

# MEDAL OF HONOR

## EDUCATION PROGRAM-SPEAKERS BUREAU

TO: Selected Speakers

DATE: February 26, 2010

SUBJECT: Medal of Honor Speakers Bureau

**PURPOSE:** As part of the 2010 Medal of Honor Convention BEYOND VALOR program, sponsored by the Host Committee, selected speakers will speak and assist teachers with classroom activities concerning the Medal of Honor, its recipients and the values the Medal represents.

You may be selected to be a member of the Speakers Bureau in support of the Education Program component of the 2010 Medal of Honor Convention. It is a time and place to make a positive impression on our state's young people about the pride we have in America, the values represented by the Medal of Honor and the gallantry and sacrifice of its recipients. Remember, the Medal of Honor celebration and its Education Program is a non-partisan, non-political event.

### JOB DESCRIPTION:

1. You have been selected as a speaker as a result of your maturity, military bearing, and the trust and confidence placed in you. As a speaker you will be required to prepare and present a presentation/speech about the Medal of Honor to middle or high school classes.
2. Once selected, you are encouraged to immediately gather and coordinate additional resources in your county. You may call upon other Bureau members or community persons who have a military background to assist with presentations. Additional resources may include the American Legion, the Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Army, Navy or Marine reservists or veterans. Remember your selection of assistant presenters should, like you, make a good presentation.
3. Also, you should immediately contact your local school district leaders and express your availability and willingness to participate and provide presentations. If for any reason you may not be available after selection, please let your school/teachers know. You should try to obtain a substitute for your presentation or make other arrangements for coverage.
4. It is very important that you visit and read the material relevant to your presentation at our website, [www.scs.org/MOH](http://www.scs.org/MOH). **Again, this is very important.** Please use the website as your initial source of information and feel free to print what you need from the website. There are additional websites in the Essay Contest rules. A "talking paper" will be attached to give you an

## **MEDAL OF HONOR** **TALKING POINTS**

**TO:** Speakers Bureau Participants

**EDUCATION PROGRAM:** As part of the Host Committee's celebration of the 2010 Medal of Honor Convention, the Education Program was developed for middle and high school students. The purpose of the Education Program is to provide a brief background on the development of the Medal of Honor and the criteria for its award. Further, this Program is designed to highlight Recipients and to draw attention to their brave actions under hostile fire in defense of the Nation. This is done by developing this website which is available to students and teachers to assist their inquiry into interesting facts about the Medal of Honor or its Recipients; and secondly, by providing a Speakers Bureau composed of volunteers—SC State Guard, the American Legion and other patriotic groups—who will make themselves available to present a class on the Medal of Honor. This program is designed to be non-political.

### **PROCESS:**

A. The State Department of Education supports this Education Program. Teachers have been encouraged to review the State Guard Medal of Honor website ([www.sg.sc.gov/MOH](http://www.sg.sc.gov/MOH)) and to develop a class about the Medal of Honor. Either the teacher or a student may visit this website and use it to seek information or ideas about such a class. The classroom activities are in conjunction with the **Essay Contest** which is open to middle and high school students in South Carolina.

B. Additionally, a teacher may contact the State Guard directly or through the contact point listed on the Fact Sheet. The teacher's request will be forwarded via telephone or e-mail to Speaker Bureau volunteer. The volunteer must contact the requesting teacher and mutually arrange the date and scope of the Medal of Honor presentation. Resources for background material are scattered through this website.

### **PRESENTATION:**

A. Upon notification of a teacher's request, the volunteer speaker should immediately contact the teacher and discuss the scope and subject matter of the presentation and the date, time and place for the presentation. All presentations should be made in appropriate attire or class A or B uniforms, but not BDUs/ACUs.

B. The scope of the presentation is left to the teacher and what can be given by the speaker. It is anticipated that each speaker and teacher will work out something that is mutually agreeable. As a guideline, presentations should last approximately thirty (20-30) minutes with fifteen (15) minutes for discussion. The presentation should be tailored to the size and age of the class.

C. This website and its references should be consulted by the speaker and are

available as the major resource for developing the Medal of Honor presentation. Any page on this website may be downloaded and used in the by teachers, students and speakers.

D. A Medal of Honor commemorative book focusing on South Carolina recipients has been published. This book **may** available for presentation to each school by the speaker. Contact COL James Hill to see if a copy is available. However, most of the book is available on-line at the above cited State Guard website.

