

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE SOLDIER-STATESMEN NAMES HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS FROM WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAR

Washington, DC – *The Soldier-Statesmen* organization announces its current honorary board members who served during World War II or the Korean War. “These men and women represent a lifetime of devotion to service, sacrifice and commitment to a higher calling of purposeful living,” said Thomas J. Ratcliff, founder of *The Soldier-Statesmen*. “One need only reflect on the noteworthy military service of these great Americans coupled with their steadfast commitment to community and country over the last 60 years to readily understand that many true heroes—and their legacy of altruism and selflessness— still exist. While their history should be recorded, their example should be lived.”

Ratcliff continued, “it was important upon the formation of the organization to first and foremost ensure that we readily and properly honor and venerate the ‘Greatest Generation’ and those whose military service came directly thereafter in what has come to be known as the ‘Forgotten War.’ It is their embodiment of living a life devoted to something other than self to which those who have worn the uniform among today’s generations should equally aspire and seek to emulate. From Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; to former Prisoners-of-War; Pearl Harbor and USS Indianapolis Survivors; the Tuskegee Airmen; Band of Brothers; Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) and other distinguished veterans, these quintessential citizen-soldiers built the bridges to the future and to the very freedoms—and the inherent responsibilities—that so many have come to take for granted.”

“Many of these same luminaries have continued—some well into their 80’s and 90’s—to lead by example; educate and inspire our nation’s youth; meaningfully participate in their communities, churches and civic organizations; and contribute to the national dialogue and discourse on myriad issues. In doing so, they individually and collectively epitomize the mantra of *The Soldier-Statesmen* by possessing both a warrior’s spirit and a servant’s heart which each has indefatigably illustrated since the middle of the 20th Century,” Ratcliff stated. “They include those who took the beaches of Normandy, prevailed in the Pacific, survived the Bataan Death March, or kept the Korean Peninsula from being engulfed in the throes of communism years later. Yet, they did not return home from combat and conflict seeking to build monuments and memorials to themselves and their global achievements—which is expressly why nearly 60 years elapsed before the World War II Memorial and more than 40 years passed before the Korean War Memorial respectively opened to the nation and the world. Instead, they quietly returned to their farms, factories, and families and their corporate or communal leadership, duties, and responsibilities with honor, integrity and soldierly comportment. It is inextricably because of their service, sacrifice, and resoluteness during and in the decades since their military service that has made these United States the greatest and freest country in the history of humanity.”

Honorary Board Members of *The Soldier-Statesmen* named today include:

- **General (Ret) James M. Abraham**, World War II, Past Commander, Military Order of World Wars
- **Raymond J. Albert**, World War II and Korean War
- **Dr. Edwin E. “Buzz” Aldrin**, Colonel (Ret), Korean War and NASA Astronaut
- **Frank J. Aleksandrowicz**, World War II and Korean War
- **Richard L. Artley**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor
- **Horace E. Barbee**, World War II, Iwo Jima
- **Dr. Harold “Hal” Baumgarten**, World War II, 29th Infantry Division
- **Charles P. “Chuck” Bednarik**, World War II and Professional Football Hall of Fame
- **Alex A. Boudreaux**, World War II, Tuskegee Airmen, Congressional Gold Medal Recipient
- **Commander (Ret) Paul L. Briggs**, World War II and Professional Football Player
- **Colonel (Ret) Frank C. Caldwell**, World War II, Iwo Jima, and Korean War
- **Hilton Carter**, World War II, Tuskegee Airmen, Congressional Gold Medal Recipient
- **Charles T. Craton**, World War II, 101st Airborne Division
- **Major (Ret) Herndon M. Cummings**, World War II, Tuskegee Airmen, Congressional Gold Medal Recipient

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- **Jesse A. Darden**, World War II, 17th Airborne Division
- **M. Leonard D'Ooge**, World War II, 10th Mountain Division
- **E. Lee Dauster**, Korean War Veterans Association, National Director
- **Joel C. Davis**, Korean War Veteran
- **Colonel (Ret) George E. "Bud" Day**, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient and Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Secretary Frederick B. Dent**, World War II and Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce
- **Ambassador John E. Dolibois**, World War II and Former U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg
- **Avery Robert Cardinal Dulles**, World War II, Cardinal of the Catholic Church
- **Marvin Dunn**, Korean War Veterans Association, National Director
- **Lt. Colonel (Ret) Clyde B. East**, World War II and Korean War
- **John G. Edwards**, Korean War Veterans Association, National Director
- **Dr. Miguel J. Encinias**, Lt. Colonel (Ret), World War II (Ex-Prisoner of War), Korean War , and Vietnam
- **John B. Engle**, World War II, Pacific Theater
- **James L. Evans**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor, and Korean War
- **Admiral (Ret) Arthur H. Farr**, World War II, Pacific Theater
- **Robert W. "Bob" Feller**, World War II and Professional Baseball Hall of Fame
- **James E. Ferris**, Korean War Veterans Association, National Director
- **Colonel (Ret) Charles E. Fisher**, World War II, Armed Forces Community Relations Council
- **Edward L. Fowler**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Colonel (Ret) Wesley L. Fox**, Korean War and Vietnam, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
- **Kenneth C. Garrison**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor
- **Dr. Kenneth A. Glass**, World War II Veteran
- **Virginia B. "Scotty" Gough**, World War II, Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)
- **Major (Ret) Thomas C. Griffin**, World War II, Doolittle Raiders and Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Colonel (Ret) Stanley J. Grogan**, Korean War Veterans Association, National Director
- **William "Wild Bill" Guarnere**, World War II, 101st Airborne, Easy Company
- **Forrest L. Guth**, World War II, 101st Airborne, Easy Company
- **Claude A. Hatch**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War, Bataan Death March Survivor
- **Major (Ret) Norman T. Hatch**, World War II, Iwo Jima
- **Rodolfo P. Hernandez**, Korean War, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
- **Arthur J. Jackson**, World War II, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
- **David L. Jarvis**, Korean War Veteran
- **Lee T. Jenks**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Donovan Johnson**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor, and Korean War
- **Reverend Paul A. Johnson**, World War II, Pacific Theater
- **Paul I. Kennedy**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor
- **General (Ret) Harry W.O. Kinnard**, World War II (Commander, 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment) and Vietnam (Commander, 1st Cavalry Division)
- **Robert G. Kinzler**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor
- **Stephan Kowalyk**, World War II, Army and Navy Union, Past Commander
- **James J. Leach**, World War II, LST/Amphibs Association, President Emeritus
- **Charles J. Lee**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **George H. Leidenheimer**, World War II, 82nd Airborne Division
- **Cordino Longiotti**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Richard Maier**, Korean War Veteran
- **Donald G. Malarkey**, World War II, 101st Airborne, Easy Company
- **Paul E. Maple**, World War II, European Theater
- **Norman R. Matthews**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **George H. McCoy**, World War II, 82nd Airborne Division

