## Guide to Aces and Heroes

### Major Decorations

#### USAF Recipients of the Medal of Honor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>World War I</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bleckley, 2nd Lt. Erwin R.</td>
<td>Wichita, Kan.</td>
<td>Oct. 6, 1918</td>
<td>Binarville, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goettler, 1st Lt. Harold E.</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Oct. 6, 1918</td>
<td>Binarville, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke, 2nd Lt. Frank Jr.</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>Sept. 29, 1918</td>
<td>Murvaux, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rickenbacker, 1st Lt. Edward V.</td>
<td>Columbus, Ohio</td>
<td>Sept. 25, 1918</td>
<td>Billy, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World War II</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carswell, Maj. Horace S. Jr.</td>
<td>Fort Worth, Texas</td>
<td>Oct. 26, 1944</td>
<td>South China Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle, Brig. Gen. Frederick W.</td>
<td>Manila, Philippines</td>
<td>Dec. 24, 1944</td>
<td>Liège, Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheli, Maj. Ralph</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Aug. 18, 1943</td>
<td>Wewak, New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craw, Col. Demas T.</td>
<td>Traverse City, Mich.</td>
<td>Nov. 8, 1942</td>
<td>Port Lyautey, French Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doolittle, Lt. Col. James H.</td>
<td>Alameda, Calif.</td>
<td>April 18, 1942</td>
<td>Tokyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erwin, SSgt. Henry E.</td>
<td>Adamsville, Ala.</td>
<td>April 12, 1945</td>
<td>Koriyama, Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femoyer, 2nd Lt. Robert E.</td>
<td>Huntington, W.Va.</td>
<td>Nov. 2, 1944</td>
<td>Merseburg, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gott, 1st Lt. Donald J.</td>
<td>Arnett, Okla.</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 1944</td>
<td>Saarbrücken, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton, Maj. Pierpoint M.</td>
<td>Tuxedo Park, N.Y.</td>
<td>Nov. 8, 1942</td>
<td>Port Lyautey, French Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard, Lt. Col. James H.</td>
<td>Canton, China</td>
<td>Jan. 11, 1944</td>
<td>Oschersleben, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughes, 2nd Lt. Lloyd H.</td>
<td>Alexandria, La.</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1943</td>
<td>Ploesti, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerstad, Maj. John L.</td>
<td>Racine, Wis.</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1943</td>
<td>Ploesti, Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson, Col. Leon W.</td>
<td>Columbia, Mo.</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1943</td>
<td>Ploesti, Romania</td>
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Frank Luke  
Demas Craw
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<tr>
<td>Kane, Col. John R.</td>
<td>McGregor, Texas</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1943</td>
<td>Ploesti, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearby, Col. Neel E.</td>
<td>Wichita Falls, Texas</td>
<td>Oct. 11, 1943</td>
<td>Wewak, New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsley, 2nd Lt. David R.</td>
<td>Portland, Ore.</td>
<td>June 23, 1944</td>
<td>Ploesti, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight, 1st Lt. Raymond L.</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>April 25, 1945</td>
<td>Po Valley, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey, Capt. Darrell R.</td>
<td>Jefferson, Iowa</td>
<td>Aug. 9, 1944</td>
<td>Pontoise, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathies, Sgt. Archibald</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Feb. 20, 1944</td>
<td>Leipzig, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathis, 1st Lt. Jack W.</td>
<td>San Angelo, Texas</td>
<td>March 18, 1943</td>
<td>Vegesack, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metzger, 2nd Lt. William E. Jr.</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>Nov. 9, 1944</td>
<td>Saarbrücken, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael, 1st Lt. Edward S.</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>April 11, 1944</td>
<td>Brunswick, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan, 2nd Lt. John C.</td>
<td>Vernon, Texas</td>
<td>July 28, 1943</td>
<td>Kiel, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pucket, 1st Lt. Donald D.</td>
<td>Longmont, Colo.</td>
<td>July 9, 1944</td>
<td>Ploesti, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, Sgt. Maynard H.</td>
<td>Caro, Mich.</td>
<td>May 1, 1943</td>
<td>Saint-Nazaire, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truemper, 2nd Lt. Walter E.</td>
<td>Aurora, Ill.</td>
<td>Feb. 20, 1944</td>
<td>Leipzig, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vance, Lt. Col. Leon R. Jr.</td>
<td>Enid, Okla.</td>
<td>June 5, 1944</td>
<td>Wimereux, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vosler, TSgt. Forrest L.</td>
<td>Lyndonville, N.Y.</td>
<td>Dec. 20, 1943</td>
<td>Bremen, Germany</td>
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</tbody>
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| **Korean War**                   |                  |                |                          |
| Davis, Maj. George A. Jr.        | Dublin, Texas    | Feb. 10, 1952  | Sinuiju, Yalu River, North Korea |
| Sebille, Maj. Louis J.           | Harbor Beach, Mich. | Aug. 5, 1950 | Hamchang, South Korea |

