

# MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE





## MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

### **What is the Medal of Honor (MOH)?**

*The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Generally presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress.*

### **How many Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients are there?**

*Per the MOH Society as of June 2018 there are just over 3,500.*

### **How many minority recipients of the MOH have been awarded (African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American and Native-American)?**

*There have been 88 African-American MOH Recipients.*

*There have been 59 Hispanic-American MOH Recipients.*

*There have been 33 Asian-American MOH Recipients.*

*There have been 32 Native-American MOH Recipients.*

### **Has a woman ever been awarded the Medal of Honor?**

*Yes, Dr. Mary Walker was the only woman awarded the Medal of Honor at Bull Run on July 21, 1861*

### **How many double recipients are there?**

*There are nineteen double recipients.*

### **Is it required to be a U.S. citizen in order to be awarded the Medal of Honor?**

*It is not required to be a U.S. citizen, but you must be in the U.S. military in order to qualify for the Medal of Honor.*

### **Who was the first recipient?**

*The earliest actions for which the Medal was awarded took place before the Civil War had even begun.*

*On February 13-14, 1861 in what is now Arizona.*

*Bernard J.D. Irwin was an Assistant Surgeon in the*

*Army when he voluntarily led a command of troops to relieve a surrounded detachment of the 7th Infantry.*

*Irwin's Medal was not awarded until January 24, 1894,*

*over 30 years after he had performed his deed. But on*

*March 25, 1863 Pvt. Jacob Parrott was the first of a*

*group of 6 men awarded the Medal for their actions in*

*"The Great Locomotive Chase" in April 1862. They were the first ever to wear the Medal of Honor.*

# THE GROVE

The land of the Medal of Honor Grove was dedicated in 1964 with the first state fiberglass obelisks (California, Mississippi, Nevada and Ohio) being dedicated in 1968. It is a natural woodland owned by the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (FFVF) and maintained by the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove (FMOHG). It is the oldest living memorial to honor our Medal of Honor Recipients in the nation.



The Grove encompasses the majority of the FFVF campus. There are 54 areas – one for each of our 50 states, Puerto Rico and District of Columbia. Each of these areas honors the recipient accredited to their state or territory. A ground plaque for each is also in that area. The Chaplains Memorial honors military Chaplains who received the Medal of Honor while the AOH obelisk honors Medal of Honor recipients who served our country but were not American citizens.

In 2017 FFVF, Schuylkill Township, Natural Lands Trust and the Commissioners of Chester County placed a conservation easement on the Grove ensuring its preservation, as is, in perpetuity.



Active military members proudly help maintain the grounds of The Medal of Honor Grove.



Colonel Leo Thorsness is honored in Minnesota state.



# WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE?

In 2011, the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove was created as a 501c3 to maintain and enhance the Grove. The Board of Directors is comprised of civic leaders, veterans, local citizens and several Medal of Honor Recipients. In addition to the board, volunteers and supporters include corporations, active military, veterans, civic groups, scouts, students, and citizens.

*"Dying for freedom isn't the worst thing that can happen. Being forgotten is."*

- Georgie Carter-Krell

*Mother of Medal of Honor recipient Pfc. Bruce W. Carter*



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Friends have stabilized the condition of the Grove.

The new recipients' names are now added to obelisks and ground plaques on a yearly basis. Eagle Scouts and cadets do meaningful projects in the state areas. In 2017, the repaving of the roads, a five-year project, was completed. QR Codes are attached to each obelisk, linking the visitor to a website with information about the recipients allowing for an interactive experience for anyone with a cellphone. Students, companies, organizations, active military and churches do service days in the Grove throughout the year. Through a very generous donation, flag poles were installed at each obelisk and now state territory flags fly proudly all year round. Over 60 diseased or dead trees were removed in 2017, beginning a tree removal program that will take years to complete. New trees are planted yearly, totaling 130 to date. Every spring and fall there are community cleanup days and in December the Wreaths Across the Grove event is held on a yearly basis. 2018 marks the beginning of a new beautification program.





Sister Veronica 1977

*Photo courtesy of the Freedoms Foundation  
at Valley Forge*



2011 - Sister Maria Veronica, IHM is remembered  
by Col. Walter Marm, Jr., (Ret) USA  
Sgt. Francis Currey, USA  
Gen. James Livingston, (Ret) USMC  
PFC. Hector A. Cafferata, USMC  
1st Lt. Brian Thacker, USA  
Lt. Col. Harold A. Fritz, USA

## “TO ME, THEY’RE ALL HEROES”

The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove are forever indebted to a very special woman, Sister Maria Veronica, IHM who was an unlikely hero.

"Sister Maria Veronica served as archivist for the Medal of Honor Grove for 17 years, where she maintained the archives of the U.S. Congressional Medal of Honor Society and compiled the only complete record of recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor since its inception during the Civil War. Her efforts resulted in a hand written portfolio for each of the 3,387 recipients in which she described their acts of valor in service of their country."

*- Immaculata University Archives*

*"I once spoke with a family that didn't want to accept a posthumous medal because of religious reasons. I told them that I, too, hate war, but I love these men who have made it possible for me to worship my God in a manner of my choosing."*

*- Sister Maria Veronica, IHM*



## VISITING THE GROVE

Nature. Reflection. History. Discovery.

