



MEDAL OF HONOR

150 Years of Courage and Sacrifice
1861-2011



Saluting The Congressional Medal Of Honor

(NAPS)—A medal this nation confers in recognition of selfless acts of bravery is receiving very special recognition.

The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest honor that can be awarded by Congress to a member of the Armed Forces.

It is presented by the president of the United States for “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of one’s life above and beyond the call of duty.”

The Medal has three variations today: one for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard; one for the Army; and one for the Air Force. Each is worn on a ribbon of light blue, embroidered with 13 stars.

A Celebration Of Service

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Medal of Honor, a series of gala balls and other events are taking place across the country throughout the year.

In addition, Congress has authorized the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue up to 100,000 gold \$5 coins and up to 500,000 silver \$1 coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861. The designs of the coins are intended to be emblematic of the traditions, legacy and heritage of the Medal of Honor and the distinguished service of its recipients.

A portion of the proceeds will support the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation’s education programs featuring college scholarships, a nationwide character development program, and sponsorship of Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation supports the



The Congressional Medal of Honor and its recipients are being honored with a special coin that’s been issued by the U.S. Treasury.

objectives, activities and outreach programs of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, and raises funds for initiatives that promote what the Medal of Honor represents. It also promotes American values and the qualities of courage, sacrifice and patriotism through increased awareness, education, behavior and example.

“The commemorative coins are a tangible way for Americans everywhere to embrace what the Medal of Honor represents,” said retired Colonel Leo Thorsness, USAF president of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

The Medal of Honor Commemorative Coins—described as a “one-time opportunity to embrace the Medal of Honor principles”—are available only in 2011. Order online at www.usmint.gov/catalog or call 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468).