

David Feliciano, STAAA

Re: Another story to Post:

"The 1983 Medal of Honor Ceremony." There is a lot of interest in *this* story of Six Medal of Honor recipients.

I was privileged to host and honor these six heroes while serving as the Management Sectional Center Manager/Postmaster of Northern Virginia (located in Merrifield, VA). This was at the request of then Postmaster General William F. Bolger for whom I previously served as his Executive Assistant at U.S. Postal Service Headquarters in Washington, DC, one of 30 Officers of the USPS.

July 1, 1983 was the date the Medal of Honor Stamps were issued nationally, and PMG Bolger requested every Postmaster in the U.S. to honor their local MOH Recipients by presenting them with special Medal of Honor Stamp albums in recognition of their sacrifices.

At that time there were about 120 living recipients, and today only 78, who wear that revered award. Six of the eight Northern Virginia resident Medal of Honor recipients who were invited to my ceremony attended. It was televised and pictured in the Washington Post and other local media. The honoree's stories, pictures of them and their families and guests, are featured in this ceremonial story. I also invited former Presidential candidate H. Ross Perot to be my guest speaker for that event at the luncheon that followed at a local restaurant; pictures of the luncheon are also included.

Warm Regards,

**Jerry Merna
03-21-2016**

MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY

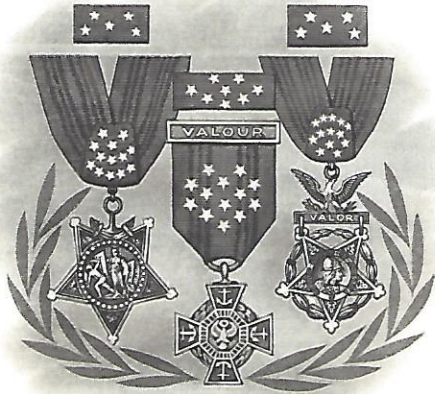


JULY 1, 1983
MSC NO. VA.
MERRIFIELD, VA.



Postmaster General William Bolger (*right*), observes an enlarged replica of a commemorative stamp honoring the nation's highest award for gallantry on the battlefield, the Medal of Honor. The stamp, issued June 7, salutes the 3,411 recipients who've received the award since it was created during the Civil War. Fewer than 300 are living. With Bolger are (*left*) John Marsh, Secretary of the Army and (*center*) Rep. Joseph Addabbo (D-N.Y.).

Official First Day of Issue



*Saluting Our
Congressional*
MEDAL of HONOR
RECIPIENTS





Letter sent to six No VA
Medal of Honor Recipients

**United States
Postal Service**

June 24, 1983

Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Marm
11841 Antietam Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

Dear Lt. Colonel Marm:

This will confirm recent telephone conversations between you and Mrs. Ford, my Confidential Secretary.

As a Medal of Honor winner, it is our distinguished pleasure to recognize you at a special stamp ceremony and present you with an engraved album. This is scheduled for 10:00 AM on Friday, July 1, 1983 at our facility located at 8409 Lee Highway, Merrifield, Virginia 22081-9998. Feel free to invite other relatives, friends and neighbors to the 10:00 AM ceremony.

Although the ceremony will start at 10:00 AM, you and members of your family are invited to join us prior to the ceremony for refreshments between 9:15 AM and 9:55 AM in Room 2-8. This will give you an opportunity to meet your fellow honorees and other invited guests.

You and your immediate family are also invited to a luncheon as our guests at the LaGuinguette Restaurant located near our facility, for which round trip transportation will be provided. By noon Wednesday, June 29, please contact me or Mrs. Ford (698-6600) and let us know the number of guests we can expect for lunch.

We expect considerable media coverage for this event and are looking forward to a delightful and memorable day. Reserved parking is available. I have asked your local Postmaster Mr. Charles Moser, Woodbridge, Virginia (494-6427) to serve as your individual host for this occasion. Mr. Moser will be contacting you with additional information. Should you have any questions, please call me, Mrs. Ford or your Postmaster.

Looking forward to meeting you on July 1.

