, Jeremyb-phone, KasparBot and Anonymous: 1
- **Eduardo C. Gomez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eduardo_C._Gomez?oldid=724126276 *Contributors:* Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Y, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, BG19bot, KasparBot, Maj Turmoil and Anonymous: 2
- **Miguel Vera** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miguel_Vera?oldid=724126343 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, FeanorStar7, Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Racklever, Mtmelendez, IronGargoyle, Hebrides, Nick Number, Waacstats, CommonsDelinker, RCraig09, Ahnoneemoos, KasparBot and Anonymous: 8
- **Daniel D. Fernández** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_D._Fern%C3%A1ndez?oldid=708215013 *Contributors:* Bearcat, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Ratiocinate, The wub, Jaraalbe, SimonMorgan, ERcheck, Sadads, Jwillbur, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, Catmoongirl, Kumioko (renamed), Cuprum17, ClueBot, Muro Bot, KayoRu, Tassedethe, Maurilbert, Yobot, Boleyn2, Minimac, Cyberevilfish, Helpful Pixie Bot, Walrus068, Khazar2, VIAFbot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 9
- **Eurípides Rubio** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eur%C3%ADpides_Rubio?oldid=708191239 *Contributors:* AntonioMartin, Angela, Joseph Dwayne, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, D6, Hoss789, Cburnett, Brookie, PoccilScript, AnguscMcLellan, The wub, Dawson, Who, Jaraalbe, Bgwhite, Yoninah, Looper5920, ERcheck, Bluebot, Jwillbur, Nobunaga24, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, Damifb, Zenitram82, Xnuala, Logan, Ipankonin, Moonriddengirl, Aspects, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Officer781, Dandvsp, Botpankonin, Tbsdy lives, Damiens.rf, Yobot, Againme, Noq, Quazgaa, COLONEL77, Ahnoneemoos, DocYako, Mercy11, Ivan Quiles, Corlier, VIAFbot, Bobcamors, KasparBot and Anonymous: 20
- **Elmelindo Rodrigues Smith** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elmelindo_Rodrigues_Smith?oldid=721452670 *Contributors:* Bearcat, Davidcannon, Marine 69-71, Hoss789, LtNOWIS, SmackBot, Zyxw, Jwillbur, Sonic99, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, R'n'B, BOTijo, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, PL290, KAVEBEAR, Addbot, Damiens.rf, Lightbot, Yobot, Xqbot, Anotherclown, AustralianRupert, RightCowLeftCoast, Full-date unlinking bot, DocYako, Mztourist, H3llBot, Cyberbot II, Globuel, KasparBot and Anonymous: 7
- **Maximo Yabes** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maximo_Yabes?oldid=709867436 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Hoss789, Woohookitty, Woodyforegon, The wub, Jaraalbe, ERcheck, GoodDay, Jwillbur, Peteforsyth, Valfontis, JohnI, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, Xnuala, JabbaTheBot, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Botpankonin, Addbot, Yobot, Citation bot, RightCowLeftCoast, HRoestBot, DocYako, Mztourist, John of Reading, Helpful Pixie Bot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 4
- **Carlos Lozada** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Lozada?oldid=712593942 *Contributors:* Angela, Maximus Rex, Tualha, Joseph Dwayne, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, DMG413, TheCustomOfLife, D6, PaulHanson, Sherurcij, Cburnett, ComCat, Brookie, PoccilScript, Stefanomione, Melesse, Linuxbeak, The wub, Who, Jaraalbe, Bgwhite, Hall Monitor, Joell31, Yoninah, Looper5920, ERcheck, Chris the speller, Bluebot, Jwillbur, Nobunaga24, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, Nyttend, CommonsDelinker, TreasuryTag, Ipankonin, Aspects, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Dandvsp, BobJones77, Botpankonin, Good Olfactory, Lightbot, Yobot, Againme, Srich32977, Ahnoneemoos, DocYako, Mztourist, Corlier, Rentnot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 12
- **Alfredo Cantu Gonzalez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfredo_Cantu_Gonzalez?oldid=706070579 *Contributors:* SimonP, Lquilter, DragonflySixtyseven, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, D6, Orlady, ItemCo16527, FeanorStar7, PoccilScript, Descendall, The wub, Ian Pitchford, Gurch, Jaraalbe, Bgwhite, Cornellrockey, RussBot, Shainelee, Windyjarhead, SmackBot, Looper5920, ERcheck, Chuchohuff, Chris the speller, Rlevse, Shalom Yechiel, Jwillbur, Thatnewguy, Yohan euan o4, Gobonobo, Clarityfiend, Ehistory, Cydebot, Jameboy, Smoke., Wowaconia, FLJuJitsu, SDriskell, Num1dgen, Davecrosby uk, AHMartin, Comayagua99, Kumioko (renamed), ClueBot, FieldMarine, DumZiBoT, KayoRu, USS Noob Hunter, Yobot, Scythian77, Tad Lincoln, Sergeant218, FrescoBot, MacMed, I dream of horses, DocYako, TexianPolitico, John of Reading, GoingBatty, AvicBot, Bullmoosebell, Gwen-chan, Christine2901, Gareth Griffith-Jones, Widr, Articseahorse, Joseph.l.gonzalez, AEvenson, KasparBot and Anonymous: 28
- **Jay R. Vargas** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jay_R._Vargas?oldid=720929325 *Contributors:* Paul A, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Rich Farmbrough, YUL89YYZ, ItemCo16527, FeanorStar7, PoccilScript, Anskas, GeeJo, Windyjarhead, SmackBot, Looper5920, ERcheck, Rlevse, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Rklawton, Clarityfiend, Cydebot, Bobblehead, Aknicholson1959, GrahamHardy, WOSlinker, COBot, Kumioko (renamed), Searcher 1990, Yobot, LilHelpa, RightCowLeftCoast, DocYako, Beyond My Ken, Mztourist, H3llBot, Bullmoosebell, BG19bot, YahwehSaves, Cyberbot II, Khazar2, Vanquisher.UA, ArmbrustBot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 13

