



# Medal of Honor Character Development Program



# Goals for Today

- Learn about the Medal of Honor & its Recipients
- Explore the Medal of Honor Character Development Program resources
- Discover how to find the resources and to share them with your schools and students



# Opening Activity

## Individual Activity

**Think about someone in your life that has dedicated themselves to serving others.**

(military, teacher, medical profession, etc.)

- Who are they?
- How have they dedicated themselves to serving others?
- How do you think they would like their service to be remembered?



# Lesson Investigation: Selfless Service Lesson A1

## LESSON A1

### Selfless Service

#### OBJECTIVES

##### Students will:

- identify individuals who selflessly serve others
- analyze the impact those people have on their communities
- reflect on how they can embody the admirable qualities they recognize in others

##### Introductory Activity:

Hand out the worksheet to students. Ask them to complete the top part of the worksheet, writing a short paragraph describing individuals who they know who have dedicated themselves to serving others. Students should answer these questions in their paragraphs:

- Who is a person that you know who has dedicated himself/herself to serving others?
- In what ways does this person serve others?
- Why does this person stand out to you?
- How do you think this person would want his/her service to be remembered?
- What are some adjectives you would use to describe this person?

##### Small Group Activity:

Have students work in partner groups to discuss the people they wrote about. Encourage students to share only what they are comfortable discussing.

##### Whole Group Activity:

Lead a group discussion by asking for volunteers.

##### Small Group Activity:

Have students work in partner groups to discuss. Students should discuss:

- types of individuals who were recognized
- how these individuals would like their service to be remembered
- adjectives used to describe these individuals

##### Concluding Activity:

Ask students to write a short reflection about how their own service to others, and how they would like to be remembered.

Ask the class to discuss the values of courage, respect, and service, and how these values relate to their lives, including identifying ways to incorporate these values into their daily lives.

##### Assessment:

Worksheet, discussion

##### Resources:

Worksheet

#### LESSON TIME

1  
CLASS  
SESSION

#### LESSON A1 WORKSHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

#### Selfless Service

Write a short paragraph that answers the questions below.

- Who is a person that you know who has dedicated himself/herself to serving others?
- In what ways does this person serve others?
- Why does this person stand out to you?
- How do you think this person would want his/her service to be remembered?
- What are some adjectives that you would use to describe this person?

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Take notes on common themes you are hearing as your partner and your classmates share out their answers. Listen for commonalities in the categories below.

- types of individuals that were recognized
- how these individuals would like their service to be remembered
- adjectives used to describe these individuals

#### Common Themes

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## LESSON A1

### Selfless Service

#### OBJECTIVES

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- identify individuals who selflessly serve others
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# CDP Overview



# About the Medal of Honor





# About the Medal of Honor

- The highest military award of the United States
- Given for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty...”
- Submitted by peer(s) who witnessed the action and validated by eyewitness accounts
- Awardees are referred to as “Recipients” rather than “winners”; it was not a competition



# About the Medal of Honor

- Signed into law in 1861 by President Lincoln
- 3526 total Recipients of the Medal of Honor
- 61 living Recipients of the Medal of Honor, who make up the Congressional Medal Of Honor Society





# Medal of Honor Character Development Program

- Legacy program of the Medal of Honor Recipients who make up the Congressional Medal of Honor Society
- The lessons are centered on six core values: **Courage, Sacrifice, Commitment, Integrity, Citizenship, and Patriotism**
- Designed by educators for educators
- Easily integrated within current academic & counseling standards
- At no cost to educators or their districts



# About the Program

## It is...

- A flexible, engaging way to introduce character values to students
- Real world examples that prompt critical thinking, collaboration, and self reflection
- Inclusive of all students
- Multiple resources, including:
  - High school/middle school
  - Elementary school

## It is not...

- Just for Social Studies or English classes
- A military recruitment tool
- Glorification or glamorization of war
- Political

# Stories of Medal of Honor Recipients





# Exploring the Six Core Values

<b>Definition in your own words</b>		<b>Synonyms</b>
	<b>Core Value</b>	
<b>Examples from video</b>		<b>Antonyms</b>

# MOH Recipient Matt Williams Living History



## Definition:

Sacrifice means taking time and energy to either help someone else or to do something. And stay committed to it

## Synonyms:

- Kindness
- Bravery
- effortless
- worthy

# Sacrifice

## Examples:

- Hiroshi covered his fellow soldiers with a drawl. He was hurt and still moving
- Hiroshi was a prisoner of war which led him to getting a medal of honor.
- he wanted people to know all the sacrifices of the men and women during the war.