| **Vietnam War**                  |                  |                |                          |
| Bennett, Capt. Steven L.         | Palestine, Texas | June 29, 1972  | Quang Tri, South Vietnam |
| Dethlefsen, Capt. Merlyn H.      | Greenville, Iowa | March 10, 1967 | Thai Nguyen, North Vietnam |
| Pitsenbarger, A1C William H.     | Piqua, Ohio      | April 11, 1966 | Cam My, South Vietnam   |
| Sijan, Capt. Lance P.            | Milwaukee        | Nov. 9, 1967-Jan. 22, 1968 | Conspicuous gallantry while POW |
| Thorsness, Maj. Leo K.*          | Walnut Grove, Minn. | April 19, 1967 | North Vietnam            |
| Young, Capt. Gerald O.           | Anacortes, Wash. | Nov. 9, 1967   | Khe Sanh, South Vietnam  |

*Living Medal of Honor recipient
# USAF Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross

**World War I**


Numbers in parentheses are total DSCs received by the individual.
USAF Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross (continued)

World War II

Able, Sgt. Johnnie J. Jr.
Adams, 1st Lt. Jack
Adams, Maj. Robert H.
Adkins, 2nd Lt. Frank E.
Alexander, 1st Lt. John A.
Alison, Maj. John R.
Allen, Lt. Col. Brooke E.
Allen, Lt. Col. Keith N.
Alsip, Cpl. Raymond H.
Ambrose, 1st Lt. Talmadge L.
Anderson, 2nd Lt. Bernard E.
Anderson, Lt. Col. Bernard L.
Anderson, 1st Lt. Marshall J.
Anderson, 1st Lt. Richard H.
Anderson, 2nd Lt. Sheldon K.
Anderson, 1st Lt. Sherman E.
Anderson, Maj. William N.
Anderson, Capt. Arthur E.
Appold, Maj. Norman C.
Amsbry, 2nd Lt. Sherman
Arnold, Pfc. Altus L.
Arooth, SSgt. Michael
Aschenbrener, Capt. Robert W.
Avery, 1st Lt. Lloyd
Bade, 2nd Lt. Jack A.
Bail, 1st Lt. Bernard W.
Bakalar, 1st Lt. John E.
Bankey, Capt. Ernest E. Jr.
Banks, 2nd Lt. Arthur E.
Barbiero, TSgt. Samuel S.
Barbosa, Cpl. Vicente R.
Barnicle, 2nd Lt. Gerald J.
Barrall, 1st Lt. Robert W.
Battaglia, SSgt. Salvatore
Battilo, 1st Lt. Samuel T.
Beam, Maj. James C.
Burns, Sgt. Wilbert R.
Caldwell, Capt. Kenneth M.
Caldwell, 2nd Lt. Wilma T. Jr.
Cameron, Capt. William R.
Campbell, 1st Lt. David A.
Cannon, SSgt. James L.
Carmichael, Col. Richard H. (2)
Carpenter, 1st Lt. Reginald L.
Carr, 1st Lt. Bruce W.
Carrington, TSgt. John R.
Carruth, 1st Lt. Thomas A.
Carswell, Capt. Horace S. Jr.
Catallo, SSgt. Albert L.
Caton, SSgt. Edward H.
Ceuleers, Maj. George F.
Christensen, 1st Lt. Harold R.
Christiansen, 1st Lt. Franklin O.
Christopher, 2nd Lt. Guyton M.
Church, 1st Lt. Russell M.
Clark, 2nd Lt. Phillip R.
Clary, SSgt. Guy W.
Classen, Capt. Thomas J.
Cleven, Maj. Gale W.
Cobb, Capt. James B.
Cockriel, Sgt. James R.
Coleman, Capt. Carlyle
Coleman, Capt. William F.
Collett, SSgt. Howard G.
Collins, Capt. James F.
Coltharp, Maj. Chester A.
Compton, Col. Keith K.
Congo, Capt. Paul A.
Connick, 2nd Lt. Arden D.
Corl, TSgt. George P.
Corsetti, 1st Lt. John
Cox, 1st Lt. Leonard L.
Cox, Capt. Ray L.
Crane, Maj. Edward
Crandall, SSgt. Donald O.
Crenshaw, Capt. Claude J.
Crimmins, 1st Lt. Fred T. Jr.
Crosbie, 1st Lt. Maurice G.
Cullerton, 1st Lt. William J.
Curtis, Capt. Robert C.
Czechowski, Sgt. Chester M.
Dadson, SSgt. Pat J.
Dahlberg, Capt. Kenneth H.

