

“What do you believe are
the ideals embodied in the
Medal of Honor?”

6th Annual
Pueblo Home of Heroes
Association Essay Contest
Winning Stories 2014

Sponsored by the Pueblo Home of Heroes Association
and the Pueblo City-County Library District



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The mission of the Pueblo Home of the Heroes Association is to preserve and expand the memorial dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients; to advance the history of the Medal of Honor; honor the legacy of those who have received the Award nationwide; to promote democratic ideals; and encourage among the people of the United States, and especially it's youth, citizenship, character, entegrity and selflessness as epitomized by the Medal of Honor.

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2014 Pueblo Home of Heroes Association Essay Contest

“What do you believe are the ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor?”

March 2014

The Pueblo Home of Heroes Association in cooperation with the Pueblo City-County Library District is pleased to announce the winners of its sixth Pueblo Home of Heroes Association Essay Contest.

The following guidelines were required:

All entries must be typed.

Elementary School level – grades 4 and 5: 300-500 words

Middle School level – grades 6–8: 400-700 words

High School level – grades 9–12: 500-1,000 words

The judges were: Ray LeMasters, Andy Hauk, Doyle Cooper, Darren Cooper and Roy Miltner.

There were a total of 242 entries: 75 at the elementary level, 145 at the middle school level and 22 at the high school level.

The Pueblo Home of Heroes Association and the Pueblo City-County Library District wish to thank the teachers and parents for encouraging their students and children to participate in this essay contest. It was clear to the judges that the contest achieved its purpose of encouraging students to think about the foundation of our freedom and the ongoing cost in lives and effort to maintain this most precious right.

2014 Pueblo Home of Heroes Association Essay Contest Honorable Mentions

Elementary School

Michael Hamilton
Sunset Park Elementary School – Mrs. Galli

Damian Meigs
Parkview Elementary School – Ms. Norton

Middle School

Madison Blackwell
Goodnight Elementary School – Mrs. Robson
Julie Singleton
Goodnight Elementary School – Mrs. Robson
Irie Wheeler
Goodnight Elementary School – Mrs. Robson

High School

Isaiah S. Quiming
Centennial High School – Ms. Bergstrom

2014 Pueblo Home of Heroes Association Essay Contest Winners

Elementary School

1st place
Landry Eckland
Goodnight Elementary School – Mr. Shue

2nd place
Zach Kottenstette
Sunset Park Elementary School – Mrs. Galli

3rd place
Padraig Calhoun
Sunset Park Elementary School – Mr. Galli

Middle School

1st place
Talon Kenyon
Goodnight Elementary School – Mrs. Robson

2nd place
Cheyenne Curran
Goodnight Elementary School – Mrs. Robson

3rd place
Brooklyn Micheli
Goodnight Elementary School – Mrs. Robson

High School

1st place
Kiana Gonzalez
Centennial High School – Mrs. Fadenrecht

2nd place
Sarah Schornack
Centennial High School – Mrs. Fadenrecht

3rd place
Grace Ryan
Homeschooled Colorado City – Charissa Fryberger

What do you believe are the ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor?

By Landry Eckland

Every brave sole who risked their life on the battlefield for a wounded soldier should be remembered as the amazing person they were. Those many men and women who did risk their lives deserve the highest honor a soldier can receive, the Medal of Honor. This medal was established during the Civil War to give recognition to men who distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity in combat. Since 1861, 3,468 soldiers have received the Medal of Honor and four soldiers even received it from Pueblo. Even though we all know it's a big honor to receive this medal, what are the characteristics of a Medal of Honor recipient? The ideals embodies in this medal are: courage, sacrifice, and patriotism.

First of all, courage is an ideal embodied in this award. Nelson Mandela said, "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who is not afraid, but he who conquers that fear." Courage means in the face of danger you keep on fighting. Soldiers keep on fighting for what is right even when they know they might face death. Soldiers also show courage by never backing down from an enemy even when their hearts are gripped with fear. Courageous soles are needed for our protection and no Medal of Honor would be received by any one of our soldiers who lacked this quality.

Another ideal I believe is embodied in the Medal of Honor is sacrifice. First, sacrifice means putting others before yourself. Caring for the people in your country by feeding those who hunger or caring for the hurt, ill or lonely is a wonderful thing to do for any person because you think of others and not just about your own needs. Also, putting your life in danger is a huge sacrifice. Protecting others when you know you might get wounded or die is the ultimate sacrifice out of love for ones country. If soldiers didn't sacrifice their time with their family to protect us, we would never know freedom.

Finally, patriotism is the most important ideal embodied in the Medal of Honor. To begin, patriotism means a person has developed love and loyalty of their country. Soldiers embrace this and never give up because they want to protect the people and country they love. Also, patriotism means protecting the citizens of your country. To love your country and its people so much that you would die for them is truly a patriotic thing to do. Patriotism brings people together as a united front to stand and uphold the ideals of our Constitution.

Sacrificing their time with their families so that so many can be protected, loving their country with passion and complete courage while standing in the face of danger are some of the amazing ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor. The soldiers who protected a fallen comrade should always be thought of whenever we think of this medal. They were after all courageous, sacrificing, and patriotic people.



What do you believe are the ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor?

