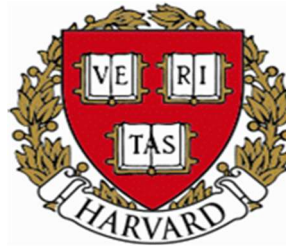


# Medal of Honor recipients from Harvard University



10 April 2025

Harvard graduates have a proud but often untold history of duty, honor and country through their military service to our country. The recipients of the Medal of Honor, of course, merit the highest honor and respect. After extensive research, Captain Paul E. Mawn USN (Ret.) [now Chairman Emeritus of the [Advocates for Harvard ROTC](#)], has recently confirmed that that Harvard now has 21 Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients among its alumni, which is more than any university in the world. [As expected, West Point & the Naval Academy alumni have been the more Medals of Honor than any other educational institute (i.e. respectively 83 & 73). The Air Force Academy has one only MOH alumnus and there are none from the US Coast Guard Academy. However to be “picky”, these outstanding educational & leadership schools are military “Academies” & not “universities”]. While there is no “race” for nor “winners” of the Medal of Honor, all Harvard alumni should be very proud of Harvard’s premier position among all civilian universities for the highest number of alumni who earned the Medal of Honor. The valor of these men of Harvard involved self-sacrifice **above and beyond** the call of duty. Based on information to date, Medal of Honor recipient alumni at other universities are: Columbia =13, Brown =10, GWU =10, Princeton =9, Norwich =9, University of Washington =8, Texas A&M =8, Virginia Tech =8, Virginia Military Institute =7, Yale =6, BU = 6, U Penn =4, Dartmouth =3, Holy Cross =3, The Citadel =1, Notre Dame =1 & Northeastern =1. [Note: Texas Aggie, VA Tech, VMI & The Citadel have a Corps of Cadets with long tradition of military service, many of whom served in the Confederate military during the Civil War as did 28% of all Harvard alumni during this tragic “War between the States” and 44% of all Harvard Alumni who died in this conflict were Confederates. During the Civil War, the balance of the Harvard alumni who served & died were in the Union forces].

## Profile of Harvard Medal of Honor recipients

<u>War</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% Σ</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% Σ</u>	<u>Mil Service</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% Σ</u>
Civil War	9	43%	Ireland	1	5%	Army	16	76%
Indian	1	5%	Mid Atlantic	8	38%	Marine Corps	3	14%
Spanish-American	1	5%	Mid West	3	14%	Navy	1	5%
WW I	4	19%	New England	6	29%	Air Force	1	5%
WW II	3	14%	The South	3	14%	Total	21	100%
Korea	1	5%	Total	21	100%			
Vietnam	1	5%	<u>Harvard School</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% Σ</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% Σ</u>
<u>Islamic Terrorism</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5%</u>	College	11	52%	Flag officer	13	62%
			HLS	5	24%	Sr. Officer (non flag)	5	24%
			HMS	2	10%	Jr. Officer	1	5%
			All other	3	14%	Enlisted	2	10%
Total	21	100%	Total	21	100%	Total	21	100%

Among the 21 Medal of Honor recipients from Harvard also are: 5 lawyers, 5 businessmen, 7 career military officers, 1 civilian medical doctor, 1 politician and 2 in their 20’s who were **Killed in Action**.

President Teddy Roosevelt (HC-1880) & Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (HC-1909) were one of only 2 other father & son recipients of the Medal of Honor Along [i.e. along with West Point graduates General Douglas MacArthur & his father]. Long into the future, Harvard hopefully will continue to proactively reinvigorate its noble tradition of educating patriots who serve our country in the armed forces with great distinction. May the **Long Crimson Line** of military service continue to protect our freedom as well as foster the related leadership skills to better serve our country as well as Harvard. Thus, let us hope and pray that future generations of Harvard students continued to heed and fulfill the following advice engraved in stone on the Dexter Gate entrance to the Harvard Yard: “***Enter to grow in wisdom. Depart to better serve thy country and kind***”.

A brief summary of the 21 men of Harvard who received the Medal of Honor follows:



## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients)

1845

### Major General Manning Ferguson Force - 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry



Manning was born in Washington (DC) in 1824 as the grandson of a veteran of the Revolutionary War. At Harvard, Manning was a member of the A.D. Club and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1848. During Major General Sherman's Georgia campaign, he was awarded the **Medal of Honor** for bravery after capturing and successfully defending Leggett's Hill in Atlanta (GA) on 22 July 1864. During this battle, a bullet smashed into his face below his eye and exited his skull. He was sent home to die but he recovered and returned to active duty. The leadership style of the then 37 year old Colonel was noted in the diary of Sergeant Osborn Oldroyd of the 20<sup>th</sup> OH as follows: "*As Colonel Force called us to 'attention' this morning, one of the boys remarked, 'I love that man more than ever. Yes, we have good reason to be proud of our Colonel, for upon all occasions we are treated by him as volunteers enlisted in war for pure love of country'*". Manning's combat engagements included:

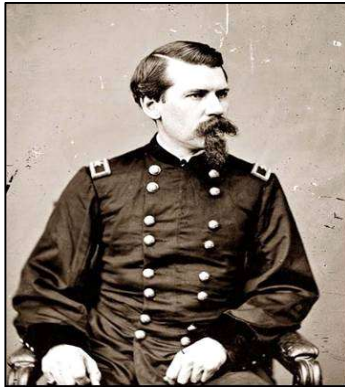
Sherman's March to the Sea (GA & SC), Fort Donelson (TN), Shiloh (TN), Vicksburg (MS) and the Battle of Raymond (MS). Following the Civil War, Manning returned to his law practice & was later a Professor at Cincinnati Law School and was later elected a judge in the Ohio Superior Court until his death in 1899 at age 75.

His **Medal of Honor citation** reads: "*Charged upon the enemy's works, and after their capture defended his position against assaults of the enemy until he was severely wounded*".

1857

### Brigadier General Horace Porter - Army of Potomac (Ordnance Department)

**Legion d'Honneur**



Horace was born in Huntington (PA) in 1837 as the son of the Pennsylvania governor of and grandson of a Continental Army officer. His uncle was the governor of Michigan and his aunt was the grandmother of Mary Todd Lincoln. After prepping at the Lawrence School (NJ), he went to the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard for a year after which he received an appointment to West Point from where he graduated 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class in 1860. After teaching ordnance at West Point for a year, he transferred to a critical ordnance arsenal in Troy (NY). After the attack on Fort Sumter (SC), he was ordered to Hilton Head (SC) to scout out harbors for the Army & Navy and was cited for bravery at Fort Pulaski. As a result, he came to the attention of General McClellan who made Horace his chief of ordnance despite his lowly rank of 1<sup>st</sup> LT. Due to his skill and organization ability, he was subsequently sent to carry out the same job with the Armies of Ohio and then Cumberland. As a member of the McClellan's staff, Horace was typically all over most battlefields of the general's command, especially

where the action was hottest. For bravery during the battle of Chickamauga, Horace was promoted to LTC and picked to be Aide de Camp of General Ulysses S. Grant, which last from 1864 to 1869. His combat engagements included: Fort Pulaski (GA), Port Royal (GA), Secessionville (SC), Antietam (MD), Chattanooga (TN), Battle of the Wilderness (VA), Cold Harbor (VA), Gettysburg (PA), Spotsylvania (VA), Ream's Station (aka New Market Heights, VA) & Cedar Creek (VA). While serving as President Grant's personal secretary while still on active duty, Horace refused a \$500,000 Bribe from Jay Gould, a Wall Street financier. He resigned from the Army in 1873 and became vice president of the Pullman Palace Car Company. At that same time, he was elected as President of the Union League Club in NYC from 1893 to 1897 and was major force in the construction of Grant's Tomb. During the administrations of both Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, Horace was appointed to serve as the ambassador to France from 1899 to 1905. During this time, he received the **Legion of Honor** from the French government and personally financed the successful search for the body of Captain John Paul Jones USN who had died in Paris in 1792. General Porter died in New York City in 1921 at age 84.