Sincerely,

Gerald F. Merna
Sectional Center Manager
1st Lt. USMC (Ret.)
MSC Northern Virginia 22081-9998



NORTHERN VIRGINIA MANAGEMENT SECTIONAL CENTER

PAYS TRIBUTE
TO RECIPIENTS OF
THE



MEDAL OF HONOR

JULY 1, 1983



"... ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY ..."

General Leon W. Johnson
United States Air Force
McLean, Virginia

Colonel Lloyd L. Burke (Ret.)
United States Army
Burke, Virginia

Colonel Robert F. Foley
United States Army
Fairfax, Virginia

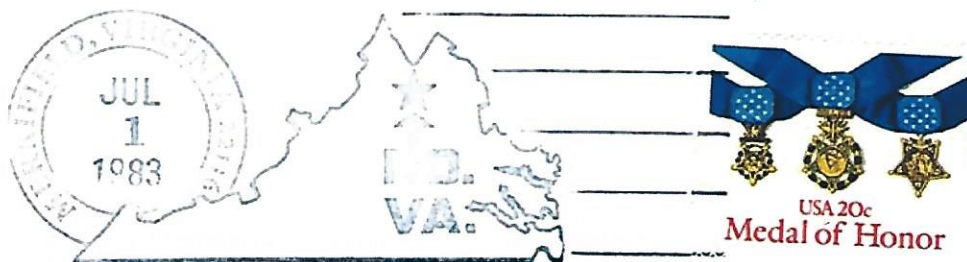
Colonel Reginald R. Myers
United States Marine Corps
Annandale, Virginia

Lieutenant Colonel Jack H. Jacobs
United States Army
Annandale, Virginia

Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Marm
United States Army
Woodbridge, Virginia

Sergeant First Class John F. Baker, Jr.
United States Army
Alexandria, Virginia

Sergeant John L. Levitow
United States Air Force
Vienna, Virginia



HOSTS OF HONOREES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Northern Virginia Management Sectional Center

Gerald F. Merna
Sectional Center Manager

Postmasters

Alexandria, Virginia
Charles C. Phillips, Jr.

Annandale, Virginia
Walter W. Tutt Jr.

Fairfax, Virginia
Donald H. Wynkoop

McLean, Virginia
Curtis M. Weed

Springfield, Virginia
Dorie C. Lear

Vienna, Virginia
Dempsey J. White

Woodbridge, Virginia
Charles E. Moser

Northern Virginia Management Sectional Center
8409 Lee Highway
Merrifield, Virginia 22081-9998

PRESIDING

Gerald F. Merna
Sectional Center Manager
MSC Northern Virginia

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Armed Forces Color Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Gospel Chorus
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Rectortown, Virginia

INVOCATION

Rev. Norman W. Smith
Pastor, Mt. Olive Baptist Church
Rectortown, Virginia


WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Gospel Chorus

ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION OF ALBUMS

On June 7, 1983, Postmaster General William F. Bolger dedicated the Medal of Honor stamp. At the request of the Postmaster General, we take pride in presenting engraved albums of these stamps to eight Northern Virginia residents who have received this Medal.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