## Antonyms:

- Laziness
- Cowardiness
- Unwilling

Definition: to go through  
with something  
that you might  
not be comfortable  
with.

Synonyms:  
bravery  
face head on

Core Value:  
Courage

Examples:  
he was cold  
and didn't get much  
food but still stayed.  
he faced the enemy  
by him self so his  
team could retreat.

Antonyms:  
coward  
hide  
bystander

Definition:

La Calidad de ser honesto y  
Tener Principios Morales  
Solidos y Rectitud Moral

The quality of being honest and having solid moral principles and moral rectitude

Synonyms:

- noble
- probity
- honesty

Noblesa  
Provabilidad  
honestidad

Integridad

Integrity

Examples:

un señor les dijo a otros  
señores que fueran  
valas que a los  
y que fueran  
armas  
curria  
armas

The man told the other men to go for more ammunition and that he would cover them

Antonyms:

- corruption
- injustice
- deceitful behavior
- perversity

Corupsion  
Injustisia  
maña  
Perversidad





# Introducing the Character Club



# Character Club Introduction - Elementary Program





# “Introducing the Character Development Program”

## Kindergarten-Second Grade Lesson

### Directions

- Open your envelope and unscramble the letters to reveal your core value word.
- Write your core value word on the envelope and put the letters back in the envelope.



# Stories of Citizen Heroes



# About Citizen Honors

- Medal of Honor Recipients want to recognize civilians who demonstrate heroism and a commitment to service
- Awardees are chosen by the Medal of Honor Society
- Nominations are submitted through our website



# About Citizen Honors

**Given to people and groups who exemplify the six core values within these categories:**

## **Valor Awards**

- Singular Act of Heroism Award
- Young Hero Award

## **Service Awards**

- Service Act Award
- Youth Service Award
- Community Service Award



# Stories of Citizen Heroes

<https://vimeo.com/927564067>





# Program Integration and Impact

# Integration Strategies

- Within current curriculum
- Advisory/homeroom
- Schoolwide citizenship goals
- Alternative discipline
- Sports

- Clubs
- Student leadership
- Professional development
- Elective course





# Positive Outcomes

## STUDENTS

- Motivate learning
- Reinforce core subject skills
- Inspire a service-oriented lifestyle
- Foster compassion
- Build leadership skills

## TEACHERS

- Build collaboration and Professional Learning Communities
- Set and support academic and behavioral expectations and standards
- Access to free and flexible resources and lessons

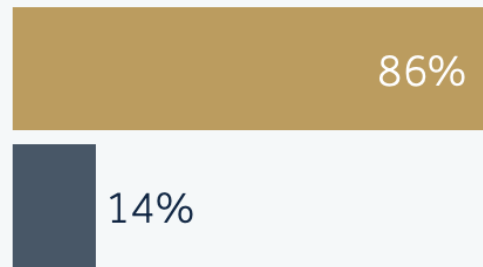
## ADMINISTRATORS

- Bring staff together
- Create positive school climate
- Bridge the home-school gap
- Create positive PR in your community

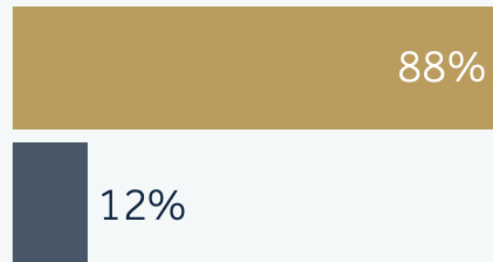
# Medal of Honor Character Development Program

