



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

Thank you to each of you for your continuing support of our fine organization. We continue to experience challenges due to the pandemic, but the good news is that the annual induction ceremony and banquet is on schedule for 29 October this year. I have a request for each of you. We are a dues paying organization and several of you have not remitted your dues for this year. While this is just a small portion of the funds we use to support our banquet, it is nevertheless an important one. For our inductees, you are automatically members without the payment of dues. For the rest of us, dues are a requirement for active participation. Those of you who have paid your dues, thank you. I hope you know how much we appreciate you continuing to honor us with your membership. For the remaining few members who have not paid, dues were to be paid by August 1st, so I'm asking you to pay them by September 15th. Those who have not remitted their dues by that date will be placed in inactive status for 30 days, at the end of which your membership will be suspended. If payment is not remitted by November 1, 2022, your membership will be terminated, and your name and information removed from our roster. We dislike taking such drastic action, but costs are high, resources low, and we see no other way to proceed.

While we could not hold our formal induction ceremonies the past two years, the OKMHF Board and volunteer ambassadors were committed to identifying and recognizing Oklahoma's military heroes during smaller but no less formal induction ceremonies. This was a time-consuming, expensive, year-round operation. I commend the Board and our volunteers for finding unique ways to honor our inductees during this difficult period. Thank you to each of you who participated for your willingness to go above and beyond to make sure each inductee received the recognition he or she so richly deserved. While it made a significant

[Continued on page 6]

2022 Honorees Announced

Captain Gary Michael Rose
U.S. Army



ROSE *

Rose, born in Watertown, New York, in 1947, served in Vietnam as a Special Forces medic and is credited with treating between 60 and 70 wounded soldiers and saving many lives during Operation Tailwind. The mission was later unclassified and after 47 years his Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded to the Medal of Honor which he received in 2017. Rose attended Officer Candidate School in 1973. Other awards

include two Bronze Star Medals with "V" device, and two Purple Hearts. While serving at Fort Sill, he received a bachelor's degree from Cameron University and later a master's degree from University of Oklahoma. He retired in 1987.

Colonel Arthur Wilcox Buswell
U.S. Army, 1926 – 2017

Buswell was born in 1926 in Oklahoma City and grew up in Kingfisher. He was drafted into the Army and assigned to the Medical Corps. He served as a medic during WWII in the China, Burma, India theater from 1945-46. After the war he received a medical degree from University of Oklahoma. After his internship and residency, he opened his practice in Hennessey, Oklahoma. In 1961, Buswell began an Army medical career and would serve in Vietnam. He retired after 34 years of service. His decorations include



BUSWELL

the Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal, two Bronze Stars, one with Valor, and three air medals.

**Command Sergeant Major
George Eugene Clark, Sr.
U.S. Army, 1921 – 1978**

Clark was born in 1921, in McAlester, Oklahoma. He was a member of the Choctaw Tribe and served in three wars. Clark enlisted into the Oklahoma National Guard in 1938 and served with the 45th Infantry Division in Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany during World War II. He also served in Korea and in Vietnam. Clark was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action on 29 September 1944, near Viminal, France. His citation states that while his unit was pinned down, *“he maneuvered himself forward, exposing himself to enemy fire, then was able to call and adjust artillery fire on the German defenses.”*



CLARK

**Major Virgil Cephus Fields
U.S. Army Air Forces, 1921-1944**



FIELDS

Fields was born in California in 1921 and raised in Jay, OK as a Citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces in 1942, commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, and trained as a fighter pilot. In April 1943, he was assigned to the 307th Fighter Squadron in North Africa. He flew 176 combat missions in his Supermarine Spitfire over North Africa, Sicily, Salerno, and Anzio. He became an Ace, destroying six enemy aircraft. On 6 February 1944, Fields was shot down and killed. His awards include Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, 16 Air Medals, and the French Croix de Guerre.

**Chief Warrant Officer 3, Bobby Gene Frost
U.S. Army, 1931 – 1970**



FROST

Frost was born in 1931, in Jones, OK. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1951 as an aircraft mechanic and served 15 years before joining the Army in 1966 to become a Warrant Officer and fly helicopters. At the Rotary Wing school, he graduated with honors. Frost went to Vietnam in 1967 where he served as a UH1 Huey Helicopter pilot and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart. Frost's second tour began in September 1969. Four months later his helicopter experienced engine failure and all onboard perished. Frost's other awards include Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, 13 Air Medals, and the Vietnamese Military Merit Medal.

**Lieutenant Colonel Galand Dwight Kramer
U.S. Air Force**



KRAMER

Kramer was born in 1941, in Wichita, Kansas, and moved to Oklahoma, graduating from Tulsa Edison High School in 1959. He is a 1964 graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Air Force ROTC. Kramer arrived in Vietnam in July 1966. On his 94th mission over North Vietnam he was forced to eject and taken as a Prisoner of War in January 1967. He was held in captivity for more than 6 years. He was released from North Vietnam during Operation Homecoming on 12 February 1973. Kramer's awards include the Silver Star Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, and Purple Heart.

