



OKLAHOMA'S

Military Heritage

A Publication of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation

Honoring the men and women of Oklahoma who served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, demonstrating extraordinary acts of courage, heroism and gallantry, and who continue to serve our country and communities today.

President's Message

We are pleased to welcome all guests to the 2023 Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation induction event. There are 243 individual Oklahoma heroes, and 8 units/organizations, in our Hall of Fame. This is your opportunity to share and appreciate the distinctive and gallant military history of our great state.

OKLAHOMA MILITARY HERITAGE

From statehood through the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and the War on Terrorism, Oklahoma's servicemen and servicewomen have played, and continue to play, a major role in the defense of our Nation.

Since statehood, 476,000 Oklahomans have served in America's armed forces in combat with over 9,890 killed or missing in action, over 1,500 POWs, and over 21,100 wounded. Currently, according to the Veterans Administration, there are over 305,000 living veterans who call Oklahoma home.

OUR AWARDS

The awards themselves are professionally rendered, including a detailed image of our logo in a ribbon-suspended bronze medal; a matted and framed citation adorned with beaded and leathered warrior feather; and a framed freehand pencil portrait of each honoree by one of our very own talented artists.

THE MG DOLLAR SERVICE AWARD

OKMHF also annually honors an individual or organization for outstanding public service activities extending beyond their military service. The "MG Douglas O. Dollar Distinguished Public Service Award" is named for the founder and first president of the OKMHF. Details are at the Nomination Tab on our site at okmhf.org.

Jerry Shiles

Colonel, USA (Ret.), OKMHF President

2023 Honorees Announced

Staff Sergeant Larry Stanley Pierce U.S. Army, 1941 - 1965

SSG Larry Pierce was born in 1941 in Wewoka, Oklahoma. His family relocated to California where he joined the Army in 1961. On 20 September 1965 SGT Pierce was a squad leader pursuing fleeing enemy in the central highlands of South Vietnam. As his men entered a dirt road crossing, Pierce discovered an anti-personnel mine in the roadbed that could destroy most of his squad. He smothered it, sacrificing his life to protect his fellow soldiers. For his actions, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted to Staff Sergeant on 24 February 1966.



Lieutenant Junior Grade Douglas I. Baker U.S. Navy, 1921 - 1944

LTJG Douglas Baker was born in McLain County, Oklahoma in 1921. He graduated from Lindsay High School in 1938. After one year at the University of Oklahoma, he enlisted in 1942, trained as a pilot, earned his wings, and was commissioned as an Ensign on 1 August 1943. In November 1943 he joined Fighting Squadron 20 on the USS Enterprise. Over the next year and before his death on 14 December 1944, Baker accomplished a magnificent record in air combat, 16 enemy aircraft destroyed. His record places him 62nd of all American Aces and 6th of USN and USNR pilots.



Captain Edwin Chappabitty, Jr., MD
U.S. Public Health Service, 1945 - 2021

CAPT Edwin Chappabitty was born in Lawton, OK in 1945 and is a member of the Comanche Nation. He graduated from Lawton High School in 1963, Cameron University in 1965, and Oklahoma State University in 1967 with a degree in zoology. Commissioned from ROTC as an Artillery Officer, he served in Vietnam, 1969-1970, where he received three awards with a 'V' for heroism: two Bronze Stars and Army Commendation medal. After leaving the Army in 1972, he earned his medical degree, was commissioned in the USPHS in 1983, and specialized as a Family Practice physician in Lawton for 25 years.



Admiral Joseph James Clark
U.S. Navy, 1893 - 1971

Admiral "Jocko" Clark was born in a wood cabin in 1893, near Pryor, Indian Territory. His family were members of the Cherokee Nation. He was the first Native American graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the first ever to be promoted to Admiral. He became one of the most renowned Admirals of World War II, often referred to as "the Patton of the Pacific." Clark was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1952, and the Cherokee Hall of Fame posthumously. His decorations include the Navy Cross, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, and Silver Star.