By Zach Kottenstette

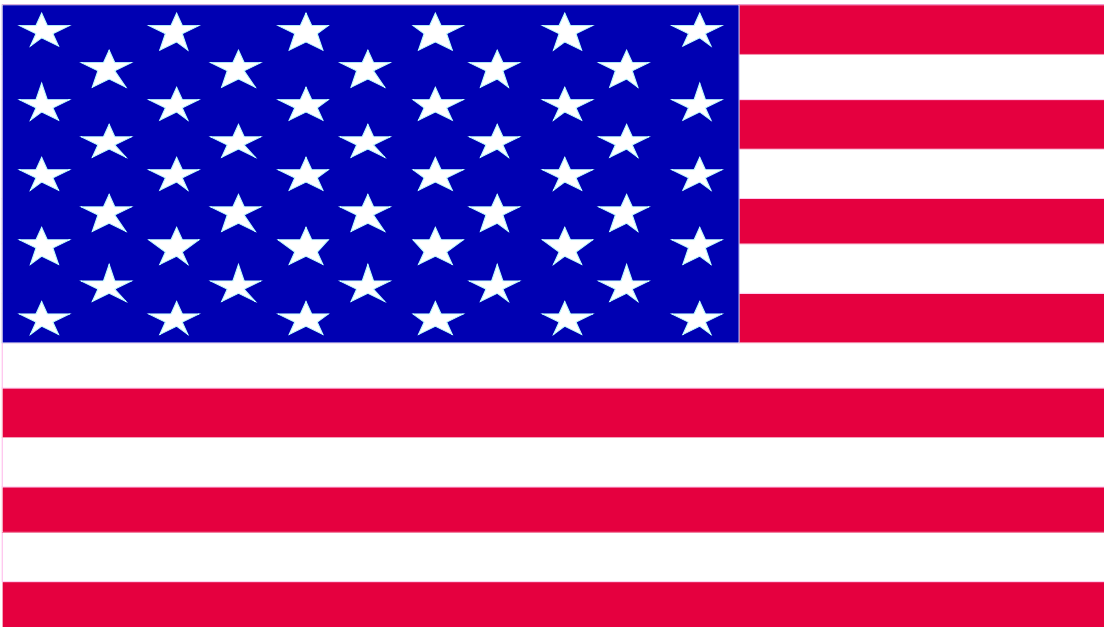
I believe the ideals that are embodied in the Medal of Honor are service, charity, and patriotism. The first word that comes to mind that is embodied in the Medal of Honor is service. All leaders are based out of service. You should serve others before yourself. Great or small things all count. Charity is about kindness. Patriotism means loving your country.

All the people that received the Medal of Honor served each other. One great servant was Jerry Murphy. He was very kind and brave. He didn't have a college degree or a lot of money. He only spoke about service. All truly great leaders come from an ideal of service.

The second word that is embodied in the Medal of Honor is charity. One thing that has to do with charity is doing right and being kind. Another part of charity is telling people the truth. Charity is also about giving to those who are in need. Love can also be about charity. My dad says the only eternal virtue is love and it lasts forever. If you love someone, you want them to have and be the very best they can be. Sometimes that means you have to do something very difficult to help them. This is called a sacrifice. You cannot love with sacrifice.

The third word embodied in the Medal of Honor is patriotism. Patriotism is devoted love and defense for your country. Another part of patriotism is serving your country. All patriotism is done by great and small things. This is a good thing when people use their mind and heart together. The beginning of our country everyone wanted to be free, as they were all humans with human rights. The founding fathers were clear about where they thought rights came from. Having rights is a great thing. Responsibility comes with having rights and protecting them. Freedom is not about being able to do whatever you want. It is about doing what you should do.

These men that received the Medal of Honor did what they thought was right at that time in the war they were in. In my opinion they had a spirit of service, charity, and patriotism. These ideals are embodied in the Medal of Honor and they truly represent our country.



What do you believe are the ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor?

By Padraig Calhoun

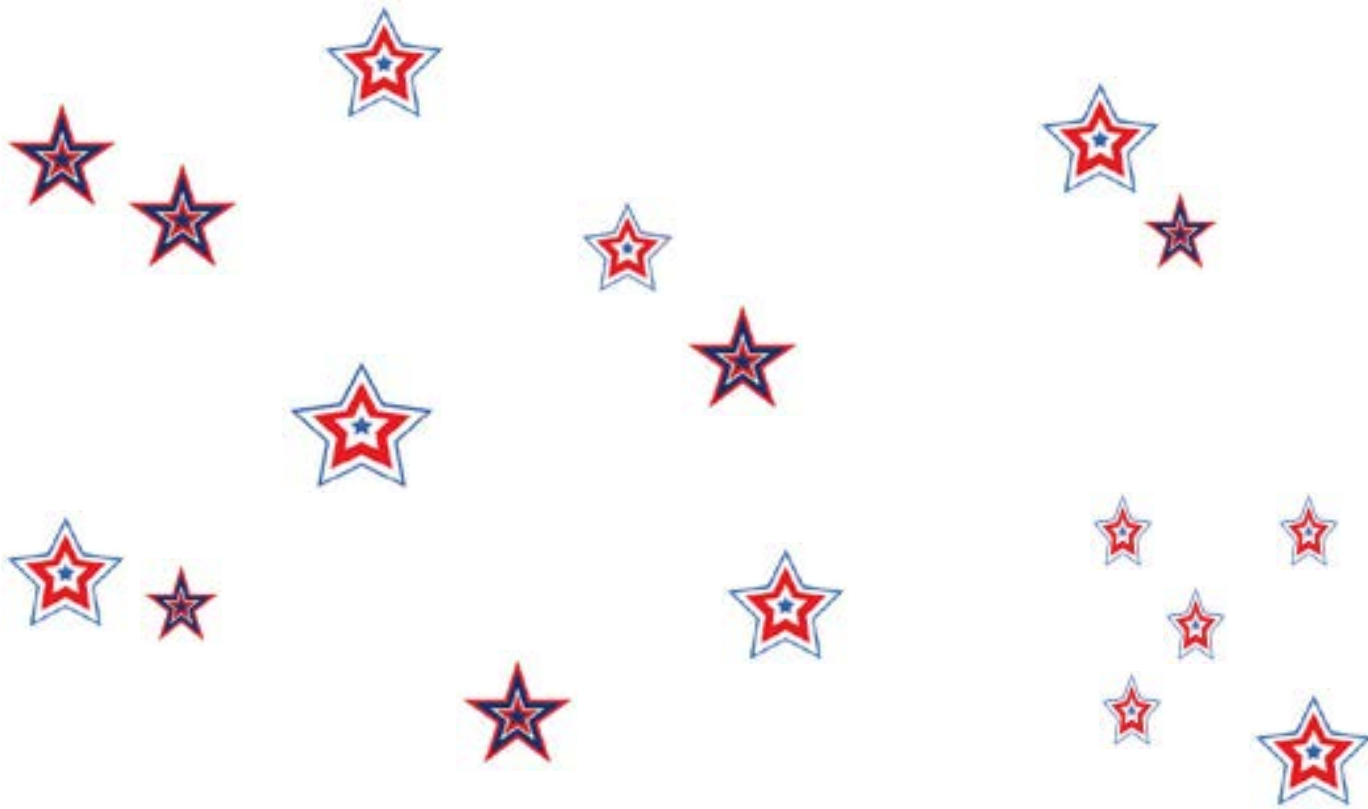
There are many ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor. Here are some of the ideals, and the reasons they are important to the Medal of Honor.