**Corporal Thomas Dawayne Miller
U.S. Marine Corps, 1933 – 1952**



MILLER

Miller was born in 1933 in Morris, OK and graduated from Perry High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 1951 and was assigned as a Wireman to Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines. Miller was awarded the Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry on 5 October 1952. In part the award reads: *“When his team suffered heavy casualties, he voluntarily exposed himself to*

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

intense and accurate hostile mortar, artillery, and sniper fire to call and adjust accurate artillery supporting fire... Although mortally wounded he succeeded in instructing another Marine in operating his radio before succumbing to his wounds..." He was 19 years old.

Major John Floyd Mullins
U.S. Army



MULLINS

Mullins was raised on a farm near Mountain Park, OK. After high school, he joined the Army, rising in rank from Private to Major. He was a Ranger, a Special Forces NCO, and an officer. Mullins served three tours in Vietnam. He never lost a single soldier in any operation he commanded. Mullins was awarded two Silver Star Medals, one of which was 34 years

after his heroism due to the classified nature of the mission. His other Silver Star Medal was for heroism in Vietnam in 1966, for leading a platoon in a renewed attack on a hill occupied by the enemy. He also was awarded the Purple Heart.

Colonel Leonard Bittle Scott, III
U.S. Army

Scott was born in 1948, raised in Minco, OK, and graduated from Central State University. In 1968 he joined the Oklahoma Army National Guard and graduated from its Officer Candidate School. He then graduated from the Infantry Officer Basic, Pathfinder, Airborne, and Ranger schools at Fort Benning. He served in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade's LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) C Co, 75th Rangers and was awarded the Silver Star in 1970 for gallantry in action near the Cambodian border. Other Vietnam awards include the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge. He retired in 1994 as Senior Military Advisor, Oklahoma National Guard.



SCOTT

2nd Lieutenant Frank Charles Vrana
U.S. Army, 1921 – 1982

Vrana was born and raised in Oklahoma County. He graduated from High School when he was 14 then helped on the family farm. After completing 3 years of college at St Gregory's and University of Oklahoma, he enlisted in October 1942. Staff Sergeant Vrana was a Combat Medic and on 14 April 1945 earned a battlefield promotion to 2d Lieutenant. His actions on 19 April 1945, during an enemy artillery attack in Luzon, Philippines, earned him the Silver



VRANA



23rd Annual
Banquet & Induction Ceremony
29 October 2022

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.



Star saving many wounded with first aid and moving them to safety. His other awards include the Combat Medic Badge and the Purple Heart.

DOLLAR AWARDEES

COL Stanley Levi Evans **U.S. Army**

Evans was raised in Oklahoma City and graduated from Fredrick A. Douglass High School in 1964. He will receive the Major General Douglas O. Dollar Distinguished Public Service Award and inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Evans enlisted in the Army in 1968 and graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1970. He served 32 years as a Signal Corps officer, including a company command in Vietnam.



EVANS**

His last assignment was dean of the Army's Command and General Staff College. Evans' decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, and Bronze Star. His civilian awards are numerous and include induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 2021.

Major Joe Lee Todd **U.S. Army**

Todd was born in 1946 and raised in Bartlesville, OK. He will receive the Major General Douglas O. Dollar Distinguished Public Service Award and inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Todd served in Vietnam, Kuwait and Iraq. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, four Air Medals, and the Purple Heart. His Joint Service Commendation Medal highlighted his Civil Affairs professionalism and skills. Todd is an historian and has worked at the Oklahoma Historical Society and 45th Division Museum preserving documents



TODD**

and conducting numerous oral histories. He is credited with over 2000 recorded veteran interviews and author of *USS Oklahoma, Remembrance of a Great Lady*.

Special thanks go to our Sketch Artists, Mac Crank and Kathy Davis of Stillwater; and, our Graphic Artist, Coltyn Harrill of Chickasha



The OKMHF is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that relies solely upon donations. Thank you for your support.

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TRIBUTES

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

In Memory

OKMHF Ambassador Michael James Geers was a Captain in the United States Marine Corps who went to Officer Candidate School at Quantico and served our country in Vietnam. As a combat veteran, he was heavily involved in the Yukon Veteran's Museum and loved being in parades with his WWII Willy's Military Jeep.

Michael succumbed to cancer on June 8, 2022. We will always be grateful for his service to our Nation and fellow veterans!



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 Second Year in a Row

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.



Posters promoting the event are being placed in CareerTech and high-school locations throughout Oklahoma.

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. Plans call for the contest to continue in future years. The 2022 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.

dent in our finances, the sacrifice was worthwhile to see our heroes properly celebrated.

On that note, because the last two year’s events were cancelled, significant funding has been lost. We are once again asking our donors and membership for financial assistance in making it possible for us to continue to recognize Oklahoma’s military heroes.

[President’s Message continued from page 1]

Each member of our board is a committed, consummate professional who goes above and beyond to make what we do a satisfying and rewarding experience for all of us. If you are interested in serving with us, please let us know as we are always looking for others to step up and “man the guns.” I am proud and honored to stand beside you.

Jerry Shiles
Colonel (Ret.) USA, OKMHF President

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