

Black / African American Medal of Honor Recipients

97 awards to 96 recipients · Civil War through present · Source: Congressional Medal of Honor Society

CONFLICT	AWARDS
Civil War	26
Indian Wars	18
Spanish-Am. War	5
World War I	2
World War II	7
Korean War	2
Vietnam War	23+
Post-Vietnam/War on Terror	4+
Peacetime (Navy)	8

About This Document

This reference lists documented Black / African American recipients of the United States Medal of Honor from the Civil War through the present. The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military decoration, awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life, above and beyond the call of duty.

Key Finding: No Black soldier received the Medal of Honor during World War II despite documented valor. In 1993, the Army commissioned Shaw University — an HBCU — to investigate. Seven awards were made in 1997, more than 50 years after the actions they honored. Only Vernon Baker was still alive.

Longest Delay: Andrew Jackson Smith, Civil War — 137 years (1864 action, awarded 2001).

Only Double Recipient: Robert Augustus Sweeney — two Medals of Honor, 1881 and 1884.

NAME	RANK	BRANCH / UNIT	CONFLICT	DATE OF ACTION	DATE AWARDED	POSTHUMOUS
CIVIL WAR						
Robert Blake	Landsman	Navy	Civil War	Dec 25, 1863	Apr 16, 1864	No
William H. Carney	Sergeant	Army (54th MA)	Civil War	Jul 18, 1863	May 23, 1900	No
Decatur Dorsey	Sergeant	Army (39th USCT)	Civil War	Jul 30, 1864	Nov 8, 1865	No
Christian A. Fleetwood	Sergeant Major	Army (4th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
James Gardiner	Private	Army (36th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
James H. Harris	Sergeant	Army (38th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Feb 18, 1874	No
Thomas R. Hawkins	Sergeant Major	Army (6th USCT)	Civil War	Jul 21, 1864	Feb 8, 1870	No
Alfred B. Hilton	Sergeant	Army (4th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	YES
Milton M. Holland	Sergeant Major	Army (5th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No

NAME	RANK	BRANCH / UNIT	CONFLICT	DATE OF ACTION	DATE AWARDED	POSTHUMOUS
Miles James	Corporal	Army (36th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
Alexander Kelly	First Sergeant	Army (6th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
Robert Pinn	First Sergeant	Army (5th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
Edward Ratcliff	First Sergeant	Army (38th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
Charles Veal	Private	Army (4th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
William H. Barnes	Private	Army (38th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
Powhatan Beaty	First Sergeant	Army (5th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
James Bronson	First Sergeant	Army (5th USCT)	Civil War	Sep 29, 1864	Apr 6, 1865	No
John Lawson	Landsman	Navy	Civil War	Aug 5, 1864	Dec 31, 1864	No
Joachim Pease	Seaman	Navy	Civil War	Jun 19, 1864	Dec 31, 1864	No
PEACETIME						
Robert A. Sweeney	Seaman	Navy	Peacetime	Oct 26, 1881	Dec 26, 1881	No
Robert A. Sweeney	Seaman	Navy	Peacetime	Dec 20, 1883	Mar 10, 1884	No
CIVIL WAR						
Andrew Jackson Smith	Corporal	Army (55th MA)	Civil War	Nov 30, 1864	Jan 16, 2001	No
Samuel Gilchrist	Landsman	Navy	Civil War	1864	1864	No
Aaron Anderson	Landsman	Navy	Civil War	Mar 17, 1865	Jun 22, 1865	No
John Cantey	Landsman	Navy	Civil War	1864	1864	No
James Mifflin	Engineer's Cook	Navy	Civil War	Aug 5, 1864	Dec 31, 1864	No
INDIAN WARS						
Thomas Boyne	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	May 29, 1879	Jan 6, 1882	No
Benjamin Brown	Sergeant	Army (24th Infantry)	Indian Wars	May 11, 1889	Feb 19, 1890	No
John Denny	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	Sep 18, 1879	Nov 27, 1894	No
Pompey Factor	Corporal	Army (Seminole-Negro Scouts)	Indian Wars	Apr 25, 1875	May 28, 1875	No
Clinton Greaves	Corporal	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	Jan 24, 1877	Jun 26, 1879	No
Henry Johnson	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	Oct 2-5, 1879	Sep 22, 1890	No
George Jordan	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	May 14, 1880	May 7, 1890	No

