

MONDAY, MAY 31, 2010 - 2:00 PM • CONSTITUTION AVE. - WASHINGTON, DC

THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

PRESENTED BY



THE NATION'S LARGEST MEMORIAL DAY EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

Memorial Day is among our nation's most important and solemn holidays. It is not merely a day off work or school, or the "unofficial start of summer" as some now call it. Instead, it is a day for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to come together and honor those who have sacrificed in service to our country.

Amazingly, while Memorial Day parades have been a tradition in cities and towns across the nation for well over a century, prior to 2005 Washington, DC—our nation's capital—was without a parade for nearly 70 years. Sadly, in recent years many of these small-town parades have been fading away, as war veterans have aged and the true meaning of the day has been forgotten.

In 2005, following the success of the previous year's "A Parade Salute to World War II Veterans" which coincided with the dedication of the WWII Memorial, the American Veterans Center decided to bring back the grand tradition of a parade on Memorial Day in Washington. Thus, the

National Memorial Day Parade was born. Not merely for the people of Washington, the parade is one for the nation, an event which seeks to draw the attention of Americans to the real meaning of the holiday: honoring those who have served and died to ensure and protect our liberties.

The National Memorial Day Parade has quickly become a tradition in which Americans of all ages and generations can share. In 2009—only its fifth year—the parade drew nearly 250,000 spectators, a testament to the public's desire to honor those who have worn the uniform.

This is a parade unlike others held around the nation throughout the year—while it is fun, it is at the same time dignified, respecting the meaning behind the holiday. And while the parade will include marching bands and entertainment, it is also educational, providing you and your family the opportunity to see first-hand some of America's greatest most distinguished veterans and active duty troops.

Throughout this program you will find stories about many of the participants in this year's parade. From the accounts of America's greatest heroes, the recipients of the **Medal of Honor**, to the story of the 2010 Grand Marshal **General Peter Pace**, this program will serve as your guide to a number of the parade's best stories. While we hope that you and your family will have fun, we also hope you will learn something along the way about the meaning of service and sacrifice.

After honoring the Air Force, Army, and Navy in each of the previous three years, the 2010 National Memorial Day Parade will pay special tribute to the history and legacy of the United States Marine Corps, with many of the parade's honorary marshals coming from its ranks.



Gary Sinise with the parade's previous Grand Marshals - our wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan - as they salute the reviewing officers. Mr. Sinise will once again appear with several of our wounded warriors in the 2010 National Memorial Day Parade.

The American Veterans Center is proud to take the lead in bringing this tradition back to the nation's capital, and is grateful for the support of our many sponsors, including the parade's presenting sponsor, Boeing. Most of all, we want to thank you for your support of our service members and veterans. We hope that you enjoy the National Memorial Day Parade, and that you will join us for years to come.

SEE THE 2010
NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
ON OUR TELEVISION PARTNERS:



LIVE - 2:00 PM, MAY 31 ON
THE MILITARY CHANNEL



LIVE - 2:00 PM, MAY 31 ON
THE PENTAGON CHANNEL



WJLA - ABC 7 - WASHINGTON:
SATURDAY, JUNE 5 - NOON
NEWS CHANNEL 8 - WASHINGTON:
SATURDAY, JUNE 5 - 7:30 PM

ALSO TUNE IN TO AMERICAN LIFE NETWORK
MAY 31 AT 4:30 PM



AND WATCH LIVE AND ON-DEMAND ON
MILITARY.COM

WHERE TO WATCH THE PARADE

The 2009 National Memorial Day Parade will begin promptly at 2:00 PM, with pre-parade entertainment at the base of the National Archives' steps beginning at 1:15 PM. The parade will proceed along Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets, NW.

The Archives steps provide a wonderful bird's-eye view of the procession, but excellent spots can be found all along the parade route, with scenic backgrounds of the White House, Washington Monument and Smithsonian buildings.

Given road closures, the best way to access the parade route is by taking Metro, with Archives-Navy Memorial,

Union Station, Federal Triangle, Metro Center, and Smithsonian all a short walking distance from the parade route.

Included in the procession will be dozens of marching bands, military and veterans groups, distinguished veterans, and honorary celebrity marshals like actors **Gary Sinise** and **Joe Mantegna**, as well as famed Marine Corps veteran and film and TV star **R. Lee Ermey**. Near the National Archives will also be an excellent location to hear the performance of "Amazing Grace" by **Anthony Kearns** of the famed Irish Tenors during the 3:00 PM **National Moment of Remembrance**.



The National Memorial Day Parade will run along Constitution Avenue from 7th to 17th Streets, NW

The Parade will be televised LIVE around the country on the **Military Channel** and to our troops around the world on the **Pentagon Channel**. It will also be televised during prime time Memorial Day evening on **American Life Network**, with a special presentation on Washington's own **ABC 7** at noon on June 5 and **News Channel 8** at 7:30 PM that same day.

The parade will also be streamed LIVE and on demand on **Military.com**, and can also be seen on the parade's website at nationalmemorialdayparade.com.



A MEMORIAL DAY STATEMENT THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. GATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



Memorial Day officially began in 1868 when General John Logan, the commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, asked his countrymen to take a particular day in May to remember those lost in the Civil War. And this is true, but it's not the whole truth. When Logan proclaimed Memorial Day, he was simply recognizing a tradition that had already been taking place in communities across the country. No one needed to prompt those people to remember their war dead. The impulse to honor those who have died to protect us is basic to our make-up as human beings, a tradition older than civilization itself.

