

UP CB | World Herald
(Lincoln Edition)
Omaha, Nebraska

APR 10 1974

UNIVERSAL Press Clipping Bureau

Medal Winners To Be Honored

Lincoln (AP) — Fifty-seven Nebraskans who have won the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, will be formally inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in the State Capitol May 5.

Participants will include Gov. J. J. Exon; Maj. Gen. Francis L. Winner of the Nebraska National Guard, and E. J. McBride, chairman of the Hall of Fame Commission.

The Hall of Fame seeks information on descendants of medal recipients and desires their attendance at the ceremony, according to Marvin F. Kivett of Lincoln, secretary of the Hall of Fame Commission.

UP CB | Lincoln Star
Lincoln, Nebraska
(D. Cir. 76,177)

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By The Associated Press

Fifty-seven Nebraskans who have won the nation's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, will be formally inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in the State Capitol Sunday, May 5.

Participants will include Gov. J. James Exon; Maj. Gen. Francis L. Winner of the Nebraska National Guard, and E. J. McBride, chairman of the Hall of Fame Commission.

Sen. Eugene T. Mahoney of Omaha, one of the introducers of the bill providing funds for a plaque in the hall listing the recipients, will serve as master of ceremonies.

The Hall of Fame seeks information on descendants of medal recipients and desires their attendance at the ceremony, according to Marvin F. Kivett of Lincoln, secretary of the Hall of Fame Commission.

Evening World-Herald
Omaha, Nebr.
(D. Circ. 247,471)

APR 10 1974

Universal P. C. B. Est. 1908

Hall of Fame To Admit 57 Heroes

From World-Herald Press Services.

Fifty-seven Nebraskans who have won the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award, will be admitted to the Nebraska Hall of Fame in the State Capitol May 5. Marvin Kivett, hall secretary, says the medal winners and their descendants are invited to the ceremony.



Congressional Medal Of Honor Plaque In Hall C

On Sunday, May 5, at 2 p. m. 57 Nebraskans who have won the nation's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, will be inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in the Capitol in Lincoln. Honorees include those who earned the CMH for service in Nebraska, and native Nebraskans (or those of two or more years' residence here) who earned it elsewhere.

Among ceremony participants will be Governor J. James Exon; Major

General Francis L. Winner of the Nebraska Army National Guard; and E. J. McBride, chairman of the Hall of Fame Commission. Senator Eugene T. Mahoney, one of the introducers of L. B. 1212 which provided funds for a plaque listing the recipients, will serve as master of ceremony.

The Hall of Fame wishes to recognize Medal recipients or descendants during the ceremony and invites their attendance.

Persons in these categories planned to attend should contact Marvin Kivett, Secretary of the Hall of Fame Commission, 1500 R Street, Lincoln 68508. Kivett requests others to addresses of CMH winners relatives to him for additional permanent records.

The following Medal of Honor researched by the Nebraska State Historical Society indicate Nebraska addresses, or site Nebraska where award was won: CIVIL WAR: Delevan Bates, Aurora; John G. Bourke, Omaha; August Flanagan, Tecumseh; Joseph Han North Bend; Guy V. Henry, Robinson; David Johnston, Cent City; Simeon T. Josselyn, Omaha; Jacob C. Miller, Springfield; Hastings; James P. Miller, York; Joseph R. Prentice, Hebron; Joe Shapland, Sutton; Andrew Traynor, Omaha; Victor Viquain, Crete; Andrew Widick, Elwood; Smithfield Farnam; William H. William Schuyler.

INDIAN CAMPAIGNS: John Babcock, won medal at Spring Creek; Heth Canfield, won medal at Little Blue; Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish (Pawnee Scout), born in Nebraska; Matthias W. Day, served at Ft. Robinson; John H. Foley, won medal at Little Blue; George Grant, North Platte; Frontier County; Leander Herrick, St. Paul; Charles H. Heyl, won medal at Ft. Hartsuff; Michael Himmelback, won medal at Little Blue; Thomas Hubbard, won medal at Little Blue; Patrick Leonard, won medal at Little Blue, Ft. Hartsuff; Francis W. Lohnes, won medal at Gilman's Ranch; Jeptha Lytton, won medal at Ft. Hartsuff; Emmanu Stance served at Ft. Robinson; William H. Strayer, won medal at Loup Fork; George W. Thompson won medal at Little Blue; Leroy Vokes, won medal at Loup Fork. WAR WITH SPAIN: John W. Ehl Kearney; James Meredith, Omaha 1901-1911; Otto Diller Schmitt, Blair.

PHILIPPINES, 1911: Jacob Volz, Jr. Sutton, York.

WORLD WAR I: Ora Grave accredited to Nebraska; Nelson Holderman, Trumbull; Edward Rickenbacker, Omaha.

WORLD WAR II: Harold Bauer, North Platte; Robert Booker, Callaway; Richard Cowan, Lincoln; Dale M. Hans

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WORLD WAR II: Harold W,

Wisner; Flody K. Lindstrom, Holdrege; John J. Parle, Omaha; Leo J. Powers, Anselmo; John J. Tominac, Lincoln; Jack L. Treadwell, Omaha.

KOREAN CONFLICT: Edward Gomez, Omaha; Ernest Kouma, Dwight.

VIETNAM CONFLICT: Ronald L. Coker, Alliance; James W. Fous, Omaha; Charles C. Hagemeister, Lincoln; John Robert Hibbs, Omaha; Miguel Keith, Omaha; Joseph R. Kerrey, Lincoln; Gerald O. Young, Lincoln.

The State Historical Society's file of citations includes terse commendations for CMH winners of the last century, as well as detailed accounts of heroism for which awards were given in recent years. Col. Guy V. Henry's Civil War citation reads: "Led the assaults of his brigade upon the enemy's works, where he had two horses shot under him."

