

## THE WARRIORS MEDAL OF VALOR OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES



The Warriors Medal of Valor from the Native American Nations was created and crafted by a Native American Chief who served in Vietnam. The medal may be awarded to any deserving Vietnam Veteran and is not limited to Native Americans. Our ability and opportunity to award the Warriors Medal of Valor has been approved by a local Tribal Council and made possible by Life Member #127 Alvin Matthews, who was the first Chairman of the VSPA Committee for the selection and presentation of the Warriors Medal of Valor. MSgt. Matthews was the first VSPA member to receive the Warriors Medal of Valor for his service in Vietnam. He received his medal from a tribal Chief while attending a Cherokee Powwow in 2005. He subsequently worked

to make it possible for the VSPA to present the medal. Alvin and his daughter, Janet Matthews, made all of the arrangements to present the Warriors Medal of Valor at our reunions in 2006 and 2007. They personally financed the awards for our members. The presentation is a very moving experience and an honor for all recipients. MSgt. Matthews passed away in 2008. Members of the VSPA contributed funds in his name to ensure that the Warriors Medal would continue to be funded and awarded to deserving members of the VSPA. His daughter Janet continues to honor her father as the Co-Chair of the VSPA Committee for the selection and presentation of the Warriors Medal of Valor.

2026

2025

PATSY PEROTTO  
LARRY BREAZEALE  
JERRY HAUPT J. O. MILLER  
JOHNNY ZOLONDZ (POSTHUMOUS)  
WILLIE SQUIRES

2024

JAIME LLERAS  
SAMUEL "MARTY" MARTINEZ  
MARK D. BUCKBERRY  
LONNIE D. BEESON  
KEN SMERECKI  
JOHN W. PROBST

2023

RICHARD A. GANO  
ROBERT M. WEDDING  
CHARLES W. BLOOD  
SAMUEL J. WILLIAMS JR.  
ELIA "LEE" CHAMBERS  
FRANK M. CROWDER, JR.

2022

WENDELL WALLACE  
ROBERT CURNICK  
FRANK YBARBO  
DONALD BISHOP  
KEITH YOUNG  
GENERAL RONALD FOGLEMAN

2021/2020

COMBINED DUE TO COVID-19 CANCELLATION OF THE 2020 REUNION

LARRY DEE FLEMING  
JEFFREY L. KERKHOFF  
JAMES J. STASTNY  
MICHAEL K. REGAN  
PAUL SHAVE  
BILL HARRIS  
JIM LEBOWITZ  
MICHAEL KENNEDY  
MARTIN STRONES  
ROBERT DEKE DECUBELLIS

2020

RAY POSS, UNITED STATES NAVY VETERAN OF THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS ON THE  
USS HORNET- INSTRUCTOR PILOT FOR MILITARY PILOTS.

JERRY POSS, VSPA ASSOCIATE MEMBER, U.S. ARMY VIETNAM VETERAN WITH  
AGENT ORANGE COMPLICATIONS

2019

MIKE BUFFINGTON

JON HEMP

LARRY POSS

ERIC JOHNSON

RAYMOND E. "RAY" SILHAVY

2018

BRIGADIER GENERAL (RETIRED)

RICHARD A. COLEMAN

ALLEN K. WORKMAN (Posthumous)

HOWARD YATES

BRIAN LAMASNEY, MASTER SGT. (RETIRED)

RICHARD PARSONS, CMSGT, 820TH BASE DEFENSE GROUP

2017

ARTHUR J. RODGERS, JR. COL. (RET)

BERNIE DENISIO - FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION

COL MEL GROVER - FOR VALOR IN ACTION

JAMES T. (TERRY) STRICKLAND (Posthumous)

WILLIAM SOLESKI

JON HAYES

LYLE BRAKOB

2016

STEPHEN L. CURRY

TONY MORRIS

STEVE HALL

TERRY HALL

BILL MARSHALL

2015

JOHN PAUL COAKLEY  
JOHN WEBSTER  
DON GRAHAM  
JERRY A. DISHMAN  
RICHARD BALL

2014

BUD OWENS  
DAVE PIERSON  
RICHARD GARCIA  
VAN DIGBY  
ROBERT THRONEBURG

2013

BEN BARTO (Posthumous)  
LEW GOLDBERG  
PATRICK DUNNE  
STEVE SHELT  
HECTOR RAMOS

2012

MASTER CHIEF JAMES WINDHAM  
MAJOR CHRISTOPHER "KIT" JOHNSON  
EDWIN JACK SMITH  
ALEXANDER LIVERANO  
PHIL CARROLL

2011

DAVID SUMMERFIELD (Posthumous)  
JOHN HOMA  
KEN NEAL  
ERNIE CHILDERS  
KELLY BATEMAN

2010

THOMAS TESSIER  
RAY RASH  
RANDY “RAMPS” STUTLER  
GARY JONES  
JERRY NELSON

2009

WILLIAM “PETE” PIAZZA  
  
JAMES RANDALL  
AL HANDY

2008

ROBERT FRINK  
WILLIAM CUMMINGS  
THOMAS TESSIER (see 2010 above for presentation)  
LUTHER YOUNG  
RICHARD HOLSTEIN

2007

GREGORY CAIN  
MILLARD LEHMAN (Posthumous)  
JACK ROBERTS  
JOHN RISSE  
PETE VILLARREAL

2006

KENT MILLER  
JACKIE KAYS  
DON POSS  
STEVE GATTIS

2005

ALVIN MATTHEWS, OUR FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE WARRIOR’S MEDAL OF VALOR