

THE AMERICAN VETERAN
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SEGMENT TITLE: PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

KANE FARABAUGH, HOST: MORE THAN 1.7 MILLION MEN AND WOMEN HAVE RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1932. BUT UNTIL RECENTLY, THERE WAS NEVER A PLACE YOU COULD GO TO LEARN ABOUT THESE BRAVE SERVICE MEMBERS. THAT'S ALL CHANGED. SCOTT WALLACE HAS MORE.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE: THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TAKES PLEASURE IN PRESENTING THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL TO SERGEANT TYRONE CARELOCK.

SCOTT WALLACE, REPORTER: THE PURPLE HEART THE VERY SYMBOL OF GALLANTRY AWARDED TO SERVICE MEMBERS WOUNDED IN COMBAT.

TOM POULTER, NATIONAL COMMANDER MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART: IT'S A BADGE OF HONOR, BECAUSE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOU WERE WOUNDED IN COMBAT. YOU WERE ON THE FRONTLINES.

COL STEPHEN COBB, US ARMY, FOUR TIME RECIPIENT PURPLE HEART: WE KNOW MORE WHAT IT IS THAN ANYONE ELSE TO KNOW FEAR, AND WE'RE THE LIVING PROOF THAT FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.

SGT TYRONE B CARELOCK, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (RETIRED), PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT: I SUPPORTED MY COUNTRY, AND I DID MY JOB WHILE I WAS THERE.

WALLACE: RETIRING NATIONAL GUARD SGT TYRONE CARELOCK RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART FOR BLAST INJURIES HE SUFFERED IN IRAQ.

CARELOCK: I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT THE OTHER SOLDIERS MAKING SURE NO ONE WAS HURT. I WAS TRYING TO DO MY JOB AND WASN'T THINKING ABOUT THE INJURY THAT I HAD SUSTAINED.

WALLACE: BEHIND EVERY PURPLE HEART, THERE'S A HEART-POUNGING STORY OF SELF-SACRIFICE, COURAGE AND THE HUMAN COST OF WAR.

SPC NICOLAS HELFFERICH, US ARMY, PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT: I REMEMBER THAT I HEARD A LOUD EXPLOSION. I APPARENTLY GOT LAUNCHED 20 TO 30 FEET AWAY FROM THE VEHICLE.

WALLACE: NOW THESE STORIES CAN BE TOLD AT THE BRAND NEW NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR AT THE NEW WINDSOR CANTONMENT IN NEW

YORK'S HUDSON VALLEY. IT WAS HERE THAT GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON FIRST AWARDED A PURPLE, HEART-SHAPED EMBLEM FOR BRAVERY IN 1782.

MICHAEL J CLARK, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR: AND HERE IS A REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT, THE FORERUNNER AND INSPIRATION FOR TODAY'S PURPLE HEART. HE HAD HIS OFFICERS MEET AT WHAT WAS CALLED THE TEMPLE OF VIRTUE -- THE MAIN MEETING HALL IN THE NEW WINDSOR CANTONMENT -- AND THERE THEY DETERMINED WHO WOULD RECEIVE THIS NEW AWARD, THE BADGE OF MILITARY MERIT.

WALLACE: IN 1932 THE AWARD WAS REVIVED FOR VETERANS WOUNDED IN COMBAT, WITH WASHINGTON'S IMAGE IMPOSED ON THE BACKDROP OF A PURPLE HEART.

POULTER: IT'S THE OLDEST AMERICAN MILITARY DECORATION. IT PRECEDES THE MEDAL OF HONOR. IT'S THE OLDEST MILITARY DECORATION IN THE WORLD THAT WAS GIVEN TO THE COMMON SOLDIER.

UNKNOWN DESIGNER: NOW THESE ARE WHAT WE CALL OUR FEATURE RECIPIENTS.

WALLACE: DESIGNERS OF THE HALL OF HONOR WANTED TO CREATE A SPACE FOR WAR VETERANS TO TELL THEIR STORIES, AND FOR PEOPLE TO LISTEN.

ISAAC GILLIARD JR, VIETNAM WAR VETERAN: I WAS IN A PLACE CALLED DUC PHO VIETNAM IT WAS DOWN SOUTH IN VIETNAM JUST ABOUT THE MEKONG DELTA.

VINCENT CIULLA, DESIGNER: WE DEvised A CORE COMPONENT OF THE MUSEUM WHICH WE CALL "IT HELPS TO TALK, IT HELPS TO LISTEN," AND IT'S A SERIES OF VIDEO INTERVIEWS OF PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS.

RICK WEEKS, PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT: THIS IS GOING TO BE SO EDUCATIONAL.

WALLACE: ONE OF THOSE RECIPIENTS IS RICK WEEKS, COMMANDER OF THE NEW YORK STATE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART, WOUNDED IN VIETNAM IN 1968.

RICHARD F WEEKS, MILITARY ORDER OF PURPLE HEART, NEW YORK STATE COMMANDER: THE BULLET CAME RIGHT DOWN AND KNOCKED OFF THE TIPS OF TWO FINGERS. AND RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY RIGHT EYE, THERE WAS THE

HANDLE FOR THE BOLT. IT HIT THAT AND RICOCHETED OFF. THAT LITTLE QUARTER INCH OF MEDAL SAVED MY LIFE THAT DAY.

WALLACE: PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME FORWARD WITH THEIR STORIES, TO BE RECORDED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AT THE PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR.

POULTER: IF YOU HAVE ANYBODY IN YOUR FAMILY THAT RECEIVED THE PURPLE HEART, WE WANT TO GET YOUR STORY. NOT FOR YOU BUT FOR YOUR FUTURE GENERATIONS -- YOUR GREAT GRANDSONS THAT IN 50 OR 60 YEARS WILL GO TO THE HALL OF HONOR AND BE ABLE TO PULL UP YOUR NAME, YOUR PICTURE AND YOUR STORY.

FARABAUGH: THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART INVITES ALL PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS TO JOIN THEIR ORGANIZATION. TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT THE MOPH WEBSITE AT WWW.PURPLEHEART.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HALL OF HONOR, VISIT WWW.THEPURPLEHEART ALL ONE WORD .COM.

END OF VIDEO.

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