Lt. Matthais Day, 9th U.S. Colored Cavalry, gained his on the frontier when he "advanced alone into enemy lines and carried off a wounded soldier of his command. . . after he had been ordered to retreat."

A longer account of Marine Pfc. Edward Gomez' award-winning action in Korea as an ammunition bearer in 1951 concludes: "His valiant conduct. . . enhanced the finest traditions of the U. S. Naval service. He gallantly gave up his life for his country."

UNIVERSAL Press Clipping Bureau

Hall of Fame in Capitol Will Honor 57 Nebraska Medal c

Some served gallantly in the battles that marked Nebraska's frontier history.

Others voluntarily led charges in the Civil War.

Still others sacrificed themselves by throwing themselves on grenades in places like Korea and Vietnam.

Collectively, they are the 57 newest members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame — Nebraska's Medal of Honor recipients, said State Historical Society Director Marvin Kivett.

A bronze plaque honoring them will be installed in the Hall of Fame in the Capitol at 2 p.m. today, he said.

Kivett said the mass installation represents some departure from Hall of Fame tradition.

Previous honorees, whose busts have been placed in the Capitol, were cited for outstanding individual accomplishments in politics, literature, humanitarian work or military leadership, he said. All are well known in Nebraska.

However in 1969, the Legislature passed a bill ordering the installation of a plaque with the Medal of Honor winners' names.

"This is a recognition that the Medal of Honor is the highest award that an individual can get," Kivett said. "Therefore the contributions of these men might be seen as being equal to those of the politicians and poets."

Kivett said collecting the names of honorees has been a "25-year labor of love for him."

Military records list the state of an individual's enlistment, he said. Some persons who won the medal and later lived in Nebraska were thus not listed on official records as coming from Nebraska.

Some names have been collected through a Historical Society column "Out of Old Nebraska," which appears in weekly newspapers, he said. Periodically appeals have been made for anyone knowing of a Nebraskan holding the medal to report the name to the society for verification.

Kivett said some of the honorees won the medal while serving in Nebraska during the Indian wars. Others were born here or lived here at least two years.

This explains the inclusion of such people as World War I ace Edward Rickenbacker who lived in Omaha before the War, Kivett said. He also said there is space on the plaque for 10 more names.

The Historical Society will set up a display with photographs and artifacts from Medal of Honor winners, he said. The honorees:

Civil War
Col. Delavan Bales, Aurora, gallantry in action when he fell, shot through the face, at the head of his regiment.
Pvt. John G. Bourke, Omaha, gallantry in action.
Sgt. Augustin Flanagan, Tecumseh, was severely wounded while rushing forward with the colors and calling on his men to follow him in a charge on the enemy.
Pvt. Joseph Hanks, North Bend, rescuing a comrade under fire.
Pvt. David Johnson, Central City, gallantry in the charge of a "volunteer storming party."
1st Lt. Simeon Josselyn, Omaha, seized the enemy colors and brought them back to his regiment.

Pvt. Jacob Miller, of Springfield, and Hastings, gallantry in the charge of a "volunteer storming party."
Pvt. James Miller, York, captured the standard of the 12th Mississippi Cavalry.
Pvt. Joseph Prentice, Hebron, voluntarily rescued the body of his mortally wounded commander.
Pvt. John Shapland, Sutton, voluntarily joined a small party that captured a stockade and saved a bridge under heavy fire.
Col. Guy V. Henry, who served at Ft. Robinson, led assaults upon the enemy's works where he had two horses shot from under him.
Col. Andrew Traynor, Omaha, was captured by a detachment of guerrillas but helped seize his guard, kill two guerrillas and escape.
Lt. Col. Victor Vilquain, Crete, captured a flag.
Pvt. Andrew Widick, Elwood, and Smithfield, gallantry in the charge of a "volunteer storming party."
Pvt. William H. Williams, Schuyler, voluntarily went beyond the lines to observe the enemy and also aided a wounded comrade.
Indian Campaigns
1st Lt. John Babcock fought a superior band of Indians in a battle at Spring Creek, Neb., until relieved.
Pvt. Heli Canfield, "gallantry in action" at Little Blue, Neb.
Sgt. Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish (Mad Bear), who was born in Nebraska, left the rest of Indian and was shot and wounded by a bullet from his own command.
Sgt. John Foley, gallantry in action at Loupe Fork, Neb.
Cpl. Leander Horton, St. Paul, voluntarily aided four men who were attacked by 50 Indians.

2nd Lt. Matthias W. Day, who served at Ft. Robinson, rescued a wounded soldier under fire.
Sgt. Emanuel Stance, who served at Ft. Robinson, gallantry on scout after Indians.
2nd Lt. Charles Heyl voluntarily charged with three men on six Indians who were entrenched on a hillside near Ft. Hartsuff, Neb.
Pvt. Michael Himmelsback, gallantry near Little Blue.
Pvt. Thomas Hubbard, gallantry at Little Blue.
Sgt. Patrick Leonard, gallantry at Little Blue.
Pvt. Francis Lohnes, gallantry in defending government property against Indians at Gilman's Ranch, Neb.
Cpl. Jephtha Lytton, gallantry in charge on hostile Sioux at Ft. Hartsuff, Neb.
Pvt. William Strayer, gallantry at Loupe Fork, Neb.
Pvt. George Thompson, gallantry at Little Blue.
Sgt. LeRoy Vokes, gallantry at Loupe Fork.
Spanish-American War
Fireman 1st Class John Walter Ehle, Kearney, work in fighting a fire on the U.S.S. Concord.
Pvt. James Meredith, Omaha, bravery under fire in a battle on the U.S.S. Marblehead at Cienfuegos, Cuba.
Interim 1901-1902
Seaman Otto Schmidt, Blair, was cited for heroism displayed during the explosion of a boiler on the U.S.S. Bennington.
The Philippines 1901
Carpenter's Mate 3rd Class Jacob Volz was cited for gallantry under fire in an attack on a scouting party by the Moros.
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World War I

Seaman Ora Graves, helped put out a fire

on the U.S.S. Pittsburgh helping prevent a possible explosion of gunpowder.