Richard Bong

Beam, 1st Lt. Ralph E.
Beckham, Capt. Walter C.
Beerbower, Maj. Don M.
Beeson, Capt. Duane W.
Beeson, 2nd Lt. Frank H.
Bell, 1st Lt. Robert D.
Bengel, TSgt. George H.
Benn, Maj. William G.
Benson, 1st Lt. Marion A.
Berrymen, 1st Lt. Richard C.
Bevock, 2nd Lt. James J.
Billingsley, Capt. Leonard F.
Blakeslee, Col. Donald J. M. (2)
Bleyer, Lt. Col. Julian M.
Blickenstaff, Lt. Col. Wayne K.
Blissard, 2nd Lt. Grover C.
Blumer, Capt. Laurence E.
Boeleg, 1st Lt. Leo A.
Boothe, Capt. Dayton E.
Bolofahr, Capt. Wayne E.
Bong, 1st Lt. Richard I.
Booth, Capt. Charles H. Jr.
Bostrom, Capt. Frank P.
Bouveraux, TSgt. Marcus A.
Boyd, Maj. Charles K.
Boyle, 1st Lt. Francis M.
Bradley, Maj. Jack T.
Brandow, Maj. William H.
Breeding, 1st Lt. Paul R.
Bretegon, Lt. Gen. Lewis H.
Bright, SSgt. James C. Jr.
Brill, 1st Lt. Allen
Britton, 2nd Lt. John T.
Brooks, Lt. Col. John A. III
Brown, Sgt. Albert C.
Brown, Sgt. David W.
Brown, Maj. George S.
Brown, 2nd Lt. Henry W.
Brown, Maj. Samuel J.
Brown, SSgt. Walter I.
Brueland, Capt. Lowell K.
Bryan, Capt. Donald S.
Burdue, SSgt. Clayton C.
Burleson, 1st Lt. Robert B.
Burney, 2nd Lt. Willis W.

Schenck, 1st Lt. Alexander P.
Schoen, 1st Lt. Karl J.
Seaver, 1st Lt. Arthur F.
Sellers, 1st Lt. Cecil G.
Sewall, 1st Lt. Sumner (2)
Shelby, 1st Lt. Richard D.
Simon, 1st Lt. Louis C. Jr. (2)
Snyder, 1st Lt. John H.
Spaatz, Maj. Carl A.
Springs, 1st Lt. Elliott W.
Steele, 2nd Lt. Richard W.
Stenseth, 1st Lt. Martinus
Stevens, 2nd Lt. John H.
Stokes, 1st Lt. John Y. Jr.
Stout, 1st Lt. Penrose V.
Stovall, 1st Lt. William H.
Strahm, Maj. Victor H.
Suiter, 1st Lt. Wilbur C.
Swaab, 1st Lt. Jacques M.
Taylor, 1st Lt. William H. Jr.
Taylor, 1st Lt. W. J. R.
Ten Eyck, 2nd Lt. Walton B. Jr.
Thaw, Maj. William (2)
Thomas, 2nd Lt. Gerald P.
Thompson, 2nd Lt. Robert E.
Tillman, 2nd Lt. Fred A.
Tittman, 1st Lt. Harold H.
Tobin, 1st Lt. Edgar G.
Treadwell, 1st Lt. Alvin H.
Vail, 1st Lt. William H.
Vaughn, 1st Lt. George A.
Vernam, 1st Lt. Remington D.
Walsis, Capt. James E. Jr.
Waring, 1st Lt. William W.
Warner, 1st Lt. Donald D.
Way, 2nd Lt. Pennington H.
Wehner, 1st Lt. Joseph F. (2)
White, 2nd Lt. Wilbert W. (2)
Williams, 1st Lt. Bertram
Winslow, 2nd Lt. Alan F.
Wright, 1st Lt. Burdette S.
Wright, 1st Lt. Chester E. (2)
Wyly, 1st Lt. Lawrence T.