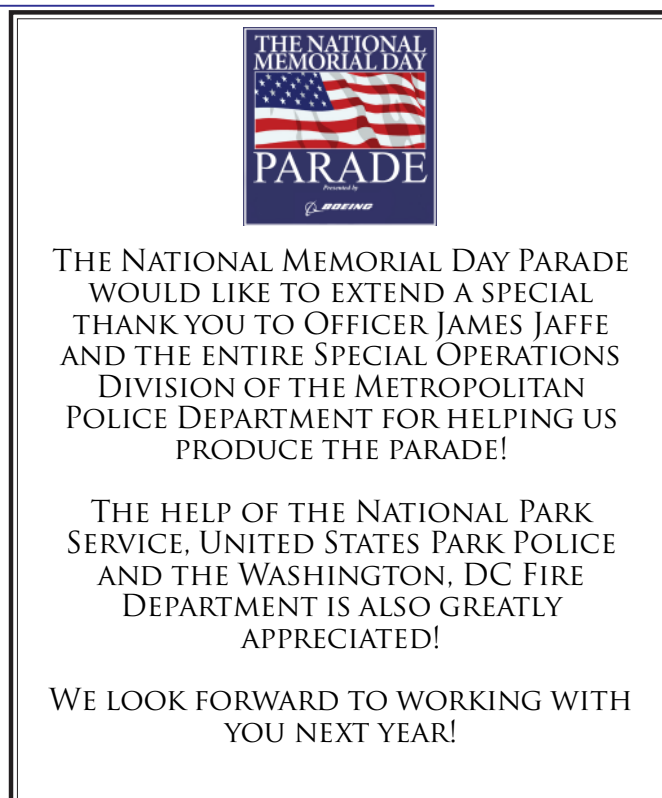
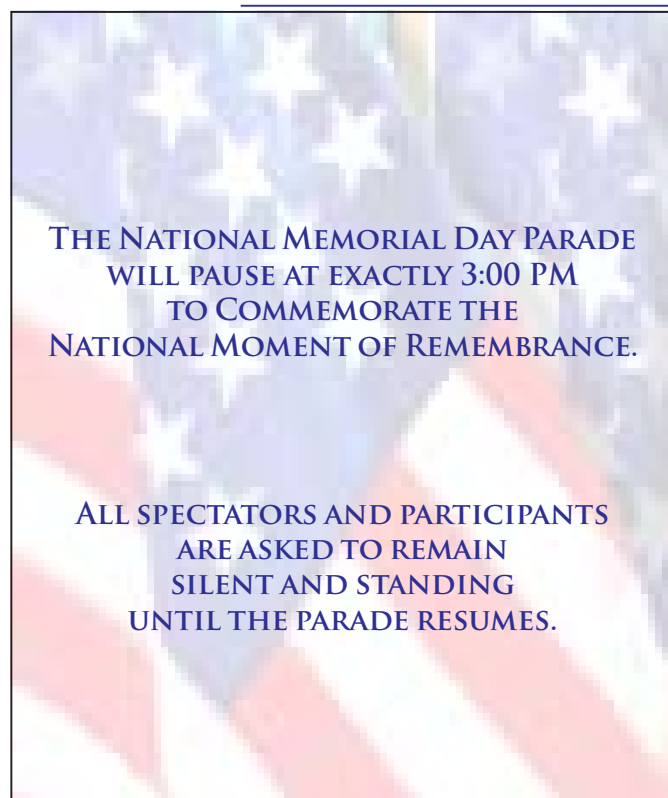
I see that noble impulse alive and well today;

- Alive in the soldiers of "The Old Guard", standing watch over the tomb of the unknown soldier, and those others who this weekend place American flags at each Arlington gravestone;

- Alive in the military support groups, veterans associations, and others organizing memorial events across the nation, and;

- Alive in every American who takes a moment on 3 p.m. on Monday, May 31, 2010, to join me in a moment of silence to remember this nation's fallen.

The men and women we remember today purchased with their blood the freedom and opportunities enjoyed by the generations that followed them. The valor of the men and women who now serve, which we must also remember and honor today, preserves and strengthens for us the abiding conviction that this nation and its values will endure.



WELCOME! FROM JAMES C. ROBERTS PRESIDENT, AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

Welcome to the 2010 National Memorial Day Parade Presented by Boeing!

The American Veterans Center is honored to have the privilege of organizing this event. Here at the Center, we know that it is essential to honor and remember not only the veterans we have here among us today but especially the many men and women who have died while fighting for our freedom.

This parade gives individuals from all over our great nation the opportunity to express their gratitude to our service men and women of every generation. Over 3,000 individuals from across the nation will be participating in the parade.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of the individuals, companies and foundations that have generously

contributed to defray the financial cost of this parade. We could not do this without our sponsors!

A special thanks to the active duty and reserve troops, who are marching in the parade today. We realize that they have given up a three-day weekend to be with us, and we deeply appreciate their participation.

Finally, thank you to all those attending the National Memorial Day Parade for being part of this tribute in our nation's capital.

Enjoy the parade!

James C. Roberts
President
American Veterans Center
Vice Chairman
White House Commission on Remembrance

THE HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Following the Civil War, communities around the nation began to set aside a day to remember those who had been lost. These individual ceremonies eventually coalesced around Decoration Day—now known as Memorial Day—which was officially proclaimed in 1868 by U.S. Army General John Logan in his General Order No. 11.

On May 30 of that year, flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike in Arlington National Cemetery. Nearly 5,000 Americans came together to decorate the graves of those lost in battle. This was to be a day in which those of all sympathies—North and South—would put aside their differences and come together to honor those who had served, and those who had died.

By the late 1800s, Memorial Day had become a tradition throughout the nation. Businesses would close, and parades would be held as communities paused to thank



Flanders Field American Cemetery is one of 24 overseas military cemeteries maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Following World War I, Memorial Day took on a new meaning, and became our military's most sacred day.

In recent decades, traditional observances of Memorial Day have diminished, as veterans age and so many other activities have competed for people's attention on the holiday. However, since the beginning of the War on Terror, there has been a resurgence in attention paid to the day with the public increasingly aware of its sacred place in our national consciousness. Hopefully it is a trend that will last long after the troops are home. ■

WORLD WAR II: A FAMILY'S STORY

BY NICOLE LARSON AND DAN BROSNAN

War touches lives and connects people in remarkable ways. World War II, perhaps more than any other era in our modern history, created bonds that last to this day. Every family has a story of service to tell, whether it be of fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, cousins and friends.

For Joe Mantegna, like millions of other Americans, service in World War II holds a special place in his family's history. The Tony award-winning actor and star of *Criminal Minds* has served as co-host of the National Memorial Day Concert on the National Mall for nearly a decade, inspired by the service of his family during World War II.

"That generation was a special generation," Mantegna says. "So many of them sacrificed so much."

Included among them were five of Mantegna's uncles—one as a bombardier in the Army Air Corps, two in the Marine Corps, and another two in the Army. One of these five uncles, Willy Novelli, has made it a point to travel with Joe to attend the concert each year, and will once again ride with Joe in this year's National Memorial Day Parade.

Willy's service in World War II began like many others. Determined to make a difference, he volunteered for the Army early, but was denied due to being underage. At the age of 19, however, he left his small town in southern Illinois and went into the Army, eventually fighting with General George Patton's famed Third Army across France.

"I went out on a mission on D+20 and served all the way until January 15th, 1945 when I got wounded," he recalls.

Sent to the hospital to recover, Novelli was determined to re-join his unit. As the war came



Joe Mantegna with his uncle and World War II veteran Willy Novelli in last year's National Memorial Day Parade. We are honored to have Mr. Novelli join Joe once again in this year's parade.

to a close, he decided to go in search of his older brother, Tony, who had been shot down while flying over Italy and became a prisoner of war in Germany. Arriving at the prison camp with two other men, he found the men there happy that the war was ending.