Capt. Nelson Holderman, Trumbull, led a company surrounded by the enemy, and while wounded rushing through enemy fire to safety, carrying with him two wounded men.

1st Lt. Edward Rickenbacker, Omaha, attacked seven enemy planes and shot down two.

World War II

Lt. Col. Harold Bauer, North Platte, heroism in air battles over Guadalcanal during one of which he attacked an entire Japanese squadron attacking an American ship.

Pvt. Robert Booker, Callaway, killed while personally knocking out an enemy machine gun nest in Tunisia.

Pfc. Richard Cowan, Lincoln, fired his machine gun in the face of an advancing enemy tank and 150 infantrymen in fighting in Belgium.

Pvt. Dale Hansen, Wisner, attacked and destroyed a Japanese pillbox during fighting on Okinawa and personally attacked a force of six Japanese, killing four with his rifle and tending off two others after the weapon jammed.

Pfc. Floyd Lindstrom, Holdrege, helped break up a German counterattack in Italy by seizing an enemy machine gun and ammunition under heavy fire and using it against the Germans.

Ensign John Parle, Omaha, died from smoke he inhaled in throwing a burning smoke pot off a ship heavily laden with explosives during the invasion of Sicily.

Pfc. Leo Powers, Anselmo, personally broke up a strategic German position near Casino in Italy by knocking out three enemy pillboxes. He was under heavy fire while doing it.

1st Lt. John Tomlinac, Lincoln, helped lead an attack near Saulx de Vesoul, France, which resulted in the destruction of four enemy positions, the surrender of part of that city and the death or capture of at least 60 Germans.

Capt. Jack L. Treadwell, Omaha, single-handedly captured six pillboxes and 18 prisoners near Nieder-Wurzbach, Germany.

Korea

Pfc. Edward Gomez, Omaha, fell voluntarily on a grenade to save the lives of other soldiers.

MSgt. Ernest R. Kouma, Dwight, killed an estimated 250 enemy during a tank stand covering an infantry withdrawal in Korea.

Spec. 5 Charles Hagemeister, Lincoln, knocked out an enemy machine gun and helped evacuate wounded men under fire, saving their lives.

2nd Lt. Robert Hibbs, Omaha, was killed helping rescue a wounded man under fire and charging two machine gun emplacements.

Capt. Gerald O. Young, Lincoln, helicopter rescue commander; attempted to rescue some stranded men despite heavy fire, was shot down and escaped from the burning helicopter and aided another wounded man despite his own wounds. He evaded the enemy for 17 hours until he could be rescued.

Pfc. Ronald Coker, Alliance, died of wounds received attempting to rescue a wounded man under fire.

Pfc. James Fous, Omaha, died leaping on a grenade to save the lives of three others.

Col. Miguel Keith, Omaha, was killed breaking up an attack by more than two dozen enemy troops.

Lt. (i.g.) Joseph R. Kerrey, Lincoln, was severely wounded capturing a Viet Cong political cadre. Despite his wounds, he directed his men in an attack until the enemy surrendered.

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Inducting

**Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipients
Into the Nebraska Hall of Fame**



"Bravest of the Brave"

**HALL OF FAME, NORTH FOYER
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL
Lincoln**

Sunday, May 5, 1974, at 2 p.m.



Gen. Victor Vifquain, Saline County, was an early Nebraska winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. He enlisted first with a New York regiment. While serving with the 97th Illinois Infantry, he received the medal for action against Confederate Fort Blakely, Alabama, April 9, 1865 (citation dated June 8, 1865). A close-up of the medal is on the cover of this program.

MEDAL OF HONOR

The Medal of Honor, established by Joint Resolution of Congress, July 12, 1862 (amended by acts of July 9, 1918 and July 25, 1963), is now awarded in the name of Congress only to "a person who, while a member of the Armed Forces distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of the service will be exacted and each recommendation for the award of this decoration will be considered on the standard of extraordinary merit. Eligibility is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States in active Federal military service."

PROGRAM

- Post ColorsColor Guard
Nebraska Army National Guard
- Master of CeremonyHonorable Eugene T. Mahoney
State Senator, 5th District
- InvocationChaplain John D. Reehl
Major, Nebraska Army National Guard
- The Hall of FameE. J. McBride, Blue Hill
Chairman, Hall of Fame Commission
- Introduction of
Distinguished GuestsSenator Eugene T. Mahoney
- Reading of Citations. It is requested
that each recipient present (or his
relatives or descendants) stand as
citation is read.Captain Charles R. James, Jr.
Army National Guard
Lieutenant Kenneth R. Kreitzinger
Air National Guard
- Unveiling of the Plaque to the
"Bravest of the Brave"Marvin F. Kivett, Director
Nebraska State Historical Society
- Acceptance of the plaque in behalf of
the State of NebraskaHonorable J. James Exon,
Governor, State of Nebraska
- Appreciation for the recognition of
Medal of Honor RecipientsMajor General Francis L. Winner
The Adjutant General, State of Nebraska
- Retire ColorsColor Guard
- Music provided by 43rd Army Band Nebraska Army National Guard
CW2 Richard J. Kucera, Bandmaster

MEDAL OF HONOR WINNERS

The following listing of recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor has been compiled pursuant to L.B. 1212 as passed during the Eightieth Session of the Nebraska Legislature which provides that Nebraskans awarded the Medal of Honor shall be named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame. Criteria for selection includes those individuals who have been awarded the Medal of Honor for service within Nebraska and native Nebraskans and individuals who have taken residence for at least two years in the State prior to or following military service:

CIVIL WAR

Bates, Delavan
Bourke, John G.
Flanagan, Augustin
Hanks, Joseph
Henry, Guy V.
Johnston, David
Josselyn, Simeon T.
Miller, Jacob C.
Miller, James P.
Prentice, Joseph R.
Shapland, John
Traynor, Andrew
Vifquain, Victor
Widick, Andrew J.
Williams, William H.