**Medal of Honor citation:** "*While acting as a volunteer aide, at a critical moment when the lines were broken, rallied enough fugitives to hold the ground under heavy fire long enough to effect the escape of wagon trains and batteries*".



## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued 1859

### Colonel (Brevet) Clinton A. Cilley - 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Infantry Regiment



Clinton was born in New Hampshire as the grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran. After graduating from the Boston Latin School, Clinton entered Harvard College from which he graduated in 1859. He then moved to Minnesota to teach at and later was made the President of the Free Will Baptist Seminary. In May 1861 after the start of the Civil War, Clinton urged a large number his students and faculty to enlist with him in the Union cause. Subsequently, they became the Company C of the 2<sup>nd</sup> MN. Seven months later, Clinton was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> LT & after 5 months later to 1<sup>st</sup> LT. At the Battle of Chickamauga (GA) in September 1863, the 2<sup>nd</sup> MN was in a defensive position to delay a Confederate breakthrough which eventually resulted in a victory for the Army of Tennessee under GEN Braxton Bragg CSA. During this time, Clinton was the acting captain of Company C. As stated in his **Medal of Honor citation**: he *“Seized the colors of a retreating regiment and led it into the thick of the attack”*.

As direct result of his valor, Company C of 2<sup>nd</sup> MN stopped a second day Confederate charge at Chickamauga but at very high costs (i.e. Among the 80 enlisted in his infantry company, only 25 survived this battle). in Georgia. Due to his bravery and ability, Clinton was promoted to Captain in July 1864 and then to major in 1865. He subsequently was breveted to LT COL & later to COL in 1865. At the end of the war, COL Cilley was stationed in North Carolina on the staff of GEN Schofield who was responsible for public order and the administration of justice in North Carolina. At this time, Clinton was particularly involved in the *“Freedman’s Bureau”* in matters relating to former Negro slaves. He was released from active in September 1866 and was awarded a medical military pension due to his post war partial paralysis and pains in his upper abdomen resulting from his war injuries

As a Harvard educated Union War hero in the South after the Civil War, Clinton might erroneously be described as a *“carpetbagger”*. However, he elected to stay in North Carolina and married a local girl who was the daughter of a former Confederate politician who had served in the US Congress before the war. Clinton opened up a successful Law practice with a former Confederate officer as a partner. He was a popular lawyer who was later elected to serve as a local judge and subsequently later as mayor of the small town of Lenior (NC) where he died in 1900 at age 63.

## 1862

### Major General Henry S. Huidekoper - 150<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry



Henry was born in 1839 in Meadville (PA). Shortly after receiving his Harvard degree, he went to Philadelphia to sign up for the Army and received a captain’s commission as part of the famed *“Bucktail Brigade”*. To differentiate themselves among scores of blue uniformed troops, his unit added a deer’s tail to their hatband. His combat engagements included Chancellorsville (VA) and Gettysburg (PA). COL Huidekoper was wounded twice at Gettysburg and lost his right arm which compelled him to resign from active duty in the Army as a major general.

After the war, Henry returned to **Harvard** where he received his MA in 1872. He was appointed major general of the PA National Guard in 1870 and led the suppression of the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 and was the Author of *“Manual of Service”* in 1879. From 1880 to 1886, Henry later was the postmaster of Philadelphia and subsequently worked for the Metropolitan Telephone & Telegraph and later Bell Telephone until his retirement in 1913. Henry was also elected as an overseer of Harvard College from 1889 to 1910 and died in Philadelphia in 1918 at age 79.

For bravery during the battle of Gettysburg, Henry was awarded the Medal of Honor with the following **Medal of Honor citation**: *“While engaged in repelling attack of the enemy, received a severe wound of the right arm, but instead of retiring remained at the front in command of the regiment”*.



## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued 1864

### Brigadier General Hazard Stevens - 79<sup>th</sup> NY Highlanders Infantry (3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 9<sup>th</sup> Corps)



Hazard was born in Newport (RI) in 1842 to a family with Rhode Island roots dating back to the 1600's. His father was the 1<sup>st</sup> territorial governor of the future state of Washington as well as a Union major general in the Civil War. In his teens, Hazard traveled all over the Washington territory with his father to sign treaties with various Indian tribes. In 1856 & 1857, war broke with one tribe in which both he and his father were combatants. Hazard then prepared at Chauncey Hall School in Boston for Harvard. After his college freshman year, Hazard took a leave of absence and enlisted in 79<sup>th</sup> NY where his father had been appointed as the commanding officer after resigning from the US Congress. After a few months and some skirmishes, Hazard was commissioned as captain by his father. The Stevens father & son duo continued to fight in the same unit during the Civil War until Hazard's father was killed in action by a hit to the head during the battle of Chantilly in September 1862. In the same battle, Hazard was severely wounded. After several weeks of recovery in Newport (RI), he rejoined the Army as the Inspector General of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. Hazard was again wounded after his horse was shot out from under him in the Battle

of The Wilderness. Over the next 18 months, he was successively promoted from major to LTC to colonel and finally to brigadier general for his heroism at Petersburg. In April 1865, Hazard became the youngest Union general in the Civil War which was 2 months before his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday. His combat engagements included: 2<sup>nd</sup> battle of Bull Run (VA), Chantilly (VA), Marye's Heights (VA), Pope's Campaign (VA), Battle of the Wilderness (VA), Fredericksburg (VA), Ft. Huger (VA), James River Campaign (VA), Petersburg (VA) & Richmond (VA). Hazard declined a regular Army commission after the war & he worked as an Internal Review collector while also studying law. After passing the bar, he worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He was one of the first two men to climb Mt. Rainier (3<sup>rd</sup> highest peak in the USA). Before his death in 1918, he also served in as rep in the Massachusetts legislature

Hazard's Medal of Honor citation reads: "*Gallantly led a party that assaulted and captured the fort*" (i.e. Ft. Huger).

## 1890

### Colonel Theodore Roosevelt US Army - Volunteer Mounted Cavalry (& later the 26<sup>th</sup> US President)



Ted was born in New York City in 1858. At Harvard College, where was on the crew and boxing teams and a member of the Porcellian Club. As Us President, an undergraduate, Ted did not have the size or skill to play var ward pass, a neutral zone at the line of scrimmage, another referee on the field and later prohibitions against brutal maneuvers like kneeling and punching opponents by using locked hands.

After serving as New York City Police commissioner, Ted was appointed as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. At the start of the Spanish American War, he resigned from the McKinley administration to join the Rough Riders as the executive officer under Medal of Honor recipient, General Leonard Wood USA (Harvard Medical School-1884). For his heroics (during the Spanish American War), he was awarded the Medal of Honor while leading a charge up and capturing San Juan Hill in Cuba in 1898. Ted was elected US Vice President in 1901 & 6 months later became the 26<sup>th</sup> President of USA after the assassination of President McKinley. In 1904, he was reelected as the US President. As our country's chief executive, he "*helped save the game*" of football by neutralizing

a ban of this "*manly*" sport by colleges with major rule changes in the game. He also was awarded the Nobel Peace prize for his mediation of the Russo-Japanese War before his death in 1919 at age 61.

President Roosevelt's Medal of Honor citation is: "*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt distinguished himself by acts of bravery on 1 July 1898, near Santiago de Cuba (Republic of Cuba) while leading a daring charge up San Juan Hill. Lt. Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his personal safety, and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy's heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge, and was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemy with his pistol, allowing his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the Battle for San Juan Hill. Lt. Colonel Roosevelt's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.*"



## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued

**1899**

**Major George G. McMurtry US Army - 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry (77<sup>th</sup> Division)**

**Legion d'Honneur**

**Croix d'Guerre**

**Purple Heart**



George was born in Pittsburgh (PA) in 1876 to an Irish immigrant father from Belfast who came to the USA just before the Civil War to escape the potato famine. His father worked his way up from rags to riches amid Pittsburgh's towering steel mills & eventual became a founder and president of a steel mill. As a result, George had a privileged upbringing, which allowed him to attend St. Mark's School. As an athlete at Harvard College., he excelled on the varsity baseball team and middleweight boxing champion.

