

# Media Advisory

The U.S. Army Military District of Washington

*Guardians of the Nation's Capital*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 16-10**

**DATE: March 22, 2016**

## **National Medal of Honor Day 2016 Medal of Honor recipients to Lay Wreath at Tomb of the Unknowns**

**WHO & WHAT:** Medal of Honor recipients, will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns to commemorate National Medal of Honor Day, Friday, March 25.

Immediately following the wreath-laying ceremony, members of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation will proceed to Brucker Hall where they will present awards to the 2016 Citizen Service Before Self Honorees: Mr. Chris Mintz, Mr. James Vernon, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Eileen Hadbavny, Mr. Myles Eckert and United Through Reading.

**WHEN & WHERE:** **2 p.m.** **Wreath-laying Ceremony:** Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

**2:45 p.m.** **Citizen Honors Ceremony:** Brucker Hall, 400 McNair Road, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.

**REGISTRATION:** Media interested in covering these events must register by **10 a.m., Tuesday, March 24**. To be placed on the credentialed list, send an email to [usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil) with the following information: **your full name, media organization, assignment, contact phone number, and email address.**

### **CONTACTS:**

#### **Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation**

Eugenia Gardner, Public Information Officer  
513-886-5259; or [eugenia@communispr.com](mailto:eugenia@communispr.com)

#### **U.S. Army Military District of Washington**

Shaunteh D. Kelly, Chief, Media Relations  
202-685-4645; cell 202-497-2011 or [shaunteh.d.kelly.civ@mail.mil](mailto:shaunteh.d.kelly.civ@mail.mil)

#### **Arlington National Cemetery**

Jennifer Lynch, Director, Public Affairs  
703-614-0062; cell 703-283-7119 or [jennifer.a.lynch20.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jennifer.a.lynch20.civ@mail.mil)

#### **Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall**

Sharon Walker, Acting Director, Public Affairs  
703-696-0584; or [sharon.e.walker.civ@mail.mil](mailto:sharon.e.walker.civ@mail.mil)

-more-

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

- The U.S. Army Military District of Washington Public Affairs Office will contact media outlets with their credential status no later than **4 p.m., Thursday, March 24.**
- Media interested in covering the events live are permitted to bring mobile broadcasting equipment capable of live feeds. Please provide this information when registering.
- **Interviews:** Media must express the desire for an interview during credentialing. Interviews with Medal of Honor recipients or the awardees must be requested and coordinated through the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, [eugenia@communispr.com](mailto:eugenia@communispr.com).

**The 2016 Citizen Service Before Self Honorees:**

- **Chris Mintz** of Roseburg, Ore., was selected for his courageous act on October 1, 2015 when he confronted a shooter on the campus of Umpqua Community College, preventing further loss of life. Mintz, an army veteran, was shot 5 times and continues to recover from his wounds.
- **James Vernon** of Morton, Ill., was selected for his courageous act on October 10, 2015 when he subdued a would-be attacker who threatened to kill 20 middle school students and their parents participating in an after-school chess club meeting at the public library. While all of the children were unharmed, Vernon was injured in the attack.
- **Lt. Col. Eileen Hadbavny**, United States Air Force, (ret.) of Charleston, S.C., was selected for her lifetime of selfless service in support of veterans through her volunteer work with the Red Cross, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Hadbavny served as an Air Force Reserve flight nurse for 28 years.

The Society created two new Citizen Honors Awards this year to recognize young heroes and community service organizations: **The Congressional Medal of Honor Society Young Hero Award** and **The Congressional Medal of Honor Society Community Service Hero Award**. The 2016 recipients are:

- **Myles Eckert** of Toledo, Ohio, was selected for his volunteer philanthropic work on behalf of Gold Star children. To date, Eckert has raised more than \$2 million.
- **United Through Reading (UTR)** was selected for its innovative and grassroots response to a critical need in the armed forces community, their exceptional international impact on military families. UTR offers deployed military service members the opportunity to be video-recorded reading books to their children at home in nearly 260 locations worldwide.

For more information about the 2016 Citizen Honorees and finalists, visit the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation website at [www.cmohfoundation.org](http://www.cmohfoundation.org).

The **Congressional Medal of Honor Society** was chartered by Congress in 1958 to create a brotherhood among the living Medal of Honor recipients; to protect and uphold the dignity and honor of the Medal; to promote patriotism and love of country; and to inspire our youth to become worthy and dedicated citizens of our nation.

For additional ceremonial details, send an email to the U.S. Army Military District of Washington Public Affairs Office at [usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.mcnair.mdw.mbx.mediadesk-omb@mail.mil) or call 202-685-4645.