One ideal embodied in the Medal of Honor is bravery. One example of bravery is not being afraid to die for your country. Soldiers are not afraid to die because they could die by saving someone's life. Another example of bravery is being fearless. Being fearless is running into enemy fire to save someone who has been shot. Being brave also means being committed; like being committed to your fellow soldiers and always having their backs.

Another example of an ideal within the Medal of Honor is making sacrifice. One, soldiers make sacrifices by having to leave their families. Another example of making sacrifices is the willingness to die for your country. If you leave to serve in the military that means you can't be afraid to die. The last example of making sacrifices is putting others first. Putting others first is going into battle first in line, and not being afraid. You have to be a leader to do this, and leaders have to be willing to make sacrifices, and not be selfish.

The last ideal embodied in the Medal of Honor is strength. Part of being strong is having hope, even when a situation seems hopeless. Being strong means being physically strong, and being mentally strong. Mental strength means determination, and never giving up. Strength is something that is part of the Medal of Honor, and something that is in all of the people who have won this award.

The Medal of Honor is a very unique award. Only the bravest and the strongest can earn the Medal of Honor. These two ideals, along with sacrifice, are what I think are the most important ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor, and why only a handful of men have received this award.



What do you believe are the ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor?

By Michael Hamilton

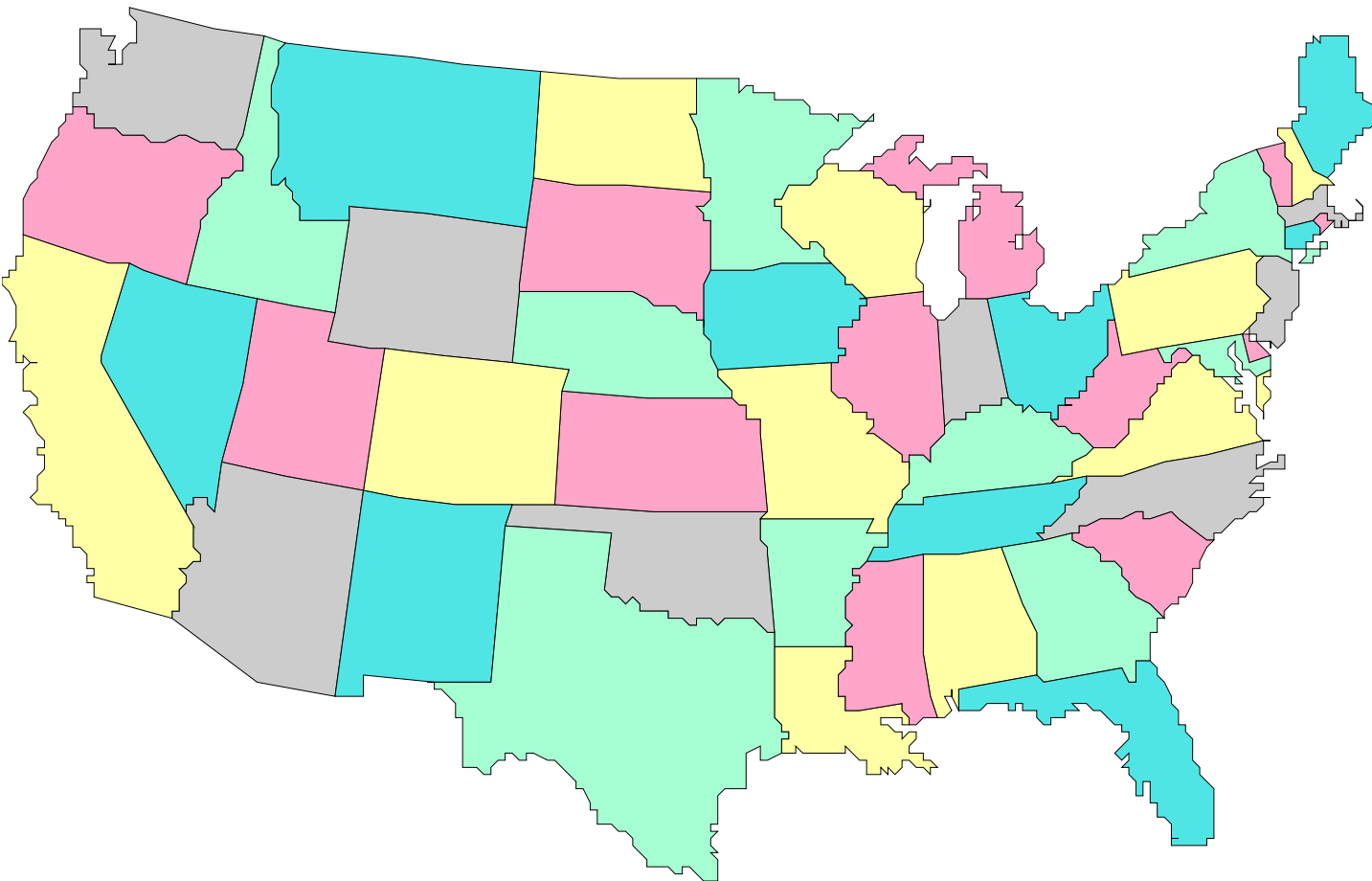
I believe the ideals that are embodied in the Medal of Honor are courage, sacrifice, and commitment. I think the soldiers that get the Medal of Honor have all of these things.