NAME	RANK	BRANCH / UNIT	CONFLICT	DATE OF ACTION	DATE AWARDED	POSTHUMOUS
Isaiah Mays	Corporal	Army (24th Infantry)	Indian Wars	May 11, 1889	Feb 19, 1890	No
Isaac Payne	Trumpeter	Army (Seminole-Negro Scouts)	Indian Wars	Apr 25, 1875	May 28, 1875	No
Thomas Shaw	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	Aug 12, 1881	Dec 7, 1890	No
Emanuel Stance	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	May 20, 1870	Jun 28, 1870	No
Augustus Walley	Private	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	Aug 16, 1881	Oct 1, 1890	No
John Ward	Sergeant	Army (Seminole-Negro Scouts)	Indian Wars	Apr 25, 1875	May 28, 1875	No
Moses Williams	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	Aug 16, 1881	Nov 12, 1896	No
William O. Wilson	Corporal	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	1890	Sep 6, 1890	No
Brent Woods	Sergeant	Army (9th Cavalry)	Indian Wars	Aug 19, 1881	Jul 12, 1894	No
SPANISH-AM. WAR						
Dennis Bell	Private	Army (10th Cavalry)	Spanish-Am. War	Jun 30, 1898	Jun 23, 1899	No
Fitz Lee	Private	Army (10th Cavalry)	Spanish-Am. War	Jun 30, 1898	Jun 23, 1899	No
William H. Thompkins	Private	Army (10th Cavalry)	Spanish-Am. War	Jun 30, 1898	Jun 23, 1899	No
George H. Wanton	Sergeant	Army (10th Cavalry)	Spanish-Am. War	Jun 30, 1898	Jun 23, 1899	No
Robert Penn	Fireman 1st Class	Navy	Spanish-Am. War	Jul 20, 1898	Dec 14, 1898	No
WORLD WAR I						
Freddie Stowers	Corporal	Army (371st Infantry)	World War I	Sep 28, 1918	Apr 24, 1991	YES
Henry Johnson	Sergeant	Army (369th Infantry)	World War I	May 14-15, 1918	Jun 2, 2015	YES
WORLD WAR II						
Vernon Baker	1st Lieutenant	Army (92nd Division)	World War II	Apr 5-6, 1945	Jan 13, 1997	No
Edward A. Carter Jr.	Staff Sergeant	Army	World War II	Mar 23, 1945	Jan 13, 1997	YES
John R. Fox	First Lieutenant	Army (92nd Division)	World War II	Dec 26, 1944	Jan 13, 1997	YES
Willy F. James Jr.	Private First Class	Army	World War II	Apr 7, 1945	Jan 13, 1997	YES
Ruben Rivers	Staff Sergeant	Army (761st Tank Bn.)	World War II	Nov 16-19, 1944	Jan 13, 1997	YES
Charles L. Thomas	Captain	Army	World War II	Dec 14, 1944	Jan 13, 1997	YES
George Watson	Private	Army	World War II	Mar 8, 1943	Jan 13, 1997	YES
KOREAN WAR						