- **Roy Benavidez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Benavidez?oldid=724213242 *Contributors:* WhisperToMe, Davidcannon, DragonflySixtyseven, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Mike Rosoft, Discospinster, Xezbeth, Bender235, TerraFrost, Ylee, Malo, Wtmitchell, ItemCo16527, Fourthords, Woohookitty, Llipkke, Turnstep, Graham87, BD2412, Rjwilmsi, Valentinejoesmith, NeoFreak, Mordicai, Wavelength, RussBot, Anders.Warga, Spot87, Anetode, Alpha 4615, Wknight94, Easter Monkey, SmackBot, D'n, Yamaguchi77, Quidam65, ERcheck, Jprg1966, Jwillbur, Spider63, Swatjester, XAlpha, Nobunaga24, Jeppi, Billy Hathorn, HDCase, Tantalus39, Cydebot, BruceWiley, MWaller, JamesAM, Grahamdubya, Seaphoto, RM Gillespie, PhilKnight, Scanlan, Yesyoudid, Cgingold, Ulkomaalainen, R'n'B, Drewwiki, SDriskell, Eigenstatic, Philip Trueman, EricSerge, Ncohistory, Spikethedog, Bahamut0013, Jochim Schiller, Pjoef, Badger78, Flyer22 Reborn, Umruguy42, Benea, Iamradagast, Hourick, Abraham, B.S., COBot, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Niceguyedc, Dr. B. R. Lang, Draggleduck, Ghewing, Searcher 1990, DoverD, XLinkBot, RogDel, Botpankonin, Addbot, Trvlindude2007, TutterMouse, Kcranson, Sp 8503, TheSuave, Yobot, JohnnyCalifornia, Fraggie81, Greyhound21, AnomieBOT, Ciphers, Ulric1313, Citation bot, Kelly.beamsley, PloProfFactor, Tetrisd, Anotherclown, Polyphelus, FrescoBot, MHR65, C. L. Arctos, VilePig, Maverick9711, RedBot, Strangeways 87, Nbenavidez, DocYako, Bloemer, RjwilmsiBot, Acsian88, GoingBatty, Illegitimate Barrister, H3llBot, ClueBot NG, Bilhartz, Widr, Bondrlm, Helpful Pixie Bot, BG19bot, YahwehSaves, MusikAnimal, Bassmadrigal, Jongalloway2, Alázhlis, FoCuSandLeArN, Vanquisher.UA, MarioZelda128, VIAFbot, TeriEmbrey, Vintovka Dragunova, Vwarriner, Fishsticks69, ArmbrustBot, KumiokoCleanStart, 825orion, ThundrRok, Namvet5, KasparBot, Doghouse09, Exodus2320 and Anonymous: 106
- **Héctor Santiago Colón** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H%C3%A9ctor_Santiago_Col%C3%B3n?oldid=720302324 *Contributors:* Angela, Maximus Rex, Altenmann, Davidcannon, Wwoods, Joseph Dwayne, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, D6, YUL89YYZ, Kaszeta, Maurreen, Hoss789, Sherurcij, Cburnett, Evil Monkey, Bnguyen, Brookie, PoccilScript, Stefanomione, Ketiltrout, Who, Bgwhite, TheGrappler, Joelr31, Looper5920, Zywx, ERcheck, Bluebot, Jwillbur, General Iization, Clarityfiend, BeenAroundAWhile, Cydebot, Damifb, BetacommandBot, Nick Number, Nyttend, CommonsDelinker, KylieTastic, Ipankonin, Aspects, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Cuprum17, Niceguyedc, Dandvsp, Botpankonin, Yobot, Againme, Ahnoneemoos, DocYako, Orenburg1, Sideways713, Corlier, Globuel, KumiokoCleanStart, KasparBot and Anonymous: 15
- **José F. Jiménez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_F._Jim%C3%A9nez?oldid=707983087 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, Windyjarhead, ERcheck, Colonies Chris, Rlevse, Sgt Pinback, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Cydebot, Cefaro, Aille, Johnpacklambert, Xnuala, Bahamut0013, Comayagua99, FluxD, Kumioko (renamed), Botpankonin, Yobot, DocYako, Mztourist, Eve27 2009, KasparBot and Anonymous: 5
- **Ralph E. Dias** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ralph_E._Dias?oldid=710827610 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Zscout370, Richard Arthur Norton (1958-), PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, Marketdiamond, Windyjarhead, SmackBot, Looper5920, ERcheck, Colonies Chris, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Clarityfiend, Amakuru, Cydebot, Johnpacklambert, Xnuala, Spinningspark, Kumioko (renamed), FieldMarine, Draggleduck, Searcher 1990, Yobot, Mztourist, BG19bot, Amroknian, KasparBot and Anonymous: 8
- **Emilio A. De La Garza** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emilio_A._De_La_Garza?oldid=707351786 *Contributors:* Rebrane, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Art LaPella, PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, Windyjarhead, ERcheck, Rlevse, GoodDay, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Khazar, Clarityfiend, Amakuru, Cydebot, Charles Edward, Dbiel, Xnuala, Bahamut0013, Kumioko (renamed), Maplewooddrive, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, Yobot, DocYako, YahwehSaves, Skr15081997, KasparBot and Anonymous: 5
- **Miguel Keith** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miguel_Keith?oldid=708030588 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, PoccilScript, The wub, Jaraalbe, Doncram, Windyjarhead, Looper5920, ERcheck, Rlevse, Jwillbur, Badbilltucker, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Clarityfiend, Drinibot, Cydebot, Triviaa, Patstuart, Xnuala, Cfsmith, Kumioko (renamed), ClueBot, Addbot, Yobot, FrescoBot, DocYako, EmausBot, BattyBot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 5
- **Louis R. Rocco** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_R._Rocco?oldid=709854630 *Contributors:* Michael Hardy, Jengod, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Bender235, Hoss789, Darwinek, ItemCo16527, GeeJo, Atfyfe, Nickel Chromo~enwiki, Hmains, Jwillbur, Lancini87, Clarityfiend, GiantSnowman, JohnCD, Cydebot, Kguirnela, Davecrosby uk, Kumioko (renamed), Jons63, ImageRemovalBot, EoGuy, Searcher 1990, Botpankonin, ChuckD2, Good Olfactory, Lightbot, Yobot, Evans1982, Materialschemist, RightCowLeftCoast, Americus55, DocYako, H3llBot, Rdmrnr4dys, Cyberbot II, RotlinkBot, Crocco2, KasparBot, The Quixotic Potato and Anonymous: 13
- **Alfred V. Rascon** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_V._Rascon?oldid=713066987 *Contributors:* Everyking, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Pmsyyz, Barista, Hoss789, ItemCo16527, Woohookitty, Scriberius, Koavf, Colonies Chris, Jwillbur, OrphanBot, Dave314159, Euchiasmus, Nobunaga24, Lancini87, Clarityfiend, Amakuru, Cydebot, Khatru2, Cefaro, Magioladitis, FlieGerFaUstMe262, Johnpacklambert, Adavidb, AzureCitizen, Philip Trueman, EricSerge, SGT141, Ipankonin, COBot, Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Cuprum17, ClueBot, Mark Heiden, Searcher 1990, Hueydoc, Yobot, Dodgerblue777, Evans1982, AnomieBOT, AustralianRupert, WebCiteBOT, RightCowLeftCoast, DocYako, Bozozo, RjwilmsiBot, Illegitimate Barrister, Vanquisher.UA, VIAFbot, TeriEmbrey, RotlinkBot, ArmbrustBot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 33
- **Humbert Roque Versace** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humbert_Roque_Versace?oldid=725520923 *Contributors:* Dale Arnett, Halda, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, CALR, Pmsyyz, Grue, Circeus, Hoss789, Jigen III, Richard Arthur Norton (1958-), Rjwilmsi, The wub, Bgwhite, RussBot, Wiki alf, Tony1, Kungfuadam, SmackBot, Nickel Chromo~enwiki, Stux, Melchoir, ERcheck, Chris the speller, Bluebot, Jwillbur, Mtmelendez, MilesVorkosigan, Yannismarou, Nobunaga24, Buckboard, ScreaminEagle, Clarityfiend, Dubrulus, Sinaloa, Haus, Cydebot, Hydraton31, Jackyd101, Tawkerbot4, Oldwildbill, Heroeswithmetaphors, RobotG, Guy Macon, Fristpost, Lokbar, EyeSerene, Johnpacklambert, Davecrosby uk, Caribbean H.Q., Ipankonin, Pr4ever, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Binksternet, Mild Bill Hiccup, Officer781, Dr. B. R. Lang, CohesionBot, HokiePE, Botpankonin, Hueydoc, ContiAWB, Yobot, Againme, AnomieBOT, Citation bot, Jayarathina, Quazgaa, FrescoBot, Americus55, Ahnoneemoos, Trappist the monk, BaSH PR0MPT, Mztourist, Corlier, 40ayoh, BattyBot, Genghis 6, Bruce.logan, Monkbob, MaverickLittle, CV9933, KasparBot and Anonymous: 22
- **Leonard L. Alvarado** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_L._Alvarado?oldid=724126223 *Contributors:* Dysepsion, Yamaguchi77, Jwillbur, Future Perfect at Sunrise, Hebrides, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, KasparBot, Nammage and Anonymous: 5
- **Jesus S. Duran** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_S._Duran?oldid=692736373 *Contributors:* Dysepsion, Ground Zero, RussBot, Jwillbur, Hebrides, Magioladitis, Pdfpdf, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Yobot, Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, Sarahcatee and Anonymous: 6
- **Santiago J. Erevia** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santiago_J._Erevia?oldid=714600500 *Contributors:* Davidcannon, Czolgol, Dysepsion, Jwillbur, RFD, Hebrides, Connormah, Waacstats, AlphaEta, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., All Hallow's Wraith, Rspezrez1, EdJF, Srich32977, RCraig09, John of Reading, Djembayz, Josve05a, Bob305, BattyBot, TeriEmbrey, Snickers2686, SoldierBoy77 and Anonymous: 2