First of all, soldiers have a lot of courage. They can't be scared of anything because they must be brave to fight in wars. They can't be scared of loud noises or guns and bombs. They can't be scared of flying in planes because they have to travel to different places to fight in wars. They also have to have courage to leave their families at home because they will miss them.

Second, soldiers sacrifice a lot of things. They sacrifice themselves to save other people. Soldiers have to sacrifice themselves to save other soldiers sometimes too. They also sacrifice time with their kids and families because they have to go away to fight in wars. Soldiers have to stay away from their families for a long time while they are in the war. They have to stay in the war and fight even if they miss their family.

Third, soldiers have a lot of commitment. I watched a movie on YouTube that showed a soldier that thought he was going to die. He was hurt really bad and he still saluted his commanding officer. I think he had a lot of commitment because he still saluted even when he thought he was going to die.

All in all, soldiers have a lot of courage and they are very brave because they make a lot of sacrifices for the people. I think they should all get the Medal of Honor because they are committed to keeping us all safe. They fight for the people of our country every day.



The One Word That Best Describes the United States of America

By Damian Meigs

One word to describe the United States of America is freedom. The soldiers fight to give the United States of America freedom. The flag tells us what country we serve. The flag has 50 stars for the 50 states. The stripes represent the first 13 colonies or states.

The soldiers sacrifice themselves to give the United States of America freedom. The military gives rewards to the soldiers if they serve a long time. The soldiers get different rewards such as the Purple Heart, Medal of Honor, and badges. The soldiers help by fighting for our country. Soldiers give us freedom.

Also, we say the Pledge of Allegiance as part of our freedom. The Pledge of Allegiance stated by Americans is to show we support the military and our country. We appreciate our freedom. Also there are the first ten amendments to the Constitution of the Bill of Rights. There is freedom of speech in the Constitution. Freedom of speech also means the right to listen to the thought and opinions of others. Next is the freedom of press. The freedom to express your ideas and opinions in writing is known as freedom of press.

There is more. The freedom of assembly is priceless and freedom is guaranteed by the first amendment. Freedom of assembly or the freedom to hold meetings is important to religions and other people to be able to meet together if they want to. Then there is the freedom of petition. The freedom of petition is the right to ask your government to do something or to refrain from doing something. The last thing is the right to bear arms. The second amendment to the Constitution guarantees that Americans have the right to bear arms. That is why the one word to best describe the United States of America is freedom.



What the Congressional Medal of Honor means to me

By Talon Kenyon

The city of Pueblo, Colorado is unique. Young people like me who live here know something that a lot of other people in the United States haven't the slightest idea about, the Congressional Medal of Honor. I am lucky to be living in a city where four of its citizens received the highest award that can be given to a member of the United States Armed Forces. I can remember when my dad, a disabled Air Force veteran, started taking me down to the Hero's Plaza where four statues stand for these courageous men. I would stand there listening to the stories of their sacrifices and heroism in the face of war. As we walked away, my dad would tell me that I didn't have to be in the military to have the values these men had. My dad would tell me the Medal of Honor represents courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity and commitment. I didn't understand it then but as I've gotten older, I have started to see what he was saying.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to our nation's soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guard for their unselfish personal acts of valor at the risk of losing their lives and beyond the call of duty. It symbolizes the extraordinary risks and courage American soldiers faced during combat to cover each other's back and keep each other safe.

The four Pueblo recipients', William J. Crawford (Army/ WWII), Carl L. Sitter (Marines/ Korea), Raymond G. "Jerry" Murphy (Marines/ Korea) and Drew D. Dix (Army/ Vietnam) all have something in common. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented Raymond G. "Jerry" Murphy with his medal in 1953 said, "What is it...something in the water out there in Pueblo? All you guys turn out to be heroes!" My dad told me their stories showed something more about Pueblo. He said they send a message of caring and looking out for each other before yourself. That says a lot about my hometown. These men set an example that I can follow even if I'm not in the military.

As I continue on with my learning and sports, I am seeing these values of the Medal of Honor in my life. These men and one woman helped me understand what it takes to be the best person I can be. In school I try to be a good responsible student citizen. I try to make the right decisions even if it means losing something in return. I stand up for myself and my friends in the face of bullying and peer pressure. In my sports I am able to practice patriotism through respect for our flag, compete hard and play by the rules. What I have discovered while studying more on the Medal of Honor is that each and every one of us has a chance to be a hero if we all just worked a little harder on our values and put them in action.



What you really need to be a Medal of Honor winner

By Cheyenne Curran

The Medal of Honor, so much can be said for the brave men and women who get this significant award. The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor, awarded for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. The men and women get awarded by the U.S. president in the name of congress to only U.S. military personnel. The medal is awarded for selfless acts of heroic dignity.

I believe in order to be awarded the Medal of Honor you have to have many qualities. The main qualities are honesty, dignity, selflessness, heroism and bravery. Not just anyone can get the Medal of Honor you have to have done something extraordinary. Many men and women who get this award have either saved someone, have helped lead a group of soldiers to safety, have showed great honor and many more.

Many Medal of Honor winners have said great words after receiving the medal. "Only those are fit to live who are not afraid to die." This quote was said by Douglas MacArthur a Medal of Honor recipient. "There is no security on this earth; there is only opportunity." Douglas MacArthur also said these wise words. Another Medal of Honor recipient is Theodore Roosevelt and his quote was "Far better is it to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checked by failure ... than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat." "You are rewarding a teacher poorly if you remain always a pupil." This quote was said by Friedrich Nietzsche.

Most of the quotes pretty much state you won't succeed in life if you never try. Although in different words some also say life isn't worth living if you never feel defeat. All of the people who have been awarded Medals of Honor have felt some sort of defeat and obviously it paid off because those people are now Medal of Honor winners. So a quality I believe is very important is being able to know the feeling of defeat.

