

Foundation Adds Six Names to Guard Medal of Honor Gallery

As a fitting prelude to Veterans Day, the National Guard Educational Foundation (NGEF) added six names to the Medal of Honor Gallery at The National Guard Memorial Nov. 10.

The gallery, which had not been updated since its establishment in 1991, previously contained names of 115 Medal of Honor recipients with Guard service.

Among the additions were President Theodore Roosevelt, Capt. John E. Moran, Pvt. Merritt A. Edson, Brig. Gen. Frederick W. Castle, Spc. Alfred V. Rascon and Staff Sgt. Nicky D. Bacon.

One hundred twenty-one individuals who received a Medal of Honor and also at a point in their careers served in the Guard.

Specialist Rascon, who earned his medal in Vietnam in 1966 by saving the lives of numerous comrades in a fire-fight, attended the ceremony.

He served in the District of Columbia National Guard. Now a major in the Army Reserves, he just ended more than two years of active duty, serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But he focused his comments at the ceremony on the National Guardsmen he saw in

Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Probably the most important thing that really came back and hit me in my heart was seeing the National Guardsmen,” Major Rascon said. “Look at these warriors in both places and also in Kuwait and see what they’ve gone through and what accomplishments they’ve done.”

Sergeant Bacon, also in attendance, received his medal for actions in Vietnam in 1967.

While under heavy enemy fire, he took charge of two platoons that had suddenly lost their platoon leaders and directed attacks against enemy positions, destroying three himself with hand grenades.

Sergeant Bacon served in the Arizona Army National Guard before going on active duty. He eventually retired from the active-component 1984 as a first sergeant.

He said wearing the Medal of Honor comes with responsibilities.

“It’s a lot harder to wear it than it ever was to earn it,” Sergeant Bacon said. “It is something you can’t take off once it’s put on. There are a lot of expectations that come with it. You don’t own it, you just wear it. It’s something that everybody understands that wears the uniform.”



Maj. Alfred V. Rascon (left) and 1st Sgt. Nicky D. Bacon pose in front of the Medal of Honor Gallery.

HAZEL BOOKER

A register of Guard men and women—past and present.

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