

MEDAL OF HONOR

WORLD WAR II KOREAN WAR
VIETNAM WAR

TWENTY-FOUR VETERANS from three wars were awarded the nation’s highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, during a ceremony at the White House on 18 March 2014.

Three Vietnam veterans—Master Sgt. Jose Rodela, Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris, and Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia—received their awards from President Barack Obama. Posthumous awards were presented to the families of the other 21 recipients.

The medals were an upgrade of previously awarded Distinguished Service Crosses for various acts of uncommon bravery during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The upgrades resulted from a congressionally mandated review of awards to ensure heroism of veterans was not overlooked due to prejudice or discrimination. The recipients were of Hispanic, Jewish, and African-American descent.

President Obama said during his remarks, “For their gallantry under fire each of these soldiers was long ago recognized with the Army’s second-highest award—the Distinguished Service Cross. But ask their fellow veterans, ask their families, and they’ll tell you that their extraordinary deeds merited the highest recognition. And today, we have the chance to set the record straight.”

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel inducted the soldiers into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes the next day. Secretary Hagel said the 24 soldiers’ “acts of gallantry in battle merit our highest recognition.”



Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris, Master Sgt. Jose Rodela, and Sgt. Santiago J. Erevia, stand in the East Room of the White House, Washington, 18 March 2014, after receiving the Medal of Honor for their heroic deeds during the Vietnam War.

WORLD WAR II



Pvt. Pedro Cano



Pvt. Joe Gandara



Staff Sgt. Salvador J. Lara



Staff Sgt. William F. Leonard



Master Sgt. Manuel V. Mendoza

KOREAN WAR



Sgt. Alfred B. Nietzel



1st Lt. Donald K. Schwab



Cpl. Joe R. Baldonero



Sgt. Victor H. Espinoza



Sgt. 1st Class Eduardo Corral Gomez



Pfc. Leonard M. Kravitz



Master Sgt. Juan E. Negrón



Master Sgt. Mike C. Pena



Pfc. Demensio Rivera



Pvt. Miguel A. Vera

VIETNAM WAR



Sgt. Jack Weinstein



Spc. 4 Leonard L. Alvarado



Staff Sgt. Felix M. Conde-Falcon



Sgt. Ardie R. Copas



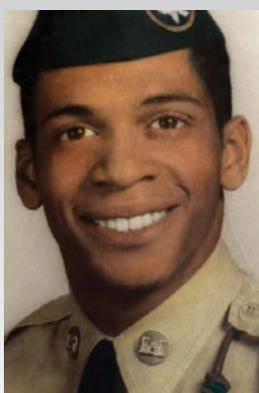
Sgt. Jesus S. Duran



Sgt. Santiago Erevia



Sgt. Candelario Garcia



Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris



Master Sgt. Jose Rodela