Horace Carswell
USAF Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross (continued)

Dale, 2nd Lt. Jack D.
Dallas, Capt. Frederick W. Jr.
Dalton, SSgt. Malcolm C.
Daniel, 1st Lt. J. S.
Danver, SSgt. Edison K.
Davies, Lt. Col. James H.
Davis, Capt. Clayton E.
Davis, 1st Sgt. Robert T.
Davis, 1st Lt. Robert T.
Dawkins, 2nd Lt. Cecil H.
Deal, 2nd Lt. James F.
Decker, SSgt. Richard C.
DeGenaro, 2nd Lt. August V.
Del-Buono, 2nd Lt. George H.
Endres, Pvt. Robert J.
Emerson, 2nd Lt. Elwood R.
Embree, SSgt. Hoy D.
Ellis, 1st Lt. Lewis Jr.
Emery, Capt. William H.
Emerson, 2nd Lt. Ted E.
Endres, Pvt. Robert J.
Emery, Capt. William H.
Emerson, 2nd Lt. Ted E.

*Philippine Army Air Corps pilot, assigned to US Army Air Forces.

RANK ABBREVIATIONS

Capt.: Captain
F.O.: Field Officer
Pfc.: Private First Class
Pvt.: Private
Sgt.: Sergeant

For other ranks, see USAF Grades and Insignia.

Johnston, 1st Lt. Ruby E.
Jolly, 1st Lt. Hoyt A. Jr.
Jones, 1st Lt. Charles T.
Jones, 1st Lt. Cyril W. Jr.
Jones, 1st Lt. William Jr.
Joyce, Cpl. John D.
Juchheim, 1st Lt. Alvin M.
Kell, 2nd Lt. James D.

Johnston, 2nd Lt. Thomas C.
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Hedlund, Maj. Earl C.
Heidger, Maj. Luther C.
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Heidger, Maj. Luther C.
USAF Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross (continued)
USAF Recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross (continued)

Spencer, 2nd Lt. Dale F.
Sprague, Lt. Col. Charles A.
Stach, Maj. Paul J.
Starczewski, 1st Lt. Phillip R.
Starks, 2nd Lt. Richard F.
Steele, 1st Lt. Henry P.
Steen, SSgt. Zerrill J.
Steffy, 1st Lt. Robert F.
Stewart, Maj. James C.
Stewart, 1st Lt. Walter T.
Stipe, Sgt. Leon D.
Stireman, SSgt. John O.
Storovich, SSgt. Robert D.
Strand, 1st Lt. Robert E.
Strasburger, 1st Lt. Alvin
Swain, Cpl. Andrew J.
Tibbets, Col. Paul W. Jr.
Tennille, Maj. William G. Jr.
Taylor, 1st Lt. Robert L.
Taylor, 2nd Lt. Kenneth M.
Tarrant, Lt. Col. Yancey S.
Tennille, Maj. William G. Jr.
Taylor, 1st Lt. Robert L.
Tennille, Maj. William G. Jr.
Taylor, 1st Lt. Robert L.

USAF Recipients of the Air Force Cross

World War II
Brown, 2nd Lt. Charles L.
Drew, 1st Lt. Urban L.
Sloan, Lt. Col. William J.

Cuban Missile Crisis

Vietnam War
Adams, TSgt. Victor R.
Allee, Maj. Richard K.
Allison, Lt. Col. John V.
Armstrong, Maj. Larry D.
Atterberry, Lt. Col. Edwin L.
Baer, Lt. Col. Allan R.
Baldwin, Maj. Robert L.

Korean War
Baker, Col. Royal N.
Blesse, Maj. Frederick C.
Bryan, Maj. William E. Jr.
Davis, Maj. George A. Jr.
Dixon, Lt. Col. Jacob W.
Fernandez, Capt. Manuel J. Jr.
Fischer, Capt. Harold E.
Freiligh, Maj. Lawrence E.
Garrison, Lt. Col. Vermont

Spencer, 2nd Lt. Dale F.
Sprague, Lt. Col. Charles A.
Stach, Maj. Paul J.
Starczewski, 1st Lt. Phillip R.
Starks, 2nd Lt. Richard F.
Steele, 1st Lt. Henry P.
Steen, SSgt. Zerrill J.
Steffy, 1st Lt. Robert F.
Stewart, Maj. James C.
Stewart, 1st Lt. Walter T.
Stipe, Sgt. Leon D.
Stireman, SSgt. John O.
Storovich, SSgt. Robert D.
Strand, 1st Lt. Robert E.
Strasburger, 1st Lt. Alvin
Swain, Cpl. Andrew J.
Tibbets, Col. Paul W. Jr.
Tennille, Maj. William G. Jr.
Taylor, 1st Lt. Robert L.
Taylor, 2nd Lt. Kenneth M.
Tarrant, Lt. Col. Yancey S.
Tennille, Maj. William G. Jr.
Taylor, 1st Lt. Robert L.
Tennille, Maj. William G. Jr.
Taylor, 1st Lt. Robert L.