## STUDENT IMPACT

### POSITIVE IMPACT ON Classroom's Climate and Culture

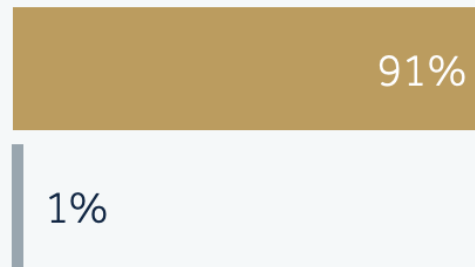


Students



Yes, definitely Yes, somewhat

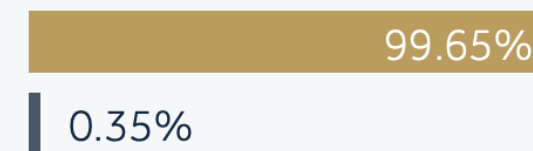
### HELPED REINFORCE CORE SUBJECT SKILLS



Do you believe the program has helped reinforce core subject skills?

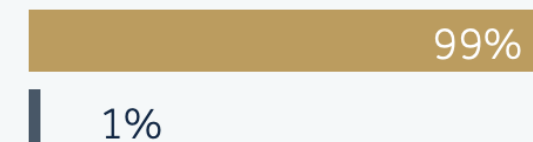
Yes No I'm not sure

### KNOW MORE ABOUT THE MEDAL OF HONOR



Do your students know more about the Medal of Honor?

### KNOW MORE ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

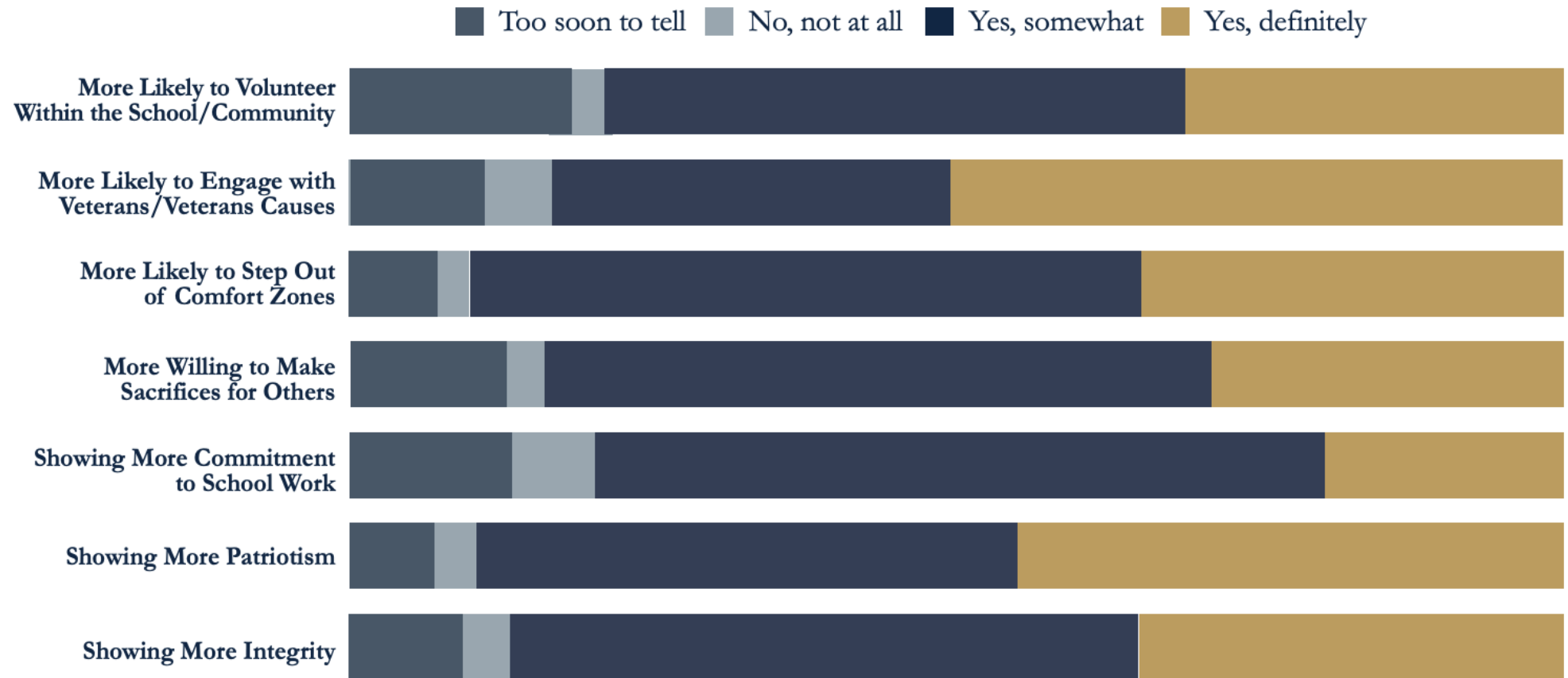


Do your students know more about the Recipients of the Medal of Honor?