 U.S. MAIL

EASTERN BULLETIN

NATIONAL BULLETIN

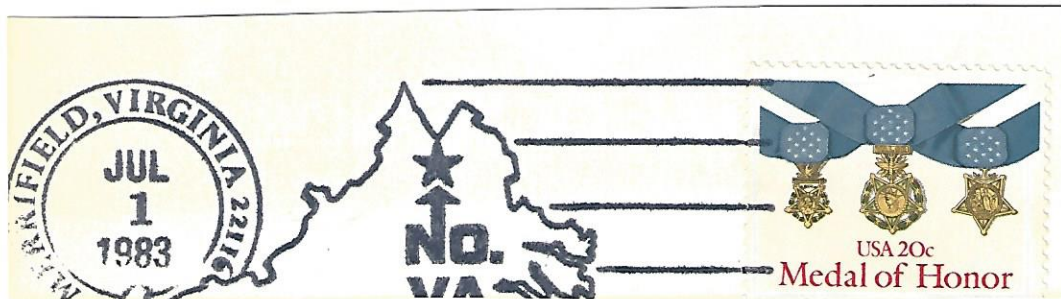
July 15, 1983

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19197-0110

Volume 11, Number 14



USPS Rev. Norman Smith & MSC Mgr. G. F. Merna (1stLtUSMC-Ret). 1stRow: (6 Medal of Honor recipients): L.toR.: Col. R. R. Myers USMC; Col. L.L. Burke, USA; LtCol. W. J. Marm, USA; LtCol. Jack H. Jacobs, USA; SFC J.F. Baker Jr., USA; 2ndRow: VAdm Jon Boyes USN(Ret.); Congr. Frank Wolf (R-VA); Col. C.H. Ulsaker USA(Ret.); H. Ross Perot. Presentation of Medal of Honor Albums by No.VA USPS, Merrifield, VA (July 1, 1983)









MOH Guests, Families, Postal Officials, Postmasters, Supervisors and Employees bow their heads as Chaplain gives blessings to the six Medal of Honor Recipients and all who are serving or have served their country in the Military.



2d Row: Edward J. Marson, Dir, E&LR; Col. Taplett USMC Ret., John Cochran, PM Wash., DC; Doris V. Michael, CSR



Col. Carl Ulsaker, US Army (Ret.), Sr. Asst. PMG; Ms. Nancy Perot; Col. Reginald Myers USMC (Ret) MOH; Col. Lloyd Burke US Army (Ret.) MOH; LtCol Walter J. Marm US Army MOH; LtCol Jack Jacobs US Army MOH; SFC John F. Baker Jr., MOH; Gen. Leon W. Johnson US Air Force (Ret.) MOH



Gospel Choir from Mount Olive Baptist Church in Rectortown, VA. The Church's Pastor is The Rev. Dr. Norman W. Smith Sr, also a Postal Supervisor.



L:Rear Admiral Jon Boyes USN Ret, Pres. AFCEA; Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA); Col. & Mrs. Carl Ulsaker, US Army Ret., Sr. APMG, USPS; Nancy and H. Ross Perot: R: MSC Mgr. Merna discusses program with Postal Supervisor, Rev. Norman W. Smith, Sr.



Col. Robert D. Taplett, USMC (Ret.) is recognized from attendees by MSC Manager Gerald F. Merna. Currently serving as a Director in the Washington, DC Post Office, Col. Taplett earned the Navy Cross for his heroism at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea. He also earned two Silver Star Medals, the Bronze Star Medal and the Legion of Merit.



Gen. Johnson; SFC Baker, Donna Brazille; John Botelis, Mgr. ETU, Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA)



Postmaster Dempsey White, Congr. Frank Wolf; MSC Mgr. Gerald F. Merna; Aide to Congressman Frank Wolf



SFC Baker accepts MOH Album from MSC Mgr Jerry Merna as Ms. Jeanne Shaver reads his MOH Citation



Col. Lloyd Burke is congratulated by MSC Mgr. Jerry Merna



LtCol Jack Jacobs accepts MOH Stamp Album and thanks the USPS; R: LtCol Jacobs and Mr. H. Ross Perot



Gen Leon Johnson USAF Ret. listens as his MOH citation is read



Gen. Johnson and daughter, Sarah Abbot



L: SFC Baker; Gen. Johnson; LtCol Walter J. Marm USA



R: Jeanne Shaver, LtCol Marm, And Gerald F. Merna



Col. Reginald R. Myers, US Marine Corps (Ret.) accepts congratulations from fellow Marine 1stLt Gerald F. Merna, US Marine Corps (Ret.), as Postal Supervisor Jeanne Shaver reads Myers' Medal of Honor Citation. Gen. Johnson observes.



Center: PM Kenneth Vliestra (Arlington) and other Family, friends and Guests observe ceremonies