During the Spanish American War, he took a leave of absence from Harvard as a sophomore to enlist in the 1<sup>st</sup> US Volunteer Cavalry (aka the Rough Riders) which was commanded by LTC Theodore Roosevelt. In May 1898, the Rough Riders set sail for Cuba where George participated in the famous battle for San Juan Hill as well as the battles of Las Guasimas & Santiago. After the conclusion of hostilities with Spain, George and his fellow troopers returned to the US and were released from active duty. In the following month, he returned to Harvard to finish his undergraduate degree.

After his college graduation, George became a very financially successful stock broker on Wall Street and within a year he was made a partner in a major brokerage firm. By 1906 when he was thirty years old, George had become a multi-millionaire and so successful that he purchased a spacious apartment on Fifth Avenue.

As a veteran in his early 40's when the US entered World War I, George was exempt from military service. However, he volunteered to attend the Officers' Training Camp in Plattsburg, (NY) where he was commissioned as a 1<sup>st</sup> LT in the Infantry in August 1917. George sailed for France in April 1918 and was involved in the following combat engagements including: Baccarat sector, Aisne-Oise and the Meuse- Argonne offensives. George was wounded on 2 occasions in combat. Near the end of the World War I, Manor McMurtry was the Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion, 308 Infantry (i.e. one of the famous 2 "Lost Battalions") in the Argonne Forest. In combat, George quickly showed his natural aptitude for command. His men knew him for his gruff good humor, but also his high expectations and they did their best for him as he did for them. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and the adjacent 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion held the crucial "*Hindenburg Line*" while surrounded and outnumbered by the German Army for 6 days, despite their nearly depleted supply of food, water and ammunition. Major McMurtry George was awarded the **Medal of Honor** & earned the **Legion d'Honneur**, the **Croix de Guerre** & **Purple Heart** for his heroism in France.

George returned to the United States in April 1919 and was discharged in the following month. He returned to his successful brokerage career on Wall Street until his retirement in 1938. Until his death in 1958, he hosted an annual "*Lost Battalion*" reunion luncheon in New York for which he paid for the meals, refreshments and travel expenses for all attendees.

His **Medal of Honor citation** reads: *For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty inaction against the enemy at Charlerai in the Forest d' Argonne, France for 2-8 October 1918. Captain McMurtry commanded a battalion which was cut off and surrounded by the enemy, and although wounded in the knee by shrapnel on 4 October and suffering great pain, he continued throughout the entire period to encourage his officers and men with a resistless optimism that contributed largely toward preventing panic and disorder among the troops who were, without food, cut off from communications with our lines. On 4 October during a heavy barrage, he personally directed and supervised the moving of the wounded to shelter before himself seeking shelter. On 6 October, he was again wounded in the shoulder by a German grenade, but continued personally to organize and direct the defense against the German attack on the position until the attack was defeated. He continued to direct and command his troops, refusing relief, and personally led his men out of the position after assistance arrived, before permitting him to be taken to the hospital on 8 October. During this period, the successful defense of the position was due largely to his efforts."*



## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued

### 1904

#### Brigadier General Walter Hill US Marine Corps - 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Brigade



Walter was born in Haverhill (MA) in 1881 and educated at the Noble & Greenough School prior to Harvard College. Shortly after his college graduation, he was commissioned into the US Marine Corps and subsequently served in Cuba, China & the Philippines. For his valor action at Vera Cruz (Mexico) during April 1914, Walter was awarded the **Medal of Honor**.

As a major in World War I, he sailed for France in January 1918 and served with both the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery (1<sup>st</sup> Division of the AEF) & the 91<sup>st</sup> battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery (British Expeditionary Force). His WWI combat engagements included the Ansauville sector & the Somme defensive. In the fall of 1918, he returned to the US and organized the Marine Corps 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment Artillery.

In November 1918, he again faced combat the Haiti with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Brigade as well as in the Dominican Republic during the 1920's. Walter subsequently had a more peaceful tour in the US Virgin Islands after which he retired as a Brigadier General in 1938.

During World War II, he was recalled to active duty and stationed at the HQ of the USMC in Virginia. Walter retired from the Marine Corp for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in 1946 & died in New York City in 1955 at the age of 73. His **Medal of Honor citation** is: *"For distinguished conduct in battle, engagements of Vera Cruz, 21 and 22 April 1914. Capt. Hill was in both days' fighting at the head of his company, and was eminent and conspicuous in his conduct, leading his men with skill and courage"*.

### 1909

#### Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt II US Army - 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1<sup>st</sup> Division)



**Legion d'Honneur**

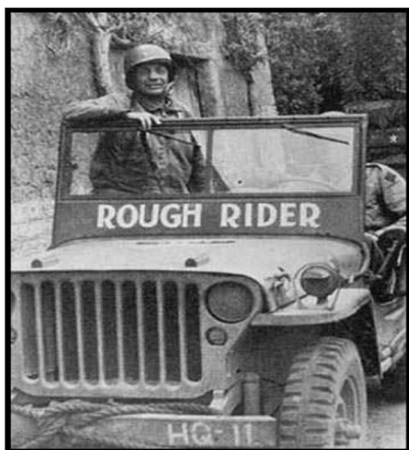


**Croix de Guerre**



**Purple Heart**

Ted was born in Oyster Bay (NY) in 1887 as the oldest son of President Theodore Roosevelt. As his father, Ted Jr. went to Harvard College where he was member of the Porcellian and Fly Clubs as well as the freshman football team. After graduating, Ted entered the business world with short stints in the steel and textile industries before going into investment banking. He proved to be a quick study and by the time WWI was looming, he had made a sizeable fortune. With the war clouds on the horizon, he trained in Plattsburg (NY). He was commissioned an Army captain in August 1917 and sailed for France in April 6 1918. He fought in the trenches in numerous campaigns such as: Cantigny, the Marne, Noyon-Montdidier defensive the Meuse-Argonne offensive and at Soissons in May 1918 where he was wounded and gassed. By the summer of 1918, Ted was one of the very best battalion commanders in the American army as a LTC & CO of the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. At about this time, his brother Quentin was killed in an air battle behind the German lines.



Due to many damp days in water-logged trenches, Ted developed severe arthritis, which would plague him for the rest of his life. Ted was also awarded the **Legion d'Honneur** & **Purple Heart** as well as the **Croix de Guerre citation** read: *"Major Theodore Roosevelt Jr. CO of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 26<sup>th</sup> American infantry regiment reflects the energy and enthusiasm of his battalion. Despite a poison gas attack, he remained at this post and successfully directed the resistance against a German counter attack. In a moment's notice on 29 June 1918, he organized a raid against the enemy position which he executed under sustained close enemy fire"* At the end of the war, he was then promoted to colonel. In Paris after the Armistice. Ted was one of the key founders of the American Legion. After his active duty in March 1919. Ted had an eclectic career in the steel business, carpet sales and investment banking before being appointed to Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Harding. Ted later was governor of Puerto Rico and subsequently appointed as the Governor General of the Philippines.

During WWII, Ted volunteered to return to active duty and soon after led his regiment into action in both North Africa where he received his 2<sup>nd</sup> Croix de Guerre. He also saw action in Sicily, Sardinia and the Italian mainland and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his crucial leadership at Utah beach on D Day, 6 June 1944. (continued on page 7)



## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) -continued

### 1909 (continued)

#### Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt II US Army - 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry (1<sup>st</sup> Division) - continued

BG Theodore Roosevelt's **Medal of Honor citation** is: *"For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, in France. After 2 verbal requests to accompany the leading assault elements in the Normandy invasion had been denied, BG Roosevelt's written request for this mission was approved and he landed with the first wave of the forces assaulting the enemy held beaches. He repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties. He thus contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead in France."*

Brigadier Theodore Roosevelt died in 1944 of a heart attack in France one month after D-Day at age 57.