"Where's Tony Novelli?" he recalls asking them.

"You must be his little brother, Willy," one of the men said. "He just yesterday went with the Russian Red Cross along with 200 other guys."

Both brothers survived, later returning home after recovering from their injuries. And just last year at the Pentagon, Willy Novelli was finally awarded the Purple Heart for his wounds in combat, to go along with several other decorations. Like most veterans, though, what mattered to them most was not the medals, it was the bonds they created with their fellow service members and the sense that they were taking part in something far greater than themselves.

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER THANKS OUR CONGRESSIONAL HOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE 2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE.

Sen. Sherrod Brown
Sen. Richard Burr
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Sen. Tom Coburn
Sen. Thad Cochran
Sen. Susan Collins
Sen. Jim DeMint
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Rep. Fortney "Pete" Stark
Rep. Cliff Stearns
Rep. Frank R. Wolf

THE 2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

PRESENTED BY BOEING - PARADE LINEUP

The National Memorial Day Parade, presented by Boeing, is organized as a moving timeline of American military history, paying tribute to those who served from the time of the Native Americans and the American Revolution through the Civil War and on to current times. It will feature marching bands, military units, parade floats, and veterans of every era from World War II to today.

This is your guide to follow along with the parade, beginning to end. We hope you enjoy yourself, while perhaps gaining a new appreciation for the sacrifices made by so many generations of Americans to preserve our freedom.

Pre-Parade Activities Located at the National Archives Include:

- The National Anthem - by Steve Amerson
- God Bless America - by Anthony Kearns
- The Pledge of Allegiance - led by the Medal of Honor recipients
- Welcoming remarks by General Peter Pace & General James Amos, and American Veterans Center President James Roberts
- Kickoff remarks by Jack Catton of Boeing

METROPOLITAN POLICE LEAD CAR AND MOTOR "V"

THANK YOU TO U-HAUL - SILVER SPONSOR
U-HAUL TRUCKS WILL ASSIST IN PASSING OUT AMERICAN FLAGS AND COPIES OF THE PARADE PROGRAM

RIDERLESS HORSE - IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

BAND: CHESAPEAKE CALEDONIAN PIPES AND DRUMS



Honoring those who have sacrificed - the Grand Marshals of the 2007 National Memorial Day Parade, our "Wounded Warriors," pass the National Archives. They are accompanied by Honorary Marshal Gary Sinise. Mr. Sinise will once again join our Wounded Warriors in the 2010 National Memorial Day Parade.

THANK YOU TO BOEING - PRESENTING SPONSOR
2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

CITY REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY J. SMITH, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, WASHINGTON, DC

GRAND MARSHALS & A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS COLOR GUARD
MARINE BARRACKS WASHINGTON, DC

GRAND MARSHAL
GENERAL PETER PACE, USMC-RET
FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

BAND: QUANTICO MARINE CORPS MARCHING BAND

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND HONOR GUARDS FROM:
THE UNITED STATES ARMY
THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
THE UNITED STATES NAVY
THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

THANK YOU TO HEWLETT-PACKARD - GOLD SPONSOR
HONOR THE SACRIFICE

BAND: BALLOU HIGH SCHOOL BAND - WASHINGTON, DC

A TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
FLOAT FEATURING MARINES IN USMC UNIFORMS FROM THROUGHOUT AMERICAN HISTORY
WITH HONORARY MARSHAL - R. LEE ERMEY, USMC - RET
MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM
THE PEROT FOUNDATION - GOLD SPONSOR

RECIPIENTS OF OUR NATION'S HIGHEST MILITARY AWARD - THE MEDAL OF HONOR: CWO4 HERSEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS, USMC-RET, CAPTAIN THOMAS J. HUDNER, JR., USN-RET, COLONEL WESLEY L. FOX, USMC-RET MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM TRIWEST HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE - GOLD SPONSOR

HONORARY MARSHAL
JOE MANTEGNA WITH HIS UNCLE AND VETERAN OF GENERAL PATTON'S THIRD ARMY IN WWII.
WILLY NOVELLI

BAND: FRANKLIN AREA HIGH SCHOOL - PENNSYLVANIA

HONORARY GRAND MARSHALS - OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS FROM WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER AND THE NATIONAL NAVAL MEDICAL CENTER, WITH HONORARY MARSHAL GARY SINISE

WOMEN MARINES ASSOCIATION

THE NATIVE AMERICANS

NATIVE NATIONS DANCE THEATRE

JOHN GLENN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS CARRYING A 30'X50' AMERICAN FLAG

BAND: CENTRAL UNION HIGH SCHOOL BAND - CALIFORNIA

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

BAND: FIFES AND DRUMS OF YORKTOWN

SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION - COLOR GUARD

BETSY ROSS REPLICA FLAG

PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON, WITH WIFE MARTHA
MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM MT. VERNON ESTATE & GARDENS

BENNINGTON FLAG

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER

THANK YOU TO AMERICAN AIRLINES - GOLD SPONSOR

THE VETERAN MILITARY EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP

THE WAR OF 1812

GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON

SHIP'S COMPANY, INC. - MARYLAND
IN AUTHENTIC UNIFORMS OF THE EARLY AMERICAN PERIOD

BAND: MARIN COUNTY SCHOOLS MARCHING BAND - CALIFORNIA

THE CIVIL WAR

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

FREED - FEDERAL RE-ENACTORS OF DISTINCTION

BAND: CAROLINA FIFES AND DRUMS

FEDERAL GENERALS CORPS - PORTRAYING UNION LEADERS INCLUDING GENERALS INCLUDING GRANT, MEADE, AND HANCOCK



Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I, is honored by the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute at the National Memorial Day Parade.