- **Félix Conde Falcón** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F%C3%A9lix_Conde_Falc%C3%B3n?oldid=724126236 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Dysepsion, Bgwhite, Jwillbur, Hebrides, TAnthony, Abraham, B.S., Ahnoneemoos, KasparBot and Anonymous: 10
- **Candelario García** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Candelario_García?oldid=724126208 *Contributors:* Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Future Perfect at Sunrise, Hebrides, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Mattgirling, Yobot, Srich32977, RCraig09, LittleWink, Mztourist, Josve05a, BG19bot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 3
- **Jose Rodela** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jose_Rodela?oldid=724126191 *Contributors:* Davidcannon, Czolgol, Dysepsion, Jwillbur, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Hebrides, Waacstats, Nks1978, Gbawden, Abraham, B.S., Srich32977, RCraig09, Josve05a, BattyBot, OU8124URA*, KasparBot and Anonymous: 2
- **Demensio Rivera** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demensio_Rivera?oldid=724126328 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Woohookitty, Dysepsion, Rathfelder, Zyxw, Jwillbur, IronGargoyle, Hebrides, TAnthony, Magioladitis, Waacstats, CommonsDelinker, RCraig09, Ahnoneemoos, BG19bot, KasparBot and Anonymous: 7
- **Leroy Petry** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leroy_Petry?oldid=723505897 *Contributors:* Dale Arnett, Davidcannon, Btphelps, Marine 69-71, Danh, Carptrash, Rackham, Hoss789, LtNOWIS, FeanorStar7, Randy2063, BD2412, Rogerd, Ravenswing, Reddevil0728, Asarelah, Resolute, Lawrenceckhoo, Dahn, Jwillbur, Ohconfucius, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Mr Stephen, DI2000, Courcelles, Patrickwooldridge, Cydebot, Ed!, CommonsDelinker, Manticore, Malik Shabazz, EricSerge, Barkeep, WereSpielChequers, Claudevsq, Kumioko, Mark Heiden, Gaia Octavia Agrippa, Niteshift36, Arjayay, Ngebendi, Emt1299d, Saad31, TomPointTwo, Protonk, Lucas-bot, Yobot, Evans1982, AnomieBOT, RevelationDirect, Jayarathina, Eddyisrich403, Loverfun, Anotherclown, Chris.urs-o, RightCowLeftCoast, FrescoBot, Rockhead126, Jaycub912, MusicToDieTo, Tbhotch, Cdtew, GA bot, GoingBatty, Doelleri, ZéroBot, Illegitimate Barrister, Bullmoosebell, ClueBot NG, MBCWIKIONE, Helpful Pixie Bot, Pine, Robbiethompson, Joshuadavis9, PartTimeGnome, Dainomite, Dmanrock29, Mclearg, W.D., DemirBajraktarevic, Khazar2, Vanquisher.UA, Reconmarinecanada, TeriEmbrey, Schwindj, ArmbrustBot, Rstrong1234, How Shuan Shi, Fbruno777, TWA21, KasparBot, Srednuas Lenoroc, SMSJGodinez and Anonymous: 60
- **Rafael Peralta** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rafael_Peralta?oldid=709645191 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, Bender235, Hoss789, BDD, Woohookitty, FeanorStar7, Leobinus, MZMcBride, The wub, Jaraalbe, YurikBot, Wavelength, RussBot, Yrithind, Rockero, MatthewSMaynard, SmackBot, Looper5920, Ifnord, Cla68, ERcheck, K4zem, Pen of bushido, Ser Amantio di Nicolao, Nobunaga24, MrDolomite, Nehrams2020, Clarityfiend, Brian H, Ohthelameness, Qrc2006, Equendil, Cydebot, Shirulashem, Cefaro, Signaleer, Ed!, Hekerui, Kjallen, Johnpacklambert, Bahamut0013, Lucasbfrbot, Miniapolis, Pr4ever, Kumioko (renamed), Innoculations, FieldMarine, CohesionBot, AuthorAuthor, RogDel, Botpankonin, Dthomsen8, Addbot, Ironholds, Yobot, Amit6, AustralianRupert, RightCowLeftCoast, Citation bot 1, Lotje, Rossoneri83, Acsian88, Germán E. Macías, Manicjedi, H3llBot, ClueBot NG, BattyBot, Uniformcharlie886, Libr246-CMH, WPGA2345, KasparBot, Icela Peralta, Uhleesah and Anonymous: 39
- **Guy Gabaldon** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Gabaldon?oldid=713868246 *Contributors:* Ed Poor, Conti, Raul654, Finlay McWalter, Desmay, Davidcannon, DocWatson42, Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, D6, Rich Farmbrough, Bender235, Woohookitty, PoccilScript, Rjwilmsi, Rogerd, Durin, G Clark, Deyyaz, Volunteer Marek, Bgwhite, Cyberherbalist, RussBot, Anders.Warga, Looper5920, Cla68, Hmains, ERcheck, Bluebot, Ghshephard, Rlevse, Pen of bushido, Rklawton, Petrejo, Buckboard, Polymerbringer, Joseph Solis in Australia, SweetNeo85, Cydebot, Peripitus, David A. Victor, Lugnuts, Saintrain, Gwern, Wittyname, Fifth Rider, Ashdog137, Magnvss, Philip Trueman, John Carter, C.Kent87, Bahamut0013, PINTofCARLING, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), All Hallow's Wraith, R000t, Dreamcast88, Foofbun, Mocesuma, Brewcrew, Jacksinterweb, Marciegracie, Eastcote, Otr500, Botpankonin, TimMaggiani2, Good Olfactory, Kbdankbot, Addbot, Stetsonharry, Tsange, Lightbot, Sarason, Yobot, Reenem, AnomieBOT, Piano non troppo, Лъчезар, PhantomWSO, Xqbot, Nasnema, Surv1v411st, Wisc Girl, OgreBot, DocYako, Bighouseinthecountry, H3llBot, DASHBotAV, ClueBot NG, YahwehSaves, PumpkinSky, Cyberbot II, Rotlink, KumiokoCleanStart, SunBakedMike, WPGA2345, KasparBot, Govguam2 and Anonymous: 35
- **Marcelino Serna** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcelino_Serna?oldid=713097145 *Contributors:* Folks at 137, Marine 69-71, D6, Rich Farmbrough, Bender235, Woohookitty, Melesse, Ground Zero, RussBot, Xdamr, Cydebot, Monkeybait, Aille, JaGa, EyeSerene, R'n'B, Nikthestunned, EricSerge, Kingbird1, PbBot, Kumioko (renamed), SoxBot, Botpankonin, Yobot, Ulric1313, Full-date unlinking bot, RjwilmsiBot, Bullmoosebell, Δ, Helpful Pixie Bot, BG19bot, Mrt3366, Cyberbot II, Rcmurphree, KasparBot and Anonymous: 5
- **Modesto Cartagena** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modesto_Cartagena?oldid=715075559 *Contributors:* Robert Merkel, Tregoweth, Stormie, Hadal, Gamaliel, Tom-, PDH, Neutrality, Marine 69-71, DMG413, D6, Bender235, CanisRufus, Juzeris, Mlessard, Cburnett, Melesse, Who, NekoDaemon, RobyWayne, RussBot, SmackBot, Looper5920, JohnnyReb1977, Chris the speller, Badbill-tucker, Mtmelendez, Xdamr, Nobunaga24, Cydebot, Jeames, Waacstats, MWSshort, CommonsDelinker, DH85868993, EricSerge, Bahamut0013, Kingbird1, Aspects, Iamradagast, Pr4ever, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), ImageRemovalBot, Jrmmr210, ClueBot, Officer781, Otr500, RogDel, Botpankonin, Hueydoc, Damiens.rf, Lightbot, Sarason, Yobot, AnomieBOT, Srich32977, M0tty, Yaponte, RjwilmsiBot, Dewritech, GoingBatty, Bullmoosebell, Jmgould, Ocalafia, Cyberbot II, Epicgenius, KumiokoCleanStart, Ttkulhowwvick, SoldierBoy77, KasparBot and Anonymous: 19
- **Angel Mendez** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel_Mendez?oldid=713275394 *Contributors:* Marine 69-71, Klemen Kocjancic, D6, Tabletop, Koavf, Bgwhite, RussBot, SmackBot, YellowMonkey, ERcheck, Jwillbur, Pen of bushido, Cydebot, EricSerge, Qst, Claudevsq, Abraham, B.S., Kumioko (renamed), Sfan00 IMG, AusTerrapin, Icamepica, Botpankonin, Damiens.rf, Yobot, Againme, Jmundo, FrescoBot, EclecticArkie, Sibuff, DocYako, Mztourist, A, Ivan Quiles, Corlier, ArmbrustBot, WPGA2345, KasparBot and Anonymous: 6

64.9.2 Images

- **File:110920-A-NI118-092.jpg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9e/110920-A-NI118-092.jpg> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imagery.html#guid=41e1f9aea74a37573031f7a80fb4a450769bcfc8> *Original artist:* U.S. Army photo by Andrew Claire Baker
- **File:173AirborneBCTCSIB.jpg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cc/173AirborneBCTCSIB.jpg> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Div/10MountainDivision.htm> *Original artist:* The Institute of Heraldry
- **File:1st_US_Infantry_Division.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fd/1st_US_Infantry_Division.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* US Army Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* United States Army
- **File:2_Infantry_Div_SSI.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/11/2_Infantry_Div_SSI.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?

