



Madison County Military Hall Of Heroes

Madison County Courthouse 100 Northside Square, Huntsville, AL 35801

2007 Madison County Military Heritage Commission Hall of Heroes Inductees



ANTHONY F. STAHELSKI
SILVER STAR MEDAL, BRONZE STAR MEDAL for Heroism (WWII),
BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/Valor

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Anthony F. Stahelski's military career included service during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He received the Bronze Star Medal for heroism for his actions against enemy forces on March 18, 1945 while serving in Germany. His attack against three hundred enemy soldiers with direct fire inflicted numerous casualties and forced the remaining enemy to surrender or retreat in complete disorder. While serving in Korea in 1950 Colonel Stahelski was awarded the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry in Action by safely evacuating his surrounded men and thereby saving the lives of 156 officers and men. In the autumn of that same year he led his men against a superior enemy force near Kwakson, Korea, causing the enemy to suffer heavy losses. For his actions in that battle, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. He received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action on December 24, 1964 while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. Colonel Stahelski entered military service from Westfield Massachusetts. A Huntsville resident since 1972 Colonel Stahelski passed away in September of this year at age 89.



WILLIAM A. BRINKLEY
SILVER STAR MEDAL

U.S. Army Colonel William A. Brinkley was born in Madisonville, KY. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1991 and worked as a research analyst for Huntsville area defense contractors. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry in Action and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action on May 27, 1969 while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. When enemy forces attacked his unit, he assumed command of the task force and attacked the enemy positions. Although wounded by a direct hit on his armored vehicle, he continued to press the attack by manning his turret machine gun until the enemy fled the battlefield. During his latter years, William A. Brinkley was a resident of the Tut Fann State Veterans Home. While living at Tut Fann he had a passion for assisting other residents. He encouraged them daily and helped many of them complete necessary Veteran's Administration forms and documents. After a lengthy illness, Colonel Brinkley passed away on September 14, 2007.



ERIC C. DEETS
SILVER STAR MEDAL

Retired U. S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Eric C. Deets was born in 1947 and entered military service from Downingtown, PA. He was awarded the Silver Star Medal for Gallantry in Action and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action on October 5, 1968 while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. On that date, he led the defense of his position against a numerically superior enemy force. His actions inflicted substantial losses upon the opposing enemy force. Colonel Deets currently resides in Huntsville.



THOMAS S. ALLMAN
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Thomas S. Allman is a native of Athens, Georgia. In 1968, he was commissioned through the ROTC program at the University of Georgia. He retired from the U.S. Air Force after twenty years of service at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Following his military career, he worked for Computer Sciences Corporation and has lived in Huntsville for the last nineteen years. While serving as co-pilot of a B-52 aircraft he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism for his actions on December 28, 1972 in a bombardment of enemy forces near Hanoi, North Vietnam. By his superb airmanship, he was able to avoid multiple enemy surface to air missiles, which saved his aircraft and crew.



PAUL E. FREEMAN
BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/Valor

Paul E. Freeman was born on January 27, 1936 in Gadsden, Alabama. He retired from the United States Army at the rank of Major. On November 12 and 13, 1966, this retired Infantry Officer distinguished himself against a Battalion size force of North Vietnamese Regulars who were attacking his forward support base and for his actions was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. With complete disregard for his own safety, he exposed himself to intense enemy fire on numerous occasions in order to help organize the defense of the base. At the risk of his own life, he ensured the safety of others. Paul is 100 percent disabled due to exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam. He owned a real estate company in Huntsville before retiring in the 1990's. He is an active member of Whitesburg Baptist Church.



BILLIE F. GAINES
BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/V

Billie F. Gaines is a retired U.S. Army Sergeant First Class and is a native of South Pittsburg, Tennessee. He entered military service in 1964 from Knoxville, Tennessee. On June 24, 1970, Sergeant Gaines was serving in the Republic of Vietnam as a crewmember with the 191st Aviation Company. On that date, he distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action against enemy forces at a landing strip near Rach Soi, Republic of Vietnam. First, he established a defensive fighting position and engaged the enemy. He then ran through a hail of gunfire to render first aid to an aircrew that had been shot down at the other end of the airfield. For his actions, Sergeant Gaines was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. Billie F. Gaines has lived in Huntsville since 1986.



MICHAEL P. KEHOE
BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/Valor

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Michael P. Kehoe is currently serving as a Veteran's Service Officer with the Alabama Department of Veteran's Affairs in the Madison County branch office. He distinguished himself on May 13, 1968 when his unit came under heavy enemy fire during an operation in the Republic of Vietnam. Despite being severely wounded, and due to his courageous actions, his men rallied to conduct a frontal assault that completely overwhelmed the enemy. For his heroic actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and a Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action.