USAF Recipients of the Air Force Cross

World War II
Brown, 2nd Lt. Charles L.
Drew, 1st Lt. Urban L.
Sloan, Lt. Col. William J.

Cuban Missile Crisis

Vietnam War
Adams, TSgt. Victor R.
Allee, Maj. Richard K.
Allison, Lt. Col. John V.
Armstrong, Maj. Larry D.
Atterberry, Lt. Col. Edwin L.
Baer, Lt. Col. Allan R.
Baldwin, Maj. Robert L.

Beale, Maj. Robert S.
Black, A3C Arthur N.
Bode, Maj. John R.
Boyd, Capt. Charles G.
Brickel, Lt. Col. James R.
Britt, Maj. Aquilla F.
Britton, Col. Warner A.
Broughton, Col. Jacksel M.
Broer, Capt. Ralph W.
Bucher, Maj. Bernard L.
Burroughs, Maj. William D.
Caldwell, Capt. William R.
Campbell, Maj. Jesse W.
Campbell, Maj. Thomas A.
Carroll, Maj. John L.
Carter, 1st Lt. William R.

Fred Cherry
Cherry, Col. Fred V.
Clarke, Maj. Colin A.

Clay, SSgt. Eugene L.
Cobeil, Lt. Col. Earl G.
Cody, Capt. Howard R.
Collins, Capt. Willard M.
Conley, Lt. Col. Eugene O.
Conran, Maj. Philip J.
Cooper, Lt. Col. William E.
Corder, Capt. John A.
Courtney, Capt. Terence F.
Curtis, Capt. Thomas J.
Dallman, Lt. Col. Howard M.
Day, Col. George E.
Dayton, Maj. Thomas E.
DeBellevue, Capt. Charles B.
DeTar, Maj. Dean E.
Donelson, Capt. Nicholas J.
Donohue, Maj. Frederic M.
USAF Recipients of the Air Force Cross (continued)

NAME AND RANK AT TIME OF AWARD TYPE DATE APPROVED ACHIEVEMENT

American Fighter Aces Gold May 19, 2014 Heroic military service and defense of freedom
Aldrin, Col. Buzz Gold Aug. 7, 2009 Second person to walk on the moon, Apollo 11 mission, July 20, 1969
Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Gold May 23, 2014 Bombing raid over Japan’s capital, April 18, 1942
Filipino World War II Veterans Gold Dec. 14, 2016 Courage and perseverance during the war
Lindbergh, Col. Charles A. Gold May 4, 1928 Achievements, specifically New York City-Paris flight, May 20-21, 1927
Mitchell, Brig. Gen. William Gold Aug. 8, 1946 Outstanding pioneer service and foresight in American military aviation
Tuskegee Airmen Gold April 11, 2006 Unique military record, inspiring revolutionary reform in US armed forces
Women’s Airforce Service Pilots Gold July 2, 2009 Pioneering military service and exemplary record
World War II members of CAP Gold May 30, 2014 Wartime civilian volunteers for patrol and humanitarian missions

Mayaguez Incident

Operation Desert Storm
Andrews, Capt. William F. Johnson, Capt. Paul T.

Somalia
Wilkinson, Tsgt. Timothy A.

Operation Enduring Freedom
Some Famous Firsts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 23, 1918</td>
<td>First Air Service ace in World War I: 1st Lt. Paul F. Baer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 16, 1941</td>
<td>First AAF ace of World War II: 1st Lt. Boyd D. Wagner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 8, 1950</td>
<td>First jet-to-jet victory (Korean War): 1st Lt. Russell J. Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20, 1951</td>
<td>First USAF ace of the Korean War: Capt. James Jabara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 30, 1951</td>
<td>First USAF ace of two wars (World War II and Korea): Maj. George A. Davis Jr. (seven in World War II and 14 in Korea)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2, 1967</td>
<td>First (and only) USAF ace with victories in World War II and Vietnam: Col. Robin Olds (12 in World War II and four in Vietnam)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Robin Olds is the only USAF ace with aerial victories in both World War II and the Vietnam War.

Manuel Fernandez earned 14.5 aerial victory credits in the Korean War.