INDIAN CAMPAIGNS

Babcock, John B.
Canfield, Heth
Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish (Pawnee Scout)
(Mad Bear)
Day, Matthias W.
Foley, John H.
Grant, George
Herron, Leander
Heyl, Charles H.
Himmelsback, Michael
Hubbard, Thomas
Leonard, Patrick
Lohnes, Francis W.
Lytton, Jephtha L.
Stance, Emanuel
Strayer, William H.
Thompson, George W.
Vokes, Leroy H.

WAR WITH SPAIN

Ehle, John W.
Meredith, James

1901-1911

Schmidt, Otto Diller

PHILIPPINES, 1911

Volz, Jacob Jr.

WORLD WAR I

Graves, Ora
Holderman, Nelson M.
Rickenbacker, Edward V.

WORLD WAR II

Bauer, Harold W.
Booker, Robert D.
Cowan, Richard E.
Hansen, Dale M.
Lindstrom, Floyd K.
Parle, John J.
Powers, Leo J.
Tominac, John J.
Treadwell, Jack L.

KOREAN CONFLICT

Gomez, Edward
Kouma, Ernest

VIETNAM CONFLICT

Coker, Ronald L.
Fous, James W.
Hagemeister, Charles C.
Hibbs, Robert J.
Keith, Miguel
Kerrey, Joseph R.
Young, Gerald O.

19 Native Nebraskans Have Won the Award

The nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, has been awarded 3,408 times since March 15, 1863.

Nineteen of the medals have been awarded to men (there have been no Nebraska women winners) born in Nebraska. Their names are listed on a plaque on the second floor of the Great Hall of the state capitol.

Also listed on the plaque are the names of another 39 Medal of Honor winners. These are men who lived in the state at least two years or who won their medals fighting in the Indian Wars in Nebraska.

Actually, 40 Medals of Honor are represented by the 39 winners—one man won two. Nebraska natives who won the medal:

Co-Run-Te-Chod-Ish (Med Dog): He was the first, and perhaps most unusual, winner. A sergeant in the Pawnee Scouts, a Nebraska unit made up of Indians, his citation reads: "Ran out from the command in pursuit of a dismounted Indian; was shot down and badly wounded by a bullet from his own command." The action took place July 8, 1869, on the Republican River in Kansas.

James Meredith of Omaha: A private in the Marine Corps, Meredith, later to change his name to Patrick F. Ford Jr., was a member of a boat party assigned to cut the Spanish communications in the harbor at Cienfuegos, Cuba. The citation stated that Meredith showed extraordinary bravery and coolness in the May 11, 1898, action.

John W. Elie of Kearney: He was a fireman first class aboard the USS Concord, which was off Cavite in Manila Bay, on May 21, 1898. When a boiler exploded, threatening the ship, Elie helped man a hose and halt the fire.

Otto Diller Schmidt of Blair: Schmidt was a seaman in the Navy on July 21, 1905, serving aboard the USS Bennington. He showed extraordinary heroism when a boiler exploded as the vessel was anchored at San Diego, Calif.

Jacob Volz of Sutton: On Sept. 24, 1911, Volz was with a shore party moving to capture Mundang on the island of Basilan in the Philippines. An advance scout team was attacked by 20 natives. Volz, a U.S. Navy carpenter's mate third class, "responded instantly to calls for help," and found all his comrades on the ground. "He blazed his rifle into the outlaws with telling effect, destroying several of the (natives) and assisting in the rout of the remainder."

Nelson M. Holdeman of Trumbull: In early October, 1918, Holdeman, a captain in the 77th Division, joined an attack in the Argonne Forest. He was wounded several times, but jumped into the open and began firing his pistol at point blank range. The action helped beat back the Germans until his unit was rescued.

Robert D. Booker of Callaway: On April 9, 1943, during action near Fondouk, Tunisia, Army Pvt. Booker, 34th Infantry Division, carried a light machine gun over 200 yards of open ground although, "two enemy machine guns and several mortars were using him as an individual target." Booker was wounded but silenced one machine gun. He began firing at the other gun and received a second, mortal, wound. "With his

last remaining strength he encouraged the members of his squad and directed their fire."

John Joseph Parle of Omaha: A Navy ensign, Parle was the officer-in-charge of small boats of LST 375 during the assault on Sicily, July 9-10, 1943. A smoke pot was accidentally ignited in a boat carrying high explosives. Parle realized that detonation of the explosives would prematurely disclose the assault. He entered the craft, snuffed a burning fuse, but couldn't extinguish the fire. Parle picked up the pot and threw it overboard. Parle, for whom a destroyer was later named, died a week later from smoke inhalation.

Floyd K. Lindstrom of Holdrege: Army Pfc. Lindstrom, 3rd Infantry Division, was a member of a platoon providing machine gun support for a rifle company attacking a hill near Mignano, Italy. The enemy counterattacked, isolating and outnumbering Lindstrom and the others. He picked up his machine gun, set up 10 yards from an enemy position and began firing. Finally, he charged the machine gun nest, destroyed the position and dragged the German guns back to his own men. The Nebraskan then returned to the enemy position for ammunition. The action took place Nov. 11, 1943. On Feb. 3, 1944, Lindstrom was declared missing in action and later listed as officially dead.