**TALKING POINTS:** A typical presentation will contain the following points; however, each speaker is encouraged to use his/her own creativity to tailor the subject matter to the teacher's request, the size of the class and the age of the students.

A. **Self-Introduction.** Suggested time: 5 minutes. Briefly, tell about your military involvement/history and any interesting assignment or duty. Also, tell the students what you currently do in your civilian job.

B. **Medal of Honor Presentation.** Suggested time: 20 minutes.

1. Start with defining the current criteria for the award of the Medal of Honor.
2. Briefly, explain how the Navy, then the Army developed the Medal of Honor.
3. Explain that the Medal of Honor was the only medal for bravery given during the Civil War by the United States. This presentation does not cover the Confederacy.
4. Discuss the Board of Generals and its efforts to tighten the award criteria and drop 911 recipients from the Medal of Honor roles for failing to meet the higher standards of bravery. Mention the "Pyramid of Honor."
5. Discuss the Medal of Honor in peace time and mention examples of famous recipients: Lieutenant Charles Lindbergh or Admiral Richard Byrd.
6. Mention that the Medal of Honor was given 1,520 times for action in the Civil War, 123 times for action in World War I, 433 times in World War II, 131 times for the Korean War, 238 times for the Vietnam War and only six times since then in Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. State that today a total of 3,446 awards have been given, and of that total only 91 recipients are alive today of which 3 live in South Carolina.
7. Briefly, explain that the Medal of Honor is the Nation's highest award for gallantry on the battlefield and that it is awarded by Congress and presented by the President or his designee.
8. Mention that its design has changed and that by tradition since WWII it is draped around the neck of the Recipient.
9. Briefly, discuss a famous Recipient such as SGT Alvin York, 2LT Audie Murphy, Dr. Mary Walker or President Theodore Roosevelt. There are many other examples of famous Recipients. Copy and hand out the citation.
10. Briefly, discuss the brave acts of one of South Carolina's living Recipients and hand out a copy of their citation.

11. Close with a short statement that no Medals were given since Vietnam, save the two in the Somali Operation, four in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. What does this mean? Will we see many Medals given in the future? Leave several questions for class discussion.

C. **Discussion.** Suggested time: 15 minutes.

1. Encourage the students to ask questions.
2. Refer to the Amazing Facts on this website and mention a few facts.
3. Refer to Student Activities on this website to obtain a topic for discussion, e.g., ask the students how they would change the Medal and why. What are its symbolisms?
4. Discuss the values represented by the Medal. Can citizens represent these values in their own lives, without being on the battlefield? How?

D. **Book Presentation.** Suggested time: 5 minutes. If you were able to get a copy of the commemorative Medal of Honor book, present it to the teacher or other school representative and say that it should be a resource and placed in the school library or media center for all students.

E. **Close.** Suggested time: 2 minutes. Thank the teacher by name and the students collectively for inviting you there. Tell them that it was a true honor and privilege to represent the 2010 Medal of Honor Society Convention Host Committee and your respective organization (e.g., the American Legion or the SC State Guard) in recognizing and commemorating the gallantry of our Nation's Medal of Honor Recipients.

idea of a typical twenty-minute presentation; however, the script does not bind you. Use your creativity for an appropriate presentation. It is very important to be well prepared.

5. The Education Program-Speakers Bureau may extend beyond the school year. However, teachers are encouraged to schedule presentations during the Spring Semester in keeping with Medal of Honor Convention in September 2010. Scheduling will have to be a joint and coordinated effort between the local teacher and yourself. It is expected that middle and high school social studies, history, civic teachers and junior ROTC commanders may call for a presentation.

6. Presentations should conform to the teacher's requirements and be grade appropriate. Stress the **IDEALS** set out in the Preamble to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Generally, it is expected that a presentations to a class will last about 15-20 minutes with another 15 minutes for discussion. A presentation to an assembly will obviously be more formal and is guided by the time allotted to the speaker.

7. Feedback is important. If you have any questions, contact COL Jim Hill through the SC State Guard, at phone number: (803) 253-6210. Please let him know the time that you have spent and location of the presentations you have given, via e-mail at [jhill25@sc.rr.com](mailto:jhill25@sc.rr.com).