By tradition, anyone with five official aerial victory credits is an ace. In compiling this list of aces who flew with the US Air Force and predecessor organizations (the Air Service, Air Corps, and Army Air Forces), *Air Force Magazine* relies on USAF’s official accounting of air-to-air aerial victory credits, which is the responsibility of the Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

This record does not include some 300 pilots credited by Eighth Air Force in World War II with destroying aircraft on the ground. Eighth was the only numbered air force to count ground kills, and the Air Force subsequently limited its official recognition of World War II aces to air-to-air victories.

Air Force historians have kept the official records of aerial victories by USAF pilots and crew members since 1957. The Office of the Air Force Historian initially published four separate listings—for World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The four volumes were corrected, updated, and combined into one comprehensive volume. AFHRA continues to correct records and update its listing.

The criteria that the Air Force established for awarding aerial victory credits varied from war to war.

In many cases during World War I, several aviators worked together to down a single aircraft. The Air Service awarded one whole credit to each aviator who contributed to the victory. A single victory could—and often did—result in three or four victory credits.

In World War II and Korea, the criteria were changed. The service divided one credit among all aviators who contributed to destruction of an enemy airplane. With the awarding of fractional credits, a single victory could result in no more than one credit.

The rules were changed again in the Vietnam War. When an F-4 downed an enemy aircraft, USAF would award two full aerial victory credits—one to the frontseater and one to the backseater. As in World War I, a single victory resulted in multiple victory credits.

Thus, the standards for World War II and Korea were more restrictive than those for World War I and Vietnam.
In World War I, pilots who shared victories were each given one credit. This list uses the World War I counting rule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stenseth, 1st Lt. Martinus</td>
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<td>White, 2nd Lt. Wilbert W.</td>
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<td>Burdick, 2nd Lt. Howard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chambers, 1st Lt. Reed M.</td>
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<td>Cook, 1st Lt. Harvey W.</td>
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<td>Creech, 1st Lt. Jesse O.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holden, 1st Lt. Lansing C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robertson, 1st Lt. Wendel A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rummell, 1st Lt. Leslie J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schoen, 1st Lt. Karl J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sewall, 1st Lt. Sumner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beane, 1st Lt. James D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biddle, Capt. Charles J.</td>
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<td>Brooks, 2nd Lt. Arthur R.</td>
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<td>Campbell, 1st Lt. Douglas</td>
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<td>Curtis, 1st Lt. Edward P.</td>
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<td>Easterbrook, 1st Lt. Arthur E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guthrie, 1st Lt. Murray K.</td>
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<td>Hammond, 1st Lt. Leonard C.</td>
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<td>Hays, 2nd Lt. Frank K.</td>
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<td>Hudson, 1st Lt. Donald</td>
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<td>Knotts, 2nd Lt. Howard C.</td>
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<td>Lindsay, 1st Lt. Robert O.</td>
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<td>MacArthur, 2nd Lt. John K.</td>
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<td>Ponder, 2nd Lt. William T.</td>
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<td>Putnam, 1st Lt. David E.</td>
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<td>Tobin, 1st Lt. Edgar G.</td>
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<td>Badham, 2nd Lt. William T.</td>
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<td>Bair, 1st Lt. Hilbert L.</td>
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<td>Cook, 1st Lt. Everett R.</td>
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<td>D’Olive, 1st Lt. Charles R.</td>
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<td>Furlow, 1st Lt. George W.</td>
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<td>George, 1st Lt. Harold H.</td>
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<td>Grey, 1st Lt. Charles G.</td>
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<td>Haight, 1st Lt. Edward M.</td>
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Ranks are as of last victory in World War II.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Victories</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bong, Maj. Richard I.</td>
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<td>McGuire, Maj. Thomas B. Jr.</td>
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<td>Gabreski, Lt. Col. Francis S.</td>
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<td>Johnson, Capt. Robert S.</td>
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<td>MacDonald, Col. Charles H.</td>
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<td>Preddy, Maj. George E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meyer, Lt. Col. John C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schilling, Col. David C.</td>
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<td>Johnson, Lt. Col. Gerald R.</td>
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<td>Kearly, Col. Neel E.</td>
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<td>Robbins, Maj. Jay T.</td>
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<td>Christensen, Capt. Fred J.</td>
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<td>Wetmore, Capt. Ray S.</td>
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<td>Voll, Capt. John J.</td>
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<td>Maharin, Maj. Walker M.</td>
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<td>Healy, 1st Lt. James A.</td>
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<td>Keating, 1st Lt. James A.</td>
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<td>Knowles, 1st Lt. James Jr.</td>
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<td>Larner, 1st Lt. G. DeFreest</td>
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<td>Luff, 1st Lt. Frederick E.</td>
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<td>O’Neill, 2nd Lt. Ralph A.</td>
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<td>Porter, 2nd Lt. Kenneth L.</td>
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<td>Raiston, 1st Lt. Orville A.</td>
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<td>Seely, 1st Lt. John J.</td>
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<td>Strahm, Capt. Victor H.</td>
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<td>Todd, 2nd Lt. Robert M.</td>
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<td>Vernam, 1st Lt. Remington D. B.</td>
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<td>Wehner, 1st Lt. Joseph F.</td>
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<td>Lynch, Lt. Col. Thomas J.</td>
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<td>Westbrook, Lt. Col. Robert B.</td>
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<td>Gentile, Capt. Don S.</td>
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<td>Duncan, Col. Glenn E.</td>
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<td>Carson, Capt. Leonard K.</td>
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<td>Eagleston, Maj. Glenn T.</td>
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<td>Beckham, Maj. Walter C.</td>
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<td>Green, Maj. Herschel H.</td>
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<td>Herbst, Lt. Col. John C.</td>
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<td>Zemke, Col. Hubert</td>
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<td>England, Maj. John B.</td>
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<td>Beeson, Capt. Duane W.</td>
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<td>Thornell, 1st Lt. John F. J.</td>
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<td>Varnell, Capt. James S. J.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson, Maj. Gerald W.</td>
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</table>
### Leading Army Air Forces Aces of World War II (continued)