Richard E. Cowan of Lincoln: He was a private first class with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, in Belgium on Dec. 17, 1944, when the Germans launched their counter-offensive in the Ardennes. After an assault by seven waves of German infantrymen, all but three men in Cowan's machine gun section were wounded. He manned the gun alone while a new defense line was established. Eighty Germans advanced behind a Tiger tank. When they were within 150 yards, Cowan killed or wounded half of the enemy force. The tank began firing at his position but he held. Three German machine guns began concentrating on him and a rocket shell burst near his position. Cowan remained at his position until he was

reached the crest of a ridge and killed four of the enemy before his weapon jammed. He beat two more Japanese soldiers off with the butt of his rifle. Hansen then re-equipped himself and continued advancing, destroying a mortar position manned by eight enemy soldiers.

The Korean War produced two medals of honor for native Nebraskans:

Ernest R. Kouma of Dwight: On Aug. 31, 1950, Kouma was a sergeant first class, a tank commander with the Army's 72nd Tank Battalion. His unit was supporting infantry troops on the Nakdong River front. Near midnight, 500 North Korean soldiers crossed the river and forced a withdrawal of American forces. Kouma and two other tank commanders were ordered to cover the movement. Soon, the other Pershing M-26 tanks were overrun, and "Sgt. Kouma discovered that his tank was the only obstacle in the path of the hostile onslaught." Through the night Kouma and his crew fought off repeated attacks. At one point, Kouma left the tank and beat off an attack



Ernest Kouma

Viet Cong machine gun emplacements and was mortally wounded. Before he died he destroyed the starlight telescopic sight attached to his rifle to prevent its capture by the Viet Cong.

Charles Cris Hagemeister of Lincoln: Army Spec. 4 Hagemeister was a member of the Army's 1st Cavalry Division. His platoon was attacked on three sides during a March 20, 1967, operation in Binh Dinh Province. Seeing two of his comrades wounded, Hagemeister ran through enemy fire to provide them medical aid. He then crawled forward to assist his platoon leader and several other soldiers who also were wounded. As the wounded men were being evacuated, an enemy sniper began firing. Hagemeister picked up a wounded soldier's rifle, killed the sniper and three other enemy soldiers who were attempting to surround the position, and then silenced an enemy machine gun. Unable to evacuate or move the wounded, he ran through the gunfire to a nearby platoon. Hagemeister returned with the help and placed men in positions to cover him as he helped evacuate the wounded. Then he moved to another side and evacuated additional wounded "despite the fact that his every move drew fire from the enemy."

James W. Fous of Omaha: On May 14, 1968, Pfc. Fous and three others of the Army's 9th Infantry Division unit occupied a defensive position in Kien Hoa Province. He saw three Viet Cong maneuvering toward his position and began firing at them, silencing two of the enemy. The third Viet Cong soldier threw a hand grenade into the position. "Without hesitation, Private Fous shouted a warning to his comrades and leaped upon the lethal explosive, absorbing the blast with his own body to save the lives of the three men in the area at the sacrifice of his own life."

Ronald L. Coker of Alliance: Pfc. Coker of the 3rd Marine Division, was leading his patrol on a narrow jungle trail in Quang Tri Province on March 24, 1969, when they encountered five enemy soldiers. The patrol pursued them to a cave and came under intense fire. One marine was wounded. Coker moved across the open terrain, was wounded, but continued to crawl until he reached his comrades. As Coker began to drag the wounded man to safety, a grenade landed on the marine. Coker "grasped it with both hands and turned away from his wounded companion, but before he could dispose of the grenade it exploded." Though severely wounded, Coker continued to pull the wounded man toward American lines. Two more grenades exploded, inflicting further injuries to the Alliance marine. "His heroic deeds inspired his fellow Marines to such aggressive action that the enemy fire was suppressed sufficiently to enable others to reach him and carry him to a relatively safe area where he succumbed to his extensive wounds."

Joseph R. Kerrey of Lincoln: The last Nebraska native to receive a Medal of Honor, his story is recounted elsewhere in the magazine.

Medal of Honor winners in the Civil War



Leo Powers

by firing the 50-caliber machine gun on the rear deck, then by firing his pistol, and finally by throwing grenades. Kouma, wounded, fought for more than nine hours in his defensive position, then continued to fight as his tank withdrew through eight miles of enemy territory. He and his crew had expended 15,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition and had killed 250 enemy soldiers.

Edward Gomez of Omaha: "He gallantly gave his life for his country," the citation reads. It happened Sept. 14, 1951, as his squad advanced to support riflemen assaulting Hill 749 in Korea. Pfc. Gomez, serving with the 1st Marine Division, consistently exposed himself to enemy fire to keep his machine gun supplied with ammunition. "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."

Five native Nebraskans won Medals of Honor in Vietnam:

Robert John Hibbs of Omaha: Hibbs was a second lieutenant in the Army's 1st Infantry Division on Feb. 24, 1966. He was commanding a patrol that ambushed and wounded or killed half of a Viet Cong company at Don Dien Lo Ke, Vietnam. After covering his patrol's withdrawal, he rejoined his men and moved them toward American lines. Soon, another Viet Cong company was encountered and its attack was repelled. Hibbs learned that a wounded patrol member was wandering between the two forces. He and a sergeant maneuvered through Viet Cong machine gun fire. The sergeant helped the dazed soldier back toward friendly lines while the Omaha covered the withdrawal. Hibbs charged the two



Otto D. Schmidt

ordered to withdraw, the last to leave. One day later, Cowan was killed in action.

Leo Powers of Anselmo: He was first classified by the Army as physically unfit because he wore false teeth. On Feb. 3, 1944, Powers, a sheep rancher, was a member of the 34th Infantry Division, engaged in the final assault of Cassino. When the company was pinned down, he crawled across open ground and destroyed three pillboxes with hand grenades. Pfc. Powers had to crawl within 15 yards of the enemy and expose himself to the fire. The action killed five Germans, wounded four others, and permitted his company to take the hill.

