



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
info@honoringveteranlegacies.org

HVL LESSON TITLE:

AN HONOR TO HONOR

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

AN HONOR TO HONOR

GUIDING QUESTION:

**How does the military honor its
own for acts of valor and out-
standing service?**

OVERVIEW:

The U.S. Armed Forces have a system of awards and decorations to recognize individual acts of valor and outstanding service.



SUBJECT(S):
Social Studies



VIETNAM VETERAN(S):
Duane Hoffman



DURATION:
60 minutes

AN HONOR TO HONOR

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS

“It’s an honor to honor. I know it is a play on words but it is true.”

Veteran Duane Hoffman

OVERVIEW:

The U.S. Armed Forces have a system of awards and decorations to recognize individual acts of valor and outstanding service.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The term “honor military” can refer to several concepts, including recognizing service through awards and decorations, providing military funeral honors, and generally showing appreciation for military personnel and veterans. The Medal of Honor is the nation’s highest military award for valor, while military funeral honors are provided by the Department of Defense for eligible veterans.

The U.S. Armed Forces have a system of awards and decorations to recognize individual acts of valor and outstanding service. The Army, Navy and Air Force Cross are the second highest military decorations in their respective branches awarded for extraordinary heroism in combat.

OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will be able to

- Conduct research in regards to military history.
- Recognize the qualities of American military valor.

STANDARDS:

This lesson plan is ideal to use for Veterans Day Week activities as well as when discussing all military wars. This lesson can also be used for Character Education.

AN HONOR TO HONOR

DEVELOPED BY: ERIN COGGINS



MATERIALS & DOCUMENTS

[HVL Duane Hoffman Video](#)

A Decorated Hero (Doc A)

Medals Scavenger Hunt Activity (Doc B)

PROCEDURES

ACTIVITY 01

- Write or project the word HONOR. Ask students to define the word honor. Inform students that they will watch a video on veteran Duane Hoffman. This veteran will help them understand the word honor.
- Show the [HVL Duane Hoffman Video](#)
- After the video, ask students to define the word honor again. Discuss.

ACTIVITY 02

- Distribute copies of A Decorated Hero (Doc A). Students may read individually or as a class.
- Inform students that the military continues to bestow honor on those who exhibit valor and distinguished service through a medal system.

ACTIVITY 03

- Distribute the Medals Scavenger Hunt Activity (Doc B). Allow time for students to research the medals and answer the questions. **NOTE:** Teachers may want to project the images for a larger format. Share this [LINK](#) with students for easy access to research.

METHODS FOR EXTENSION

- This lesson could be turned into a project on the Medal of Honor and its core values.
- Students can research various highly decorated soldiers in American history for a better look into the medal system and its qualifications.

AN HONOR TO HONOR

A DECORATED HERO

DOC A



Audie Murphy was widely celebrated as the most decorated combat soldier of World War II, and has been described as the most highly decorated enlisted soldier in U.S. history.

He received very military combat award for valor available from the U.S. as well as French and Belgian awards of heroism. Murphy received the Medal of Honor for valor that he demonstrated at age 19 for single-handedly holding off a company of German soldiers for an hour at the Colmar Pocket in France in January 1945, before leading a successful counterattack while wounded.

The United States additionally honored Murphy's war contributions with the American Campaign Medal, the European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with arrowhead device and 9 campaign stars, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp. France recognized his service with the French Legion of Honor – Grade of Chevalier, the French Croix de guerre with Silver Star, the French Croix de guerre with Palm, the French Liberation Medal and the French Fourragère in Colors of the Croix de guerre, which was authorized for all members of the 3rd Infantry Division who fought in France during World War II. Belgium awarded Murphy the Belgian Croix de guerre with 1940 Palm.

The U.S. military continues to HONOR soldiers for valor and distinguished service.



AN HONOR TO HONOR

MEDALS SCAVENGER HUNT ACTIVITY



Directions: Using the internet, find the correct information to match to the photograph on the right side of the chart.

	Name of Medal	Award Description	How Many Awarded
			
			
			
			

AN HONOR TO HONOR

MEDAL SCAVENGER HUNT ACTIVITY

			
			

1. What other medals can be bestowed upon American soldiers?
2. What are some of the common words you see in the awards descriptions?
3. What do these words have in common with how Mr. Hoffman describes/defines honor?