



# MEDAL OF HONOR STATS AND FACTS

## RECIPIENTS & AWARDS:

- **Total Medals Awarded:** 3,536  
(19 double recipients)
- **Total Recipients:** 3,517
- **Total Living Recipients:** 63

## MEDAL DATES:

- Navy Medal of Honor authorized **21 Dec 1861**
- Army Medal of Honor authorized **12 Jul 1862**
- Air Force Medal of Honor authorized **Apr 1965**

## TOTAL AWARDS BY SERVICE (3,536):

- **US Army:** 2,467
- **US Navy:** 749
- **US Marine Corps:** 300
- **US Air Force:** 19
- **US Coast Guard:** 1

## RECENT CONFLICT AWARD TOTALS:

- World War I: 126
- World War II: 472
- Korean War: 146
- Vietnam: 268
- War on Terrorism (Iraq): 8
- War on Terrorism (Afghanistan): 20

## COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID:

“Recipient” NOT “Winner” – this is by far the most important term for the team to remember: Medal of Honor recipients are not “winners” of the award, by their own admission and request. They have “earned”, “been awarded” or “received” the Medal.

“Servicemembers” not “soldiers” – each branch of service refers to their personnel differently. Please use “servicemembers” when referencing military personnel in general rather than “Soldiers”, “Sailors”, “SEALs”, “Rangers”, “Airmen”, “Marines”, etc. as that latter grouping of words refer to specific branches and subdivisions rather than the whole.

“U.S. Marine Corps” not “Marines” – we’ve received a specific request from several Marines asking that when we refer to the branch of service, we use “Marine Corps” or “U.S. Marine Corps” rather than “Marines.” However, if referring to all the services using the phrasing Marines is acceptable, e.g. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines.

## MEDAL OF HONOR FACTOIDS:

- Official name: Medal of Honor
- President Lincoln signed the Medal of Honor (US Navy) into law on December 21, 1861
- Values embodied in the Medal: courage and sacrifice, commitment and integrity, citizenship and patriotism
- The Medal was first awarded on March 25, 1863 to six surviving Andrews’ Raiders
- Only female Recipient: Dr. Mary Edwards Walker, Civil War civilian battlefield surgeon and POW, November 11, 1865
- Earliest Medal of Honor action by a Black servicemember: Former slave William Harvey Carney, 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, July 18, 1863 (his Medal was presented on May 23, 1900)
- Youngest Recipient at time of action: Willie Johnston, Civil War, 11
- Oldest Recipient at time of action: Douglas MacArthur, 62
- Theodore Roosevelt is the only U.S. President to have received the Medal
- Two father-son duos have received the Medal:
  - Arthur MacArthur (Civil War) and Douglas MacArthur (WWII)
  - President Roosevelt (Spanish-American War) and Theodore Roosevelt Jr (WWII)