Dale M. Hansen of Wlano: During what the citation called a critical stage of combat on the island of Okinawa Shima on May 7, 1945, Pvt. Hansen took the initiative. He was serving with the 1st Marine Division. Hansen armed himself with a rocket launcher, crawled to an exposed position, and destroyed a Japanese pillbox. When his weapon was destroyed by enemy fire, he continued his assault with a rifle. He



Victor Vilquain

5

Medal Continued.

who are not natives of Nebraska but who have Nebraska connections:

Delevarn Bates, birthplace unknown: A colonel in the 30th U.S. Colored Troops.

John G. Bourke, Pennsylvania: Private, Company E, 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

Augustin Flanagan, Pennsylvania: Sergeant, Company A, 55th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Joseph Hanks, Ohio: Private, Company E, 37th Ohio Infantry.

Guy Henry, Arkansas: Colonel, 40th Massachusetts Infantry.

David Johnston, birthplace unknown: Private, Company K, 8th Missouri Infantry.

Simson Josselyn, birthplace unknown: First Lieutenant, Company C, 13th Illinois Infantry.

Jacob Miller, Ohio: Private, Company G, 113th Illinois Infantry.

James P. Miller, Ohio: Private, Company D, 4th Iowa Cavalry.

Joseph Prentice, Ohio: Private, Company E, 19th U.S. Infantry.

John Shapland, England: Private, Company D, 104th Illinois Infantry.

Andrew Traynor, New Jersey: Corporal, Company D, 1st Michigan Cavalry.

Victor Vitkual, Belgium: Lieutenant Colonel, 97th Illinois Infantry.

Andrew Widick, Illinois: Private, Company B, 116th Illinois Infantry.

William M. Williams, Ohio: Private, Company C, 82nd Ohio Infantry.

William H. Mathews, England: Enlisted under the name of Henry Sivil, and the origi-

nal medal was issued under that name. A new medal was issued in 1900 under his true name—William Mathews, first sergeant, Maryland Veteran Infantry.

Medal of Honor winners in the Indian Wars:

Privts. Heth Canfield of Connecticut, Michael Himmelsbach of Pennsylvania, Thomas Hubbard of Pennsylvania and George W. Thompson of New York, and Sgt. Patrick Leonard, who was born in Ireland: Members of Company C, 2nd U.S. Cavalry, all were cited for gallantry in action against the Indians at Little Blue, Neb., May 15, 1870.

On April 28, 1876, Leonard, who had been demoted to corporal and was serving with Company A, 23rd U.S. Infantry, won another Medal of Honor for action against the Sioux near Fort Hartsuff, Neb.

Cpl. Jeptha Lytton of Indiana and 2nd Lt. Charles H. Heyl of Pennsylvania: Both members of Company A, 23rd U.S. Infantry. Won Medals of Honor in the same battle near Fort Hartsuff.

Pvt. William H. Strayer of Pennsylvania, 1st Sgt. Leroy Vokes of Illinois, and JSgt. John H. Foley of Ireland: All were members of Company B, 3rd U.S. Infantry and were awarded medals for action at Loupe Fork, Platte River, Neb., April 28, 1872.

John B. Babcock, Louisiana: First Lieutenant, 5th U.S. Cavalry. For battle at Spring Creek, Neb.

Matthias W. Day, Ohio: Second Lieutenant, 9th U.S. Cavalry.

George Grant, Tennessee: Sergeant, Company E, 18th U.S. Infantry. For carrying dispatches through hostile Indians between Fort Philadelphia Kearney and Fort C.F. Smith, Dakota Territory.

Leander Herron, Pennsylvania: Cor-

poral, Company A, 3rd U.S. Infantry.

Francis W. Lohnes, New York: Private, Company H, 1st Nebraska Veteran Cavalry. Defended government property at Gilman's Ranch, Neb., against Indian attack.

Emanuel Stance, Louisiana: Sergeant, Company F, 9th U.S. Cavalry.

In 1917, a Medal of Honor was awarded to Ora Graves, a Colorado native, for his actions aboard the USS Pittsburgh. Graves was a seaman in the U.S. Navy. On July 23, a three-inch charge exploded as the ship was en route to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Graves was blown to the deck, recovered and discovered burning waste on the deck. He put out the fire that, left unchecked, might have caused more powder to explode, according to the citation.

Edward V. Rickenbacker, Ohio: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army Air Corps, 94th Aero Squadron. Was cited for an action on Sept. 25, 1918. He attacked seven enemy planes and shot down two of them. This aviation pioneer and WWI ace lived in Omaha in 1910-1912, selling and racing autos.


Harold Bauer, Kansas: A lieutenant colonel, commander of the 212 Marine Fighting Squadron. Bauer, later a resident of North Platte, shot down five Japanese aircraft in two separate engagements over Guadalcanal, then in a third encounter, fought an entire Japanese squadron alone. He shot down four of the airplanes before he ran out of fuel and had to land. The medal was awarded for his actions between May 10, 1942, and Nov. 14, 1942.

Jack Treadwell, Oklahoma: He was a captain in the 45th Infantry Division on March 18, 1945, when his company was stalled by German fire. Working alone, he put six pillboxes out of action and captured 18 German soldiers. He later was a boot-

strapper at the University of Omaha.

John J. Tominac, Pennsylvania: In October, 1944, the Army first lieutenant with the 3rd Infantry Division crawled into a tank that had been hit and sprayed the Germans with machine gun fire. After he was wounded he jumped off the tank and let it roll into enemy positions, where it exploded. Later he led his platoon against enemy positions and captured 60 German soldiers. He lived in Lincoln briefly after the war.

