



TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN
NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY
DEDICATION AND REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

EVENT PROGRAM

Musical Prelude - Bagpiper Debbie Kane

Welcoming Remarks - Matthew B. McCoy

Opening Ceremony

Colors - 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers Reenactors Color Guard

National Anthem - MU2 Holden Moyer, USN

C-130J Flyover - 143rd Airlift Wing, RIANG

Pledge of Allegiance - All Present

Invocation - Bishop Wallace Hazard

Medal of Honor Dedication

History of National Medal of Honor Day - Matthew B. McCoy

Gubernatorial Proclamation - Gov. Daniel J. McKee

South Kingstown Proclamation - Town Council President
Rory McEntee

Medal of Honor Town Sign Presentation to Town
Manager- Joe G. Patrick, II

Introduction of Medal of Honor Recipients
SGT William J. Babcock - Benjamin Frail
SGT William G. Fournier - Joe G. Patrick, II
CPL David B. Champagne - LTC James Haldeman

Announcement of Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame
Induction & Citation Presentation - Matthew B. McCoy
SGT William G. Fournier - Joe G. Patrick, II
CPL David B. Champagne - LTC James Haldeman

Medal of Honor Bridge Sign Presentation to Town Manager
SGT William J. Babcock - Benjamin Frail
SGT William G. Fournier - Joe G. Patrick, II
CPL David B. Champagne - LTC James Haldeman

SPECIAL THANKS

The Town of South Kingstown and the South Kingstown 300th Anniversary Steering Committee wishes to extend their special thanks to the Mews Tavern for sponsoring this event. Likewise, thanks to Belmont Market and Panera Bread for providing the refreshments.

Thank you to the Contemporary Theater for hosting the event.

Thank you to the South County Garden Club and Clark Farms for providing the decorations for the stage.

Thank you to the Rhode Island National Guard including the 143rd Airlift Wing for providing a C-130J flyover.

Thank you to Sharon Henderson, Betty Gadrow, Mark Phillips, and all of the members of the South Kingstown Military Recognition Project.

Thank you to Police Chief Moynihan and the South Kingstown Police Department.

Thank you to Fire Chief Steven Pinch of the Union Fire District of South Kingstown for providing the ladder truck with the American flag on Main Street.

Thank you to Brigadier General (Ret.) Richard Valente and the members of the Rhode Island Military Vehicles Collectors Club for displaying your vehicles.

Thank you to the South Kingstown Public Works Department, including Rich Bourbonnais, Tony Cinquegrana, and Lance Whaley for their help in installing the “Hometown Heroes” banners on Main Street.

Thank you to Rex Eberly and the Parks and Recreation Department for their support of this event.

Finally, thank you to all of the members of the South Kingstown 300th Anniversary Steering Committee and honorary chairs.

WE REMEMBER THEM

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

In the blueness of the skies and the warmth of the summer, we remember them.

In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys and special celebrations, we remember them.

When we see our nation's young marching behind our flag, or hear "Taps" played, we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are part of us.

And when we answer the final roll, we know that they will fulfill their duty, and greet us with words of compassion and friendship, peace and love:

"Welcome Home"

EVENT PROGRAM

Missing in Action Remembrance

Status of Rhode Island's Missing in Action Service
Members - Matthew B. McCoy

Remembrance of South Kingstown's Missing in Action
Service Members (including Wreath Laying)

Reading of Names - Matthew B. McCoy

Tolling of Bell - Fire Chief George Farrell

Wreath Laying:

LT Stuart T. Cooper (Laura Perron)

COL Curtis A. Eaton (Linda Eaton Brown)

LT Victor M. Gadrow (Betty Walton)

LTJG Peter H. Hazard (C. Michael Hazard)

1st LT Richard L. McNulty (K. Hamilton - Fernandez)

We Remember Them Reading - Matthew B. McCoy

"Coming Home" - Bagpiper Debbie Kane

Flag & Citation Presentation

Remarks & Presentation of Flags - Sen. Jack Reed

Remarks & Presentation of Citations - Gov. Daniel J. McKee

Closing Ceremony

Moment of Silence - All Present

Three Volley Salute - 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers
Reenactors Honor Guard

Playing of "TAPS" - MU2 Jordan T. Fredrick, USN

Amazing Grace - Bagpiper Debbie Kane

Benediction - Bishop Wallace Hazard

Closing Announcements & Dismissal - Matthew B. McCoy

**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR
SGT WILLIAM JAMES BABCOCK, USA**



Sergeant William James Babcock was awarded the Medal of Honor at the direction of President Glover Cleveland for his actions on April 2, 1865, at Petersburg, Virginia, while serving in Company E, Second Rhode Island Volunteers. This battle occurred at the end of the 292-day Richmond-Petersburg Campaign near the conclusion of the American Civil War. The Second Regiment was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, VI Army Corps, Army of the Potomac.