Another quality a Medal of Honor recipient should have is intelligence. I don't think the type of intelligence matters, you could have book smarts, agility smarts, or plan smarts. By plan smarts I mean they can come up with escape plans, easy access routes, and know how to make it out without being seen. All Medal of Honor winners are intelligent and they let it shine through. Being brave, selfless, intelligent, and knowing defeat is very difficult. Being brave, selfless, intelligent, and knowing defeat is even more difficult to do when no one notices. These brave men and women do it every day not expecting anything out of it. These are the qualities I think truly matter in being a Medal of Honor recipient.



The Medal of Honor

By Brooklyn Micheli

Douglas MacArthur once said, “The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” The highest U.S. military decoration, awarded by Congress to a member of the armed forces for gallantry and bravery in combat at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is the Medal of Honor. If you were given the opportunity to risk your life in order to save another would you rise to the occasion? Most of us often forget everyday a soldier is out there fighting to survive another second, fighting for our freedom. We take for granted all the many blessings we posses and the ones we have yet to receive.

Numerous ideals are embodied in the Medal of Honor, personally I believe heroism along with self sacrifice are two of the most important. Heroism is courage. Heroism is bravery. Heroism is unselfishness. Heroism is a airmen. Heroism is a marine. Heroism is a soldier. Heroism is not only all these things but heroism also represents the few people that have received this honor. These people possess qualities of a hero. Yes, the kind of hero you see in kid cartoons, where they come at the eleventh hour and save the day. They are the last second breath of hope that will in the end give life. A true hero’s strength is measured by his heart not by his brawn.”

“One choice decides your friends. One choice defines your beliefs. One choice determines your loyalties-forever. One choice can transform you.” -Veronica Roth. Self sacrifice is a choice. Soldiers on a day to day basis have choices to make. After trials and trails some finally catch a break while others continuously get lucky. To earn the Medal of Honor one must have self sacrifice. Some fighters are willing to go out in the storm to recover one of their fellow warriors. Characteristics are what mold a person and the ability to sacrifice for others can make or break a beautiful creation. In my opinion self sacrifice is a substantial ideal embodied in The Medal of Honor.

I wish war was non-existent, but not all wishes come true. Therefore I will forever be thankful for the service men and women that have sacrificed for my freedom. A wise woman once said, “Life is not a race- but indeed a journey. Be honest. Work hard. Be choosy. Say “thank you”, “I love you”, and “great job” to someone each day. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you’ve been given, it’s not accidental. Dreaming does matter.”



The Medal of Honor

By Madison Blackwell

When many of us think of the Medal of Honor our minds may wander to movies such as Forrest Gump or Courage Under Fire and for the most part those movies do represent the Medal of Honor quite well. Both show a person who has gone above and beyond the actions of other soldiers in their situation or they have shown extreme bravery beyond the person’s call of duty. These people were not asked to do these things and received nothing in return for their bravery they simply made a terrifying yet selfless act.

You may wonder what does someone have to do to receive such a prestigious award as the Medal of Honor. According to many, the curriculum for receiving this award would consist of a soldier going above and beyond the call of duty. Becoming a recipient of such an important and honorable award is not easy for the awards are given quite sparingly. One man Corporal Alex Jake is a great example of what a Medal of Honor recipient should look like. When all the officers in his platoon had become casualties, Corporal Alex Jake took command and lead the platoon forward until they were stopped by fire from a machine gun nest. He killed five of the enemy with his bayonet, and when it was broken, used the butt of his rifle. He captured 15 prisoners.

A medal is by definition a metal disk with an inscription or design, made to commemorate an event or awarded as a distinction to someone such a soldier, athlete or scholar. The definition of honor: high respect; esteem. When the two definitions are put together they form something like a metal disk with an inscription or design made to commemorate someone for high respect or esteem.

Each person who puts on the Medal of Honor represents not only their country but also bravery and loyalty. Medal of Honor recipients should, in my opinion be well respected for all that they have sacrificed for their country. Our country, America, has men and women not unlike all the Medal of Honor recipients to thank for our freedom!

So in answer, I believe that the requirements for someone to receive the Medal of Honor would be loyalty, bravery and selflessness or an unordinary and extraordinary selfless act of bravery made because of the loyalty one has for his or her country.



Medal of Honor

By Julie Singleton

The Medal of Honor is a great honor to be awarded with, but it is not just awarded to a casual person walking on the street. There are so many traits you have to succeed. Here are some of the many traits you will need to be awarded with the Medal of Honor: courage, preparedness, excellence and bravery. These traits are ideal to be embodied in the Medal of Honor. Perhaps there is a soldier that is about to be bombed, that’s a time when these traits come in need.

Prepared is one of the many traits you’ll need to get the grandest award of all, the Medal of Honor. To be prepared you always have to know what you’re going into. You can’t go into anything wondering how you’re going to save yourself. The war is not a breeze in the wind; you have to have your head held high at all points. As Douglas MacArthur once said, “Only those are fit to live who are not afraid to die.” This means to me that, you can’t be scared to die because it is a sin to be afraid of things that haven’t happened yet. You always need to know how to fight in the war, or you can put yourself in great danger. Danger can be passed as long as you’re always prepared.

Another great trait is excellence; you must always be an excellent person to hold the Medal of Honor. Excellence will always lead you in the right direction. The great man Douglas MacArthur once said, “Duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate’ what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.” I put this quote because, “You need to be excellent with duty, honor, and country, because these three words “things” stand out themost on Earth.” With every war you fight, you become more excellent each time from your bravery. Excellence is the greatest thing to be.

Bravery is another characteristic that you need to win the Medal of Honor. With bravery you can do anything. Life is a lot easier when you are brave. The war is a hard fight to fight, and when you go into war to fight you can’t back down! You have to always fight for you and your country. Bravery is a big part of our country, and when you fight for your country you can’t turn your back on our country. While walking on war grounds anything and everything depends on you, never look back! Bravery is the biggest trait, I think, you’ll need in war.

