



# Madison County Military Hall Of Heroes

Madison County Courthouse 100 Northside Square, Huntsville, AL 35801

---

## 2009 Madison County Military Heritage Commission Hall of Heroes Inductees

---



Lieutenant General (retired) Frank LUBITTI  
Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart Medal (3 awards)

Lieutenant General Frank Lubitti is a native of Huntington, Long Island, New York. Following graduation from the Citadel, he entered the Marine Corps Officer Candidate Program in August 1966 and received his commission as Second Lieutenant in October of that year. After serving for thirty-five years on active duty, General Libutti retired from the United States Marine Corps. He and his wife, a retired U.S. Navy Captain, currently reside in Huntsville. General Libutti serves on the board of directors of several local companies and is active in community veteran's events and programs. General Libutti's exploits during Operation Buffalo, which took place near Con Thien, Republic of Vietnam from 1-14 July 1967, are chronicled in a book entitled "Operation Buffalo", written by Keith W. Nolan. One incident worthy of mention that occurred during the engagement in which he received the Silver Star Medal is that on two separate occasions enemy hand grenades were thrown at him, bouncing off him, failing to explode.

On 2 July 1967, Frank Libutti, then a Second Lieutenant, distinguished himself while serving as a Platoon Commander with the United States Marine Corps in the Republic of Vietnam. On that date, he was given the mission of reinforcing a beleaguered Marine company,

which had sustained heavy casualties and was in danger of being overrun by a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force. Upon arrival, Second Lieutenant Libutti's platoon assumed the point position, and while maneuvering forward, came under enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. As his unit approached the besieged unit, the enemy commenced a vicious artillery and mortar attack. Although he was wounded during the barrage, Second Lieutenant Libutti ignored his painful injuries and assisted in placing casualties aboard tanks for evacuation. As the intensity of the attack increased, he sustained a second wound; however, he steadfastly continued to assist the wounded. While his unit maneuvered to the landing zone, Second Lieutenant Libutti was wounded a third time. Disregarding his own safety, he continued to lead his platoon and only after he was assured that all casualties had received medical treatment and were evacuated did he submit to medical evacuation. For his courage, superb leadership and selfless devotion to duty at great personal risk, Frank Libutti received the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous gallantry and three awards of the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action.

---



Major (retired) Robert KARWOSKI  
Distinguished Flying Cross (2 awards), Purple Heart Medal

Retired U.S. Air Force Major Robert Karowski was born in Jersey City, New Jersey. Major Karowski began his military career after receiving his commission through the Officer Training School, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He served on active duty for twenty-two and a half years and following retirement, worked in the aerospace industry. He and his wife live in Madison.

On 7 February 1970, Robert Karowski distinguished himself while serving as a navigator on an AC-130 Gunship while flying a night reconnaissance mission against the Ho Chi Minh trail. On that date, his aircraft was engaged by extremely intense and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire by which he was wounded. In spite of the heavy enemy fire, his aircraft destroyed eleven enemy supply vehicles containing a large amount of supplies and munitions. For his actions, Robert Karowski received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action.

On 30 December 1972, Robert Karowski again distinguished himself, this time while serving a radar navigator aboard a B-52 bomber aircraft flying a mission over North Vietnam.

His quick reaction and accurate response to hostile enemy surface to air missile launches against his aircraft enabled his crew to deliver their ordnance directly on the enemy target. For his superb airmanship on that date, Robert Karowski received the Distinguished Flying Cross.



D. Leonard ROBINSON  
Awards: Bronze Star Medal w/Valor (2 awards)

Guthrie, Oklahoma native Leonard Robinson is a United States Army veteran who entered military service in the summer of 1967. He and his wife were married in March of 2009 and live in Huntsville. Leonard is employed as an architect with the firm Goodwyn, Mills and Caywood and as a hobby, he enjoys photography.

On 12 September 1968, Leonard Robinson distinguished himself in ground combat while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. During a helicopter borne assault, his platoon Sergeant was felled when his company encountered heavy enemy resistance. Sergeant Robinson braved the enemy fire and despite being severely wounded, retrieved the body of his fallen comrade. For his heroic actions on that date, Sergeant Robinson received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action.

On 28 April 1969, Leonard Robinson again distinguished himself by heroic action while serving as a squad leader in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Robinson moved his squad through intense enemy fire in order to flank and assault North Vietnamese Army positions.

Although wounded, he refused medical evacuation and moved about his men, encouraging them and directing their fire. During the course of the battle, Sergeant Robinson's squad overran the fortified enemy position and the enemy force was completely routed. For his actions on that date, Sergeant Robinson received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action.

---



**Arvil R. BURCHFIELD**  
Awards: Bronze Star Medal with Valor

---

Arvil R. Burchfield is a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant and a native of Benton, Tennessee. He entered military service in 1957 and served twenty-eight years on active duty, which included serving as an ROTC Instructor at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. After retiring from the U.S. Army, Sergeant Burchfield taught Junior ROTC at high schools in Florida and Georgia.

On February 24, 1971, Sergeant Burchfield distinguished himself by heroic action while serving in the Republic of Vietnam. On that date, Sergeant Burchfield assaulted a North Vietnamese Army stronghold to save four wounded soldiers who lay exposed to enemy fire. In spite of torrid enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire, Sergeant Burchfield and his force assaulted the enemy position and although wounded during his assault, Sergeant Burchfield succeeded in destroying the enemy positions and retrieved the four wounded men. For his heroic actions, Arvil R. Burchfield received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action.