TOM TOMPKINS - CIVIL WAR HORSE RIDER

UNION CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTORS 1ST DIVISION, 6TH CORPS

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR - IRISH BRIGADE CAMP & LINCOLN-CUSHING CAMP

BAND: MERCER MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND - PENNSYLVANIA

LEE'S LIEUTENANTS - PORTRAYING LEADERS OF THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

R.E. LEE CAMP #726 - SONS OF THE CONFEDERATE VETERANS

PROVISIONAL FORCES OF THE CONFEDERACY - GARY'S BRIGADE

BAND: ABSEGAMI HIGH SCHOOL BAND NEW JERSEY

THANK YOU TO ARGON ST - SILVER SPONSOR

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

ROOSEVELT'S ROUGH RIDERS
WY DETACHMENT, 1ST US VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

BAND: BARSTOW HIGH SCHOOL BAND - CALIFORNIA

BUFFALO SOLDIERS - 9TH & 10TH CAVALRY ASSOCIATION - VIRGINIA

WORLD WAR I

WORLD WAR I DOUGHBOY RE-ENACTORS

MODEL A FORD CLUB OF AMERICA - GEORGE WASHINGTON CHAPTER

BAND: J.E.B. STUART HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND - VIRGINIA



2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
PRESENTED BY BOEING

WORLD WAR II

HONORARY MARSHAL FOR
WORLD WAR II
HUGH O'BRIAN - USMC

STORIES OF SERVICE & "KEEP
THE SPIRIT OF '45 ALIVE" WITH
ANN BENNETT MIX, FOUNDER
OF THE AMERICAN WWII
ORPHANS NETWORK

**A TRIBUTE TO THE "GREATEST
GENERATION"** ON THE 65TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF
THE WAR -
A FLOAT FEATURING
VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II
FROM THE ATLANTIC &
PACIFIC THEATERS

BAND: ELMWOOD-MURDOCK HIGH SCHOOL - NEBRASKA

SPECIAL GUEST **BOB FELLER**
WWII NAVY VETERAN & BASEBALL HALL OF FAME PITCHER

PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

BAND: EASTRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL - NEW YORK



Proud veterans of World War II march down the parade route.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION MUSTANG CLUB

NORTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA MOUNTED VETERANS

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

BAND: HAYFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BAND - VIRGINIA

THE VIETNAM WAR

HONORARY MARSHAL FOR THE VIETNAM WAR
LT. GENERAL G. RON CHRISTMAS, USMC-RET
RECIPIENT OF THE NAVY CROSS

TRAGEDY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR SURVIVORS (TAPS)

ROLLING THUNDER
MARYLAND CHAPTER 1

BAND: EAST HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL
CONNECTICUT

VIETNAM WAR VETERANS RIDING
IN "VETERAN 1"

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE
HEART & LADIES AUXILIARY -
CHAPTER 353

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM VETERANS
ASSOCIATION
COALITION OF WASHINGTON, DC
AND VICINITY

BAND: EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL
MICHIGAN

ROC VETERANS ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER WASHINGTON

JOHN ARKINS, WWII VET.
WITH **DOTWARRIOR**
(WWW.DOTWARRIOR.INFO)

FLAGS REPRESENTING THE 26
ORIGINAL ALLIED NATIONS OF
WWII

THE KOREAN WAR

HONORARY MARSHAL FOR THE
KOREAN WAR
LT. COL. WILLIAM HOLMBERG,
USMC-RET
RECIPIENT OF THE NAVY
CROSS



Legendary actor and Navy vet of WWII Ernest Borgnine in last year's National Memorial Day Parade.

**GRAND FINALE - A SPECIAL SALUTE TO
OUR ACTIVE DUTY ARMED FORCES**
UNIFORMED TROOPS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED
IN IRAQ AND AFGANISTAN
PLEASE WELCOME
THE U.S. ARMY
THE U.S. MARINE CORPS
THE U.S. NAVY EXPEDITIONARY LOGISTICS SUPPORT GROUP
THE U.S. AIR FORCE

THANK YOU TO HEWLETT-PACKARD - GOLD SPONSOR
HONOR THE SACRIFICE

**BAND: HALLSVILLE HIGH
SCHOOL BAND - TEXAS**

TOMORROW'S LEADERS

US NAVAL SEA CADETS CORPS

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
STUDENT VETERANS

UNITED WAR VETERANS
COUNCIL - NEW YORK CITY
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN VETERANS

F 14 TOMCAT MODEL &
"SPACE SHUTTLE BLAKE"

**BAND: MASSACHUSETTE MARITIME
ACADEMY REGIMENTAL BAND AND
HONOR GUARD - MASSACHUSETTS**



Marching bands from around the country travel to Washington to participate in the National Memorial Day Parade.

VETERANS OF UNDERAGE MILITARY SERVICE

CAPITAL WING OF THE WWII AIRMEN'S PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

THANK YOU TO LIONS CLUB - SILVER SPONSOR

LIONS CLUB FLOAT -
FEATURING VETERANS OF
WORLD WAR II

BAND: 212TH REGIMENT
BAND - MINNESOTA

EAST COAST CHAPTER OF
THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

JAPANESE AMERICAN
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

"SWING SHIFT"
PERFORMING MUSIC OF THE
WWII-ERA

99TH INFANTRY DIVISION
VETERANS OF WWII

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSN. OF
AMERICA - NORTHERN
VIRGINIA CHAPTER

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION - DC CHAPTER

MUSICAL GUEST **JON DAVID**
PERFORMING **AMERICAN HEART**
*MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE LONE SURVIVOR
FOUNDATION*

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION VETERANS

BAND: HOXIE HIGH SCHOOL - ARKANSAS

NAVY CLUB OF THE USA, SHIP 166 - REPLICA PT BOAT

SPECIAL GUEST **R.V. BURGIN,**
MARINE CORPS VETERAN PORTRAYED IN THE HBO MINISERIES
THE PACIFIC



Bulgars will play Taps during the National Moment of Remembrance at 3:00 PM, to be followed by the singing of *Amazing Grace* by world-renowned Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns.

BEIRUT VETERANS
OF AMERICA

BAND: LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL
BAND - VIRGINIA

*SPECIAL THANKS TO GEICO -
SILVER SPONSOR*

THE GULF WAR

HONORARY MARSHAL FOR THE
GULF WAR
COLONEL EDDIE RAY, USMC-RET
RECIPIENT OF THE NAVY CROSS

VETERANS OF THE U.S. NAVY SEA, AIR,
AND LAND TEAMS (SEALS)

**THANK YOU TO MORGAN
FRANKLIN - GOLD SPONSOR**
*MORGAN FRANKLIN SALUTES OUR SPECIAL
FORCES*

BAND: PENTUCKET REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL -
MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHERN VIRGINIA TRAIL RIDERS

GULF WAR TRIBUTE FLOAT - "KUWAIT REMEMBERS"
MADE POSSIBLE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE STATE OF KUWAIT

BAND: MONETT HIGH SCHOOL BAND - MISSOURI

**OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM &
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**

BAND: U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY MARCHING BAND



The National Memorial Day Parade welcomes home those brave young men and women who have been serving us abroad.