Babcock was presented the Medal of Honor on March 2, 1895, almost thirty years after the actions that earned him the award.

Sergeant Babcock died at his home in South Kingstown, Rhode Island, on October 29, 1897, at the age of 56 years old. He was buried in Section A, Riverside Cemetery, South Kingstown, Rhode Island.

1ST LT RICHARD LEE MCNULTY, USAF



1st Lieutenant McNulty was an F-80C Shooting Star fighter-interceptor pilot assigned to the 80th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 8th Fighter-Bomber Group, based at Suwon Air Base, Korea.

On January 16, 1952, he departed Suwon Air Base piloting a F-80 Shooting Star (tail number 49-1880A) in a flight of four aircraft on an armed reconnaissance mission north of Yangdok. The mission covered four targets, and as the flight reached the last target, the leader noticed that 1st Lt McNulty was no longer with them. He attempted to reach him by radio but 1st Lt McNulty did not respond. The flight leader returned to the third target, where he spotted a burning crash site. He circled the site but saw no signs of survival. The next day, the flight leader returned and conducted two more unsuccessful searches of the area. No returning POWs mentioned having contact with 1st Lt McNulty, nor was he seen at any known holding point, interrogation center, hospital, or permanent POW camp.

First Lieutenant McNulty's remains were never recovered. He was declared dead by the Defense Department on December 31, 1953. He is remembered on the Courts of the Missing, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

LT(JG) PETER HAMILTON HAZARD, USNR



Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Hazard was a naval aviator (pilot) assigned to Composite Squadron Nine (VC-9) embarked in the Casablanca-class escort aircraft carrier USS Natoma Bay (CVE-62) assigned to the Fifth Fleet in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

On March 27, 1945, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Hazard piloted a Grumman Avenger TBM torpedo-bomber in the vicinity of Okinawa, Japan. He and his crew of two were lost at sea while defending his task group against Japanese kamikaze aircraft.

Lieutenant Cooper's remains were never found. He was declared dead by the Navy Department on March 28, 1946. He is remembered on the Court 3, Courts of the Missing, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Lieutenant Cooper was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT
WORLD WAR II
SGT WILLIAM GRANT FOURNIER, USA**

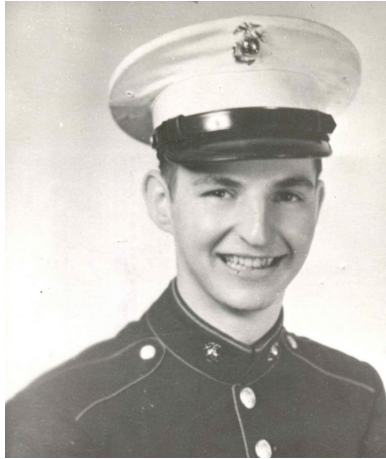


Sergeant William Grant Fournier was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on January 10, 1943, at Mount Austen, Guadalcanal, Solomons Island, while serving as machinegun section leader in Company M, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

On October 28, 1943, Fournier's Medal of Honor was presented by Major General Sherman Miles on the behalf of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Henry Gadrow, Sergeant Fournier's foster father, accepted Fournier's Medal of Honor.

Sergeant Fournier rests in Section/Plot C, Grave 402, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT
KOREAN WAR
CPL DAVID BERNARD CHAMPAGNE, USMC**



Corporal Champagne was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on May 28, 1952, while serving as a fire team leader in Company A, First Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment (Reinforced), First Marine Division, assigned to the Eighth United States Army in Korea.

On July 26, 1953, Champagne's Medal of Honor was presented by Brigadier General Reginald Heber Ridgeley, Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, on the behalf of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Reginald H. Champagne, Corporal Champagne's teenage brother, accepted Champagne's Medal of Honor.

Corporal Champagne is buried in Plot 859, Grave 5, Sr. Francis Catholic Cemetery, 78 Grove street, Waterville, Maine.