Colonel William J. "Bill" Coultrup
U.S. Army

COL Bill Coultrup was born in Trinidad in 1962. He graduated from Texas A&M in 1984 and entered the US Army as a 2LT. After becoming a Special Forces officer, he participated in numerous sensitive and classified combat operations in Somalia, Bosnia, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and many others. Coultrup commanded the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines for three years assisting the Philippine Armed Forces in their fight against terrorism. During his 30 years of service, his awards include a Silver



Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and a Defense Superior Service Award. Coultrup resides in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Specialist 4 Terry Lee Courange
U.S. Army

SP4 Terry Courange was born in 1946 in Great Bend, Kansas and graduated from Oklahoma's Purcell High School in 1964. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He was drafted into the Army in December 1966 and became a part of Company D, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. He served in Vietnam from June 1967 to May 1968. During his yearlong tour, he earned two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, an Army Commendation Medal with Valor device and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He demonstrated heroic action in combat on several occasions. He resides in Purcell, OK.



Major Thomas E. Maloney
U.S. Air Force, 1923 - 2008

Maj Thomas Maloney was born in Cushing, Oklahoma in 1923. He graduated in 1940 from Cushing High School and joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 hoping to earn an appointment to West Point. Maloney was selected for flight training and graduated in 1943 as a Second Lieutenant. His skill in the P-38 landed him in North Africa in September assigned to the 27th Fighter Squadron. Between 28 March and 31 May 1944, Maloney became an Ace, downing his fifth enemy aircraft and coincidentally an appointment to West Point. He would instead stay to complete his tour.



Senior Master Sergeant William "Pete" Piazza
U.S. Air Force

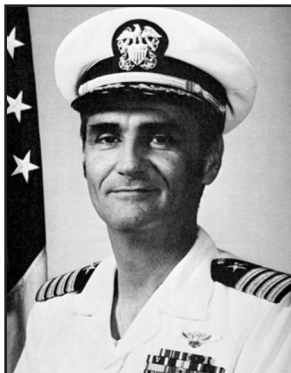
SMSGt "Pete" Piazza was born in 1943 in Schenectady, NY and raised in Brooklyn before entering the Air Force in February 1960. During his 28 years as an Air/Security Policeman he served three tours in Vietnam. On his second tour he earned the Silver Star for his actions at Bien Hoa Air Base during the 31 January 1968 TET battle at Bunker Hill #10. In August 1989, he went to work as a Department of Veterans Affairs Police Officer at the VA Medical Center in Okla-



homa City and retired in August 1999. Piazza resides in Del City, Oklahoma.

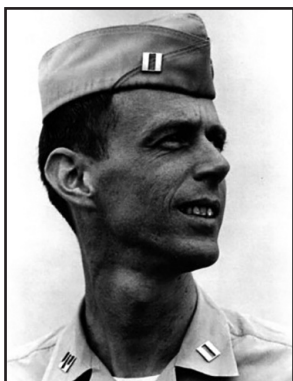
Captain Howard Elmer Rutledge
U.S. Navy, 1928 - 1984

CAPT Rutledge was born in 1928 in Tulsa, OK. He was deployed to Vietnam in June 1965 where he ejected from his jet and was taken prisoner on 28 Nov 1965. He spent 2,643 days as a POW in North Vietnam. Rutledge was subjected to extreme cruelties to obtain military information and confessions for propaganda purposes. Rutledge spent five years in solitary confinement including two years in the prison camp called "Alcatraz" as the enemy tried to isolate him from the other prisoners. His awards include three Silver Stars, six Bronze Stars with V for Valor.



Commander Neil R. Sparks, Jr.
U.S. Navy, 1935 - 2022

CDR Neil Sparks was born in Berkeley, CA in 1935 and raised in Tulsa, OK. He graduated from Will Rogers High School and attended Oklahoma A&M University for three years before joining the Navy to earn his Naval Aviator wings in 1959. CDR Sparks' active duty Naval career spanned over 22 years, with almost eleven years at sea, including five tours of duty supporting the Vietnam War. He earned 15 separate military decorations, with multiple awards of four of them. His decorations include the Navy Cross, the highest Navy decoration, and the second highest in the military.



Notice to Our Readers

Help us reduce mailing costs. If you do not wish to receive our newsletter, please send an email to: Info@OKMHF.org and provide your request with name and address. Thank you!

Also, for future nominations, membership applications, and OKMHF merchandise, please go to our website, OKMHF.ORG, for a downloadable nomination form. Deadline is May 1 each year.