Gerald O. Young, Illinois: Captain, U.S. Air Force, commander of helicopter rescue crew in Southeast Asia. Cited for actions on Nov. 9, 1967. Disregarded intense enemy fire and a recommendation that attempts to rescue an Army reconnaissance team be abandoned. Took survivors aboard, but was shot down. Young then aided one of the wounded men and attempted to lead the enemy away from the position. For more than 17 hours he evaded the enemy until rescue aircraft could be brought into the area. He lived in Lincoln as a child.

Miguel Keith, Texas: A Marine lance corporal and machine gunner with the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, Keith, a former Omahan, was wounded when his unit was attacked by North Vietnamese May 8, 1970. "Despite his wounds, Lance Cpl. Keith crossed a fire-swept area to check vital defensive positions, and then, exposed to view, delivered a hail of machine gun fire to stop an attack against the command post. He was severely wounded again by a grenade blast but charged more than two dozen enemy troops who were massing to attack, eliminating four of them and causing the remainder to flee for cover. He was mortally wounded by an enemy soldier while breaking up the attack." 

Medal of Honor listings vary according to criteria

By Dean Terrill
State Bureau

With his medal and rifle on display in the Merrick County Museum, David Johnston has had a good deal more state recognition than most recipients of the Medal of Honor. But until a few days ago he also was a "lost soldier."

Surprisingly, his name was missing from a Nebraska list compiled by the Medal of Honor Historical Society. An explanation was punctuated with a short hurrah as relatives' inquiries were relayed to officials of the national group.

"David Johnston of the Civil War? We've been looking all over for his grave," said Sonny Wells, a volunteer researcher from Liberty, Mo. "Our records show he enlisted in Missouri and we thought he was buried there as well. That's why he was never credited to Nebraska."

The example only begins to show the difficulties in documenting events of a century ago, said Wells. It also points up significant discrepancies between society records and a 57-name memorial in the state Capitol Hall of Fame.

Dedicated in '74

Dedicated in 1974, the bronze plaque credits Nebraska with about twice as many medal recipients — "The Bravest of the Brave" — as does the society. Apparently the difference results from varying criteria.

According to news clippings on the 1974 ceremony, the honorees either were Nebraskans of at least two years' residence or they were veterans who earned the medal — the nation's highest military honor — for service in Nebraska.

The latter category explains why the Capitol plaque lists 17 recipients from the Indian Wars while the society names only seven. According to Wells, the national organization credits most of the men to their home states "since their only connection to Nebraska was seeing some service there, in some cases only for a few days."

Examples are five troopers who were cited for heroics along the Little Blue, probably in a scouting action: Heath Canfield, Michael Himmelsback, Thomas Hubbard, Patrick Leonard and George W. Thompson.

"It's possible some of these men as well as others settled in Nebraska later on, but all had enlisted from other states and we have nothing to indicate they were buried in Nebraska," said Wells.

Place of burial

The society's compilations are based mainly upon place of burial, he explained, and also place of birth if known. The organization's main reference is a 1979 history of medal recipients published by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

"We're always pleased to receive reports that help us locate graves or shed other light on these deserving heroes," said Wells. "We try hard to get authentic information, but we're not always perfect."

Johnston, who had been credited to Missouri, is a case in point. The society had no way of knowing that he homesteaded north of Central City, reared a family there and is buried at Pierce Chapel Cemetery near Clarks. His daughter-in-law, Alice Johnston, is in a Central City retirement home.

Another notable discrepancy is Nebraska's listing of the famed Capt. Edward Rickenbacker on the Capitol plaque. The national society, established in 1981 to recognize those honored, credits him to his home state of Ohio.

"Rickenbacker had been a race car driver

in Omaha at one time and lived there long enough that he qualified for the list," said Jim Potter, historian for the Nebraska State Historical Society. "I believe all the others meet the criteria as well, with one possible exception."

The exception is Ora Graves, who Potter now believes was confused with a Colorado man of the same name who was the actual recipient. Similar confusion occurred with the discovery that two Patrick Leonards had served in Nebraska and that both were natives of Ireland, according to Wells.

Indian scout

Included on the plaque was a Nebraska-born Indian scout, listed as Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish but better known as Mad Bear. According to his citation, he was wounded by a member of his own Pawnee unit "while in pursuit of a dismounted hostile Indian."

"Mad Bear's citation is considered one of the most unusual of all the 2,700 medals ever awarded," said Wells. "Believe it or not, his death and burial were not recorded because Indians were considered subhuman by the War Department."

Not included on the Nebraska plaque, although society records show they are buried in the state, are six recipients. Jefferson Coates and Samuel McConnell, buried at Dorchester and York, respectively, were in the Civil War. Indian Wars honorees are George Jordan, Daniel Miller and John Yount, all buried at Fort McPherson, and John Mott McMahon, buried at Omaha Forest Lawn.

With space remaining on the plaque for several additional names, Potter said the Hall of Fame Commission will check to see whether the recipients on the national list qualify.

Only one present

Incidentally, the news story of the 1974 dedication notes that only one recipient of the medal was present. He was identified as Joseph R. Kerrey, now much better known as Nebraska's governor.

Listed on the Capitol Hall of Fame plaque are:

Civil War — Delavan Bates, Aurora; John G. Bourke, Omaha; Augustin Flanagan, Tecumseh; Joseph Hanks, North Bend; Guy V. Henry, Fort Robinson; David Johnston, Central City; Simeon T. Jesselyn, Omaha; Jacob C. Miller, Springfield and Hastings; James P. Miller, York; Joseph R. Prentice, Hebron; John Shapland, Sutton; Andrew Traynor, Omaha; Victor Vifquain, Crete; Andrew Widick, Elwood; Smithfield and Farnam; and William H. Williams, Schuyler.