### 1920

#### Major General Pierpont Morgan Hamilton US Air Force (CINCEUR: USAF)

**Purple Heart**



He was born in the Tuxedo Park (NY) in 1898 as the great, great grandson of Alexander Hamilton and the grandson of John Pierpont Morgan. After his sophomore year, Pierpont took a leave of absences from Harvard to enlist in the Aero Service of the Army Signal Corps. In May 1918, he was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT. After completing flight school, he was made an instructor pilot at Ellington Field (TX) since he was such a good pilot. Thus, he did not shipped to Europe during World War I. After his release from active duty, Pierpont returned to Harvard to complete his undergraduate studies. After college, he became an international banker for several years in France before returning to the US in 1938 as of President of Dufay Color Inc.

In March 1942, Pierpont was voluntarily recalled to active duty and helped plan the ill-fated Dieppe Raid while on the staff of the British General Lord Louis Mountbatten. Prior to the Allied invasion of French North Africa (*Operation Torch*), then Major Hamilton volunteered to broker a cease fire with the Vichy French commander near Port Lyautey (French Morocco). This mission was since he was fluent in French & very familiar &

comfortable in dealing with the French upper classes when he was a banker for many years in Paris. After landing on the beach under hostile fire, Pierpont and a companion (COL Demas Craw USA) approached the French Army HQ in a light truck. However, they then but came under machine gun fire which killed COL Craw & wounded Major Hamilton who was then captured. However despite being a wounded prisoner of war, Hamilton still persuaded the French general to surrender. After being liberated, he was made the Operations & Intel officer for the North Africa Tactical Air Force Headquarters.

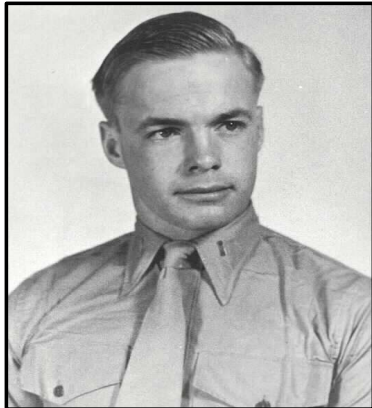
After his release from active duty in November 1945, Pierpont returned to Cambridge to pursue & received an MA from Harvard in 1946. In following year, he was recalled to active duty in the Air Force. By 1951, he had been promoted to brigadier general. Pierpont was later appointed as the Commander of US Air Forces Europe until his retirement a year from the Air Force. He died 30 years later in Los Angeles at age 83.

His **Medal of Honor citation** reads: *"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty. On 8 November 1942, near Port Lyautey, French Morocco, LT Col. Hamilton volunteered to accompany Col. Demas Craw on a dangerous mission to the French commander, designed to bring about a cessation of hostilities. Driven away from the mouth of the Sebou River by heavy shelling from all sides, the landing boat was finally beached at Mehdiya Plage despite continuous machinegun fire from 3 low-flying hostile planes. Driven in a light truck toward French headquarters, this courageous mission encountered intermittent firing, and as it neared Port Lyautey a heavy burst of machinegun fire was delivered upon the truck from pointblank range, killing Col. Craw instantly. Although captured immediately after this incident, LT Col. Hamilton completed the mission"*.

## 1. HARVARD COLLEGE by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued

### 1951

2<sup>nd</sup> LT Sherrod Skinner US Marine Corps -1<sup>st</sup> Marine Div. Purple Heart Navy/Marine Corps Combat Ribbon [KIA]



Sherrod was born in Hartford (CT) in 1929 as was his twin brother David. They were raised in East Lansing, Michigan (MI) since their father was a General Motors Vice President. Both of the Skinner Twins graduated from Milton Academy and were accepted at Harvard College with the class of 1951. As college freshmen, Sherrod and David both signed up with the Marine Corps PLC program and spend their summers on active duty in Quantico (VA) after their freshman and sophomore years of college. After their Harvard graduation, both brothers were commissioned as Marine 2<sup>nd</sup> LTs and reported to The Basic School (TBS) also at Quantico to be trained as Marine Platoon commanders.

After TBS, Sherrod reported to the Army Artillery School at Fort Sill (OK) to complete the Artillery Battery Officer Course over the next 3 months. In July 1952, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Skinner was sent to Camp Pendleton (CA) for further training prior to getting underway for combat duty in Korea.

Sherrod was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in Korea. As a forward artillery observer, he was assigned to a vital forward outpost when it was attacked by the enemy under cover of heavy artillery fire. He continued the defense of this position until all if the ammunition was exhausted and then directed his men to feign death as the enemy overran the position. When a grenade was thrown among the Marines, he threw himself on it, sacrificing his own life to protect his men.

2<sup>nd</sup> LT Skinner's remains were returned to Arlington National Cemetery for burial in January 1953. Sherrod's parents were notified by General Lemuel Shepherd (Commandant of the Marine Corps), that their son was the 25<sup>th</sup> Marine since the start of the Korean War to be awarded the Medal of Honor which was presented to his parents at the Marine Barracks, Washington (DC) by then Vice President Richard Nixon on 9 September 1953.

His Medal of Honor citation reads: "*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as an artillery forward observer of Battery F, in action against enemy aggressor forces on the night of 26 October 1952 when his observation post in an extremely critical and vital sector of the main line of resistance was subjected to a sudden and fanatical attack by hostile forces. Supported by a devastating barrage of artillery and mortar fire which completely severed communications lines connecting the outpost with friendly firing batteries, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Skinner, in a determined effort to hold his position, immediately organized and directed the surviving personnel in the defense of the outpost, continuing to call down fire on the enemy by means of radio alone until his equipment became damaged beyond repair. Undaunted by the intense hostile barrage and the rapidly-closing attackers, he twice left the protection of his bunker in order to direct accurate machine gun fire and to replenish the depleted supply of ammunition and grenades. Although painfully wounded on each occasion, he steadfastly refused medical aid until the rest of the men received treatment. As the ground attack reached its climax, he gallantly directed the final defense until the meager supply of ammunition was exhausted and the position overrun. During the 3 hours that the outpost was occupied by the enemy, several grenades were thrown into the bunker which served as protection for 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Skinner and his remaining comrades. Realizing that there was no chance for other than passive resistance, he directed his men to feign death even though the hostile troops entered the bunker and searched their persons. Later, when an enemy grenade was thrown between him and 2 other survivors, he immediately threw himself on the deadly missile in an effort to protect the others, absorbing the full force of the explosion and sacrificing his life for his comrades. By his indomitable fighting spirit, superb leadership, and great personal valor in the face of tremendous odds, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Skinner served to inspire his fellow marines in their heroic stand against the enemy and upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.*"





## 1. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients)

1853

### Brigadier General Charles E. Phelps - 7<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry



Charles was born in 1833 in Guilford (VT) where his father was lawyer and a state senator. When Charles was 4 years old, his family moved initially to Pennsylvania and again in 1841 to Baltimore (MD) where his father started a new law practice. After graduating from Princeton in 1852, he went to and graduated from Harvard Law School. He passed the Maryland bar and was admitted to practice before the US Supreme court.

With war clouds on the horizon in 1861, Charles joined the Maryland guard as a major. When activated to the 7<sup>th</sup> MD, he was promoted to LTC. After his regimental commander was wounded at the battle of Mine Run, Charles took command and was promoted to colonel. At the battle of “*The Wilderness*”, his horse was killed under him. While leading a charge on the “*Crater*” at Spotsylvania in 1864 which had over 32, 000 casualties, he was seriously wounded and taken prisoner but later rescued by General Sheridan’s Calvary. Despite his wounds, Charles continued to lead his regiment 3 days later at the battle of Yellow Tavern as well as 3 months later at Mechanicsville.