Yes No

# IMPACT ON STUDENT SKILLS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

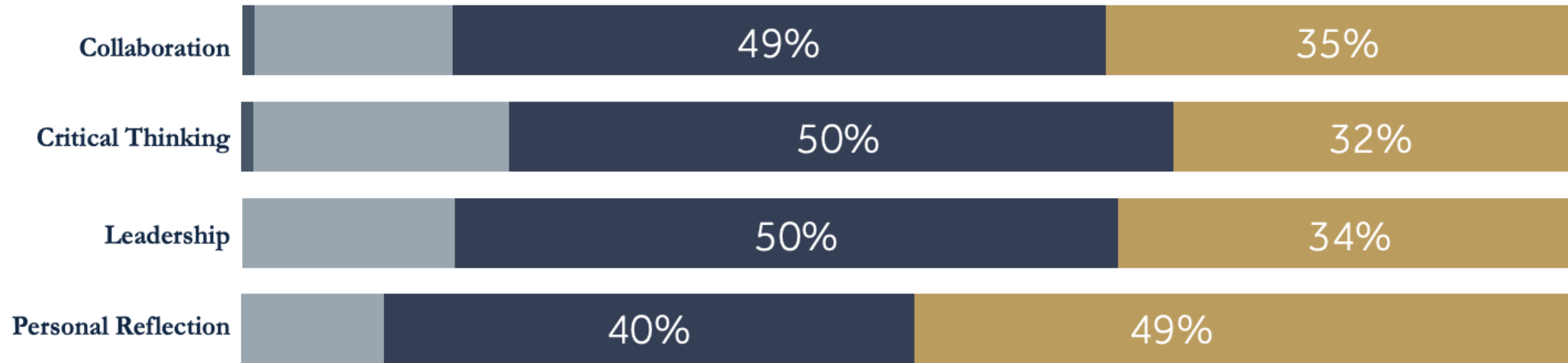
## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT





## SKILL IMPROVEMENT

■ Not at all ■ A little ■ Somewhat ■ A great deal



## WHAT TEACHERS ARE SAYING:

“ The resources are outstanding and exceptional. They allow me the flexibility of using the lessons and videos and to create extended interdisciplinary activities used in my classes. The students use this knowledge and real time instruction to help them focus on being proactive and responsible citizens in our learning community and in public. ”

“ This program is amazing, and all educators should experience it at least once because once they experience it, they will want to use it with their kids! ”

“ Thank you for giving educators this fantastic character development program for free! ”

“ This outstanding program definitely connects to our curriculum. I have also found it effective in my Service Learning elective and surprisingly to address classroom management. Showing the vignettes can help adjust attitudes. When students witness the sacrifices made by our MOH recipients and Citizen Heroes, an awakening takes place. ”

“ The materials/resources have had a positive impact on my students! ”



of survey respondents would recommend the in-person training to other educators



of survey respondents have shared or plan to share the materials with their colleagues



of survey respondents would recommend the Character Development Program to educators



# Medal of Honor Character Development Program Resources



# In Person Workshop

[www.cmohs.org/training](http://www.cmohs.org/training)







# Our Website

[www.cmohs.org](http://www.cmohs.org)



[NEWS & EVENTS](#) [MOH MUSEUM](#) [CONNECT WITH RECIPIENTS](#) [RECIPIENT LOGIN](#) [EDUCATOR LOGIN](#)

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[DONATE](#)