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- **Dr. Charles E. McGee**, Colonel (Ret), World War II, Tuskegee Airmen
- **Garland D. “Mac” McGovern**, World War II, European Theater
- **General (Ret) Edward L. “Ed” McMahon**, World War II, Korean War and Television Personality
- **Chaplain Thomas H. McPhatter**, Captain (Ret), World War II, Iwo Jima
- **Hiroshi M. Miyamura**, Korean War, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
- **Norman W. Neitzke**, World War II, 101st Airborne, Easy Company
- **Melvin H. Nesteby**, World War II and Korean War, Ex-Prisoner of War, Bataan Death March Survivor
- **Jack L. Nix**, World War II and Professional Football Player
- **General (Ret) Robin Olds**, World War II and Vietnam
- **Manuel S. Pablo**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War, Bataan Death March Survivor
- **William J. Powell**, World War II, European Theater
- **Clarence E. Ratcliff**, World War II, Pacific Theater
- **Margaret Ray Ringenberg**, World War II, Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)
- **Leonard E. Rose**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Tillman J. Rutledge**, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam, Ex-Prisoner of War, Bataan Death March Survivor
- **Gordon R. Schnulle**, World War II, Iwo Jima
- **Francis D. Scordino**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Colonel (Ret) Jack A. Sims**, World War II, Ex-Prisoner of War
- **Florian M. Stamm**, World War II, USS Indianapolis Survivor
- **Dr. Porcher L. Taylor**, Colonel (Ret), World War II (Tuskegee Airmen), Korean War and Vietnam
- **William C. Thurkettle**, World War II, USS Indianapolis Survivor
- **Edward J. Tipper**, World War II, 101st Airborne, Easy Company
- **Thomas H.P. Turner**, World War II and Negro League Professional Baseball
- **Robert J. Ulrich**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor
- **Thomas E. Unger**, World War II, Pearl Harbor Survivor
- **Major (Ret) William R. Watkins**, World War II, Tuskegee Airmen
- **Colonel (Ret) Sanford H. Webster**, World War II, European Theater
- **Lt. Commander (Ret) Ralph C. Wilson**, World War II, Founder and Owner, The Buffalo Bills
- **General (Ret) John M. Wright**, World War II (Ex-Prisoner of War), Korean War and Vietnam, Commander, 101st Airborne Division

“While others have worn the uniform among their contemporaries, what makes these distinguished veterans and their representation of our most noble traditions and values distinctive is that they each have spent the entirety of their lives embracing, upholding, and personifying a commitment to virtuous living,” Ratcliff said. “Moreover, former POWs are not simply singular examples of indomitable human will and survival. They are eternally representative of the triumph of the human spirit and a tremendous loyalty to country and compatriot alike. Tuskegee Airmen are not black heroes, they are American heroes who—just as they blazed a trail of smoke in the sky—blazed a trail below them for all people of color. The Women Airforce Service Pilots meant more to America than an extension of the erstwhile liberties gained during the women’s suffrage movement 25 years before, they were essential to the American and Allied Forces victory over tyranny and oppression during World War II and an important addition to the tradition of military service in our country thereafter. Medal of Honor recipients are far more than illustrative of the bravest among us, they are the collective embodiment of an innate and unwavering sense of duty, courage, chivalry and sacrifice by which others should measure and reflect upon their own standards and steadfastness of mission during their military service and beyond. Over the last half-century, these Soldier-Statesmen have been vanguards of our national identity and stalwarts of our moral fiber, while having a tremendous effect on our corporate, governmental, social and political landscape.”

“It is now the responsibility and charge of *The Soldier-Statesmen* organization to preserve and promote the example set forth by these individuals in every sector of society. The costly torch of freedom that they pass should not and cannot be snuffed out by selfishness replacing their selflessness; by self-adulation replacing their self-effacement; by societal indulgence replacing their communal sacrifice; and by inaction eroding the bedrock values of this nation which they gave so much to safeguard. Instead, the mantle of social responsibility and stewardship that they have carried so long, so ably and so nobly should be borne by those who understand that—in simplest terms—a soldier’s duty is only done when his or her course on earth is run,” Ratcliff concluded.

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