Nestled in the wooded hills above the Schuylkill River, the Medal of Honor Grove offers something for everyone. Stroll the 4 mile roadway and view all the states or sit on a bench at the 29th Infantry Division Pavilion and reflect on the beauty and peace of this very special place. This living memorial is the perfect classroom for learning the true meaning of sacrifice. You'll learn the true meaning of the word 'hero'. You'll also understand the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove's commitment to maintaining and improving it and the need for your help to do that.

The Grove is open to the public 7 days a week from dawn till dusk. Tours are available by appointment by calling 610.933.8825 x271 or email [contact@friendsmohgrove.org](mailto:contact@friendsmohgrove.org) to schedule.





# THE MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE

1. Entrance to Medal of Honor Grove
2. George Washington Statue
3. Patriot's Path
4. Knox Building
5. Carillion
6. POW MIA Monument
7. Pentagonal Monument
8. Marine Circle of Trees
9. Gatehouse or Foot Entrance
10. 75th Infantry Division Gazebo
11. Chaplains Memorial
12. 29th Infantry Division Pavilion
13. Stage





## SUPPORT YOUR STATE

Of the 52 state obelisks, 18 remain fiberglass with the balance being made of stone. The Friends' goal is to replace those remaining fiberglass obelisks. If you, or an organization you belong to, would like to replace your state's fiberglass obelisk please contact the Friends at 610-933-8825 x271 or email at [contact@friendsmohgrove.org](mailto:contact@friendsmohgrove.org).

### OTHER WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR STATE AREA

- Make a yearly commitment to donate to the **Friends** of the Grove for your state.
- Donate to the general fund for Grove Maintenance.

Checks can be made out and sent to: **Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove**  
PO Box 243 Valley Forge, Pa 19481-0243 Credit card donations gratefully accepted online at [www.friendsmohgrove.org](http://www.friendsmohgrove.org)



*West Virginia Ruritans spearheaded the fundraising drive to replace their fiberglass obelisk, which was dedicated in June 2017.*

THE FOLLOWING STATES  
HAVE FIBERGLASS OBELISKS  
THAT NEED TO BE REPLACED  
WITH STONE:

Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas

Hawaii • Idaho • Indiana

Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine

Mississippi • Montana • Nebraska

Nevada • New Hampshire

New Mexico • North Carolina

South Dakota • Washington

*If you would like to honor your state's recipients, please contact us to learn how at [contact@friendsmohgrove.org](mailto:contact@friendsmohgrove.org).*

# HEROES VISIT THE MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE

The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove are fortunate to count an increasing number of recipients among its supporters.

Over the past 7 years, a number of recipients have toured the Grove and have strong ties to the Friends' Board of Directors. We thank them for their sacrifice and unwavering support of the Grove and our mission to maintain their legacy in perpetuity.





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- A. Spc. 5 **James C. McCloughan**, USA
- B. Lt. Col **Charles Hagemeister**, USA (Ret)
- C. Colonel **Leo Thorsness**, USAF (Ret)
- D. Colonel **Walter Marm**, USA (Ret)
- E. Sgt **Sammy Davis**, USA (Ret)
- F. General **Patrick Brady**, USA (Ret)
- G. General **James Livingston**, USMC (Ret)
- H. SSgt. **Clinton L. Romesha** USA
- I. Sgt. 1C **Melvin Morris**, USA
- J. Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator **Edward C. Byers, Jr.**, USN
- K. Colonel **Roger Donlon**, USA (Ret)
- L. SSgt. **Leroy Petry**, USA
- M. 1st Lt. **Brian Thacker**, USA
- 1st Lt. **Harvey Barnum**, USMC
- Lt. **Michael Thornton**, USN (Ret)
- N. **Hershel W. "Woody" Williams**, USMC
- O. Capt. **Thomas G. Kelley**, USN (Ret)
- P. Capt. **Florent Groberg**, USA
- Q. Sgt. **Francis Currey**, USA

*The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove would like to thank the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation for all its support over the past years.*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Now more than ever, the Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove need your support in helping to preserve this national treasure. Your financial support is essential in honoring our heroes in perpetuity.

### DONATE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKS *may be made out and sent to:*

**Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove** • PO Box 243 • Valley Forge, Pa 19481-0243

CREDIT CARD *donations gratefully accepted online at [www.friendsmohgrove.org](http://www.friendsmohgrove.org)*

### VOLUNTEER

The Friends are always looking for dedicated and motivated volunteers of all ages and backgrounds who would like to donate their time and talent to assisting in their mission. If your organization would like to learn more, please call 610-933-8825 x271, visit us online at [www.friendsmohgrove.org](http://www.friendsmohgrove.org), or email us at [contact@friendsmohgrove.org](mailto:contact@friendsmohgrove.org).

## THE MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE

*Located on the campus of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge*

1601 Valley Forge Road Phoenixville, Pa 19640 (GPS)  
*1.5 miles from Valley Forge National Historical Park*

## FRIENDS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR GROVE

Please call 610-933-8825 x271, visit us online at [www.friendsmohgrove.org](http://www.friendsmohgrove.org), or email us at [contact@friendsmohgrove.org](mailto:contact@friendsmohgrove.org)

*The Friends of the Medal of Honor Grove is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Tax ID# 45-2637603. Our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*



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