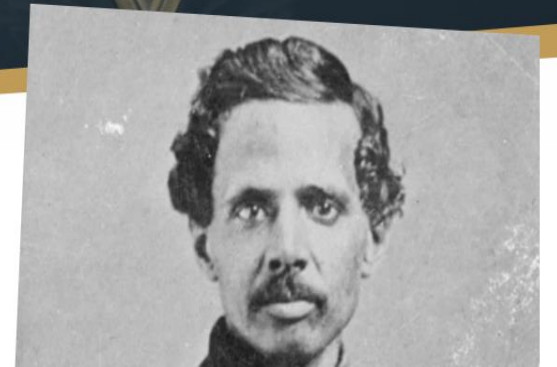
Chartered by Congress in 1958

## CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

HONOR THE SACRIFICE; INSPIRE THE FUTURE.

The Society's membership is comprised of those who wear the Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military award for valor. Through the Society's Outreach, Education and History initiatives, the Medal of Honor Recipients continue their service across the nation.

[BROWSE FEATURED RECIPIENTS](#)



EVERY MEDAL, A STORY TO BE TOLD.  
EVERY RECIPIENT, A PART OF SOMETHING  
GREATER.



Medal of Honor Character Development Program



# Education Resources

NEWS & EVENTS MOH MUSEUM CONNECT WITH RECIPIENTS RECIPIENT LOGIN EDUCATOR LOGIN

THE RECIPIENTS THE MEDAL FOR EDUCATORS CITIZEN HONORS ABOUT THE SOCIETY ABOUT THE FOUNDATION DONATE

Congressional Medal of Honor Society

## MEDAL OF HONOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**FILTER LESSONS BY:** VALUES APPLICATIONS OR SEARCH

[Download All Secondary Program Lessons](#)

<p><b>NEW LESSON - B18 - MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL</b></p> <h4>Courage Runs Deep</h4> <p>Students will identify examples of courage displayed by submariner Medal of Honor Recipients.</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW LESSON</a></p>	<p><b>A01 - MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL</b></p> <h4>Selfless Service</h4> <p>Students will identify individuals who selflessly serve others, analyze the impact those people have on their communities, and more.</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW LESSON</a></p>	<p><b>A01: DISTANCE LEARNING VERSION - MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL</b></p> <h4>Selfless Service: Modification for Distance Learning</h4> <p>This lesson can be completed by students independently, with optional collaboration in a virtual learning environment.</p> <p><a href="#">VIEW LESSON</a></p>
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Medal of Honor Character Development Program





# Video Library

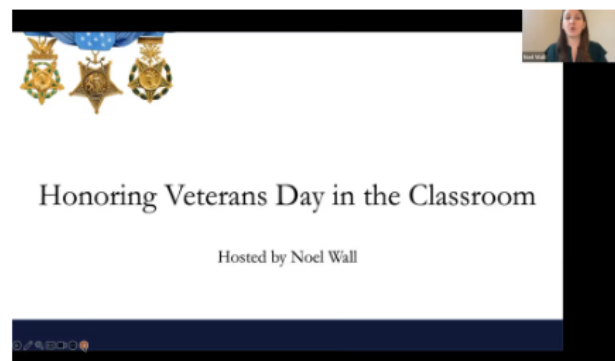
All archived and available at [cmohs.org](http://cmohs.org) or on our YouTube Channel



D Day: The Medal of Honor on Omaha Beach



Florent Groberg Medal of Honor Presentation Ceremony



Honoring Veterans Day in the Classroom Webinar



28 Army Servicemen Receive the Medal of Honor in 1945



Archives Webinar – Life After War



Medal of Honor Recipient Melvin Morris Interview



Memorial Day: Medal of Honor Recipients Remember  
Medal of Honor Recipients reflect on military service and those who serve.