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHALLENGE MILITARY ACADEMY

GREAT MILLS HIGH SCHOOL NAVAL JROTC

SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC

PAINT BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL NAVAL JROTC

BAND: PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BAND -
PENNSYLVANIA

*THANK YOU TO BOEING, OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR, AND ALL THE
SPONSORS OF THE 2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE.*

THANK YOU FOR COMING, AND WE WILL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



On this Memorial Day, we wish to say "Thank You" to those who have served, and ask that we all pause to remember those who have fallen.

2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
PRESENTED BY BOEING

THE 2009 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

GRAND MARSHAL

GENERAL PETER PACE

USMC - RET

16TH CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF



General Peter Pace was sworn in as sixteenth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on Sep. 30, 2005. In this capacity, he served as the principal military advisor to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council.

Prior to becoming Chairman, he served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from October 1, 2001 to August 12, 2005. General Pace is the first Marine to serve as Chairman. He also holds the distinction of being the first Marine to have served as the Vice Chairman.

General Pace was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Teaneck, NJ. A 1967 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from George Washington University and attended Harvard University for the Senior Executives in National and International Security program. The General is also a graduate of the Infantry Officers' Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Ga.; the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, in Quantico, VA; and the National War College, at Ft. McNair, Washington, DC.

In 1968, upon completion of The Basic School, Quantico, Va., General Pace was assigned to the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam, serving first as a Rifle Platoon Leader and subsequently as Assistant Operations Officer. He was later assigned to Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, where he served in a number of billets, to include Security Detachment Commander, Camp David; White House Social Aide; and Platoon Leader, Special Ceremonial Platoon.

General Pace has held command at virtually every level, and served in overseas billets in Nam Phong, Thailand; Seoul, Korea; and Yokota, Japan. While serving as President, Marine Corps University, then Brigadier General Pace also served as Deputy Commander, Marine Forces, Somalia, from December 1992 - February 1993, and as the Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force - Somalia from

October 1993 - March 1994. After an assignment as the Director for Operations (J-3), Joint Staff, Washington DC, then Lieutenant General Pace served as the Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic/Europe/South. He was promoted to General and assumed duties as the Commander in Chief, United States Southern Command in September 2000.

As the Vice Chairman from October 2001 to August 2005, General Pace served as the Chairman of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, Vice Chairman of the Defense Acquisition Board, and as a member of the National Security Council Deputies Committee and the Nuclear Weapons Council. In addition, he acted for the Chairman in all aspects of the Planning, Programming and Budgeting System including participation in the Defense Resources Board.

General Pace's personal decorations include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, with two oak leaf clusters; Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal with Combat V; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with gold star; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V"; Navy Achievement Medal with gold star; and the Combat Action Ribbon.

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

GENERAL JAMES AMOS

ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS



General James F. Amos, USMC, is the 31st and current Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. A Naval aviator by trade, General Amos has held command at all levels from Lieutenant Colonel to Lieutenant General. Most notably he commanded the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing in combat during Operations Iraqi Freedom I and II from 2002-2004, followed by command of the II Marine Expeditionary Force from 2004-2006. He subsequently served as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command and as the Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration from 2006 to July 2008. General Amos was promoted to his present rank and assumed the duties of Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps on 2 July 2008.

Operational assignments include tours with Marine Fighter Attack Squadrons 212, 235, 232 and 122 where he flew the F-4 Phantom II. In 1985 General Amos assumed command of Marine Wing Support Squadron 173. Later, transitioning to the F/A-18 Hornet, he assumed command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 and subsequently joined Carrier Air Wing Eight onboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71). General Amos took command of Marine Aircraft Group 31 Beaufort, SC in May 1996.

General Amos' staff assignments include tours with Marine Aircraft Groups 15 and 31, the III Marine Amphibious Force, Training Squadron Seven, The Basic School, and with the MAGTF Staff Training Program. Promoted to Brigadier General in 1998 he was assigned to NATO as Deputy Commander, Naval Striking Forces, Southern Europe, Naples Italy. During this tour he commanded NATO's Kosovo Verification Center, and later served as Chief of Staff, U.S. Joint Task Force Noble Anvil during the air campaign over Serbia. Transferred in 2000 to the Pentagon, he was assigned as Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation. Reassigned in December 2001, General Amos served as the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations Department, Headquarters, Marine Corps.

2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
PRESENTED BY BOEING

AMERICA'S GREATEST HEROES RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 4
HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS
USMC - RET
WORLD WAR II

Hershel "Woody" Williams enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on May 26, 1943. He went through many different training camps, including the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, the Training Center at Camp Elliot, both in San Diego, California, and the Infantry Battalion at the Training Center where he learned demolition and how to use a flamethrower. In January of 1944, he joined the 3rd Marine Division at Guadalcanal and during the summer months he saw action against the Japanese in Guam.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Harry Truman on October 5, 1945 for his heroism during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Corporal Williams pushed forward alone with a flamethrower to minimize the amount of machine gun fire coming in at Marines landing on the beach. He was able to break down a section of Japanese defenses, making it possible for the Marines to gain more ground. Williams was also awarded the Purple Heart for valiantly fighting while injured during the campaign in March of 1945.



CAPTAIN
THOMAS J. HUDNER, JR.
USN - RET.
KOREAN WAR

Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr. graduated from the Naval Academy in 1946. After attending flight school, he was designated a Naval Aviator in August of 1949. On December 4, 1950, while serving with VF-32 during the Korean War, he intentionally crashed-landed his own plane near the Chosin Reservoir in an effort to rescue his friend, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, the U.S. Navy's first African American aviator who had been downed by enemy fire and was trapped in the wreckage of his plane on the side of a mountain. Upon landing, Hudner desperately tried to free his fellow pilot, though it soon became clear the loss of blood and extreme cold would claim Ensign Brown's life. Hudner made a point of staying with his friend and providing what comfort he could.

For his heroism on that occasion, then-Lt. (Junior Grade) Hudner was awarded the Medal of Honor, the first Navy Medal of Honor to be awarded during the Korean War. He went on to serve during the Vietnam War as Executive Officer of the carrier *USS Kitty Hawk* before retiring in 1973.



COLONEL
WESLEY L. FOX
USMC - RET.
VIETNAM WAR

Colonel Wesley Fox is a 43 year veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He enlisted at age 18 in 1950 and worked his way through the ranks, holding all ranks from Private to Colonel except that of Sergeant Major. He earned many awards throughout his career including the Bronze Star with Valor Device, four Purple Hearts, two Navy Commendation Medals with Valor Device, and the United Nations Service Medal.

Fox was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for valor in the Vietnam War. Part of Operation Dewey Canyon in the Quang Tri Province on February 22, 1969, Fox neutralized the enemy while directing his men. He was wounded but refused medical attention, instead calling in air reinforcements and advancing his troops until enemy retreat. For his service, which ended only when he reached the Marine Corps' mandatory retirement age, Col. Fox has become one of the Marines' most legendary and beloved figures.