After his discharge from activity duty, he was a lawyer and a Law professor at Maryland University Law School until he was elected to 2 terms as a US congressman from Maryland. In 1901, Charles was also the author of a classic legal and literary treatise titled: “*Falstaff and Equity*” and later served as a judge on the Maryland Supreme Court until his death in 1908 at age 75

His combat engagements were: Monacacy (WV), Gettysburg (PA), Bristol Station (VA), Haymarket (VA), Mine Run (VA), The Wilderness (VA), Spotsylvania (aka Laurel Hill in VA), Yellow Tavern (VA) and Mechanicsville (VA).

General Phelps’s **Medal of Honor citation** for valor at Spotsylvania reads: “*Rode to the head of the assaulting column, then much broken by severe losses and faltering under the close fire of artillery, placed himself conspicuously in front of the troops, and gallantly rallied and led them to within a few feet of the enemy’s works, where he was severely wounded and captured*”.

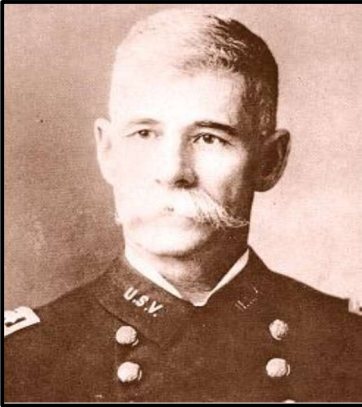


## 1. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued

### 1866

General Henry W. Lawton – 9<sup>th</sup> & the 30<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry

Killed in Action in the Philippines



Henry was born in Maumee (OH) in 1843 as the son of a millwright and carpenter. Since his mother died when Henry was nine and his father traveled a great deal for work, he spent most of his teen age years living with friends and relatives. At the start of the Civil War when Henry was studying at Methodist Episcopal College in Fort Wayne (IN), he enlisted for 90 days with the 9<sup>th</sup> IN Infantry. After his initial release from active duty, he signed up again with the 30<sup>th</sup> (IN) where he projected a commanding presence since he was 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighed over 200 pounds. As a result, he quickly was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> sergeant and then 1<sup>st</sup> LT. After the battle of Shiloh in April 1862, Henry was again promoted to captain and company commander. While fighting for over 4 years during the Civil War, Henry was fortunate that he was never wounded despite the fact that he was often located at the front of the battle lines and in the thick of the fight.

Henry was promoted to LTC in February 1865 and then breveted to colonel at the end of the war. In total during the Civil War, he participated in 22 combat engagements including: Shiloh (TN), Stones River (aka Murfreesboro in TN), Chickamauga (TN), Corinth (MS), Iuka (MS) and Atlanta (GA).

After the Civil War, Henry wanted to stay in the Army but unsuccessfully lobbied for a regular Army commission as a captain, despite many recommendations from senior officers. He then decided to read and study law at a Fort Wayne law firm. A year later, he was accepted at Harvard Law School. After his first year, a regular Army commission as a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT finally came through. Despite the low rank and pay, Henry reluctantly decided to accept this offer and was assigned to the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry which consisted of black American enlisted troop and was promoted 2 months later to 1<sup>st</sup> LT. After 4 years with the 41<sup>st</sup> Infantry, he transferred to the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and spent the next 16 years battling Indians during which time he and was promoted to captain and led the campaign resulting in the surrender of Geronimo in 1886. During the this latter Apache campaign, Henry became friends with future Army Chief of Staff and Medal of Honor recipient General Leonard Wood USA who was later Henry's commanding officer in Cuba.

During the Spanish America War, he commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, 5<sup>th</sup> Army Corps which was the first US Army troop ashore in Cuba and was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers. During this time, he participated in the assault on El Caney and also contracted malaria along with many of his troops. After his return to Washington (DC) in 1899, he was given command of the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps which was sent to the island of Luzon (Philippines) to pursue and curb the Philippine rebels. On 19 December 1899 while reviewing the disposition of his troops as the 2<sup>nd</sup> theater commander, a few rifle shots hit the ground the ground near Henry. His aides shouted to take cover to which Henry replied: "*I must see the battlefield*". A moment later a bullet hit Henry in the chest and he died instantly at age 56. Ironically the name of the Philippine commanding officer of the sniper who killed Henry was Geronimo.

His Medal of Honor citation which was awarded for heroic leadership during Major General Sherman's Georgia campaign in 1864 reads: "*Led a charge of skirmishers against the enemy's rifle pits and stubbornly and successfully resisted 2 determined attacks of the enemy to retake the works*".



## 1. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued 1867

**Brigadier General Wilmon W. Blackmar** – 15<sup>th</sup> PA & 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia Cavalry



Wilmon was born in 1841 in Bristol (PA) as son of a Massachusetts born clergyman and a New Hampshire mother. At the start of the Civil War, he was a student at Exeter (NH) but enlisted in 1862 as a private with 15<sup>th</sup> PA Cavalry. Due to his devotion to duty and mastery of military tactics, he was rapidly promoted through all the non-commissioned grades to 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant.

In 1864, he was commissioned as 2<sup>nd</sup> LT with the 1<sup>st</sup> West VA Cavalry. Wilmon then served in both the Eastern & Western Union Armies & participated in 22 battles including: Antietam (MD), Stone River (TN), Chickamauga (TN), Wauhatchie (TN & GA), Chattanooga (TN), the Shenandoah Campaign of 1864 (VA), Five Forks (VA) where he was promoted to captain for his valor by General Custer and the final fighting from Dinwiddie Court House (VA) to Appomattox (VA).

On his return from the war in 1865, Wilmon entered Harvard Law School and graduated in 1867. For the next 20 years, he lived in a palatial country house in Hingham (MA) and was the law partner of a future justice on the Massachusetts Supreme Court. In 1873, he was appointed Judge Advocate General of the Massachusetts Militia with the rank of Brigadier General and served in this capacity for 10 years under 4 different Governors. Wilmon was active in the Grand Army of the Republic for many years and was unanimously elected as Commander-in-Chief of the GAR in 1904 & died a year later at the age of 64.

His **Medal of Honor Citation** is: *“The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Wilmon Whilldin Blackmar, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism on 1 April 1865, while serving with Company H, 1<sup>st</sup> West Virginia Cavalry, in action at Five Forks, Virginia. At a critical stage of the battle, without orders, he led a successful advance upon the enemy.”*

## 1908

**Colonel Charles W. Whittlesey** US Army – 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 77<sup>th</sup> Division)



**Croix d'Guerre**



**Purple Heart**



Charles was born in Florence (WI) in 1884 but moved to Pittsfield (MA) with his family when his father took a mid-level job with the General Electric Company. After graduating from nearby Williams College where he edited the college newspaper and year book, he entered and graduated from Harvard Law School. After passing the New York bar, Charles became a founding partner of a Wall Street law firm. With war clouds on the horizon, he volunteered and completed the Army Officers' Training Camp in the Plattsburg (NY) during summer of 1916. He was activated in August 1917 and commissioned a Captain in the 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry which sailed for France in April 1918. Four months later, Charles was promoted to major and took command of the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion. A month before the end of the War, his unit was in the Argonne Forest and became one of the famous 2 “Lost Battalions” which were completely surrounded by Germans for over 5 days but refused to surrender as they held the “Hindenburg Line”. Only 200 out of 700 men in the 2 “Lost Battalions” were able to walk

out of the battle area on their own accord. His heroics were depicted by the actor, Ricky Schroder in the 2001 movie “*The Lost Battalions*”. His combat engagements included: Baccarat sector, Aisne-Oise (Vesle River) and the Meuse-Argonne offensives. Charles and was also awarded the Purple Hearts & Croix de Guerre. Charles returned to United States in November 1918 and was discharged the next month. After the war, Charles returned to his law practice on Wall Street. He made many public appearances as a war hero but unfortunately died in 1921 at age 37 due to post-traumatic stress disorder.