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>Godfrey, Capt. John T.</td>
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<td>Anderson, Capt. Clarence E. Jr.</td>
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<td>Dunham, Lt. Col. William D.</td>
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<td>Harris, Lt. Col. Bill</td>
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<td>Welch, Capt. George S.</td>
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<td>Beerbower, Capt. Don M.</td>
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<td>Brown, Maj. Samuel J.</td>
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<td>Peterson, Capt. Richard A.</td>
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<td>Whisner, Capt. William T. Jr.</td>
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<td>Bradley, Lt. Col. Jack T.</td>
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<td>Cragg, Maj. Edward</td>
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<td>Dahlberg, Capt. Kenneth H.</td>
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<td>Foy, Maj. Robert W.</td>
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<td>Hofer, 2nd Lt. Ralph K.</td>
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<td>Homer, Capt. Cyril F.</td>
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<td>Carr, 1st Lt. Bruce W.</td>
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<td>Leverette, Lt. Col. William L.</td>
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Left to right: Richard Peterson (15.5), Leonard Carson (18.5), John England (17.5), and Clarence Anderson (16.25).

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<td>Smith, Capt. Cornelius M. Jr.</td>
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<td>Turner, Maj. Richard E.</td>
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<td>O’Connor, Capt. Frank Q.</td>
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<td>Gladych, Squadron Leader Michael*</td>
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<td>Summer, Capt. Elliot</td>
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*Squadron Leader Gladych was Polish and flew in service with American units, but because the Polish government in exile was headquartered in London, Polish pilots had British designations.

For a list of all Air Force-recognized World War II AAF aces, please see airforcemag.com.
USAF Aces of the Korean War

McConnell, Capt. Joseph C. Jr. 16
Jabara, Maj. James 15
Fernandez, Capt. Manuel J. Jr. 14.5
Davis, Maj. George A. Jr. 14
Baker, Col. Royal N. 13
Blesse, Maj. Frederick C. 10
Fischer, Capt. Harold E. 10
Garrison, Lt. Col. Vermont 10
Johnson, Col. James K. 10
Moore, Capt. Lonnie R. 10
Parr, Capt. Ralph S. Jr. 10
Foster, Capt. Cecil G. 9
Low, 1st Lt. James F. 9
Hagerstrom, Maj. James P. 8.5
Risner, Capt. James R. 8
Ruddell, Lt. Col. George I. 8
Buttelmann, 1st Lt. Henry 7
Jolley, Capt. Clifford D. 7
Lilley, Capt. Leonard W. 7
Adams, Maj. Donald E. 6.5
Gabreski, Col. Francis S. 6.5
Jones, Lt. Col. George L. 6.5
Marshall, Maj. Winton W. 6.5
Bolt, Maj. John F.* 6
Kasler, 1st Lt. James H. 6
Love, Capt. Robert J. 6
Whisner, Maj. William T. Jr. 5.5
Baldwin, Col. Robert P. 5
Becker, Capt. Richard S. 5
Bettger, Maj. Stephen L. 5
Cleveland, 1st Lt. Charles G. 5
Creighton, Maj. Richard D. 5
*USMC exchange pilot.