MG Douglas O. Dollar Distinguished
Public Service Award

Brigadier General Thomas P. Mancino
U.S. Army

BG Tom Mancino was born in Tulsa, OK, in 1945. He is a graduate of the Oklahoma Military Academy, University of Tulsa, and Oklahoma State University. He enlisted in the Army in 1966, was commissioned in 1968, and served for 39 years with the Oklahoma National Guard. He commanded the activated 45th Infantry Brigade in Afghanistan and was the first Army Guard general officer to



24th Annual
Banquet & Induction Ceremony
28 October 2023

EMBASSY SUITES NORMAN
2501 CONFERENCE DRIVE, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA

REGISTRATION STARTS 5 PM, RECEPTION/CASH BAR 5:30 PM
SEATING BEGINS 6 PM, WELCOME 6:30 PM

Dress Code: Black tie or business suit for men, "after 5" wear for ladies, Sunday best, service dress, mess dress or business suit for military personnel.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Persons wanting to obtain a reservation for the banquet may go online to our website www.okmhf.org which has the registration link. You may also contact us at info@okmhf.org. The cutoff date for reservations is Oct. 14.

For information on the press release, contact: John Greiner, public affairs, Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation: 405-842-2706 / or jtgreiner704@gmail.com

Visit our greatly improved website at OKMHF.org. Download data on all honorees and example nomination files.

LIVESTREAM - Alternate Attendance Option

A livestream of the evening will be available for \$35. See OKMHF.org website for link to sign up and payment. Professionally prepared DVDs with interviews of living inductees will be available approximately four months after the event for \$25 each, plus shipping. We will also have an 84-page hardback Memory Book of photos from the event for \$60, plus shipping.



command troops in combat since the Korean War. Mancino retired in 2004 to pursue serving and honoring veterans. Among his many civic contributions, he was the founder of the Military History Center in Broken Arrow, OK.

**Lieutenant Colonel Daniel J. Rooney
U.S. Air Force**

LtCol Dan Rooney was born in Stillwater, OK, in 1972 and graduated from the University of Kansas in 1995. He joined the Air Force Reserve, trained to be an F-16 pilot, served three combat tours in Iraq, and continues to fly fighters as an aggressor pilot at Eglin AFB. LtCol Rooney is also a PGA golf professional. Rooney created the Folds of Honor Foundation in 2007 to provide educational scholarships to spouses and children of wounded or killed military service members. The Foundation has awarded 44,000 scholarships valued at \$200 million nationally. Oklahoma military families received over \$10 million in assistance.



In Memory

OKMHF Ambassador Malcolm “Mac” Crank was a key founder of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation. As a member of the Oklahoma Cherokee Tribe, he was inspired to create the unique Soldier/Indian medalion design and motto “Spirit of a Warrior, Heart of a Patriot” which has been an inspiration and guiding focus for the organization. Through the years, he produced the art for inductee profiles, as well as the honoree and ambassador certificates, guided by his talent and creative nature. Mac’s unique patriotism was obvious when he enlisted at age 20 in the U.S. Army receiving basic and advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, LA. When ranked at the top of his class and scheduled for enrollment in Officer Candidate School, Mac experienced health issues and eventually was honorably discharged from the military. He passed July 5, 2023.



Mac’s Mother receives the OKMHF Hall of Honor award presented in his honor at a Celebration of Life in Stillwater, OK, July 29.



Thank you for your support!

PERPETUAL FOUNDERS

- Chickasaw Nation
- Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, OKC
- Tinker Federal Credit Union, OKC
- MG Douglas & Gayla Dollar, Stillwater
- Michael & Pam Kloiber, OKC

SUSTAINING FOUNDERS

- Shawnee Brittan & Joanna Champlin, OKC
- CPT Robert Ford, Okeene
- CPT William Ford & Family, Shawnee
- David Hudiburg & Hudiburg Auto Group, Midwest City

FOUNDERS

- SGT Gary Wayne Banz, OKC
- Gary G. Baumwart, Yukon, OK
- Merrill Burruss, OKC
- Choctaw Nation
- Comanche Nation, Lawton
- Mack & Bonnie Easley, Texarkana, TX
- RADM Thomas Hall, Jacksonville, FL
- Rodney & Marilyn Hall, Grapevine, TX
- Capt. Jim Horn, Stillwater
- Helen M. Hubbell, Rockville, MD
- Beverly J. Kelley, Roswell, GA
- Kirkpatrick Foundation, OKC
- LTC Oren Lee Peters, Edmond
- Col William Talley, Edmond
- Dan & Diane Tully
- John B. Turner, Tulsa
- Sybil White, Lawton
- COL Kelly Zachgo & CPT John Farris, Yukon