Thank you to our friends at TriWest Healthcare Alliance for making the Medal of Honor recipients' participation possible.

2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
PRESENTED BY BOEING

HONORARY MARSHALS

REPRESENTING VETERANS OF EACH OF THE MODERN ERAS OF AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY

Honorary Marshal

World War II

HUGH O'BRIAN

USMC



O'Brian was born Hugh Charles Krampe in Rochester, New York, the son of Hugh John Krampe, a career United States Marine Corps officer, and his wife Edith Krampe. O'Brian dropped out of the University of Cincinnati after one semester to enlist in the Marine Corps during World War II. Only 17, he became the youngest Marine drill instructor.

After World War II, O'Brian moved to Los Angeles and became an actor. He is best known for portraying legendary lawman Wyatt Earp on ABC. The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp debuted in 1955 as the "first adult western," and it soon became one of the top-rated shows on television. During its seven-year run, Wyatt Earp consistently placed in the top 10 in the United States. For his contribution to the television industry, Hugh O'Brian has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6613-1/2 Hollywood Blvd. In 1992, he was inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Fame at 6613-1/2 Hollywood Blvd. In 1992, he was inducted into the Western Performers Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Hugh O'Brian has dedicated much of his life to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY). HOBY is a non-profit youth leadership development program that empowers 10,000 sophomores annually through its over 70 leadership programs in all 50 states and 20 countries. Since its inception in 1958, over 355,000 young people have been inspired by HOBY.

Honorary Marshal

The Vietnam War

LIEUTENANT GENERAL GEORGE R. CHRISTMAS

USMC - RET.

NAVY CROSS



Lt. General Christmas is currently the President and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. He was commissioned into the Marine Corps through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program at the University of Pennsylvania in 1962. He served in various infantry command and staff assignments as a company grade officer including command of Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, in Vietnam. He was seriously wounded during the battle of Hue City during Tet '68 and for his actions there was awarded the Navy Cross. Some of his key assignments include Commanding Officer, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island; Commanding Officer, 3rd Marines; Commanding General, 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade; Commanding General, 3rd Force Service Support Group; Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force; Director, J-3, US Commander in Chief Pacific Command. He retired from the Corps in 1996 after 34 years active duty. His final

assignment was Deputy Chief of Staff, Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

From September 1996 until December 2006, as well as being President of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, he served as a Senior Mentor, Marine Air Ground Task Force Staff Training Program, and the Joint Forces Command. Other projects during the period included Adjunct Staff, RAND Corporation; Consultant, Harris Corporation, Member, Board of Advisors, Recruit Military, LLC; Ex-Officio Trustee, Marine Corps University Foundation; and Ex-Officio Governor, Marine Corps Association. With the growth of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's mission and enterprises, General Christmas now devotes his full time to these efforts.

Lt. General Christmas is married to the former Sherry Lownds. They have 4 children and 12 grandchildren.

Honorary Marshal

The Korean War

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM C. HOLMBERG

USMC - RET.

NAVY CROSS



Lt. Colonel William Holmberg enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in World War II and later saw combat in the Korean War. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and received the Navy Cross for valor while serving as a Rifle Platoon Leader of Company F, Second Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in the Republic of Korea on 13 June 1952.

Holmberg was greatly responsible for the success achieved by his platoon in capturing a prisoner of war and annihilating one hundred and two of the enemy. Currently he is a Board member of the American Council

On Renewable Energy, Chairman of the Biomass Coordinating Council and Co-Chair of the Latin American and Caribbean Council on Renewable Energy.

Honorary Marshal

The Gulf War

COLONEL EDDIE RAY

USMC - RET.

NAVY CROSS



Colonel Eddie S. Ray retired from the United States Marine Corps in 2008 with 30 years of service. He served as an Enlisted Artilleryman, Dragons Platoon Leader, Weapons Company CO, LAV Company CO and LAV Battalion CO. He was awarded a Navy Cross for leading an LAV Company in a counter attack against an enemy mechanized Brigade, resulting in 50 enemy vehicles destroyed and 250 prisoners taken. He is currently the Director, Protective Force Operations Division, at WSI-Savannah River Site. He and his family reside in Aiken, SC.

He has received an MA in National Security Strategy, Naval War College; an MA in Military Science, Marine Corps University; and a BA in Economics, Chapman University.

His other awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Joint Service Meritorious Service Medal, Navy/Marine Commendation Medal (3), and Joint Service Achievement Medal.

2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

PRESENTED BY BOEING

CELEBRITY HONORARY MARSHALS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

HONORARY MARSHAL GARY SINISE



Currently starring as Det. "Mac" Taylor on CBS's "CSI: New York," Gary Sinise will forever be linked with the character of Lt. Dan in the Oscar-winning film "Forrest Gump," which earned him nominations for an Academy Award and a Screen Actors Guild Award.

Sinise has become one of the most popular supporters of our military men and women, due to his extensive charitable work on their behalf. Since 2003 he has traveled to Iraq three times and to Afghanistan, and is the co-founder of "Operation Iraqi Children" with author Laura Hillenbrand. His band, the Lt. Dan Band, has gone on two-dozen USO tours and played over 40 benefit concerts. He is also the spokesperson for the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial Foundation. He is executive producer of the award-winning documentary, "Brothers at

War," and another documentary on his USO tours with the Lt. Dan Band has recently been produced. Mr. Sinise served as the Grand Marshal of the 2006 National Memorial Day Parade, and his support has been instrumental in building the parade into the great tradition it has become in such a short time.

HONORARY MARSHAL JOE MANTEGNA



Winner of the Tony Award for his acclaimed performance in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Glengarry Glen Ross," Joe Mantegna currently stars as FBI Special Agent David Rossi in the CBS series "Criminal Minds." He is also the co-author of the play "Bleacher Bums," which was adapted for television and earned an Emmy Award. He received Emmy nominations for his role in "The Last Don," and "The Rat Pack" in which he played Dean Martin. In addition to dozens of other film and TV credits, Mantegna can be heard in the recurring role of Fat Tony on "The Simpsons."

In 2004, Mantegna was named chairperson for the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs. This organization helps focus public attention on VA medical centers with the

goal of increasing the number of VA volunteers. For the last several years, he has served as co-host of the National Memorial Day Concert, broadcast across the nation on PBS the evening prior to Memorial Day. We are especially honored to have with us Mr. Mantegna's uncle, Willy Novelli, a veteran of General Patton's Third Army who just this weekend was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained over sixty years ago.