Courage, you must always have courage, to win the Medal of Honor. When you have courage, you can do anything in the war. Just have courage to make living possible in the military. Courage means greatness! Whenever you have courage, you should have no worries. With courage you can conquer anything, I mean anything! You’ll seem to feel like you could pass by an enemy without him even

knowing you passed or jump for safety when a bomb is about to explode, that is what courage is! Just believe you have courage and the whole world will stop for you! Once Theodore Roosevelt said, “In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.” This means to me, about courage, “That the best things you can do while making a decision is doing something, as long as you’re doing something.”

These were the four traits you need to be awarded with the great “Medal of Honor.” Preparedness, excellence, bravery, and courage are amazing traits to have, even not being in the military you can use these traits. How cool would it be to be awarded with the Medal of Honor! Yeah, awesome right! Just follow those traits if you join the military.



Home of Heroes

By Irie Wheeler

A wise man once said, “Courage is beyond the man’s eye.” I believe it is beyond the battlefield and beyond the strength of your sword. It is woven into your soul like a deep wound of wisdom, sacrifice, and audacity. This is a marking that is given and created. In 1862 the United States created the Medal of Honor to recognize those who had gone beyond the call of duty.

This medal is for all of those that have proven their true marks and intentions. Wisdom is the knowledge that supplies your needs. It is the way of the pure heroes that overflow their cups with riches due to following wisdom’s paths. She will out reach her hand that brings intelligence, sense, and humble character. Intelligence has lead mankind through pain by offering understanding. Heroes must be able to come to terms with others and hear those who cannot be heard. Wisdom teaches you not to rush into battle. Any ignorant one can fight but a man listens to others and not to his deceiving flesh.Sense is what forms the foundations of a hero. It opens your sight in sudden fears and life allowing you to lead others to salvation. Sense can help those who cannot help themselves by teaching the teacher. When in the days of war we must be able to bring redemption to those who are wicked and act impish. But since one cannot come without the other, you must be also be humble in the field of battle. If you do this you will not let pride guide your path and shield your eyes from truth. All that comes from pride is destruction to those who are innocent and love you.

Sacrifice proves to your followers and yourself where you stand. It gives you credibility, reason, and shows how a soldier is willing to put everything on the line for others. Credibility will build ethos towards your fellow soldiers. A hero is a leader and without ethos people will question his loyalty. Reason of why he is fighting is given by sacrifice. The emotion of loss pushes he or she to move forward, just like the Patriots against Britain.

We live in a world full of pain and anguish, deception and fear. A world that was not created to fit the benefits of humans. Yet we evolved. We overcame the monster limping through the streets and standing of the school yards. This would not have been possible if it weren’t for our bravery. The bravery that pushed us forward in the world and taught us survival. Without audacity a hero no longer can stand tall, they will becomes a coward, and their ways will be misguided. They will tremble at the sight of an axe and faint in fright. This will cause their brains to close off all creativity and go into survival mode. This action will affect the outcome of choices when in sudden need of a well planned decision. A true hero is not self centered and without bravery they are the opposite, cowardly. When you are a coward you think of your needs and not others. There ways will be misguided and end in mistakes. This world that we now stand on was founded by heroes that took risks, followed the ways of wisdom, and showed true bravery. They are who we should thank for the life we live. The food we eat, the bed we sleep in, and the freedom that they traded in for us. As long as they stay strong and true they will always be the ones I thank.



To Deserve the Medal of Honor

By Kiana Gonzalez

For the United States soldier to earn something as honorable as the Medal of Honor, one must follow the three basic principles of being courageous, self-sacrificing, and must be committed to fight for his or her country.

Of course, one of the traits he or she must possess to earn such a token is for that soldier to be brave and basically be very courageous in battle. It is common sense to know that to accomplish anything of great importance you must be strong-willed. And, of course, no coward could ever hope to achieve the honor of being bestowed with the medal. I suppose you could also say that it is not easy; being brave, so the medal should be at least difficult to achieve the level of bravery to do something honorable and something to be remembered throughout history. And so, I believe it is safe to say that being courageous is one of the traits to earn the Medal of Honor.

Another trait to be deserving of the Medal of Honor-and this may be the most difficult to accomplish-is to be self-sacrificing, whether it is for your country or your comrade (fellow soldiers). This is a very important quality of the honorable because it means that you must be willing to sacrifice yourself for others, and for the good of your country. That in itself is most courageous and must be honored. Such love for others and your country must be very great for one to do such a willing deed. If you have it in your heart to feel that you must do such a thing for the greater good, then that goes to show that you have true strength, and a heart much greater than most. A quality such as that is certainly most deserving to be one for the Medal of Honor.

The last trait for a man or a woman to be fit to deserve the Medal of Honor is to be committed to their country. To be a true soldier, one must be truly committed and loyal to their country. Of course, no traitor could ever receive the medal, nor could he hope to fulfill his duty as a soldier. If a United States soldier ever hopes to achieve something as honorable as the Medal of Honor, he or she must be prepared to do anything and everything for their country. And not just to achieve the medal, but to fight for American rights and to simply serve their country. But to be truly deserving of the Medal of Honor, a soldier must always remember that their country comes first, and to never forget that when in the heat of the battle. It is important to keep in mind that any soldier who keeps the love for their country in their heart is truly well deserving of the Medal of Honor.

And so, it is important to remember that if any United States soldier ever wished to deserve the Medal of Honor, they must possess the three basic qualities of being courageous, self sacrificing, and committed to their country.