Indian Wars — John B. Babcock, won medal at Spring Creek; Heath Canfield, won medal at Little Blue; Co-Rux-Te-Chod-Ish (Mad Bear), born in Nebraska; Matthias W. Day, served at Fort Robinson; John H. Foley, won medal at Loup Fork; George Grant, North Platte and Frontier County; Leander Herron, St. Paul; Charles H. Mayl, won medal at Fort Hartsuff; Michael Himmelsback, won medal at Little Blue; Thomas Hubbard, won medal at Little Blue; Patrick Leonard, won medal at Little Blue; Francis W. Lohnes, won medal at Gilman's Ranch; Jeptha Lytton, won medal at Fort Hartsuff; Emmanuel Stance, served at Fort Robinson; William H. Strayer, won medal at Loup Fork; George W. Thompson, won medal at Little Blue; and Leroy H. Vokes, won medal at Loup Fork.

Spanish-American — John W. Ehle, Kearney; James Meredith, Omaha.

Interim — Otto D. Schmidt, Blair; Jacob Volz Jr., Sutton and York.

World War I — Ora Graves, credited to Nebraska; Nelson M. Holderman, Trumbull; Edward V. Rickenbacker, Omaha.

World War II — Harold W. Bauer, North Platte; Robert D. Booker, Callaway; Richard E. Cowan, Lincoln; Dale M. Hansen, Wisner; Floyd K. Lindstrom, Holdrege; John J. Parle, Omaha; Leo J. Powers, Anselmo; John J. Tominac, Lincoln; and Jack L. Treadwell, Omaha.

Korea — Edward Gomez, Omaha; and Ernest Kauma, Dwight.

Vietnam — Ronald L. Coker, Alliance; James W. Fous, Omaha; Charles C. Hogemeister, Lincoln; John Robert Hibbs, Omaha; Miguel Keith, Omaha; Joseph R. Kerrey, Lincoln; and Gerald O. Young, Lincoln.

as result of being newly separated, divorced or widowed, Lincoln Christian Fellowship Church, 1145 Furness Ave., 7-9 p.m.

Emotions Anonymous, Grace Lutheran Church, 22nd and Washington streets, 8-9 p.m.

PALS (People and Animals Living and Sharing) — Bryan Health Enhancement Center, 1800 S. 48th St., 7 p.m.

Parents and Friends Of Lesbians and Gays — For more information and place of meeting, call 435-4688 or 488-1151.

Recovery Inc. — Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2110 Sheridan Blvd., 26th and South streets, 7:30 p.m.

Southeast Nebraska Stroke Club — Social-educational organization for stroke victims and families. Madonna Centers, conference room, 2200 S. 52nd St., 8:30 p.m.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) — Southminster United Methodist Church, 2915 S. 16th St., 9:30 a.m. Baby-sitting offered; Douglas Street Church, 71st and Douglas streets, 9:30 a.m.; Bethany Christian Church, 1645 N. Cornish Blvd., 9:30 a.m.

Toughlove — For parents with kids in trouble, Lincoln High School, teachers lounge, 22nd and J streets, 7 p.m.

Wednesday Families and Friends of Mentally Ill — Community Mental Health Center, 2200 St. Marys Ave., 7 p.m.

Impotentia Anonymous — Basement cafeteria, Lincoln General Hospital, 2300 S. 16th St., 7 p.m.

Thursday Charlie Brown's Kids — Support group for preschool and grade-school children who have lost a parent through death, Peter Pan Park, 33rd and W. streets, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring brown bag supper.

Feminist Forum — Nebraska Union, 14th and R streets, 7 p.m. Incest Survivors Group — Times vary, call Family Services Assn., 476-3327.

Widowers Coffee — Informal gathering for widowers of all ages, Coco's Restaurant, 120 N. 66th St., 9 a.m.

Friday Gamblers Anonymous — Lincoln General Hospital, Panhandle Room in cafeteria, 2200 St. Marys Ave., 7:30 p.m.

Gam-Anon — Family group, Lincoln General Hospital, Sandhill room in cafeteria, 2200 St. Marys Ave., 7:30 p.m.

Perspective — Support group for unemployed persons, Fourth Presbyterian Church, 52nd and Francis streets, 7:30 p.m.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) — St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 70th and Vine streets, 9:30 a.m.

This Week Al-Anon Family Groups — Fellowship of men and women who are husbands, wives, relatives, close friends of problem drinker. If you are seeking solution to the problems that come from living with a problem drinker, Al-Anon can help. Call the 24-hour hotline 477-9662 for a complete listing of Al-Anon, Alateen, Ala-Kid meetings.

Alcoholics Anonymous and related family meetings — Various locations in Lincoln and surrounding area, daily. For locations call or visit AA Central Office, 1025 N. 35th St., 468-5214.

Emotions Anonymous — Sun, 7 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 22nd and Washington streets, Room 33; Tue, 8 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church.

Narcotics Anonymous Meetings — Various locations and times, daily. For more information call 474-0405.

Oversaters Anonymous Meetings — Southview Baptist Church, 3434 S. 13th St., 7:30 p.m.

90 100
High Temperatures 100

Showers Rain Flurries Snow

National Weather Service

Nebraska AFL-

OMAHA (AP) — The 44,000 Nebraska AFL-CIO has endorsed Helene Boosalis for governor. The labor organization's State AFL-CIO President, McDonald said Boosalis, a mayor of Lincoln, has been "a the trade union movement in t gle to meet the needs of people at decent wages, for better publi

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Births

Information provided by hospitals.

Wednesday

Giljeland, Tanya, 1729 N. 59th, girl, St. E.

Friday

Beloun, Carl and Tammy (Tyson), McCool Junction, girl, St. E.

BRAN bicyclists ride

OMAHA (UPI) — Hundreds of bicyclists in the sixth annual Bike Ride Across Nebraska finished their 469-mile trip Saturday by riding into Omaha.

About 60 miles after camping for the final time Friday night in Ashland.

Sunday
Journal-Star
June 15, 1986
p. 5E