- **File:2_Ranger_Battalion_Shoulder_Sleeve_Insignia.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c8/2_Ranger_Battalion_Shoulder_Sleeve_Insignia.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:38_Inf_Regt_DUI.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c3/38_Inf_Regt_DUI.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Heraldry/ArmyDUISSICOA/ArmyHeraldryUnit.aspx?u=3662> *Original artist:* US Army
- **File:3_Infantry_Div_Patch.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8f/3_Infantry_Div_Patch.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* US Army Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* United States Army
- **File:3_Infantry_Div_SSI.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4f/3_Infantry_Div_SSI.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* US Army Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* United States Army
- **File:503_Inf_Rgt_DUI.gif** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/12/503_Inf_Rgt_DUI.gif *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Heraldry/ArmyDUISSICOA/ArmyHeraldryUnit.aspx?u=3733> *Original artist:* United States Army Institute of Heraldry
- **File:75_Ranger_Regiment_Distinctive_Unit_Insignia.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/59/75_Ranger_Regiment_Distinctive_Unit_Insignia.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* US Army Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* United States Army
- **File:7thINF DUI.jpg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/00/7thINF DUI.jpg> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* US Army Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* United States Army
- **File:AFEMRib.svg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9e/AFEMRib.svg> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Shazz (commons) — Shazz (pl.wiki)
- **File:Acw_bs_7a.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d9/Acw_bs_7a.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work (Original text: *I created this work entirely by myself.*) *Original artist:* Grayghost01 at English Wikipedia
- **File:Air_Medal_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1a/Air_Medal_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Alejandro_Ruiz.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/40/Alejandro_Ruiz.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* http://www.homeofheroes.com/e-books/mohE_hispanic/index.html *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Alfonzo_Lara_left_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_brother,_U.S._Army_Pfc._Salvador_J._Lara_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington,_D.C.,_March_18_140318-D-DB155-017.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Alfonzo_Lara%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_brother%2C_U.S._Army_Pfc._Salvador_J._Lara%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18_140318-D-DB155-017.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=6acc96a74545db5a5a9c411edb68d74aa5ee9d09&t=2> *Original artist:* E.J. Hersom
- **File:Alfred_Rascon.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b9/Alfred_Rascon.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons by Rlevse. *Original artist:* The original uploader was Marine 69-71 at English Wikipedia
- **File:Alfred_Rascon_Medal_of_Honor_presentation.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/Alfred_Rascon_Medal_of_Honor_presentation.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* This Image was released by the United States Army with the ID 000208-A-0662H-004 (next). This tag does not indicate the copyright status of the attached work. A normal copyright tag is still required. See Commons:Licensing for more information. *Original artist:* Jerome Howard
- **File:Alice_Mendoza_left_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_husband,_U.S._Army_Staff_Sgt._Manuel_V._Mendoza_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington,_D.C._140318-D-DB155-019.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c5/Alice_Mendoza%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_husband%2C_U.S._Army_Staff_Sgt._Manuel_V._Mendoza%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C._140318-D-DB155-019.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=90d4268ce0acc93c9bb7464dc542f93350e70079&t=2> *Original artist:* E.J. Hersom
- **File:American_Campaign_Medal_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e0/American_Campaign_Medal_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:American_Defense_Service_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8e/American_Defense_Service_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:American_troops_march_down_the_Champs_Elysees.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b4/American_troops_march_down_the_Champs_Elysees.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* This media is available in the holdings of the National Archives and Records Administration, cataloged under the ARC Identifier (National Archives Identifier) **531209**. *Original artist:* Poinsett / Signal Corps

- **File:AngelMendez1.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/AngelMendez1.jpg> License: GFDL Contributors: Transferred from en.wikipedia by SreeBot Original artist: Ismael Mendez
- **File:AngelMendez2.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/03/AngelMendez2.jpg> License: GFDL Contributors: obtained from: <http://www.virtualwall.org/dm/MendezAx01a.htm> Original artist: ?
- **File:Angel_Mendez_Memorial.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/13/Angel_Mendez_Memorial.jpg License: CC-BY-SA-3.0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: User:Marine 69-71
- **File:Armed_Forces_Reserve_Medal_with_mobilization_device.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/Armed_Forces_Reserve_Medal_with_mobilization_device.png License: Public domain Contributors: Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons. Original artist: The original uploader was Atfyfe at English Wikipedia.
- **File:Army-USA-OR-02.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/91/Army-USA-OR-02.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Created with Inkscape using graphic from Army Institute of Heraldry website as reference for shape and color. Original artist: w>User:Braindrain0000
- **File:Army-USA-OR-03.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cc/Army-USA-OR-03.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Based upon graphic from Army Institute of Heraldry website as reference for shape and color. Original artist: w>User:Braindrain0000
- **File:Army-USA-OR-04b.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1c/Army-USA-OR-04b.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Based on graphic from US Army Institute of Heraldry (seal taken from 911 commission seal.svg) Original artist: Darz Mol
- **File:Army-USA-OR-05.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/27/Army-USA-OR-05.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Based upon graphic from Army Institute of Heraldry website as reference for shape and color. Original artist: Braindrain0000
- **File:Army-USA-OR-06.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Army-USA-OR-06.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Based upon graphic from Army Institute of Heraldry website as reference for shape and color. Original artist: w>User:Braindrain0000
- **File:Army-USA-OR-07.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/71/Army-USA-OR-07.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Based upon graphic from Army Institute of Heraldry website as reference for shape and color. Original artist: Braindrain0000
- **File:Army-USA-OR-08b.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8a/Army-USA-OR-08b.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Based upon graphic from Army Institute of Heraldry website as reference for shape and color. Original artist: Braindrain0000
- **File:Army-officer-icon.png** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/51/Army-officer-icon.png> License: CC BY 3.0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: Rion
- **File:ArmyMoH_1862-95X.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3b/ArmyMoH_1862-95X.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:ArmyOSB.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1a/ArmyOSB.jpg> License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:ArmyQualExpert.JPG** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/75/ArmyQualExpert.JPG> License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:ArmySstripe.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7f/ArmySstripe.jpg> License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Army_Achievement_Medal_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2f/Army_Achievement_Medal_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Army_Commendation_Medal_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3b/Army_Commendation_Medal_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: United States Army Institute of Heraldry Original artist: US Army
- **File:Army_Good_Conduct_Ribbon.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fa/Army_Good_Conduct_Ribbon.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Army_Good_Conduct_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/48/Army_Good_Conduct_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: US Army Institute of Heraldry Original artist: US Army
- **File:Army_Medal_of_Honor.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e5/Army_Medal_of_Honor.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Army_Overseas_Service_Ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/62/Army_Overseas_Service_Ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: US Army Institute Of Heraldry Original artist: US Army
- **File:Army_Service_Ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Army_Service_Ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Army_distinguished_service_cross_medal.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c7/Army_distinguished_service_cross_medal.png License: Public domain Contributors:
- **Army_distinguished_service_cross_medal.jpg** Original artist: Army_distinguished_service_cross_medal.jpg: en>User:Shischkabob

- **File:Army_of_Occupation_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/7b/Army_of_Occupation_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Asiatic-Pacific_Campaign_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Asiatic-Pacific_Campaign_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Award-star-silver-3d.png** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/43/Award-star-silver-3d.png> *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Lestatdelc
- **File:Award_numeral_3.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b8/Award_numeral_3.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Award_star_(gold).png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d5/Award_star_%28gold%29.png *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* This file was derived from: Award star-gold-3d.svg *Original artist:* This image includes elements that have been taken or adapted from this: Award star-gold-3d.svg.
- **File:Baldomero_Lopez_-_portrait.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/23/Baldomero_Lopez_-_portrait.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/IMAGES/MOH/Korean_War/Hi_Res/Lopez.jpg *Original artist:* U.S. Marine Corps
- **File:BenavidezElementarySchoolHouston.JPG** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/70/BenavidezElementarySchoolHouston.JPG> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* WhisperToMe
- **File:Benito_Martinez2.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/9/92/Benito_Martinez2.jpg *License:* PD *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Blank.JPG** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/4/48/Blank.JPG> *License:* PD *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Galwhaa (talk) (Uploads)
- **File:Bronze-service-star-3d.png** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/Bronze-service-star-3d.png> *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Lestatdelc
- **File:Bronze_Star_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a1/Bronze_Star_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Bronze_oakleaf-3d.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f1/Bronze_oakleaf-3d.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* United States Government *Original artist:* lestatdelc
- **File:CIB2.png** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6e/CIB2.png> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* The Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* US Air Force
- **File:Canadian_jump_wings.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/df/Canadian_jump_wings.png *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* personal photo *Original artist:* Reconmarinecanada
- **File:Cano,_Governor_Presents_Medal.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d9/Cano%2C_Governor_Presents_Medal.jpg *License:* CC BY 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Shainelee
- **File:CdG45.gif** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/44/CdG45.gif> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:CdrAwardCivServRib.jpg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b9/CdrAwardCivServRib.jpg> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Charles_Baldonado,_left,_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_brother,_U.S._Army_Cpl._Joe_R._Baldonado,_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington,_D.C.,_March_18_140318-D-DB155-007.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/97/Charles_Baldonado%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_brother%2C_U.S._Army_Cpl._Joe_R._Baldonado%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18_140318-D-DB155-007.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=46d4fd7a32ac0d5c6319bbf528c3d6d80caa85d1&t=2> *Original artist:* E.J. Hersom
- **File:Civil_Action_Unit_Citation.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e9/Civil_Action_Unit_Citation.png *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* EricSerge
- **File:Civil_Actions_Medal(Individual_Award).png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/25/Civil_Actions_Medal%28Individual_Award%29.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.amervets.com/replacement/vcar.htm> *Original artist:* <http://www.amervets.com/replacement/vcar.htm>