Medal of Honor

By Sarah Schornack

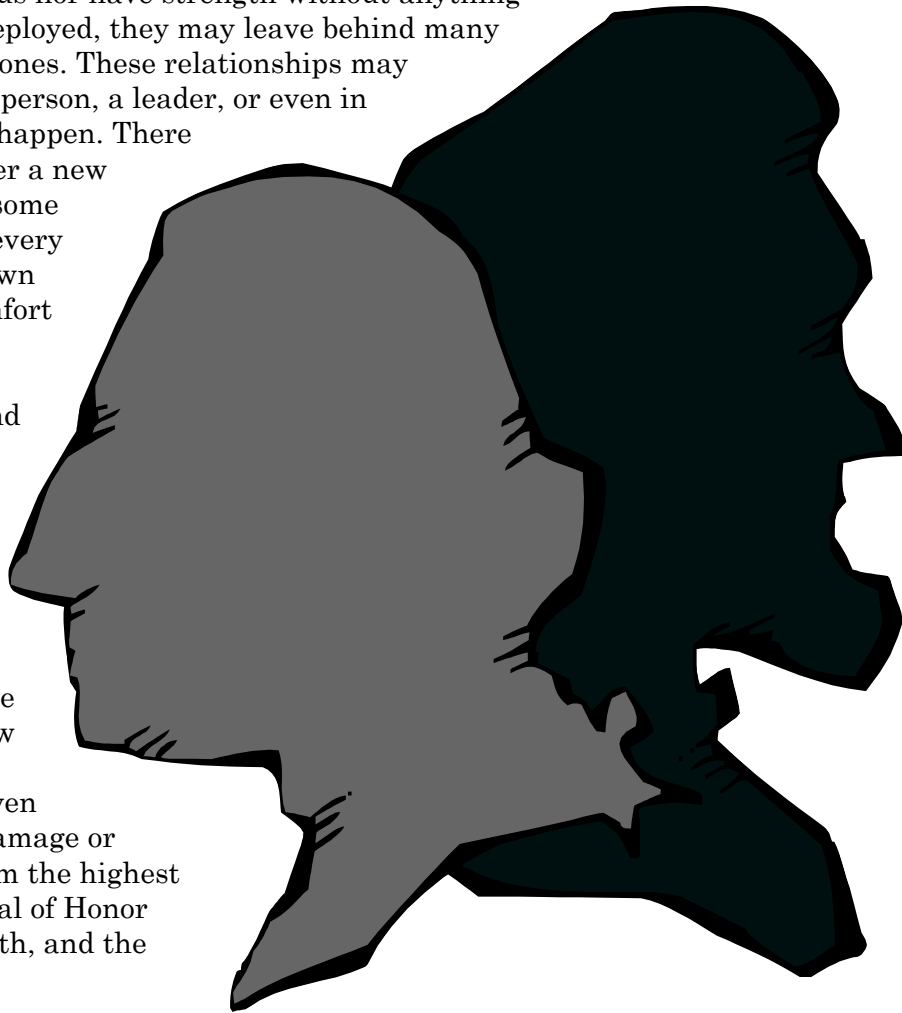
The ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor are courage, strength, and love of fellow comrades. The Medal of Honor is the highest recognition in the U.S. and is awarded by Congress for gallantry and bravery in the line of duty. There are currently about 107 recipients of the Medal of Honor so it is a very high privilege to receive one.

One of the many ideals of the Medal of Honor is courage. Courage is defined as the ability to do something that frightens one, but as participants in the line of duty, it calls for so much more. Recipients are not only doing something terrifying, they're risking everything they have. When they leave for war, they leave everything behind except an army bag packed to the brim with supplies and only a few slices of home. They go to another continent, with people who don't speak English and with no idea what to expect from these alien landscapes. They are often asked to do unspeakable tasks, and they do it without hesitation. The Medal of Honor rightfully, but not completely, awards participants for their courage.

Strength is the quality of being strong. Recipients of the Medal of Honor are not only strong physically but emotionally, spiritually, and intelligently. They sometimes have to carry fellow soldiers or citizens to safety, or to handle heavy armory that is very dangerous. They are emotionally strong because they cannot just have a break down in the middle of combat; they must stay alert and focused. They are spiritually strong because they can't get through all the traumatic situations alone so they trust in God. They are intelligently strong because they must think of different strategies and safe ways to beat the enemy. Recipients of this medal are the strongest kind of people in every way.

A recipient cannot be courageous nor have strength without anything to be those things for. When they're deployed, they may leave behind many relationships but they also make new ones. These relationships may be found in a fellow soldier, a random person, a leader, or even in an enemy, you never know what may happen. There are many stories of how people discover a new best friend or someone to talk to, but some even find family. These people spend every waking moment together in an unknown area so they look to each other for comfort and understanding. No one else understands what they're going through, so it seems natural to befriend them.

None of us will ever know what it's like to go to war, to see a best friend die and no one seems to notice but you, or to fight for a country. All the people who have though are courageous, strong and love their fellow soldiers. The few who show all of these exceptionally are rewarded with the Medal of Honor. Even though this doesn't make up for the damage or loss they've been through, it gives them the highest respect they can get. Clearly, the Medal of Honor embodies the ideals of courage, strength, and the love of a fellow comrade.



The Medal of Honor: American Heroes

By Grace Ryan

Hero, U.S. Marine, Pueblo native, and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Raymond G. Murphy once said, “We live in the best country in the world. It is our duty to love, guide and protect it.” Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor for loving and protecting the “best country in the world” in a very heroic manner. He was a Second Lieutenant in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War. Wounded twice in the midst of enemy fire, he refused medical attention until he had brought all his men to safety. He was awarded with the Medal of Honor for his heroic bravery, for loving his country, and for protecting it. For the last 150 years, these ideas have been embedded in the Medal of Honor; which has been honoring heroism, proclaiming American ideals, celebrating patriotism, and thanking those who protect America.

Every Medal of Honor recipient has a different biography, but one thing that stands out in all of their stories is heroism. The Medal of Honor is awarded to those who have shown amazing courage in combat. It is only awarded to a few of the very bravest, those who have gone beyond the call of duty in battle. That’s why it means so much that four Medal of Honor recipients; Carl L. Sitter, Raymond G. Murphy, Drew D. Dix, and William J. Crawford; have come from my hometown; Pueblo, Colorado. When awarding the Medal of Honor to Raymond G. Murphy in 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked, “What is it... something in the water out there in Pueblo? All you guys turn out to be heroes!” Why would so many heroes come from a town named for an old fort and resettled during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush? I am proud that my town is called the “Home of Heroes” because of its Medal of Honor recipients.