Medal of Honor Day – Wreath Laying 2022



Medal of Honor Character Development Program

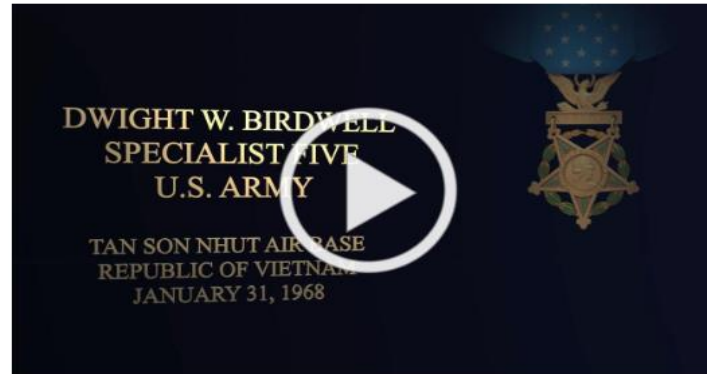


# Monthly Newsletters



## Medal of Honor Character Development Program January Newsletter

New Video:  
Medal of Honor Recipient Dwight W. Birdwell



Today is the 56th anniversary of [Dwight W. Birdwell's](#) Medal of Honor action in the Vietnam War. Today, we remember his courage as we release his Living History video, the newest video in our archives.

Featuring stories of his actions in Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam, Recipient Birdwell's living history video also touches on his life growing up in Oklahoma as part of a Cherokee community. Use his video with our [Exploring the Six Core Values](#) lesson and have your students identify how Recipient Birdwell put the values into action.

Check out all the other inspiring stories available on our website.

[Explore Our Video Library](#)



Daring to do the impossible and pressing forward against all odds – that's courage. Our newest video, [The Courage of the Submariner](#), features the stories of Medal of Honor Recipients [Eugene Fluckey](#) and [Richard O'Kane](#) and their heroic acts in the Pacific during World War II. The stories of these two submariners are also highlighted in the accompanying lesson [Courage Runs Deep](#). Check out the full video, and download the lesson by clicking below.

Thank you to [BlueForge Alliance](#) and [BuildSubmarines.com](#) for funding this project.

### Upcoming Trainings

Join us for an in-person training in 2024! These sessions are free and provide everything you need to use the program with your students.

[February 28  
Hampton, Virginia  
Secondary Training](#)  
\*\*Registration full, join the waitlist.\*\*

[March 11  
Monroe Township, New Jersey  
Secondary Training](#)  
\*\*9 spots remaining\*\*

[April 18  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin  
Secondary Training](#)

[May 18  
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina  
Secondary Training](#)

[May 30  
Destin, Florida  
Secondary Training](#)



Want to host a training with us in 2024? Learn more about the requirements, and request a training for your school or district [here](#).

### Featured Blog

Donald A. Gary & Joseph T. O'Callahan:  
Medal of Honor Recipients for the Defense of the USS Franklin



*Donald A. Gary and Joseph T. O'Callahan both came from what today could be considered large families; Gary was one of seven children and O'Callahan was one of six. Both men crossed paths during their Navy service on the USS Franklin and both ended their Navy careers with the rank of Commander. But what really ties their stories together is how each one responded heroically on March 19, 1945, resulting in both men being awarded the Medal of Honor.*

[Read the Blog Post](#)





# Online Training

- It's free!
- Log on anytime. The training is available for you 24/7.
- Complete the training in about 2.5 hours.
- Come and go as needed. Your progress will be saved so you can pick up where you left off.
- Work through the training on your computer or mobile device.



[www.cmohs.org/training/online](http://www.cmohs.org/training/online)



# Additional Resources

## STATE STANDARDS ALIGNMENTS

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Our team has created alignment documents showing how the Medal of Honor Character Development Program connects with the standards in various states. Click below to see the list of available state alignments for download.

[VIEW ALL AVAILABLE ALIGNMENTS](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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Connect with us on social media.

[JOIN US ON FACEBOOK](#)

[FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM](#)

[FOLLOW US ON TWITTER](#)

[FOLLOW US ON YOUTUBE](#)

## GETTING STARTED WITH THE PROGRAM

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[STEPS TO GET STARTED - CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

[ACADEMIC COURSES INTEGRATION - CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

[OTHER INTEGRATION IDEAS- CLICK TO DOWNLOAD](#)

## CURRICULUM RESOURCES

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[SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING - SECONDARY](#)

[BOOK LIST - ELEMENTARY](#)

[MEDAL OF HONOR LIVING HISTORY GUIDE](#)

[MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS BY STATE](#)

[QUOTES FROM MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS](#)

[DOWNLOAD FULL SECONDARY CURRICULUM](#)



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SOCIETY