LT VICTOR MARVIN GADROW, USN



Lieutenant Victor Marvin Gadrow was a Grumman F4F Wildcat pilot assigned to Fighter Squadron Three (VF-3) embarked in the USS Saratoga (CV-3) assigned to Task Force Fourteen (TF-14) in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

On December 16, 1941, nine days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, TF-14 departed Pearl Harbor to assist Wake Island. On December 21, 1941, Wake Island was attacked by the Japanese carrier-based aircraft.

On December 22, 1941, Lieutenant Gadrow launched with other fighter aircraft from the USS Saratoga on a combat air patrol mission. After takeoff, Gadrow's F4F Wildcat experienced engine trouble. Before being able to safely recover on the carrier, Gadrow's aircraft stalled and he crashed into the sea. His aircraft sank immediately in turbulent seas. The rescue destroyer, USS Selridge (DD-357), was unable to find Gadrow. Gadrow was VF-3's first wartime loss.

Gadrow is remembered on the Courts of the Missing, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

COL CURTIS ABBOT EATON, USAF



Major Curtis Abbot Eaton was a Republic F-105D Thunderchief fighter-bomber pilot assigned to the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 355th Tactical Fighter Wing, based at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base.

On August 14, 1966, sortied from his base in Thailand for a day-light strike mission in the Thai Nguyen Province of North Vietnam as part of Operation Rolling Thunder. During egress from the target, Eaton reported that his aircraft had been hit and he was ejecting. No further radio transmissions from Eaton were heard. No parachute was seen and no members of the flight actually saw Eaton's aircraft hit the ground.

Major Eaton's remains were never recovered. The Vietnamese government confirmed that Eaton had died and that he had been buried in the Chu Ha Cemetery, Dinh Trung Village, Vinh Yen District, Vinh Phu Province.

He was presumed dead by the Defense Department on April 3, 1978. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency has conducted several missions to North Vietnam that have thus far failed to locate Eaton's remains.

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN MEDAL OF HONOR TOWN PROCLAMATION



RHODE ISLAND'S MISSING IN ACTION SERVICE MEMBERS

At present, more than 81,500 Americans remain missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars/other conflicts. Out of the more than 81,500 missing, 75% of the losses are located in the Indo-Pacific, and over 41,000 of the missing are presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

World War II (December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946)

Total Casualties (US): 407,316

Total Casualties (RI): 1,669

Unaccounted For (US): 72,248

Unaccounted For (RI): 446

Accounted For (US): 1,447

Accounted For (RI): 8

Last Accounted For (RI): Pfc. Roy J. Searle, U.S. Army, Company D, 1st Battalion, 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division.

Korean War (June 27, 1950 – July 27, 1953)

Total Casualties (US): 136,000

Total Casualties (RI): 111

Unaccounted For (US): 7,508

Unaccounted For (RI): 214

Accounted For (US): 649

Accounted For (RI): 4

Last Accounted For (RI): Corporal Robert Charles Agard, U.S. Army, 2nd Platoon, 24th Reconnaissance Company, 24th Infantry Division

Vietnam War

Total Casualties (US): 58,220

Total Casualties (RI): 136

Unaccounted For (US): 1,581

Unaccounted For (RI): 7

Accounted For (US): 1,060

Accounted For (RI): 5

Last Accounted For (RI): Colonel Fredric Moore Mellor, U.S. Air Force, 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is an agency within the U.S. Department of Defense whose mission is to recover American military personnel listed as prisoners of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA) from designated past conflicts, from countries around the world. For more information about the DPAA, please visit: <https://www.dpaa.mil/>

LT STUART TRUMBLE COOPER, USN



Lieutenant Cooper was a naval aviator (pilot) assigned to Bombing Squadron 101 (VB-101) formerly Patrol Squadron 51 (VP-51). He flew the PB4Y-1 Liberator bomber, the U.S. Navy's version of the Consolidated B-24 Liberator.

On February 14, 1943, Cooper was the pilot of a PB4Y-1 bomber that conducted an anti-shipping mission off southern Bougainville. After the bombing mission, Cooper's aircraft was intercepted and shot down by Japanese fighter aircraft. Stuart and his crew were listed as missing in action. Because of the losses on both sides, the day was known as the "Valentine's Day Massacre."

Lieutenant Cooper's remains were never found. He was declared dead by the War Department on December 10, 1945. He is remembered on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, Manila, Philippines.

Lieutenant Cooper was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.