His **Medal of Honor citation** reads: *“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy northeast of Binarviue in the Argonne Forest, France from 2 to 7 October 1918. Although cut off for five days from the remainder of his division, Major Whittlesey maintained his position which he had reached under orders received for an advance and held his command consisting originally of 463 officers and men of the 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry and of Company K of the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry, together in the face of superior numbers of the enemy during the five days. Major Whittlesey and his command were thus cut off and no rations or other supplies reached him in spite of the determined efforts which were made by his division. On the fourth day, Major Whittlesey received from the enemy a written proposition to surrender, which he treated with contempt, although he was at that time out of rations and had suffered a loss of about 50% killed and wounded of his command and was surrounded by the enemy.”*



## 1. HARVARD LAW SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - continued

### 1946

General Alexander Vandergrift USMC



Navy Cross



Legion d'Honneur



Croix de Guerre



Alexander Vandegrift was born in Charlottesville (VA) where he graduated from the local public high school. He then attended the nearby University of Virginia for 2 years until 1909 when he passed a competitive exam to pursue a commission in the US Marine Corps. After officer candidate training, he was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> LT in 1910. At the then equivalent of "*The Basic School*", he wrote a prophetic article in 1909 titled: "*Aviation, the Cavalry of the Future.*" However, General Vandegrift was nearly dismissed from the Marine Corps for disciplinary infractions & negative evaluations with an initial overall rating of "*Not Good*". Subsequent evaluations of 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Vandegrift were: "*Good and Tolerable*" and finally "*Excellent*" before reporting to his 1<sup>st</sup> duty assignment at the Navy Yard in Portsmouth (NH) in 1910.

In 1912, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT then deployed to Cuba and then to Nicaragua where he participated in the bombardment, assault, and capture of Coyotepe Fortress. This action was

followed by the siege & occupation of Veracruz (Mexico) in 1914. After returning from Veracruz, Alex was promoted to 1st LT & sailed with the 1st Marines Regiment for combat against Cacos bandits in Haiti where he remained for 4 years. During this time, he was promoted to captain and became a member of the Haitian Constabulary at Port-au-Prince where he remained until 1923 (except for 7 months of temporary duty in the USA in early 1919). As major (promoted in June 1920), Alexander spent the next 4 years at ashore billets and training commands until he shipped out to China for 1½ years with 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines. After returning to the USA, he served in various staff and command billets and was promoted to LT COL in June 1934. In the following year, he was ordered back to China for a little over a year as the CO of the Marine detachment at the American embassy in Beijing. Alexander returned as a COL to the Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington (DC) in June 1937 and was promoted to brigadier general in April 1940.

In April 1942, BGEN Vandegrift was promoted to major general and assumed command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division which led in the 1<sup>st</sup> large scale operation against the Japanese including participation in the following combat engagements in the Solomon Islands: Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Gavutu, Empress Augusta Bay & Bougainville.

As LT GEN, Alexander became the 18th commandant of the Marine Corps on January 1, 1944. On April 4, 1945, he was promoted to general as the first Marine officer on active duty to attain a four-star rank. As commandant with the help of the US Congress, General Vandegrift successfully fought off the post war attempt of the US Army to absorb the mission and men of the Marine Corps, despite the attempt to do so by President Harry Truman and General Dwight Eisenhower. (Note; The US Navy was sympathetic to the Marine Corps' predicament but was ready to accept the diminishment of the Corps in exchange for keeping Naval Aviation from consolidation with the U.S. Air Force).

From a grateful nation and university, Harvard awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) degree in 1946 to General Vandegrift as well as 4 other senior US military commanders of World War II (note: It has been documented that Harvard University and the HAA consider honorary degree recipients to be Harvard alumni). After a long illness, General Vandegrift died in Maryland on 8 May 1973.

For his service & valor, General Vandegrift was awarded the **Medal of Honor** as noted in the following **citation**: "*For outstanding and heroic accomplishment above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the 1st Marine Division in operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands during the period 7 August to 9 December 1942*". Previously he had received the **Navy Cross** with the following **citation**: "*For extraordinary heroism and distinguished devotion to duty as Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division and all ground troops action with enemy Japanese forces during the attack on the Solomon Islands on 7 August 1942.*" In addition, he earned many other foreign and US military medals, ribbons and awards such as the French Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre (shown above along with the Navy Cross).



## **1. HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients)**

**1859**

**Major Richard J. Curran** – 33<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry & 6<sup>th</sup> NY Cavalry



Richard was born in the town of Ennis in County Clare (Ireland) in 1838. Driven to immigrate by the potato famine, his parents landed in the US in 1850 and settled in Seneca Falls (upstate NY) with Richard and his siblings. After graduating from Seneca Falls Academy at age 16, Richard worked at a local drug store and later apprenticed for 2 years with two medical doctors who later sponsored Richard to attend Harvard Medical School. After receiving his MD degree at age 21, he did 2 additional years of post-graduate work at Harvard under the tutorship of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes Senior, who was the father of a future combat veteran and a renowned Justice of the US Supreme Court.

In May 1861 like many Irishmen, he rallied to the flag of his adopted country by enlisting in the 33<sup>rd</sup> NY. Given his medical training, Doctor Curran was quickly promoted to assistant surgeon (i.e. a 1<sup>st</sup> LT equivalent rank) and helped raised 2 companies of volunteers from upstate New York. After a forced march to Antietam (MD), his regiment was immediately put into action & he was the only medical officer present.

Over 313 in his brigade were killed or wounded in the initial charge into a valley and hundreds of wounded were unable to reach the safety of the field hospital. Doctor Curran was told many times to seek safety but instead remained on the battlefield far into the night tending to the wounded & dying while exposed to shell and shot firing overhead. His only fear was that his makeshift straw roofed hospital would catch fire. In June 1863, 33<sup>rd</sup> NY was disbanded since the 2 year obligation of this unit expired. Richard then volunteered to sign up with the 6<sup>th</sup> NY Cavalry and was soon promoted to a Surgeon (i.e. a Major equivalent rank). Dr. Curran participated in over 100 combat engagements including: Yorktown (VA), Williamsburg (VA), Harrison Landing (VA), Marye's Heights (VA), Compton Pass (MD), Jefferson Pass (MD), Antietam (MD), 7 Days Battle (VA), Fredericksburg (VA), Gettysburg (PA), Brandy Station (VA), Bristol Stations (VA), Oak Hill (VA), Spotsylvania (VA), Cold Harbor (VA), Mine Run (VA), "The Wilderness" (VA), Gaines's Mills (VA) and Petersburg (VA).

After the Civil War, Richard opened up a drug store in Rochester (NY) where he later served as mayor. Doctor Curran died in Rochester in 1915 at age 81.

His **Medal of Honor citation** reads: "At Antietam (MD) September 17, 1862, Assistant Surgeon Curran, 33<sup>rd</sup> NY Volunteers in charge of the Field Hospital of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> division 6<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, when urged by some of his comrades to remain in a place of safety in rear as was his privilege, disregarded these requests and voluntarily exposed himself to great danger by going to the fighting line there succoring the wounded and helpless and conducting them to the Field Hospital. He remained with the wounded throughout the battle at the hospital which was also within the enemy's fire. The Brigade Commander, in his official report of the battle, particularly commends the Assistant Surgeon Curran for his services and example."