By Dexter Hodges for The Washington Post

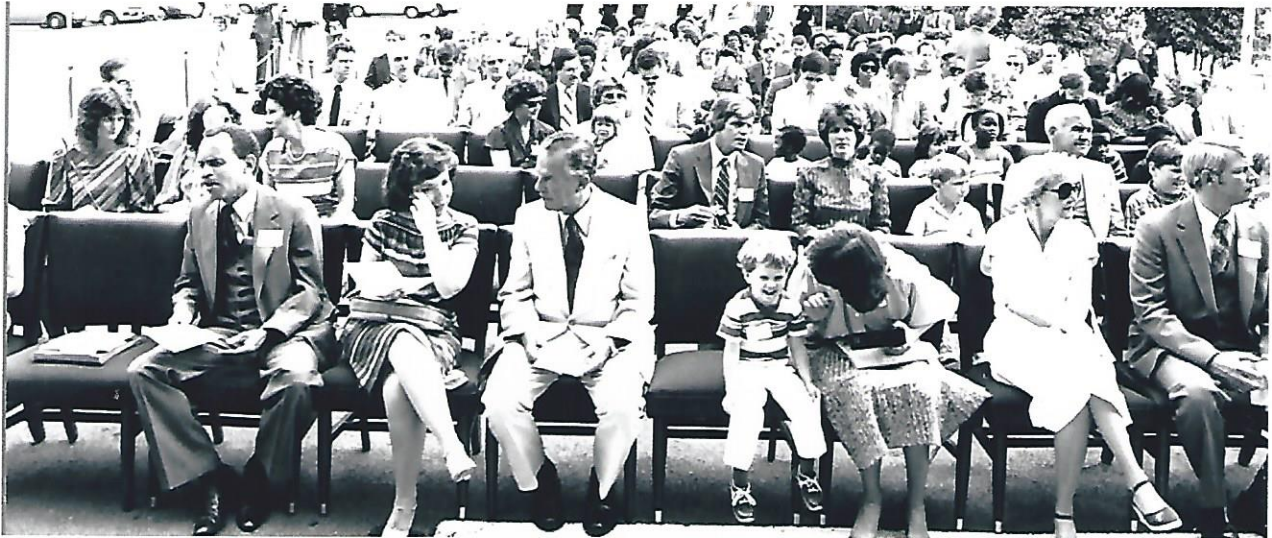
Medal of Honor recipients, at right from left, Air Force Gen. Leon W. Johnson, Army Sgt. 1st Class John F. Baker Jr., Army Lt. Col. Jack H. Jacobs, Army Lt. Col. Walter J. Marm, retired Army colonel Lloyd L. Burke and Marine Corps Col. R.R. Myers at Postal Service ceremony.



Front Row: PM's Tutt (Annandale); Phillips (Alexandria); Wynkoop (Fairfax); Sarah Abbot; Weed (McLean)



L: Col. Robert D. Taplett USMC; Middle: PM Dempsey J. White (Vienna) w-Unk. Army Col; R:PM Ken Vliestra (Arlington)



**1stRow: PM Tutt (Annandale); Donna Brazille; PM Phillips (Alexandria); Unk; PM Wynkoop (Fairfax);
2dRow Ctr.: PM Charles E. Moser w-wife Carole (Woodbridge)**



LtCol Jacobs signs autograph for PM Walter Tutt)



LtCol and Mrs. Jacobs mingle with guests



SFC Baker signs autographs for guest; Six Medal Of Honor recipients observe ceremonies



Ms. Nancy Perot; USPS Hq.Exec. Ron Barco; PM Weed (McLean); H. Ross Perot, LtCol Jacobs, PM Vliestra (Arlington)



PM Walter Tutt w-LtCol & Mrs. Jack Jacobs and Baby



Mrs. Jacobs; Mr. Merna, PM John Hughes (Ft. Belvoir), Postal Supervisor Wynkoop



Cols. Burke, Marm mingle with guests after ceremony



Cols. RADm Boyes, SFC Baker with his friend Donna Brazille



Col. Burke with family, PM Dorie C. C. Lear (Springfield)



PM Wynkoop, Sarah Abbot, General Leon Johnson



Rear: Congressman Wolf; Front: Col. Meyers, Col. Burke, LtCol Jacobs, And Rear: H. Ross Perot



Six Medal of Honor Recipients pose with Rev. Smith, MSC Mgr.Merna and Mr. H. Ross Perot at LaGuingette luncheon



Postmaster and Mrs. (Carole) Charles Moser (Woodbridge) with Father and children of LtCol Marm, MOH

Family, friends and guests at luncheon held at LaGuinette Restaurant, Merrifield, Virginia following ceremony





Special ceremonies honoring the recipients of The Medal of Honor (VA recipients). Color Guard in foreground; MSC Manager Northern VA 22081; center, minister from Rectortown Baptist Church giving invocation; recipients and honored guests, gospel choir in background.

