



Spirit of a Warrior Heart of a Patriot

Chapter Application

Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation

www.okmhf.org

Chapter Formation

The mission of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation (OKMHF) is to honor those Oklahomans, living or deceased, who serve or have served in the military with records of extraordinary service and/or sacrifice to our nation, and to educate the public about military service. Each certified chapter will locally implement the OKMHF mission in a manner that fits the local and organizational military history culture.

Chapters of the Foundation are local organizations honoring veterans of their geographical region in the state of Oklahoma. A chapter will be led by an approved Ambassador of the OKMHF, or a person willing to serve the OKMHF as an Ambassador. Each chapter may establish their own membership requirements and structure. The OKMHF requires each chapter to comply with the following that will standardize chapters statewide. Each chapter will:

1. Formally apply, by letter on letterhead to the OKMHF Board of Directors to be certified as a chapter. The letter must be signed by those pledging to provide the leadership and coordination.
2. Each chapter leader will agree to be trained and serve as an OKMHF Ambassador, and serve as a Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation dues paying member. Other chapter members may also become Ambassadors upon request and training.
3. The chapter will meet no fewer than three times per year to create Hall of Honor nominations; and create one or more nominations for the OKMHF Hall of Fame.
4. The chapter is expected to have a presence at the OKMHF Hall of Fame Induction banquet each year, and will locally generate the modest funds required to create honoree certificates, medallions and local ceremonies.

Sample Chapter Application Letter

Date

President

Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation

PO Box 30658, Edmond, OK 73003.

Dear Sir:

This letter is an application to be certified as a supporting chapter of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation (OKMHF). It is our intention to promote the mission of the OKMHF by becoming a focal point for local and regional activity celebrating the achievements of veterans.

Our Chapter will primarily focus upon the veterans affairs of **(insert geographical or population description)**. We have read the requirements and expectations of a chapter and will enthusiastically become an important member of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation.

There are several reasons why our chapter would significantly enhance the statewide mission of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation and its sponsored Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor: They are: **(insert narrative)**

We request that our sponsoring organization be designated as **(insert name)** and we be designated as an approved Foundation Chapter.

Applicant Ambassador Name/Date
(Insert Chapter Name)

Approval: Jerry Shiles/Date
President OKMHF

Sample Chapter Certificate

Size is 11" x 14". The Foundation will provide a framed certificate to the Chapter



SPIRIT OF A WARRIOR, HEART OF A PATRIOT

Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE

SSG Ruben Rivers Chapter of Shawnee

Has been designated a supporting chapter of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation effective April 16, 2024. The chapter will enhance the statewide mission of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation by honoring those Oklahomans, living or deceased, who serve or have served in the military with records of extraordinary service and/or sacrifice to our nation; and, to educate the public, especially the state's youth, about service to our nation.

Staff Sergeant Ruben Rivers distinguished himself with heroic actions against the Germans between Nov. 8 and Nov. 9, 1944, and was killed in action on Nov. 19. His commanding officer recommended him for the Medal of Honor, but this was denied as African Americans were not considered for the award at that time. The Medal of Honor was awarded to him in 1997. The citation reads, in part: "Awarded for extraordinary heroism in action during the November 1944 campaign approaching Guebling, France. Although severely wounded in the leg, he repeatedly refusing evacuation, he continued to direct his tank's fire at enemy positions. His fighting spirit and daring leadership were an inspiration to his unit and exemplify the highest traditions of military service." He was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in 2006.



MG Douglas O. Dollar

MG Douglas O. Dollar, Founder
Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation

COL Jerry Shiles

COL Jerry Shiles, President
Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation

Michael Lapolla

Michael Lapolla, Ambassador
OKMHF Hall of Honor



Hall of Honor Selection Process

The mission of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation (OKMHF) is to honor those Oklahomans, living or deceased, who serve or have served in the military with records of extraordinary service and/or sacrifice to our nation. This mission will be significantly enhanced by newly created Hall of Honor that allows for greater numbers of deserving veterans to be honored on a shorter timeline. The process for the nomination, endorsements, considerations, and approvals for inclusion into the Hall of Honor follow:

1. The prerequisites and evaluation criteria for a Hall of Honor nomination is identical to that of the Military Hall of Fame, with modifications in paragraph 2, below. See prerequisites and criteria at <https://okmhf.org/nominate-a-vet-1>.
2. The required nomination packet is simplified to include a nomination cover sheet, and a 150 word citation statement that will appear on the Hall of Honor citation.
- 3.
4. Additional information including an appropriate discharge service summary (DD214) and a photograph may be requested.
5. Nominations must be neatly prepared and formally endorsed by the Chapter Ambassador. The endorsed nomination will be forwarded to the Hall of Honor AIC for approval.
6. Nomination packets of veterans nominated for the Hall of Fame, but not selected, will be automatically considered for the Hall of Honor if formally endorsed by the Hall of Fame Selection Committee and the Ambassador-in-Charge of the Selection Committee.
7. A nomination may be prepared and submitted at any time. Nominations will be submitted to the board on a timely basis. Emphasis will be placed upon the Memorial Day and Veterans Day time periods.
8. Upon Board approval, the Hall of Honor AIC will prepare an appropriate certificate, insert it into a presentation folder along with a medallion, and provide it to the Chapter Ambassador for appropriate local presentation to the honoree.



OKLAHOMA MILITARY HALL OF HONOR

Nomination Cover Page

Nominee

Highest rank _____ Full nominee name: _____

Is nominee living or deceased? (Circle one)

Date and place of birth: _____

Service Branch(s): _____

Connection to Oklahoma (circle all that apply): born, raised, served, retired, other

Nominee Contact Information (if living): Include complete postal address, telephone and email

Acceptor Contact Information (if nominee is deceased): If nominee is deceased, provide name and complete contact information of the individual who will accept the award. And indicate the acceptor relationship to the nominee.

Nominator Contact Information: Include complete postal address, telephone and email.

Nominator(s) Signature Block/Date

Sample Honoree Certificate

Size is 8.5" x 11". The Chapter will organize the presentation.



Spirit of a Warrior, Heart of a Patriot

Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor

Captain Walter Roland (Waddy) Young was born in Ponca City, Oklahoma in 1916. He played college football at University of Oklahoma and was recognized as the first Sooner All American in 1938. He led the Sooners to their first ever bowl game (1939 Orange Bowl), and was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers professional football team in 1939. Two years later he voluntarily left the Dodgers to join the Army Air Corps and trained in Tulsa at Spartan, graduating as a pilot in August 1941. Flying B-24 Liberator Atlantic anti-submarine patrols, he completed the 25-mission tour before re-signing to the Pacific, flying B-29s. When returning from a January 9, 1945 mission bombing the Nakajima Aircraft Engine Factory, his airplane was last seen descending to provide cover for another being attacked by the numerous enemy aircraft. His airplane and crew were never found He was listed as missing in action and officially killed in action in January 1945. Young was inducted posthumously into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1986, and received the Robert Kalsu Freedom Award from the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. The University of Oklahoma Air Force ROTC Arnold Air Society squadron and Silver Wings chapter is named in honor of Waddy Young. Captain Young was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart and four Air Medals.

CPT Walter R. Young, Army Air Corps

is hereby inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor
Memorial Day 2024

MG Douglas O. Dollar, Founder
Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation



COL Jerry Shiles, President
Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation



Honoree Medallion

Size is 2.5" The Chapter will organize the presentation.