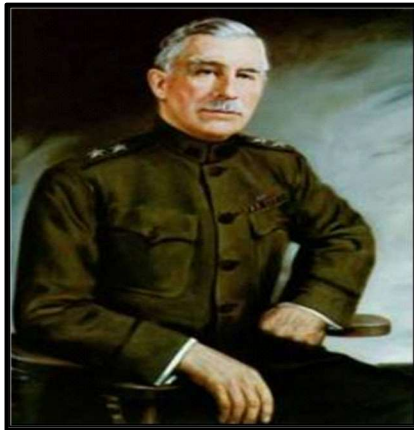


## 1. HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - cont.

1884

General Leonard Wood US Army (Army Chief of Staff)

Army Distinguished Service Medal



Leonard was born in Winchester (NH) in 1860 as a direct descendant of four Mayflower passengers. After Pierce Academy in Middleborough (MA), he entered Harvard Medical School where he earned an M.D. degree and subsequently interned at Boston City Hospital. In January 1886, he took a position as an Army contract surgeon stationed with the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry at Fort Huachuca (AZ). Surgeon Wood participated in the last campaign against Geronimo in 1886, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for carrying dispatches 100 miles through hostile territory and for commanding a detachment of the 8th Infantry (whose officers had been lost) in hand-to-hand combat against the Apache.

At Fort McPherson in Atlanta (GA) in 1893, Leonard enrolled in graduate school at Georgia Tech where he organized the 1893 football team served as both coach & left guard., he led the team to a 2–1–1 record. Through 1898, Dr. Wood was the personal physician of both Presidents Cleveland & McKinley and became a friend of Theodore Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

At the start of the Spanish-American War, he & Roosevelt organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Volunteer Cavalry regiment, also known as “*The Rough Riders*” with Leonard as commanding officer and Ted Roosevelt as his executive officer. Their regiment was victorious in the battle of *Las Guasimas* in Cuba which resulted in Len’s field promotion to brigadier general of volunteers & command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Cavalry Division of the 5<sup>th</sup> Army Corps, which included the Rough Riders. After other victories at *Kettle Hill* and *San Juan Heights*, hostilities in Cuba ceased.

General Wood stayed in Cuba as the Military Governor of Santiago and later all of Cuba from 1899 to 1902. In that capacity, he relied on his medical experience to institute improvements to the medical and sanitary conditions in Cuba. As a brigadier general in 1902, he commanded the Philippines Division and later became commander of the Department of the East. A year later, he was promoted to major general and governor of Moro province, a stronghold of Muslim rebellion until 1906.

General Wood returned to Washington (DC) and was named as the Army Chief of Staff in 1910 by President Taft, whom he had met while they both were in the Philippines. He remains the only medical officer to have ever held that position. As Chief of Staff, he implemented several programs including the forerunner of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program, and the Preparedness Movement campaign for universal military training and wartime conscription, which later evolved into the Selective Service System. Shortly before World War I, he developed the Mobile Army concept which laid the groundwork for American success in World War I. In April 1917 at the start of WWI, he was recommended by supporters to become the U.S. field commander in Europe. However he was too closely identified with Republicans and the Democratic War Secretary under President Wilson instead appointed John J. Pershing as a non-partisan choice.

Due to politics, General Wood was only given the minor non-combat roles during the World War I, when he was in charge of the training of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> Divisions at Camp Funston located in Fort Riley (KA). Len retired from the Army in 1921 and was appointed as Governor General of the Philippines. He died in Boston in 1927 at age 67 after undergoing surgery for a recurrent brain tumor and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

His Medal of Honor citation reads: “*Voluntarily carried dispatches through a region infested with hostile Indians, making a journey of 70 miles in one night and walking 30 miles the next day. Also for several weeks, while in close pursuit of Geronimo’s band and constantly expecting an encounter, commanded a detachment of Infantry, which was then without an officer, and to the command of which he was assigned upon his own request*”.



## **1. HARVARD GRAUDATE SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients)**

### **1913**

**Rear Admiral Claud A. Jones** US Navy (*USS Memphis*)

**Legion of Merit**



Claud was born in Fire Creek (WV) in 1885. After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1906, he served on battleships *USS Indiana* (BB 1) & *USS New Jersey* (BB 16) over the next 3 years. Between 1909 and 1915, he was assigned to the training 3-masted sailing ship *USS Severn*, the cruiser *USS North Carolina* (ACR 12), *USS Ohio* (BB12), *USS New York* (BB 34) & the *USS North Dakota* (BB 29). After several years of duty at sea, Claud matriculated at the Harvard Graduate School of Applied Science where he received a Master of Science degree.

In 1911, Claud was promoted to LTJG and 3 years later to LT. Soon after, he reported for duty as the Engineer Officer on the armored cruiser *USS Tennessee* (CA 10) which was renamed the *USS Memphis* (CA 10) in May 1916. Three months later, Claud was severely injured when his ship was wrecked by a tsunami in the Caribbean Sea. During this ordeal, LT Jones heroically rescued crewmen from the dying in the ship's steam-filled engineering spaces. After recovering from his injuries, Claud served ashore in industrial positions until after the end of World War I.

In 1918, LCDR Jones changed his designator to engineering duty officer. As a CDR 2 years later, Claud was named as the Chief Engineer Officer of the new battleship *USS Tennessee* (BB 43). During the late 1920s and into the early 1930s, he had two tours in DC with the Bureau of Engineering and subsequently served in Europe as an Assistant Naval Attaché in London where he was the senior engineering officer with the Battle Fleet. For his heroism beyond the call of duty over a decade ago on the *USS Memphis*, then-Commander Jones was awarded the Medal of Honor. After being promoted to Captain in 1933, Claud returned to the Bureau of Engineering and was served as the Assistant Chief of that Bureau from 1935 to 1936. For the rest of the 1930s, Captain Jones had machinery and materiel inspection assignments before returning to Washington (DC) to serve as Head of the Shipbuilding Division of the Bureau of Ships. For his exceptionally meritorious service in the Bureau of Ships during World War II, then Rear Admiral Jones was awarded the Legion of Merit. He later served as the Assistant Chief of Procurement and Material and later as the Director of the Naval Experiment Station at Annapolis (MD) from September 1944 until nearly the end of 1945. Rear Admiral Jones retired from the Navy after 46 years of service in June 1946

Claud died in Charleston (WV) in 1948 at age 62. 11 years later, the *USS Claud Jones* (DE 1033) was named in his honor.

His Medal of Honor citation reads as follows: *“For extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession as a senior engineer officer on board the USS Memphis, at a time when the vessel was suffering total destruction from a hurricane while anchored off Santo Domingo City, August 29, 1916. LT Jones did everything possible to get the engines and boilers ready, and if the element that burst upon the vessel had delayed for a few minutes, the engines would have saved the vessel. With boilers and steam pipes bursting about him in clouds of scalding steam, with thousands of tons of water coming down upon him and in almost complete darkness, LT Jones nobly remained at his post as long as the engines would turn over, exhibiting the most supreme unselfish heroism which inspired the officers and men who were with him. When the boilers exploded, LT Jones, accompanied by 2 of his shipmates, rushed into the fire rooms and drove the men there out, dragging some, carrying others to the engine room, where there was air to be breathed instead of steam. LT Jones action on this occasion was above and beyond the call of duty.”*



# 1. HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients) - cont.

## 2026

**Master Sergeant Thomas P. Payne** US Army (*USS Memphis*)

**Bronze Star (4)**

**Purple Heart**

**CIB**



Thomas Patrick Payne (aka Pat) was born in 1984 in Lugoff (SC). His father was a policeman and both of his brothers also served in the US military. After graduating from the local public high school, Pat enlisted in the US Army as an infantryman in July 2002. Following his successful completion of Airborne and Ranger Schools at Fort Benning (GA), he reported to the 75th Ranger Regiment and served as a sniper and sniper team leader until November 2007. Pat was then selected for Special Forces training which he completed and subsequently 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (Delta Force) at Fort Bragg (NC) where he served as a special ops team member, team sergeant, as well as an instructor. In 2010, then-Staff Sergeant Payne was deployed to in Afghanistan where he wounded from a grenade blast from which he made a complete recovery and eventually returned to active duty. 2 years later, then-Sgt. 1st Class Payne and a teammate won the Best Ranger Competition in Fort Benning (GA) in 2012. Pat was again deployed in 2015 to Iraq.