USAF Aces of the Vietnam War

DeBellevue, Capt. Charles B. 6
Feinstein, Capt. Jeffrey S. 5
Ritchie, Capt. Richard S. 5

James Hagerstrom (8.5)
Curtin, Capt. Clyde A. 5
Gibson, Capt. Ralph D. 5
Kinchloe, Capt. Iven C. Jr. 5
Latshaw, Capt. Robert T. Jr. 5
Moore, Capt. Robert H. 5
Overton, Capt. Dolphin D. III 5
Thyng, Col. Harrison R. 5
Wescott, Maj. William H. 5

Joseph McConnell (16)

Jeffrey Feinstein (5)

Charles DeBellevue (left) (6) and Richard Ritchie (right) (5)
James Jabara, the first USAF ace of the Korean War. Jabara scored 15 victories before the end of the war.

### AAF/USAF Aces With Victories in More Than One War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>WW II</th>
<th>Korea</th>
<th>Vietnam</th>
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### Leading Air Service/AAF/USAF Aces of All Wars

- **Bong, Maj. Richard I.** (40 WW II, Korea)
- **McGuire, Maj. Thomas B. Jr.** (38 WW II, Korea)
- **Gabreski, Col. Francis S.** (34.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Johnson, Capt. Robert S.** (27 WW II, Korea)
- **MacDonald, Col. Charles H.** (27 WW II, Korea)
- **Preddy, Maj. George E.** (26.83 WW II, Korea)
- **Meyer, Col. John C.** (26 WW II, Korea)
- **Rickenbacker, Capt. Edward V.** (26 WW I, Korea)
- **Mahurin, Col. Walker M.** (24.25 WW II, Korea)
- **Schilling, Col. David C.** (22.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Johnson, Lt. Col. Gerald R.** (22 WW II, Korea)
- **Kearby, Col. Neel E.** (22 WW II, Korea)
- **Robbins, Maj. Jay T.** (22 WW II, Korea)
- **Christensen, Capt. Fred J.** (21.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Wetmore, Capt. Ray S.** (21.25 WW II, Korea)
- **Davis, Maj. George A. Jr.** (21 WW II, Korea)
- **Voll, Capt. John J.** (21 WW II, Korea)
- **Whisner, Capt. William T. Jr.** (21 WW II, Korea)
- **Eagleston, Col. Glenn T.** (20.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Lynch, Lt. Col. Thomas J.** (20 WW II, Korea)
- **Westbrook, Lt. Col. Robert B.** (20 WW II, Korea)
- **Gentile, Capt. Don S.** (19.83 WW II, Korea)
- **Duncan, Col. Glenn E.** (19.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Carson, Capt. Leonard K.** (18.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Beckham, Maj. Walter C.** (18 WW II, Korea)
- **Green, Maj. Herschel H.** (18 WW II, Korea)
- **Herbst, Lt. Col. John C.** (18 WW II, Korea)
- **Luke, 2nd Lt. Frank Jr.** (18 WW I, Korea)
- **Zemke, Col. Hubert** (17.75 WW II, Korea)
- **England, Maj. John B.** (17.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Beeson, Capt. Duane W.** (17.33 WW II, Korea)
- **Garrison, Lt. Col. Vermont** (17.33 WW II, Korea)
- **Thornell, 1st Lt. John F. Jr.** (17.25 WW II, Korea)
- **Varney, Capt. James S. Jr.** (17 WW II, Korea)

- **Baker, Col. Royal N.** (16.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Jabara, Maj. James** (16.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Johnson, Maj. Gerald W.** (16.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Godfrey, Capt. John T.** (16.33 WW II, Korea)
- **Anderson, Capt. Clarence E. Jr.** (16.25 WW II, Korea)
- **Dunham, Lt. Col. William D.** (16 WW II, Korea)
- **Harris, Lt. Col. Bill** (16 WW II, Korea)
- **McConnell, Capt. Joseph C. Jr.** (16 Korea)
- **Olds, Col. Robin** (16 WW II, Vietnam)
- **Welch, Capt. George S.** (15.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Beerbower, Capt. Don M.** (15.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Brown, Maj. Samuel J.** (15.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Peterson, Capt. Richard A.** (15.5 WW II, Korea)
- **Bradley, Lt. Col. Jack T.** (15 WW II, Korea)
- **Cragg, Maj. Edward** (15 WW II, Korea)
- **Dahlberg, Capt. Kenneth H.** (15 WW II, Korea)
- **Foy, Maj. Robert W.** (15 WW II, Korea)
- **Hofer, 2nd Lt. Ralph K.** (15 WW II, Korea)
- **Homer, Capt. Cyril F.** (15 WW II, Korea)