

Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States Annual Report 2011

The annual elections were held in early November 2011. There were two Board positions open and Bill Sweeney and Randy Wells were reelected to fill them.

2011 Projects. Many of the previous years projects continued into 2011:

Medal of Honor Grave marker status:

In 2011, 25 'Lost to History' Recipients were located and an additional 2 others are tentative. In early February, the VA sent us a letter requesting that we hold off submitting any more headstone or marker applications as they wanted to review the rules and regulations on who was authorized to request the markers and who was authorized to have a marker. These markers are VA issued government markers which identify the person as a Medal of Honor Recipient.

Some of the VA's concerns dealt with next of kin, private cemeteries where a Recipient already has a marker even if there was no mention of the Medal of Honor, and the current rule stating that if the person died prior to November 1, 1990, they were not eligible for a marker. As such, when a 'Lost' Recipient is located, we are holding the application until we learn the VA's decision. As of December 2011, there are 22 applications on hold.

Marine Corps Recipients:

In June 2010, we received a grant from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation to locate the 19 USMC Recipients who are 'Lost to History.' In 2011, we located an additional Recipient bringing the total located to date to eight.

Medal of Honor Book Listings:

The list of books that were either authored by a Medal of Honor Recipient or are about Medal of Honor Recipients continues to grow. It now has 1174 entries.

Medal of Honor Recipients on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial "The Wall":

A listing of each of the Medal of Honor Recipients whose names are engraved on "The Wall" and how to find their name was compiled and added to our webpage under the District of Columbia page. It is in two parts, by order from west to east and alphabetical if you are seeking a particular Recipient.

Medal of Honor Recipients buried at Arlington National Cemetery:

A listing of each of the Medal of Honor Recipients who are buried or memorialized at Arlington National Cemetery has been compiled and added to our webpage under the Arlington National Cemetery page. It is by Section however it can also be sorted by name if desired.

Civil War Battle Flag Listing:

Many Medals of Honor were awarded during the Civil War for capturing or protecting a battle flag. A listing of the flags related to a Recipient is being compiled. It will list the flag, its current location when known, and the Recipient who received the Medal by his action with the flag and where possible, the date of the action.

Prisoner of War listing:

Working with the CMOHS, we have begun compiling a listing of all Recipients who at one time or another were prisoners of war. Some were prisoners during a war other than the one they earned the Medal in. Some of the individuals who were POWs are not commonly known to have been POWs. There are currently 189 names on the list.

Medal of Honor Recipients Graves GPS Numbers Listing:

In 2011 we began a major project to list the GPS numbers of all Recipients' graves on our webpage. Accompanying the number is a map pinpointing the location of the grave. This is a massive project and will take a significant amount of time to complete but many maps are now available on the various states listings.

Finances.

The annual membership cost per member, except for Medal of Honor Recipients themselves, is \$20 annually for individual members and \$50 for corporations. Medal of Honor Recipients are extended honorary memberships with full privileges.

During 2011, our third year of operation, we took in \$1080 in memberships and \$452.94 in donations.

Our 2011 membership total is 54 members. Our expenses for 2011 were \$70 for post office box rental, \$44.90 in postage, and \$318.82 for other expenses, primarily the ordering of files from the National Archives and death certificates from various states when needed to confirm that a 'Lost' Recipient was indeed found.

Other Ongoing projects.

Late in 2011, we launched a major project to obtain death information and where possible death certificates for the many Civil War up through WWI Recipients where the death location and in many instances the actual date of death is unknown. This will be a tremendous project but will also be a tremendous asset in backing up the biographical information on the Recipients or in many cases, correcting years of misinformation.

We continue to work with the CMOHS to locate the graves of those still 'Lost to History.' Many of the Recipient's names have turned out to be aliases or in today's vernacular, 'clerical errors' where the individuals name was misspelled and the record was never corrected. This continues to enable us to annotate many inaccuracies in the various records.