- **File: Cleto_Rodriguez.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/66/Cleto_Rodriguez.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: http://www.homeofheroes.com/e-books/mohE_hispanic/page_04.html Original artist: ?
- **File: Cmoh_army.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/98/Cmoh_army.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: Cold_War_Victory_Medal_Ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cb/Cold_War_Victory_Medal_Ribbon.svg License: CC BY-SA 4.0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: EclecticArkie
- **File: CombatMed2ndAwdBadge.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/16/CombatMed2ndAwdBadge.jpg> License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Graphics/CombatMed2ndAwdBadge.jpg> Original artist: dawgstar84
- **File: CombatMedBadge.gif** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/CombatMedBadge.gif> License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: Combat_Action_Ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b5/Combat_Action_Ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image `` Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File: Combat_Infantry_Badge.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/Combat_Infantry_Badge.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image `` Reference: Army Regulation 670-1 Section 29. Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File: Commons-logo.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/4/4a/Commons-logo.svg> License: CC-BY-SA-3.0 Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: Company_c.JPG** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/c/c0/Company_c.JPG License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: Croce_di_Merito_Italy.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cd/Croce_di_Merito_Italy.jpg License: CC-BY-SA-3.0 Contributors: Own work by the original uploader Original artist: Marine 69-71 at English Wikipedia
- **File: Croix_de_guerre_1914-1918_with_palm.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5a/Croix_de_guerre_1914-1918_with_palm.jpg License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: Own work (Original caption: "I created this work entirely by myself.") Original artist: EHD15YS at en.wikipedia
- **File: Daniel_Fernandez.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/1/1d/Daniel_Fernandez.jpg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: DavidMGonzales_cropped.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/aa/DavidMGonzales_cropped.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: David_Barkley.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6f/David_Barkley.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.bragg.army.mil/82EO/Files/Culture%20&%20Observances/Hispanic%20American/Hisp%20MOH.pdf> Original artist: ?
- **File: Defense_Meritorious_Service_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/23/Defense_Meritorious_Service_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image `` Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File: Delagarza_EA.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/3/34/Delagarza_EA.jpg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: Dias_RE_USMC.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/c/c7/Dias_RE_USMC.jpg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File: Distinguished_Service_Cross_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/06/Distinguished_Service_Cross_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image `` Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File: E.Rodrigues_Smith.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/77/E.Rodrigues_Smith.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons. (Original text: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/topics/apam/ap-moh2.html>) Original artist: U.S. Army
- **File: El_Monumento_de_la_Recordacion.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/9/9e/El_Monumento_de_la_Recordacion.jpg License: PD Contributors: <http://www.af.mil/shared/media/photodb/photos/090714-F-9891G-194.jpg> Original artist: U.S. Air Force Photo/Tech. Sgt. Francisco V. Govea II)
- **File: Emblem_of_the_Spanish_Air_Force_Parachute.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0d/Emblem_of_the_Spanish_Air_Force_Parachute.svg License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: `` [1] Original artist: Heraldier

- **File:European-African-Middle_Eastern_Campaign_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c5/European-African-Middle_Eastern_Campaign_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Expert_Infantry_Badge.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ec/Expert_Infantry_Badge.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Reference: Army Regulation 670–1 Section 29. Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Fernando_Luis_Garcia.JPG** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a0/Fernando_Luis_Garcia.JPG License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Flag_of_California.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/01/Flag_of_California.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Own work Original artist: Devin Cook
- **File:Flag_of_Mexico.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fc/Flag_of_Mexico.svg License: Public domain Contributors: This vector image was created with Inkscape. Original artist: Alex Covarrubias, 9 April 2006
- **File:Flag_of_New_Mexico.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c3/Flag_of_New_Mexico.svg License: CC0 Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Flag_of_Puerto_Rico.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/28/Flag_of_Puerto_Rico.svg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Flag_of_the_United_States.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a4/Flag_of_the_United_States.svg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Flag_of_the_United_States_(Pantone).svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e2/Flag_of_the_United_States_%28Pantone%29.svg License: Public domain Contributors: SVG implementation of U. S. Code: Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 1 [1] (the United States Federal “Flag Law”). Original artist: Dbenbenn, Zscout370, Jacobolus, Indolences, Technion.
- **File:Flag_of_the_United_States_Army.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e6/Flag_of_the_United_States_Army.svg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.flagpictures.org/> Original artist: United States Army
- **File:Flag_of_the_United_States_Marine_Corps.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/13/Flag_of_the_United_States_Marine_Corps.svg License: Public domain Contributors:
- **Marine_corps_flag.gif** Original artist: Marine_corps_flag.gif: Himasaram
- **File:Fokker_Dr._I_(117710246).jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Fokker_Dr._I_%28117710246%29.jpg License: CC BY-SA 2.0 Contributors: Fokker Dr. I Original artist: Jerzy Kociatkiewicz from Colchester, United Kingdom
- **File:Folder_Hexagonal_Icon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/4/48/Folder_Hexagonal_Icon.svg License: Cc-by-sa-3.0 Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Fourragère_CG.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f5/Fourrag%C3%A8re_CG.png License: Public domain Contributors: collection personnelle Original artist: davric
- **File:GCM_4.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c8/GCM_4.jpg License: CC0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: Claudevsq
- **File:Gabaldon_1944.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/88/Gabaldon_1944.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.somosprimos.com/sp2008/spjun08/spjun08.htm> Original artist: Notes as a US Marine corp photo
- **File:Gallantry_Cross_Unit_Citation.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a3/Gallantry_Cross_Unit_Citation.png License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: + Original artist: Lestatdelc
- **File:Global_War_on_Terrorism_Expeditionary_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/93/Global_War_on_Terrorism_Expeditionary_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Us_gwotexp_rib.png: Original artist: This vector image was created with Inkscape by Ipankonin, and then manually replaced.
- **File:Gomez_E_USMC.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/7/76/Gomez_E_USMC.jpg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Gonsalves_H_USMC.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a1/Gonsalves_H_USMC.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?

- **File:Gonzalez_and_Fort.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ad/Gonzalez_and_Fort.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: Digital Video & Imagery Distribution System, The Mother of the USS Gonzalez Original artist: Petty Officer 1st Class Michelle Lucht
- **File:Greek_Cross_of_Valour_ribbon.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2f/Greek_Cross_of_Valour_ribbon.png License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: Cplakidas
- **File:Guillen_A.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/6/6d/Guillen_A.jpg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Guy_Gabaldon.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/04/Guy_Gabaldon.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Guy_Gabaldon_dod_20040915.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/29/Guy_Gabaldon_dod_20040915.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: DefenseLINK News (direct link) Original artist: Sgt. Adam R. Mancini, U.S. Army
- **File:Harold_Gonsalves_headstone.JPG** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/Harold_Gonsalves_headstone.JPG License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: BrokenSphere
- **File:Harry_Truman_and_Silvestre_S._Herrera.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2c/Harry_Truman_and_Silvestre_S._Herrera.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: http://www.homeofheroes.com/profiles/profiles_herrera.html Original artist: ?
- **File:Heinkel_He_111_during_the_Battle_of_Britain.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/Heinkel_He_111_during_the_Battle_of_Britain.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: This is photograph MH6547 from the collections of the Imperial War Museums (collection no. 4700-05) Original artist: Unknown
- **File:Helltoetpos.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/4/40/Helltoetpos.jpg> License: Fair use Contributors: The cover art can or could be obtained from the distributor. Original artist: ?
- **File:Inhun_Medal.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c5/Inhun_Medal.png License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.hyongc.com.ne.kr/kukki/hunjang-mukong.htm> Original artist: South Korean Government
- **File:Iraq_Campaign_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c4/Iraq_Campaign_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/> Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Jimenez_JF.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e8/Jimenez_JF.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/historydivision/Pages/Who%27s%20Who/J-L/Jimenez_JF.aspx Original artist: Unknown
- **File:JoePMartinezStatue.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/6/63/JoePMartinezStatue.jpg> License: CC-BY-3.0 Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Joe_P.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/b/ba/Joe_P._Martinez.jpg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Joe_Rodriguez_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_uncle,_U.S._Army_Pvt._Miguel_A._Vera,_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington,_D.C.,_March_18,_2014_140318-D-DB155-025.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/03/Joe_Rodriguez_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_uncle%2C_U.S._Army_Pvt._Miguel_A._Vera%2C_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18%2C_2014_140318-D-DB155-025.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=0ab4962a121f4e4c5dce74a19605ad558e96b523&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:Jose_F._Valdez.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/32/Jose_F._Valdez.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: http://www.homeofheroes.com/e-books/mohE_hispanic/index.html Original artist: ?
- **File:Joseph_Rodriguez.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/98/Joseph_Rodriguez.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: http://www.homeofheroes.com/e-books/mohE_hispanic/index.html Original artist: ?
- **File:Keith_M.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/eb/Keith_M.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: Transferred from en.wikipedia by SreeBot Original artist: ERcheck at en.wikipedia
- **File:Korean_Presidential_Unit_Citation.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/79/Korean_Presidential_Unit_Citation.png License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: EricSerge
- **File:Korean_Service_Medal_-_Ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Korean_Service_Medal_-_Ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image From The Institute of Heraldry Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Kurofune_2.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3f/Kurofune_2.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: The Japanese book "戦艦物語 80年" (Memories for 80 years, Bakumatsu, Meiji, Taisho) Original artist: published by 東洋館 (The Eastern Culture Association)