HONORARY MARSHAL R. LEE ERMEY



Ermey spent eleven years in the Marine Corps. Two of which were spent being a Drill Instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, India Company 3rd Recruit Training Battalion 1965-67. He arrived in Vietnam in 1968 spending 14 months attached to Marine Wing Support Group 17 and 2 tours in Okinawa. He rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was medically retired for injuries received. On May 17, 2002 he received an honorary promotion to Gunnery Sergeant (E-7) by Commandant James L. Jones, becoming the first retiree in the history of the Marines to be promoted. Using G.I. Bill benefits, Ermey enrolled at the University of Manila in the Philippines, where he studied drama. Francis Ford Coppola was filming "Apocalypse Now (1979)" in the area and cast Ermey in a featured role. He has since gone on to star or appear in approximately sixty films. You can watch him each week on his new show "Lock N' Load" on the History Channel.

IRISH TENOR ANTHONY KEARNS



World-renowned tenor Anthony Kearns took the American television audience by storm in 1999 as the youngest member of the wildly popular musical group, The Irish Tenors. American critics hailed Kearns as perhaps the most likely of the three (Irish Tenors) to "achieve the level of tenor super stardom now enjoyed by Pavarotti and a handful of other singers."

Acknowledged as Ireland's Finest (Living) Tenor at the Dublin National Concert Hall's Silver Jubilee in 2006, Mr. Kearns is a respected ambassador of Ireland to the world and has presented the music of his homeland across the globe. As a soloist, Kearns' performances draw from a wide variety of opera, folk music, and international favorites. Mr. Kearns frequently performs charity concerts, on television, and with the finest symphony orchestras and opera houses in Europe and America.

<http://store.anthonyskearnsmusic.com/>

SPECIAL GUEST BOB FELLER



Bob Feller was a star pitcher for the Cleveland Indians during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Feller immediately enlisted in the United States Navy, where he was assigned to command a 24-man gunnery squad on the battleship *Alabama*. Feller was the first Major League Baseball player to enlist following Pearl Harbor.

After a year of service in the North Atlantic, Feller and the *Alabama* were sent to the Pacific, where he participated in eight invasions including Iwo Jima. Feller was discharged in August of 1945, after almost four years of service. He returned to baseball and resumed a career that led to his induction into the Hall of Fame.

AND THE HONORARY GRAND MARSHALS OUR WOUNDED WARRIORS

Memorial Day is our military's most sacred holiday, a day in which we pause to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

As we do, we should also remember those who have survived war, but have made tremendous sacrifices of their own, being injured in the line of duty.

While it is imperative that we support those who have been wounded recently, we must also not forget about their sacrifice years down the road. After the care packages and wishes of luck and support fade, in many cases years of intensive medical care remain. These veterans need – and deserve – our gratitude and our assistance.

And so as we remember those who have fallen and recognize those who have sacrificed, we ask that you continue to support our wounded warriors not just now and not just on Memorial Day, but throughout the year and for decades to come.

- The Staff of the American Veterans Center

2010 NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
PRESENTED BY BOEING

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

THE MILITARY STORY OF PETER PACE

BY ANDREW FETTERS

Through shared experiences, especially in times of war, men form unique and powerful bonds. In Shakespeare's *Henry V*, King Henry rallies his troops by saying, "We few, we happy few. We band of brothers. For he that sheds his blood with me today, shall be my brother." This is the sense of camaraderie and respect that the Grand Marshal of the 2010 National Memorial Day Parade, General Peter Pace, has with his former troops.

In the 1960s, America was engaged in a deadly war in Southeast Asia to protect South Vietnam from falling to the North. In early 1968, Hue City, the capital of Thua Thiên-Hue Province, Vietnam, turned into ground zero for the Tet Offensive, a North Vietnamese military campaign designed to end the Vietnam War in a single blow.

As the Viet Cong and the People's Army of Vietnam swept through Hue City, conducting summary executions and mass killings of anyone friendly to the Americans, U.S. Marines and Soldiers faced house-to-house fighting in the streets of the city. The offensive was the largest military operation conducted by either side up to that point of the war and the U.S. casualties were devastating. Amid the chaos and carnage, Marine Second Lieutenant Peter Pace took command of 2nd Platoon, Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in February 1968. As friends died around them each day, Second Lieutenant Pace and the men of Golf Company formed an unbreakable bond forged by unity, courage, and tenacity.

These were the times that forged Second Lieutenant Pace's attitude towards leadership and the military. During a ceremony held in his honor at Fort Myer, Virginia, in 2001, Pace said that because of these experiences he was determined to honor his troops by serving his country as long as it needed him.

"In the jungles of Vietnam, I learned from lance corporals, corporals and sergeants what sacrifice was all about," Pace said in 2001, soon after becoming vice chairman. "It was their blood that gave me a debt that I can never fully repay."

Pace continued serving in the military around the world and was continually promoted, reaching the rank of General and assuming duties as Commander-in-Chief of the United States Southern Command on September 8, 2000. He was later appointed to serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff.

During a visit to American troops positioned in Bogotá, Colombia on September 11, 2001, General Pace saw the second plane hit the World Trade Center on television. In that moment, he knew that he had to get home to attend his new responsibilities: a life in Washington D.C. that would prove to be something far different than he could ever imagine.

A new ground zero awaited General Pace: a ground zero on the home front. With the approaching war against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, President George W. Bush nominated General Pace to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to serve as the principal military advisor to the President in 2005. General Pace said he was humbled and exhilarated to have the opportunity to continue serving his country.



General Pace (center) with fellow Marine veterans who served alongside him in Hue City during the Vietnam War.
Dept. of Defense photo

"It's humbling because I know the challenges ahead are formidable," General Pace said in a press release.

General Pace continued to demonstrate caring and compassionate leadership during his time as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In an address he delivered at the Hudson Union Society in New York, General Pace said that people need to be reminded daily of the horrors of war and what America's enemies want to do to her.

"I can't come to this city without getting emotional," General Pace said. "We need to post a picture of the skyline of New York in as many places in the capital of the United States as possible."

Times may have changed since General Pace first took command over Golf Company in Vietnam, but his respect for his comrades and the overarching sense of camaraderie remains as strong as ever. His men are proud of their former platoon leader who rose through the ranks to a four star general to the highest position in the armed forces. Similarly, General Pace harbors a deep love and respect for his men. When he officially retired on October 1, 2007, General Pace visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. where he placed seven handwritten notes with his four-star General insignia. Among the seven, one read as follows:

*For Guido Farinaro, USMC
These are yours - not mine!
With love and respect,
Your platoon leader
Pete Pace*

GENERATIONS OF VALOR

THREE MEN, THREE WARS, AND THE MEDAL OF HONOR

BY NICOLE LARSON

Few people face life and death decisions regularly. Fewer make life and death decisions which affect the course of history. The Congressional Medal of Honor was signed into law by President Lincoln in 1862 to honor those who valiantly fight to protect life and liberty in America. Three men, who found themselves in such situations in three different wars – CWO4 Hershel "Woody" Williams, U.S. Marine Corps; Captain Thomas J. Hudner, U.S. Navy; and Colonel Wesley Fox, U.S. Marine Corps – epitomize the meaning of valor and honor in American military service.