On 22 October 2016, Pat's unit participated in a Joint Task Force with Kurdish soldiers to rescue 70 Iraqi prisoners who were about to be executed at an Islamic State prison compound in the northern part of Iraq. For his valor in this operation, Master Sergeant Payne received the Medal of Honor from President Donald Trump at the White House. He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Delta Force member to receive the Medal of Honor & the first living Delta Force MOH recipient.

Master Sgt. Payne is a graduate of numerous military schools and training course and was been deployed 17 times in support of: Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Resolute Support as well as operations for the US Africa Command. In 2017, Pat graduated from Norwich University (VT) with a Bachelor of Science degree in strategic studies and defense analysis. He subsequently was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina with his wife Alison and their 3 children. In September 2025, Master Sgt. Payne entered The Kennedy School at **Harvard University** in a 1-year program to earn a Master of Public Administration degree

His Medal of Honor citation is: *“Sergeant First Class Thomas P. Payne distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, on October 22, 2015, during a daring nighttime hostage rescue in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Sergeant Payne led a combined assault team charged with clearing one of two buildings known to house the hostages. With speed, audacity, and courage, he led his team as they quickly cleared the assigned building, liberating 38 hostages. Upon hearing a request for additional assaulters to assist with clearing the other building, Sergeant Payne, on his own initiative, left his secured position, exposing himself to enemy fire as he bounded across the compound to the other building from which entrenched enemy forces were engaging his comrades. Sergeant Payne climbed a ladder to the building's roof, which was partially engulfed in flames, and engaged enemy fighters below with grenades and small arms fire. He then moved back to ground level to engage the enemy forces through a breach hole in the west side of the building. Knowing time was running out for the hostages trapped inside the burning building, Sergeant Payne moved to the main entrance, where heavy enemy fire had thwarted previous attempts to enter. He knowingly risked his own life by bravely entering the building under intense enemy fire, enduring smoke, heat, and flames to identify the armored door imprisoning the hostages. Upon exiting, Sergeant Payne exchanged his rifle for bolt cutters, and again entered the building, ignoring the enemy rounds impacting the walls around him as he cut the locks on a complex locking mechanism. His courageous actions motivated the coalition assault team members to enter the breach and assist with cutting the locks. After exiting to catch his breath, he reentered the building to make the final lock cuts, freeing 37 hostages. Sergeant Payne then facilitated the evacuation of the hostages, even though ordered to evacuate the collapsing building himself, which was now structurally unsound due to the fire. Sergeant Payne then reentered the burning building one last time to ensure everyone had been evacuated. He consciously exposed himself to enemy automatic gunfire each time he entered the building. His extraordinary heroism and selfless actions were key to liberating 75 hostages during a contested rescue mission that resulted in 20 enemies killed in action. Sergeant First Class Payne's gallantry under fire and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Special Operations Command, and the United States Army”.*

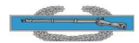
In addition to the above noted medals, Master SGT Payne also earned: Ranger tab, Meritorious Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Joint Service Commendation Medal (with “V”), Army Commendation Medal (with “V” & silver oak leaf cluster) as well as numerous campaign medals & devices.





## 1. HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL by CLASS (Medal of Honor recipients)

### 1970



**Staff Sergeant Robert Murray** US Army (4<sup>th</sup> BTN, 31<sup>st</sup> RGT., 23<sup>rd</sup> [Americal] Inf. Div.) **Purple Heart** **CIB** **[KIA]**



Bob was born on Marion Avenue in the Bronx in 1946 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest among his 6 siblings. After Our Lady of Mercy grammar school in the Bronx, he graduated from Fordham Prep in the Bronx where his father worked was a maintenance man. In September 1960 while in high school, his family moved to Tuckahoe in Westchester County (NY) to his live in what was formerly the home of his grandparents. However, Bob continued to commute to Fordham Prep until he graduated with honors after which he enrolled at nearby Fordham, which is a Jesuit University.

Like many others at the time, Bob discussed the pros and cons of the country's involvement in Vietnam. A lifelong friend and classmate summarized that Bob's attitude this divisive topic:

1. He wanted to be as prepared as possible
2. He thought he could make a difference.

Bob graduated summa cum laude from Fordham and was accepted by Harvard Business School.

After his first year at HBS, he received his draft notice and decided to put his Harvard plans on hold to serve his country at the height of the Vietnam War. Given Bob's education, he likely could have tried for an academic deferment or applied to an Officer Candidate School and seek a non-combat commission. However, Bob chose to join the Army as an enlisted soldier and subsequently complete boot camp. In preparing for his tour of duty after basic training, he volunteered for Special Ops training and qualified as a Ranger. He shipped out to Vietnam where he arrived on 7 November 1969. By mid-1970, Bob was a staff sergeant (E-6 paygrade) squad leader in Company B, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment, 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 23<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. On 7 June 1970, Bob was on patrol with his squad near the village of Hiep Duc in Quang Tin Province (I Corps), which is about 50 miles south of Da Nang. Bob was 23 years old when he laid down his life by throwing himself on an enemy grenade to save the lives of the men in his squad. And there can be no doubt that he made a difference in a most extraordinary way for those men whose lives were saved by his heroic and selfless actions. Bob's body was recovered and repatriated to the USA where he was buried with full military honors in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne (NY). In August 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford presented the Medal of Honor to Staff Sergeant Murray's family at Blair House in Washington, DC.

His Medal of Honor citation reads as follows: *"S/Sgt. Murray distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company B. S/Sgt. Murray's squad was searching for an enemy mortar that had been threatening friendly positions when a member of the squad tripped an enemy grenade rigged as a booby trap. Realizing that he had activated the enemy booby trap, the soldier shouted for everybody to take cover. Instantly assessing the danger to the men of his squad, S/Sgt. Murray unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, threw himself on the grenade absorbing the full and fatal impact of the explosion. By his gallant action and self-sacrifice, he prevented the death or injury of the other members of his squad. S/Sgt. Murray's extraordinary courage and gallantry, at the cost of his life above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as an artillery forward observer of Battery F, in action against enemy aggressor forces on the night of 26 October 1952 when his observation post in an extremely critical and vital sector of the main line of resistance was subjected to a sudden and fanatical attack by hostile forces.*

The following quote below on the World War I memorial in Concord (MA) captures the essence of the sacrifice of the above noted Harvard warriors:

**“So nigh is grandeur to our dust**

**So near to God is man**

**When duty whispers low, thou must.**

**The youth replies I can”**

Ralph Waldo Emerson – Harvard College (1821)

Fair winds and following seas,



Paul E. Mawn  
Captain USN (Ret.)  
Chairman – Advocates for Harvard ROTC

**Sources:** “*Harvard Memorial Biographies*” by Sever and Francis – Volume I (1866) & Volume II (1867), “*Harvard Military Record in the World War*” by Fredrick Sumner Mead by Harvard University Press – 28 June 1921; “*Memoirs of the Harvard Dead in the War against Germany*” by M.A. DeWolfe Howe – Harvard University Press 1924; “*Crimson Valor*” by Captain Philip Keith USN (Ret.) H-1966; Harvard Alumni Magazine and various Harvard reunion reports plus information from various veterans and their families.

**Note:** **Military officer rank abbreviations and pay grades used above:** 2<sup>nd</sup> LT – Second Lieutenant (Army & USMC O-1), Ensign (USN O-1), 1<sup>st</sup> LT – First Lieutenant (Army & USMC O-2), LTJG – Lieutenant Junior Grade (USN O-2), Captain (Army & USMC O-3), LT – Lieutenant (USN O-3), Major (Army & USMC O-4), LCDR – Lieutenant Commander (USN O-4), LTC - Lieutenant Colonel (Army & USMC O-5), CDR - Commander (USN O-5), Colonel (Army & USMC O-6), Captain (USN O-6), Brg. Gen. – Brigadier General (Army & USMC O-7), Rear Admiral Lower Half (USN O-7), Major General (Army & USMC O-8), Rear Admiral Upper Half (USN (O-8), LT. Gen. – Lieutenant General (Army & USMC O-9), Vice Admiral (USN O-9).