- **File:Legion_of_Merit_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/43/Legion_of_Merit_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image Us legion of merit rib.png *Original artist:* This vector image was created with Inkscape by Ipankonin, and then manually replaced.
- **File:Lopez_scaling_seawall.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/28/Lopez_scaling_seawall.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Image source: [1]; Description source: [2]. Image from the collections of the Naval Historical Center. *Original artist:* Unknown Marine
- **File:Louis_Rocco.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cf/Louis_Rocco.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Office of Medical History, Office of the Surgeon General of the United States Army *Original artist:* Unknown
- **File:MOH_WWI.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bc/MOH_WWI.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Manuel_Perez.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f0/Manuel_Perez.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Marcario_Garcia.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/be/Marcario_Garcia.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://ncojournal.dodlive.mil/2013/11/14/this-month-in-nco-history-heroism-at-grosshau-nov-27-1944/> *Original artist:* United States Department of Defense
- **File:Marcelino_Serna.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/93/Marcelino_Serna.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons. *Original artist:* The original uploader was Marine 69-71 at English Wikipedia
- **File:Marine_Corps_Good_Conduct_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3e/Marine_Corps_Good_Conduct_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Markesman_Weapons_Qual_Badge.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/25/Markesman_Weapons_Qual_Badge.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* US Army Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* United States Army
- **File:Master_Parachutist_badge_(United_States).svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Master_Parachutist_badge_%28United_States%29.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* http://www.af.mil/shared/media/ggallery/other/afg_021203_086.eps *Original artist:* US Air Force
- **File:Medal_of_Honor_U.S.Army.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f2/Medal_of_Honor_U.S.Army.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Medal_of_Honor_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0e/Medal_of_Honor_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image Image:Medal of Honor ribbon bar.png *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Memorial_Day_Speech_Pg3.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2b/Memorial_Day_Speech_Pg3.jpg *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Government of Puerto Rico a United States territory; Secretary of State Kenenth McClintock *Original artist:*
- derivative work: Tony the Marine (talk)
- **File:Meritorious_Service_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/72/Meritorious_Service_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Meritorious_Unit_Commendation_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d3/Meritorious_Unit_Commendation_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Michael_David_Pena,_left,_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_father,_U.S. Army Master Sgt. Mike_C._Pena,_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington,_D.C._140318-D-DB155-022.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/ce/Michael_David_Pena%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_father%2C_U.S._Army_Master_Sgt._Mike_C._Pena%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C._140318-D-DB155-022.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=8bf8961542c3c3e3af816432ba41fe9f946ae86c&t=2> *Original artist:* E.J. Hersom
- **File:Military_Medal_of_Honor_of_the_Legislative_Assembly_of_Puerto_Rico.JPG** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/89/Military_Medal_of_Honor_of_the_Legislative_Assembly_of_Puerto_Rico.JPG *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* I created this work entirely by myself. *Original artist:* Mike Subritzky (talk)Mike Subritzky

- **File:Miriam_Adams_left_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_uncle_U.S._Army_Pvt._Joe_Gandara_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington_D.C.,_March_18,_2014_140318-D-DB155-013.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/af/Miriam_Adams%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_uncle%2C_U.S._Army_Pvt._Joe_Gandara%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18%2C_2014_140318-D-DB155-013.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=3955affbf25532964f3ce1934817abda1a32d26b3&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:ModestoCartagena3.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/4/43/ModestoCartagena3.jpg> License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Modesto_Cartagena.JPEG** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/40/Modesto_Cartagena.JPEG License: Public domain Contributors: U.S. National Archives and Records Administration Original artist: Lonnie D. Tague
- **File:Moh_army_mil.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/83/Moh_army_mil.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Moh_right.gif** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/74/Moh_right.gif License: Public domain Contributors: Own work Original artist: user:Cefaro
- **File:NATO_Medal_ISAF_ribbon_bar.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/88/NATO_Medal_ISAF_ribbon_bar.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Own work based on by **Orem** Original artist: **Mboro**
- **File:National_Defense_Service_Medal_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0d/National_Defense_Service_Medal_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:NavyPres.gif** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/05/NavyPres.gif> License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Navy_Cross_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3e/Navy_Cross_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image 100px Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Navy_Meritorious_Unit_Commendation_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fa/Navy_Meritorious_Unit_Commendation_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Navy_Unit_Commendation_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1d/Navy_Unit_Commendation_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image NUC.gif Original artist: Ipankonin (talk)
- **File:Navy_and_Marine_Corps_Commendation_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cb/Navy_and_Marine_Corps_Commendation_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Navycross.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e7/Navycross.jpg> License: Public domain Contributors: English Wikipedia Original artist: No data / Нет данных
- **File:Nuvola_apps_kaboodle.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1b/Nuvola_apps_kaboodle.svg License: LGPL Contributors: <http://ftp.gnome.org/pub/GNOME/sources/gnome-themes-extras/0.9/gnome-themes-extras-0.9.0.tar.gz> Original artist: David Vignoni / ICON KING
- **File:Obregon_EA.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/9/98/Obregon_EA.jpg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Ortega_meda_of_Honor.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/19/Ortega_meda_of_Honor.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons. (Original text: <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/prs-tpic/hispanics/hisp-early.htm>) Original artist: U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph; Photo #: NH 105926
- **File:P_vip.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/6/69/P_vip.svg License: PD Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Pathfinder.gif** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8a/Pathfinder.gif> License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Pedro_Cano_and_Johnson_-_Wedding.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/d3/Pedro_Cano_and_Johnson_-_Wedding.jpg License: CC-BY-SA-3.0 Contributors: ? Original artist: ?

- **File:Pedro_Cano_receives_medal.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/ab/Pedro_Cano_receives_medal.jpg License: CC-BY-SA-3.0 Contributors: Aaron Pena
Original artist: ?
- **File:Pete_Corrall_left_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_uncle_U.S._Army_Sgt._Eduardo_C._Gomez_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington_D.C._March_18_2014_140318-D-DB155-015.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ec/Pete_Corrall%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_uncle%2C_U.S._Army_Sgt._Eduardo_C._Gomez%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18%2C_2014_140318-D-DB155-015.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=e31184f02523b98617e715dd1801e1b5ae57800e&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:Petry_Map.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/Petry_Map.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/petry/battlescape.html> Original artist: Unknown
- **File:Petry_reenlistment_2010.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/62/Petry_reenlistment_2010.jpg License: CC BY 2.0 Contributors: Medal of Honor: Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry Original artist: The U.S. Army
- **File:Pickett's_Charge_defence.png** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f2/Pickett%27s_Charge_defence.png License: Attribution Contributors: Photo by Joshua Sherurcij Original artist: Joshua Sherurcij
- **File:Portal-puzzle.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/f/fd/Portal-puzzle.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: ?
Original artist: ?
- **File:President_Barack_H._Obama_background_presents_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_former_U.S._Army_Sgt._Santiago_J._Ereivia_during_a_ceremony_March_18_2014_in_the_White_House_in_Washington_D.C._Ereivia_received_the_award_for_140318-A-KH856-004.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/79/President_Barack_H._Obama%2C_background%2C_presents_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_former_U.S._Army_Sgt._Santiago_J._Ereivia_during_a_ceremony_March_18%2C_2014%2C_in_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C._Ereivia_received_the_award_for_140318-A-KH856-004.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=1dfbd7f961a6a6f3d1cbc058560330283457a29f&t=2> Original artist: SGT Mikki L. Sprengle
- **File:President_Barack_H._Obama_left_presents_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_former_U.S._Army_Master_Sgt._Jose_Rodela_during_a_ceremony_March_18_2014_in_the_White_House_in_Washington_D.C._The_former_Soldier_received_140318-A-KH856-008.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a2/President_Barack_H._Obama%2C_left%2C_presents_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_former_U.S._Army_Master_Sgt._Jose_Rodela_during_a_ceremony_March_18%2C_2014%2C_in_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C._The_former_Soldier_received_140318-A-KH856-008.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=a6a6386e8e7493724ba9a17fcfcc2cf50625c97e&t=2> Original artist: SGT Mikki L. Sprengle
- **File:President_Barack_H._Obama_left_presents_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_former_U.S._Army_Sgt._Santiago_Ereivia_in_the_White_House_in_Washington_D.C._March_18_2014_140318-A-ZI280-081.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cf/President_Barack_H._Obama%2C_left%2C_presents_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_former_U.S._Army_Sgt._Santiago_Ereivia_in_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18%2C_2014_140318-A-ZI280-081.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=541d81025e9139a6c509117ba88065af5e0188a5&t=2> Original artist: SGT Justin Wagoner
- **File:President_Barack_Obama_right_awards_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_retired_U.S._Army_Sgt._Santiago_J._Ereivia_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington_D.C._March_18_2014_140318-D-DB155-001.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fd/President_Barack_Obama%2C_right%2C_awards_a_Medal_of_Honor_to_retired_U.S._Army_Sgt._Santiago_J._Ereivia_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18%2C_2014_140318-D-DB155-001.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=d848926548bd1ab2b4508dc79567411593163d8c&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:President_Barack_Obama_right_comforts_Lenora_Alvarado_while_she_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_father_U.S._Army_Spc._Leonard_L._Alvarado_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington_140318-D-DB155-006.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/62/President_Barack_Obama%2C_right%2C_comforts_Lenora_Alvarado%2C_while_she_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_father%2C_U.S._Army_Spc._Leonard_L._Alvarado%2C_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington_140318-D-DB155-006.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=b2ac44799c2cde1efe91998d6eb3352f39ad5238&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:Presidential_Unit_Citation_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/Presidential_Unit_Citation_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Prisoner_of_War_ribbon.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/10/Prisoner_of_War_ribbon.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:Prmoh.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/59/Prmoh.jpg> License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?