Recipients of the Medal of Honor are all heroes, but heroism isn’t the only idea embodied in the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor also proclaims that America is an amazing nation by honoring those who defend American ideals. The Medal of Honor was first awarded during the Civil War, when many brave young soldiers fought to re-unite the America they loved. It was awarded to a famous military strategist in the Spanish-American war. His name was Theodore Roosevelt. It was awarded to World War I veterans who went overseas to protect the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; the rights on which America is built. It was used to honor World War II soldiers who fought to stop the Axis powers and bring the rights of life, equality, and liberty to the whole world. The Medal of Honor was awarded to veterans who went to Korea and Vietnam to try to bring those rights to other countries and halt the spread of oppressive communist governments. The Medal of Honor represents the ideas that were fought for in all of these wars. It represents the American dream of liberty, equality, and justice.

On top of that, the Medal of Honor also rewards soldiers’ patriotism and honors our nation’s heroes for fighting to protect our liberty. All of Pueblo’s Medal of Honor recipients loved their country. Raymond G. Murphy said, “We live in the best country in the world.” William J. Crawford said, “Money is nothing if you lose your country.” The Medal of Honor also inspired patriotism in the 1860s, when it was first awarded. The nation was split in two. President Lincoln needed a way to inspire Union troops, and thank them for serving their country. Nationally recognizing heroic soldiers also helped unify the nation in a spirit of patriotism. The Medal of Honor rewards the spirit of patriotism that inspires American soldiers to fight for the American dream. It also encourages normal people, like my brother and me, to love and defend our country. I may not be a hero like some who have tread on Pueblo’s dusty soil, but I love my country.

Each time the Congressional Medal of Honor is awarded, it also thanks that veteran for fearlessly defending freedom. American citizens owe a lot to the veterans who have gone overseas, fought bravely, been wounded, and have even died for our freedom. Many soldiers, including but not exclusively Medal of Honor recipients, have sacrificed a lot for our liberty. I think the Medal of Honor is an amazing way to thank our heroes for all they’ve done to defend America’s liberty. I am grateful for the actions of each recipient, from the men who fought to keep the United States united, to the recent recipients who have defended America’s values overseas.

Since the 1860s, the Medal of Honor has been the highest award that any veteran in the armed services can receive. The Medal of Honor thanks the veterans that have defended America, honors their patriotism, proclaims liberty, and rewards the heroes that have made sacrifices for our country. I am pleased to live in the place that, out of the whole country, has the most Medal of Honor recipients. Out of 3,468 Medal of Honor recipients, Pueblo, Colorado is home to four. With 319 million people living in America, the average city Pueblo’s size would have 1,159 Medal of Honor recipients. My hometown is often called the “Home of Heroes” because of this. Why? Is there something in the water in Pueblo, or is it something in the lack of water? At my house, it hardly ever rains! To me, the reason for Pueblo’s heroism is even deeper than that. Since Fort Pueblo was first settled, the Home of Heroes has been a patriotic town that proclaims the American dream of liberty and justice to all.



What do you believe are the ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor?

By Isaiah S. Quiming

This is the topic I was given to report on, and a very good one I might add! Most kids my age don't know much about the medal of honor because as teens we only care about what celebrity just cut their hair or what new electronic devices are coming out. And I think we as a growing generation with such sophisticated technology should know who, how, when and why these brave men and women are receiving such honorable awards! And that is why I am here today to give my generation and yours more information about what the Medal of Honor and what you are expected to do to earn and receive this award.

The Medal of Honor was created during the American Civil War and is the highest decoration presented by the United States government to a member of its armed forces. I bet you are wondering how these brave men and women get this award if you don't already know well, To receive this award, the recipient must have distinguished themselves at the risk of their own life "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty" in action against an enemy of the United States of America.

The President of the United States, in the name of the United States Congress, has awarded 3,471 medals of Honor to the nation's soldiers, sailors, airman, marines and coast guardsmen since the decorations creation in 1861. All of these men and women risked their lives to protect not only our country but the men and women who stand behind them on the battlefield. 3,471 brave soldiers fighting for us, for our right to live with freedom and liberty! I cannot even begin to imagine doing something so brave and risking! Most kids my age think it's an easy thing to because of the games they play, they think just because they can beat and play a game on the highest difficulty they are invincible they don't know and maybe never know how they risks you take on that battlefield and neither do I. It's a game to them but for you ... Its real life, fighting for our rights! And sometimes they don't realize what you have and what you are doing for us but ... I do, I realize the responsibility you take on for us and I appreciate it!

To go above and beyond the call of duty means to do a lot more than you are required or expected to do for your job. If you break the expression down into parts, "go above and beyond" means to do more. "The call of duty" means "the things that you're asked to do for your job". This is the motto our military goes by; and it is a perfect motto to go by. In my opinion most people should live by this and from now on I will continue to live by this motto, I will go above and beyond the call of duty ... maybe not in the same way you will by fighting for us but I will do whatever I can to help and make the world a better place!

The ideals embodied in the Medal of Honor are to be brave and confident in whatever obstacles we may encounter. No matter how scared we may be or how scared we were, to do the right thing! To not be afraid to take chances and risks! We all as human beings should not be afraid to speak the truth whether or not if people think it's a lie! We need to do what is best for ourselves and others, no matter what the circumstances are! I will take a risk I will be confident in my decisions and I will go above and beyond the call of duty! I have learned a tremendous amount of new things I never knew before being in this class!

I have learned to respect others for who they are and what they do because of my J.R.O.T.C. class at Centennial High School. I wouldn't want to be in any other class! In fact it's the class I want to be in the most! This isn't any ordinary class this class is special to me in every single way imaginable. I always know the schedule, what we are doing Mondays through Fridays. This class taught me to be confident and has taught me the real meaning of respect. I am who I am today because of this class! Thank you to all of the fallen soldiers, veterans and the soldiers who are currently fighting as I speak for my right to live with freedom!