Japanese snipers shot from seemingly impenetrable pillboxes and foxholes, discouraging American efforts on the fortified island of Iwo Jima in February of 1945. With men falling and hope fading, 21 year old Marine Acting Sergeant Hershel (Woody) Williams decided to do something. He fastened a flamethrower across his chest and charged tirelessly for four hours, giving his fellow Marines a break in the Japanese defense line. Williams was later awarded the Medal of Honor, but he never thought himself a hero.

"I was only doing the job for which I was trained," Williams said of his heroic act. He doesn't claim any glory either.

"I am only the caretaker of the medal," he said as he insisted that it belongs to all the brave Marines who fought that day.



Medal of Honor recipients John F. Baker, Jr., Roger H.C. Donlon, and Robert L. Howard lead the Pledge of Allegiance at a previous National Memorial Day Parade (American Veterans Center President James C. Roberts is pictured right).

Naval aviator First Lieutenant Thomas Hudner found himself in such a situation during the Korean War in 1950. As part of the larger Marine mission at Chosin Reservoir, Hudner and his fellow pilots flew over the Somong-ni mountains providing cover for outnumbered Marines on the ground. A few miles behind enemy lines, Ensign Jesse Brown, the first African American aviator in the Navy, lost power and was forced to crash into the mountainside. As others flew on, Hudner followed Brown into treacherous conditions.

"The decision wasn't too difficult for me," Hudner commented as he reflected upon his actions. "I made a decision and felt it was certainly worth the risk."

Despite Hudner's best effort to save him, Brown died on the North Korean mountainside. "I've always been very grateful I could do what I did at the time," Hudner said, "and I feel very proud that I served my country honorably."

Controversy surrounded the Vietnam War but there was never controversy in the mind of then-First Lieutenant Wesley Fox about the right thing to do in the heat of battle. As Fox and 80 of his Marines sought out enemy position at A Shau Valley in February of 1969, he quickly realized he was outnumbered by the Chinese.

"There was a bigger force than my under strength Marine Rifle Company," Fox recalled. Marine injuries and casualties grew and Fox knew he had to make a decision- pull out or stay and fight.

"In this jungle, to break contact and get out means I've got to have all my Marines with me..." said Fox, "we never leave anybody behind."

There were not enough men to both fight and carry out the dead and wounded. As a Marine's Marine, Fox did what one would expect. He fought. Forgetting his own injuries, he directed the Marines' defense until reinforcements arrived.

The selfless acts of these three men earned them our highest military award, the Medal of Honor. They are examples of excellence for those who follow, and even after active duty, they are still serving. Most recently they have been taking part in a program called "Medal of Honor Speak Out," a public service campaign sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance helping today's service members adjust to civilian life and cope with emotional wounds. Duty, honor, and country remain at their core, and their dedication sets the example for future generations of valor.



AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

★
WORLD WAR II
VETERANS COMMITTEE

★
NATIONAL VIETNAM
VETERANS COMMITTEE

➤ The National Memorial Day Parade

Held each year along the National Mall in Washington, DC, and featuring nearly 200 elements and nearly 250,000 spectators. Since its creation in 2005, the parade has grown to be among the largest in the nation, and serves to remind Americans of all generations of the sacrifices made by our uniformed men and women.

➤ American Valor Quarterly

Our magazine, which provides the opportunity for veterans to share their stories in their own words with an audience of tens of thousands of people. Copies of *AVQ* are also donated to nearly 200 VA hospitals and vets centers around the country, as a way to say "thank you" to our veterans, and those who care for them.

➤ Documentaries and Radio Series

The Center has a long history of producing quality radio documentaries in association with the Radio America network. Included is the award-winning *World War II Chronicles* on which their publication is based, *D-Day: They Were There* and *Pearl Harbor: 60 Years of Echoes*. More recently, the Center has sponsored two weekly radio series, *Veterans Chronicles* and *Proudly We Hail*, both programs featuring interviews with America's great heroes.



Honoring those who have sacrificed. The American Veterans Center is proud to support those veterans and service members who have been wounded in the line of duty.

Pictured (above) is Medal of Honor recipient Col. Robert Howard with representatives of the Young Marines and our wounded service members at a reception in their honor at the U.S. Navy Memorial.



Interns and students are given the opportunity to meet, and learn about, America's greatest heroes. Here, former intern Michael O'Donnell visits the grave of Joe Ronnie Hooper, the most decorated soldier of the Vietnam War. Michael researched Hooper's story, which he wrote for our publication, *American Valor Quarterly*.



From the Greatest Generation to the latest generation. It is the lessons and inspiration provided by those veterans who have come before that is so valuable to young people today. Through the American Veterans Center's many events, we seek to bring these generations together. Pictured above, young ROTC students speak directly to the legendary Tuskegee Airmen at the 2007 conference.

The American Veterans Center is grateful for the continued support of thousands of individuals in our shared mission of preserving the history and legacy of America's veterans and active duty service members. Through its various programs, the Center has sought to provide an outlet for veterans to share their experiences with the public, and to teach their lessons to the younger generation. The support of so many patriotic Americans has allowed the Center to expand its efforts over the years, instituting a number of quality programs, including:

➤ Annual Veterans Conference

Every Veterans Day weekend America's greatest veterans gather to share their experiences with an audience of several hundred students, fellow veterans, and the public. The conference has been televised live on C-Span and viewed by thousands of Americans. The videos of the conference speakers and panels can be viewed at the Center's website at www.americanveteranscenter.org

➤ Youth Activities and Educational Outreach

The underlying theme of each of our programs is to build an appreciation of America's veterans and military history among young people. Students and youth groups are encouraged to participate in AVC activities; the Center sponsors essay contests, a high school and college scholarship, and an internship program. All providing an opportunity for young people to learn about - and from - America's uniformed heroes.

➤ Supporting Our Troops

The Center is proud to sponsor regular events for our wounded heroes currently undergoing rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital.

For information on how you can support the American Veterans Center and its many projects, call **703-302-1012 ext. 214** or
e-mail avc@americanveteranscenter.org
WWW.AMERICANVETERANSCENTER.ORG