- **File:Purple_Heart_BAR.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/34/Purple_Heart_BAR.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Image:Purpleheart rib.png *Original artist:* United States Army
- **File:Question_book-new.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/9/99/Question_book-new.svg *License:* Cc-by-sa-3.0 *Contributors:*
Created from scratch in Adobe Illustrator. Based on Image:Question book.png created by User:Equazcion *Original artist:* Tkgd2007
- **File:RVN_Wound_Medal_ribbon.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cb/RVN_Wound_Medal_ribbon.png *License:* CC BY-SA 4.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* EricSerge
- **File:Ranger_Tab.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/Ranger_Tab.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ``
United States Army Institute of Heraldry *Original artist:* Fred the Oyster
- **File:Rep.AaronPena-Pvt.PedroCano.JPG** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/3/3c/Rep.AaronPena-Pvt.PedroCano.JPG> *License:* CC-BY-3.0 *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Ribbon_of_the_US_Navy_Presidential_Unit_Citation.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/97/Ribbon_of_the_US_Navy_Presidential_Unit_Citation.svg *License:* CC BY-SA 4.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* EclecticArkie
- **File:Rodolfo_Hernandez.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/67/Rodolfo_Hernandez.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* http://www.homeofheroes.com/e-books/mohE_hispanic/index.html *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Roy_Benavidez_MOH_ceremony.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/1a/Roy_Benavidez_MOH_ceremony.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* USNS Benavidez Honors Army Medal of Honor Hero [1] *Original artist:* Ron Hall, US Air Force
- **File:Rudolph_B._Davila.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b2/Rudolph_B._Davila.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.army.mil/asianpacificsoldiers/moh/ww2/davila.html> *Original artist:* U.S. Army
- **File:SSS_Exceptional_Service.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/21/SSS_Exceptional_Service.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Selective_Service_System_Director_Alfred_Rascon.GIF** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/84/Selective_Service_System_Director_Alfred_Rascon.GIF *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.sss.gov/direct.htm> *Original artist:* Unknown<code>
- **File:Sergeant_First_Class_Leroy_A._Petry_White_House_12_July_2011.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/be/Sergeant_First_Class_Leroy_A._Petry_White_House_12_July_2011.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* http://www.army.mil/article/61505/Remarks_by_the_President_in_presenting_the_Medal_of_Honor_to_Sgt__1st_Class_Leroy_A_Petry/ *Original artist:* White House
- **File:Sgt._Leroy_Perty_and_statue.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/0/04/Sgt._Leroy_Perty_and_statue.jpg *License:* CC-BY-SA-3.0 *Contributors:*
I took the picture
Previously published: none
Original artist:
Carptrash
- **File:Sgt_Freddy_Gonzalez.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/c/c3/Sgt_Freddy_Gonzalez.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:*
URL for picture: `<http://www.gonzalez.navy.mil/freddygonzalez.htm>` *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Silver-service-star-3d.png** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ad/Silver-service-star-3d.png> *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Lestatdelc
- **File:Silver_Star_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/94/Silver_Star_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image `` *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Silver_oakleaf-3d.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f3/Silver_oakleaf-3d.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* United States Government / Own work *Original artist:* Lestatdelc
- **File:Silvestre_S._Herrera.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/6/64/Silvestre_S._Herrera.jpg *License:* PD *Contributors:*
<http://www.army.mil/hispanicamericans/english/timeline/timeline.html> *Original artist:*
Photo Courtesy of Army.mil
- **File:SpecForces.gif** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bf/SpecForces.gif> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?

- **File:Statue_in_Denver_of_Private_Joe_Martinez.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6b/Statue_in_Denver_of_Private_Joe_Martinez.jpg License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: Own work Original artist: User:O'Dea
- **File:Texas_Legislative_Medal_of_Honor_(Texas_National_Guard).jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fc/Texas_Legislative_Medal_of_Honor_%28Texas_National_Guard%29.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:Texas_National_Guard_in_El_Campo_IMG_1023.JPG** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5d/Texas_National_Guard_in_El_Campo_IMG_1023.JPG License: CC-BY-SA-3.0 Contributors: Transferred from en.wikipedia Original artist: Billy Hathorn at en.wikipedia
- **File:Texas_flag_map.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/35/Texas_flag_map.svg License: CC BY-SA 3.0 Contributors: Self-made image, based on PD image File:Flag_of_Texas.svg and CC-BY-SA/GFDL image File:Flag-map of Texas.svg. Original artist: AnonMoos based on image by Darwinek
- **File:Text_document_with_red_question_mark.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a4/Text_document_with_red_question_mark.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Created by bdesham with Inkscape; based upon Text-x-generic.svg from the Tango project. Original artist: Benjamin D. Esham (bdesham)
- **File:Tina_Duran-Ruvalcaba, left, accepts the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late father, U.S. Army Spc. Jesus S. Duran, from President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C., March 18 140318-D-DB155-011.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/21/Tina_Duran-Ruvalcaba%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_father%2C_U.S._Army_Spc._Jesus_S._Duran%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18_140318-D-DB155-011.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=ffa758e052e32cc4927288973f6e75ff6505aa78&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:Truman_and_Garcia.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6e/Truman_and_Garcia.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.neh.gov/humanities/2013/septemberoctober/feature/el-movimiento> Original artist: National Archives and Records Administration
- **File:Tyronne_Espinoza, left, accepts the Medal of Honor on behalf of his late father, U.S. Army Cpl. Victor H. Espinoza, from President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C., March 18 140318-D-DB155-012.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Tyronne_Espinoza%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_his_late_father%2C_U.S._Army_Cpl._Victor_H._Espinoza%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.%2C_March_18_140318-D-DB155-012.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=e6960c6a0165751f59814241e16987d0b8e47&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:U.S. Army Sgt. Ashley Randall, left, accepts the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late grandfather, Pvt. Demensio Rivera, from President Barack Obama during a ceremony at the White House in Washington, D.C. 140318-D-DB155-023.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e8/U.S._Army_Sgt._Ashley_Randall%2C_left%2C_accepts_the_Medal_of_Honor_on_behalf_of_her_late_grandfather%2C_Pvt._Demensio_Rivera%2C_from_President_Barack_Obama_during_a_ceremony_at_the_White_House_in_Washington%2C_D.C.140318-D-DB155-023.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.defenseimagery.mil/imageRetrieve.action?guid=f7e052cd98940744a97b2498daf371e30cf73768&t=2> Original artist: E.J. Hersom
- **File:US-O3_insignia.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/72/US-O3_insignia.svg License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image here Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:USMC-E2.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/17/USMC-E2.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image `` Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:USMC-E3.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4e/USMC-E3.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image `` Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:USMC-E5.svg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/69/USMC-E5.svg> License: Public domain Contributors: Vectorized from raster image `` Original artist: Ipankonin
- **File:USMC_logo.svg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/21/USMC_logo.svg License: Public domain Contributors: DoD website: http://www.defenselink.mil/multimedia/web_graphics/#mc Original artist: U.S. Government
- **File:USNSPvtJoseFValdez.jpg** Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/6/60/USNSPvtJoseFValdez.jpg> License: Public domain Contributors: <http://www.angelfire.com/ct3/usnsvaldeztag169> Original artist: ?
- **File:USS_Pvt_Joe_P_Martinez.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/32/USS_Pvt_Joe_P_Martinez.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: ? Original artist: ?
- **File:USS_Santiago_de_Cuba.jpg** Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/74/USS_Santiago_de_Cuba.jpg License: Public domain Contributors: Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons. (Original text: <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-s/s-d-cuba.htm> DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY -- NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER) Original artist: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY -- NAVAL HISTORICAL CENTER