GOLD STAR DONORS

- Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK
- Dwight Birdwell, Nornam, OK
- MajGen Wm Bowden, OKC
- GEN Edwin H. Burba, Jr, Prescott, AZ
- CAPT Phillip Butler, Monterey, CA
- Fleet Reserve Assoc
- Jayne Ford, Denver, CO
- Marlin Ike Glass, Newkirk, OK
- The Kerr Foundation
- OU Fed Credit Union, Stillwater
- William Miller, Windsor, CO
- Add Julie Strong & Newell Wright, Clinton, OK
- Add Allen & Jacque Wright, Edmond

TRIBUTES

- In Memory of PVT Richard C. Armstrong, USA, WWII, MIA
- In Memory of RS2 Charles Edward Dillard, USNRF, WWI



HONOR OKLAHOMA VETERANS AND STUDENTS

Become a Pathfinder

Pathfinders are associated with U.S. Airborne Units as the individuals who jump in first to prepare the drop zone for future paratrooper landings. For the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame's initial Honors Campaigns being piloted in 2019, the term "Pathfinder" was first associated with High- and Middle-School students recruited to interview Veterans to preserve their stories of service for their families and the state. Now you are being asked to become a Pathfinder for these efforts through service as an advisor for future efforts of the program and financial contributions.

Support the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame

Now entering our 23rd year with the induction of patriots to total 223 over the life of the organization. Our Mission: Honoring the military service, past and present, of Oklahoma's men and women who have demonstrated extraordinary acts of courage, heroism or gallantry in service to our country. The Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supporting our uniformed services, in particular, honoring those Oklahomans, living or deceased, who serve or have served in the military, with records of outstanding service to our nation.

Help Launch Oklahoma Honors Campaigns

Honors Campaigns are special community-based efforts to recognize local military Veterans that are organized and managed by middle- and high-school students. Supported by the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame through its Ambassador program, an individual student, or a group such as a classroom, a 4-H or similar club, plans and carries the campaign through to its completion.

Pathfinder Giving Levels

PERPETUAL FOUNDER: a gift of \$10,000 or more provides a guest table for ten at the annual OKMHF Induction Banquet and a listing in all current OKMHF banquet programs and current year OKMHF newsletters

SUSTAINING FOUNDER: a gift of \$5,000 - \$9,999 provides a guest table for ten at the annual OKMHF Induction Banquet and a listing in all current OKMHF banquet programs and current year OKMHF newsletters.

FOUNDER: a gift of \$1,000 - \$4,999 provides four complimentary reservations at the current OKMHF Induction Banquet and a listing in the current OKMHF banquet program.

TRIBUTE: \$1,000 provides a listing of a memorial name in OKMHF banquet program for a minimum of 10 years.

GOLD STAR DONOR: a gift of \$500 - \$999 provides two complimentary reservations at the current OKMHF Induction Banquet and a listing in the current OKMHF banquet program

For more information or suggestions:

Phone: 405-269-2251, or Email: contact@okhonorscampaigns.org,
or Write: Pathfinder, PO Box 876, Stillwater, OK 74076

Send Donations/Tributes to:

Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 30658, Edmond, OK 73003

Film Competition Launched Across the State for Third Year

The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma CareerTech centers have partnered together to provide a student competition that documents Oklahoma veterans service in high quality short films. Secondary and post-secondary students throughout the state will join with veterans to film and produce their military stories for entry into the Veterans Film Competition.

Five- to seven-minute edited versions of the interviews will appear on YouTube and the Oklahoma Veterans Film Competition internet site, but family members will receive all of the interview materials for their veteran. “From my

experience, the family members will have never heard very much about their veteran’s service for our country, until now,” noted retired Army Colonel Robert Cox, OKMHF competition organizer.

The OKMHF will recognize the winners and award cash prizes. The 2023 motto for the effort is “If they don’t tell their story, it never happened!” The



Film Competition is part of the ongoing OKMHF Honors Campaigns program. More information including contest guides for students and a promotional film for the campaign go to www.okhonorscampaigns.org.



Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation Ambassadors pictured together after participating in the 2022 Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. Ambassadors such as these are all volunteers and are the backbone of the OKMHF efforts. A special “Salute” to all of our volunteers for making what we do such a success!



Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #216
Oklahoma City, OK 73106