

2004 Hall of Heroes Inductees

Short Bios

Philip E. BACON

Silver Star Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross

Philip E. Bacon entered military service from London, Ohio. He retired with the rank of Colonel from the U. S. Air Force having served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. He received the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action on January 2, 1945 while leading a formation of P-47 aircraft in conjunction with an air-ground operation. While leading his flight through a withering barrage of anti-aircraft fire his flight destroyed or damaged enemy railroad assets and several enemy aircraft.

Colonel Bacon received the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroic achievement on July 29, 1944 while assigned to the 371st Fighter Group when he personally led a flight of P-47 aircraft against German motor convoys in the vicinity of Percy, France. This action led to the destruction of over eighty hostile armored vehicles. Colonel Bacon is a resident of Huntsville, Alabama.

Wyland W. HOPKINS

Silver Star Medal

Bronze Star Medal "V"

Wyland W. Hopkins is a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel having served twenty-two years on active duty. He received the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action while serving with the Americal Division in the Republic of Vietnam. While serving as Company Commander on March 11, 1969 his unit's position came under heavy enemy assault. With complete disregard for his personal safety he crawled through the hostile fire to retrieve a radio from a soldier who was mortally wounded. During this effort he was severely wounded. Despite his wounds, he exposed himself for three hours to the hostile fire in order to direct supporting fire against the enemy positions. Through his timely and courageous actions, he was responsible for repelling the enemy attack.

Colonel Hopkins was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his heroic actions on February 27, 1969. On that date he left his secure bunker position, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, rushed to aid a wounded comrade. Despite hostile fire impacting all around him, he carried the wounded soldier to an area where medical aid could be rendered. Colonel Hopkins has been a resident of Hazel Green for the past twenty-one years and is employed by SAIC.

Larry G. McDONALD

Silver Star Medal

This US Army veteran distinguished himself by gallantry in action on December 12, 1968 in the Republic of Vietnam while assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, 31st Infantry. While maneuvering around an enemy bunker complex he received direct fire from less than fifteen meters. Acting as if fatally wounded, he was given a chance to move to cover by his deception. Disregarding his own personal safety he charged the bunker hurling grenades, which eliminated all enemy soldiers. As a result of his action his element was able to eliminate several more enemy soldiers and the capture of three rifles, and an enemy regiment headquarters radio. Mr. McDonald is a native of Alabama and has resided in Huntsville since 1991.

Joseph J. TIBBS

Silver Star Medal

This US Army veteran distinguished himself by gallantry in action on July 8, 1968 in the Republic of Vietnam while assigned to the 187th Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division. As a squad leader he spotted an enemy ambush waiting for his platoon to enter the kill zone. He quickly alerted his squad and then engaged the enemy. On two occasions he exposed himself to enemy fire to save wounded members of his squad. During one of these missions he himself was seriously wounded. Unable to return to his lines he lay on the battlefield and remained quiet for seven hours in fear his company would change its tactics and allow the enemy to escape. Due to his personal bravery, the enemy was completely routed. Mr. Tibbs is a Huntsville resident.

Richard M. SNOW, Jr.

Distinguished Flying Cross with One Oak Leaf Cluster

Air Medal with "V"

While serving with the US Army in Vietnam and in Laos, Richard M. Snow, Jr. was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster for valorous actions. He distinguished himself while participating in aerial flight. On both occasions he braved extremely intense enemy fire while entering the hostile area. He maintained his helicopter in a vulnerable position to attempt the rescue of trapped personnel on April 24, 1968 and on February 8, 1971 he placed devastating fire on enemy positions while in support of Army of the Republic of Vietnam forces engaging the enemy during offensive operations in Laos.

On January 16, 1971, while serving in Vietnam, Richard M. Snow Jr. received the Air Medal with valor for heroic action while participating in aerial flight in the vicinity of an abandoned firebase. On that date he destroyed an enemy antiaircraft site that had placed intense fire on an aerial reconnaissance team and then continued his assault on the enemy positions until the mission was complete and resulted in the destruction of an enemy bunker complex. He retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel from the United States Army and is currently employed by Sparta, Inc. Colonel Snow is a native of Pennsylvania and has been a Huntsville resident since 1986.

Martha A. Garson MICHEL

Soldiers Medal

Martha A. Garson Michel was awarded the Soldiers Medal while assigned to the Army Nurse Corps, Army of the United States. On April 3, 1945 she distinguished herself by heroism and courageous action in Germany. On that date, she voluntarily risked her life to evacuate patients from a burning hospital ward and aided in the extinguishing of the flames. She is the first woman to be inducted into the Madison County Hall of Heroes. Ms. Michel currently resides in the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann veteran's home, located in Huntsville, Alabama.

Stephen J. HEBERT

Bronze Star Medal with "V"

While serving with the 9th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam, Stephen J. Hebert was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with valor for heroic actions. On August 30, 1968 he distinguished himself by valorous actions while his unit conducted a reconnaissance in force mission in Vinh Long Province. When enemy elements engaged his company with automatic weapons and rockets from concealed positions he charged forward, picking up ammunition and took over for a wounded machine gunner. Manning the machine gun, he leveled devastating volleys of fire that enabled his comrades to overrun the enemy positions. A native of New York he has lived in Huntsville for over thirty years.

Stanley J. SOUVENIR

Air Medal with "V"

While serving with the US Army in Vietnam, retired Colonel Stanley J. Souvenir received the Air Medal with Valor for heroic actions during aerial flight on August 4, 1968. On that date he was serving as pilot of a UH-1C helicopter in support of military operations in the A Chau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. While his aircraft was receiving intense enemy ground fire, he provided accurate suppressive fire against enemy positions, which enabled the assault force to land and the helicopters to depart without taking any enemy rounds. Colonel Souvenir currently resides in Brownsboro.