- **File:US_101st_Airborne_Division_patch.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/98/US_101st_Airborne_Division_patch.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Darz Mol
- **File:US_Army_Airborne_basic_parachutist_badge.gif** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/87/US_Army_Airborne_basic_parachutist_badge.gif *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.af.mil/TheBook/DutyBadges.aspx?igphoto=2000382113> *Original artist:* Yaira M. Resto (USAF)
- **File:US_Army_Airborne_master_parachutist_badge.gif** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/US_Army_Airborne_master_parachutist_badge.gif *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.af.mil/TheBook/DutyBadges.aspx?igphoto=2000382111> *Original artist:* Yaira M. Resto (USAF)
- **File:US_Army_Airborne_senior_parachutist_badge.gif** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/dd/US_Army_Airborne_senior_parachutist_badge.gif *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.af.mil/TheBook/DutyBadges.aspx?igphoto=2000382112> *Original artist:* Yaira M. Resto (USAF)
- **File:US_Army_O5_shouldersboard_rotated.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a2/US_Army_O5_shouldersboard_rotated.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:*
- **US_Army_O5_shouldersboard.svg** *Original artist:* US_Army_O5_shouldersboard.svg: Ipankonin
- **File:US_Army_Special_Forces_SSI.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e2/US_Army_Special_Forces_SSI.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/SF/SpecialForcesGroup.htm> *Original artist:* US Army
- **File:US_Army_WWII_SSGT.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5b/US_Army_WWII_SSGT.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Derived from w:Image:US_Army_E-6.svg with colour changes per w:Image:WWIISSGT.gif. Authoritative reference: http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Rank_page/History_of_Enlisted_Ranks.htm *Original artist:* Keenan Tims, derived from works by w>User:Braindrain0000 and w>User:PJS
- **File:US_Navy_030530-N-0000X-002_Sea_trials_of_USNS_Benavidez_(T-AKR-306)_by_Northrop_Grumman_Ship_System_Avondale_Operations.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0f/US_Navy_030530-N-0000X-002_Sea_trials_of_USNS_Benavidez_%28T-AKR-306%29_by_Northrop_Grumman_Ship_System_Avondale_Operations.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:*

This Image was released by the United States Navy with the ID 030530-N-0000X-002 (next).

This tag does not indicate the copyright status of the attached work. A normal copyright tag is still required. See Commons:Licensing for more information.

Original artist: U.S. Navy photo by Ron Elias
- **File:US_Navy_Medal_of_Honor_(1862_original).png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/83/US_Navy_Medal_of_Honor_%281862_original%29.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.homeofheroes.com/pictures/index.html> http://www.homeofheroes.com/pictures/1_navy_original.jpg *Original artist:* C. Douglas Sterner
- **File:United_Nations_Service_Medal_for_Korea_ribbon.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/12/United_Nations_Service_Medal_for_Korea_ribbon.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons by Number55 using CommonsHelper. *Original artist:* PalawanOz at English Wikipedia
- **File:United_States_Army_Staff_Identification_Badge.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/cf/United_States_Army_Staff_Identification_Badge.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* This file was derived from: GeneralStaffID.gif
Original artist: This image includes elements that have been taken or adapted from this: GeneralStaffID.gif.
- **File:United_States_Department_of_the_Army_Seal.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/19/Emblem_of_the_United_States_Department_of_the_Army.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* http://www.defense.gov/multimedia/web_graphics/ *Original artist:* U.S. Dept. of Defense
- **File:United_States_Department_of_the_Navy_Seal.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/09/Seal_of_the_United_States_Department_of_the_Navy.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Keeleysam *Original artist:* United States Army Institute Of Heraldry
- **File:Uss_newark_cc-1.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/08/Uss_newark_cc-1.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/images/h80000/h80841c.htm> <http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/images/h80000/h80841.jpg> *Original artist:* U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph.
- **File:VNCivilActionsRibbon-2.svg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c2/VNCivilActionsRibbon-2.svg> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* en:Image:VNCivilActionsRibbon.jpg *Original artist:* en>User:Marine 69-71 (original); Pbroks13 (talk) (redraw)
- **File:Valor_device.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/38/Valor_device.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* <http://www.af.mil/news/airman/0106/awards.shtml> *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Vargas_USMC_MOH.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/44/Vargas_USMC_MOH.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* photo from official Marine Corps biography at http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/Historical/Whos_Who/Vargas_MS.htm *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Veterans_Memorial_Chapel_at_Laredo_Community_College_IMG_7541.JPG** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/eb/Veterans_Memorial_Chapel_at_Laredo_Community_College_IMG_7541.JPG *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Billy Hathorn
- **File:ViPaBa.jpg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b0/ViPaBa.jpg> *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* clauddevsq (talk)

- **File:Vietnam-gallantry-cross-unit-3d.png** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3e/Vietnam-gallantry-cross-unit-3d.png> *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Lestatdelc
- **File:Vietnam_Armed_Forces_Honor_Medal_Ribbon.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f0/Vietnam_Armed_Forces_Honor_Medal_Ribbon.png *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work (Original text: *I created this work entirely by myself.*) *Original artist:* Dandvsp (talk)
- **File:Vietnam_Campaign_Medal_Ribbon.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Vietnam_Campaign_Medal_Ribbon.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work (Original text: *I (Dandvsp (talk)) created this work entirely by myself.*) *Original artist:* Dandvsp (talk)
- **File:Vietnam_Campaign_Medal_ribbon.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ef/Vietnam_Campaign_Medal_ribbon.png *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Transferred from en.wikipedia to Commons. *Original artist:* PalawanOz at English Wikipedia
- **File:Vietnam_Civil_Actions_Medal_Second_Class.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a1/Vietnam_Civil_Actions_Medal_Second_Class.png *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* EricSerge
- **File:Vietnam_Civil_Actions_Unit_Citation.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f1/Vietnam_Civil_Actions_Unit_Citation.png *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* EricSerge
- **File:Vietnam_Gallantry_Cross_Ribbon.PNG** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c5/Vietnam_Gallantry_Cross_Ribbon.PNG *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* [1]. *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Vietnam_Military_Merit_Ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f3/Vietnam_Military_Merit_Ribbon.svg *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Vietnam Military Merit Ribbon.png: *Original artist:* Dandvsp (talk). Vectorized by Magasjukur2
- **File:Vietnam_Service_Ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6d/Vietnam_Service_Ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image 100px *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Vietnam_Staff_Service_Medal_Ribbon.png** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/31/Vietnam_Staff_Service_Medal_Ribbon.png *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work (Original text: *I created this work entirely by myself.*) *Original artist:* Dandvsp (talk)
- **File:Vietnam_gallantry_cross-w-palm-3d.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/37/Vietnam_gallantry_cross-w-palm-3d.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Lestatdelc
- **File:Vietnam_gallantry_cross_unit_award-3d.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/06/Vietnam_gallantry_cross_unit_award-3d.svg *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Own work *Original artist:* Lestatdelc
- **File:Wikisource-logo.svg** *Source:* <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4c/Wikisource-logo.svg> *License:* CC BY-SA 3.0 *Contributors:* Rei-artur *Original artist:* Nicholas Moreau
- **File:William_W._Kouts.JPG** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d2/William_W._Kouts.JPG *License:* GFDL *Contributors:*
- Transferred from en.wikipedia by SreeBot *Original artist:* Uploaded by Marine 69-71 at en.wikipedia
- **File:World_War_II_Victory_Medal_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/06/World_War_II_Victory_Medal_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:World_War_I_Victory_Medal_ribbon.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b6/World_War_I_Victory_Medal_ribbon.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Vectorized from raster image *Original artist:* Ipankonin
- **File:Ysmael_Villegas.jpg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/21/Ysmael_Villegas.jpg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* http://www.homeofheroes.com/e-books/mohE_hispanic/index.html *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Flag_of_the_United_States.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a4/Flag_of_the_United_States.svg *License:* PD *Contributors:* ? *Original artist:* ?
- **File:Purple_Heart_BAR.svg** *Source:* https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/34/Purple_Heart_BAR.svg *License:* Public domain *Contributors:* Image:Purpleheart rib.png *Original artist:* United States Army

64.9.3 Content license

- Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0