NAME	RANK	BRANCH / UNIT	CONFLICT	DATE OF ACTION	DATE AWARDED	POSTHUMOUS
Cornelius H. Charlton	Sergeant	Army (24th Infantry)	Korean War	Jun 2, 1951	Mar 12, 1952	YES
William Thompson	Private First Class	Army (24th Infantry)	Korean War	Aug 6, 1950	Jun 5, 1951	YES
VIETNAM WAR						
James Anderson Jr.	Private First Class	Marine Corps	Vietnam War	Feb 28, 1967	Aug 21, 1968	YES
Webster Anderson	Staff Sergeant	Army	Vietnam War	Oct 15, 1967	Nov 24, 1969	No
Eugene Ashley Jr.	Sergeant First Class	Army (Special Forces)	Vietnam War	Feb 6-7, 1968	Sep 17, 1969	YES
William M. Bryant	Sergeant First Class	Army	Vietnam War	Mar 24, 1969	Feb 16, 1971	YES
Lawrence Joel	Specialist Sixth Class	Army	Vietnam War	Nov 8, 1965	Mar 9, 1967	No
Dwight H. Johnson	Specialist Fifth Class	Army	Vietnam War	Jan 15, 1968	Nov 19, 1968	No
Garfield M. Langhorn	Private First Class	Army	Vietnam War	Jan 15, 1969	Apr 7, 1969	YES
Matthew Leonard	Platoon Sergeant	Army	Vietnam War	Feb 28, 1967	Dec 19, 1968	YES
Donald R. Long	Sergeant	Army	Vietnam War	Jun 30, 1966	Mar 22, 1968	YES
Milton L. Olive III	Private First Class	Army	Vietnam War	Oct 22, 1965	Apr 21, 1966	YES
Riley L. Pitts	Captain	Army	Vietnam War	Oct 31, 1967	Dec 10, 1968	YES
Charles Calvin Rogers	Lieutenant Colonel	Army	Vietnam War	Nov 1, 1968	May 14, 1970	No
Rupert L. Sargent	First Lieutenant	Army	Vietnam War	Mar 15, 1967	Mar 7, 1969	YES
Clarence E. Sasser	Specialist Fifth Class	Army	Vietnam War	Jan 10, 1968	Mar 7, 1969	No
Clifford C. Sims	Staff Sergeant	Army (101st Airborne)	Vietnam War	Feb 21, 1968	Dec 21, 1969	YES
Emmanuel Steward	Sergeant	Army	Vietnam War	May 27, 1969	1970	YES
Rodney M. Davis	Sergeant	Marine Corps	Vietnam War	Sep 6, 1967	Mar 26, 1969	YES
Robert H. Jenkins Jr.	Private First Class	Marine Corps	Vietnam War	Mar 5, 1969	Apr 21, 1969	YES
Ralph H. Johnson	Private First Class	Marine Corps	Vietnam War	Mar 5, 1968	Jul 4, 1968	YES
Oscar P. Austin	Private First Class	Marine Corps	Vietnam War	Feb 23, 1969	Apr 20, 1970	YES
John Canley	Gunnery Sergeant	Marine Corps	Vietnam War	Jan-Feb 1968	Oct 17, 2018	No
Melvin Morris	Staff Sergeant	Army (Special Forces)	Vietnam War	Sep 17, 1969	Mar 18, 2014	No
IRAQ WAR						

NAME	RANK	BRANCH / UNIT	CONFLICT	DATE OF ACTION	DATE AWARDED	POSTHUMOUS
Alwyn Cashe	Sergeant First Class	Army	Iraq War	Oct 17, 2005	Dec 16, 2021	YES
VIETNAM WAR						
Paris Davis	Captain	Army (Special Forces)	Vietnam War	Jun 18, 1965	Mar 3, 2023	No
Gary M. Rose	Sergeant First Class	Army (Special Forces)	Vietnam War	Sep 11-14, 1970	Oct 23, 2017	No
Allen J. Lynch	Specialist Fourth Class	Army	Vietnam War	Dec 15, 1967	Oct 23, 2017	No
Jose Rodela	Sergeant First Class	Army (Special Forces)	Vietnam War	Sep 1, 1969	Oct 23, 2017	No