Medal of Honor Ceremony

By, Jill Ornodoff

One of the pleasantest things of this bi-monthly period had to be the ceremony at Merrifield when the recipients of the Medal of Honor were guests of the officials of the MSC. Starting off with a coffee reception upstairs, the group then moved down to the front of the building, where chairs were set up. It was so impressive, with the snap and precision of the color guard leading off, then a welcome and introductory remarks by MSC Manager Jerry Merna. One statement he made we liked "that these Medal of Honor wearers would not think they had made the sacrifices they did for an ungrateful nation."

Each was introduced and was asked to make any remark they liked, then they introduced their families present. One remarked "well I feel like an Oscar winner when I say this, but there were many who helped make these possible; we just happened to be the ones who were singled out." They ranged in age from an Old Guard Army General with ramrod straight back despite a little age on down to several young men from the Korean and Vietnam era. Postmasters from their respective communities also played a part, Curtis Weed, Dempsey White, Charlie Moser, Dorie Lear, Donald Wynkoop, Walter Tutt and Charlie Phillips.

Then there was entertainment by a gospel group from Rectorton Baptist Church and they were great, when they sang God Bless America.

"...Above and Beyond the Call of Duty ..."

The eight Virginians who received the highest award, the Medal of Honor, were recognized at special ceremonies July 1, at Moorefield Post Office. They are: Gen. Leon Jackson, USAF; Col. Lloyd Burke (Ret.) USA; Col. Robert F. Foley, USA; Col. Reginald R. Meyers, USMC; Lt. Col. Jack H. Jacobs, USA; Lt. Col. Walter J. Marm, USA; Sgt. FCL John F. Baker, Jr., USA; Sgt. John L. Levitow, USAF.

The hosts of these honored guests were Postmasters Gerald F. Merna, Sectional Center Manager; Charles C. Philips, Jr., Alexandria; Walter W. Tutt, Jr. Annandale; Donald H. Wynkoop, Fairfax; Curtis M. Weed,

McLean; Dave C. Lear, Springfield; Dempsey J. White, Vienna; and Charles Moser, Woodbridge.

Col. Ret. Ulsaker Sr., Assistant Postmaster General, Retired, Frank Miklozek, Executive Director of NAPUS, Congressman Frank Wolfe, 10th District and other postmasters were in attendance at this very patriotic event. Some of these were Russell Polen, PM Manassas; Shirley Haddock, PM Leesburg; Jill Orndorff, PM Catlett; and Ken Ulietstra, PM Arlington. Ed Binebrink, PM Strasburg, detailed to manager retail sales at MSC and Editor Laura Hall also attended.

... ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY ...

General Leon W. Johnson
United States Air Force
McLean, Virginia

Colonel Lloyd L. Burke (Ret.)
United States Army
Burke, Virginia

Colonel Robert F. Foley
United States Army
Fairfax, Virginia

Colonel Reginald R. Myers
United States Marine Corps
Annandale, Virginia

Lieutenant Colonel Jack H. Jacobs
United States Army
Annandale, Virginia

Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Marm
United States Army
Woodbridge, Virginia

Sergeant First Class John F. Baker, Jr.
United States Army
Alexandria, Virginia

Sergeant John L. Levitow
United States Air Force
Vienna, Virginia

Northern Virginia Management Sectional Center
8429 Lee Highway
Merrifield, Virginia 22081-0998

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF
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MUSICAL SELECTIONS
Gospel Chorus

ADDRESS AND
PRESENTATION OF ALBUMS



On June 7, 1982, Postmaster General William F. Bolger selected the Medal of Honor winners. At the request of the Postmaster General, we take pride in presenting featured columns of these stamps to right Northern Virginia residents who have received this Medal.



**United States
Postal Service**

July 11, 1983

Mr. H. Ross Perot, President
Electronic Data Systems
7171 Forest Lane
Dallas, Tx. 75230

Dear Ross:

What a honor and a privilege it was to have you and Nancy in attendance at our ceremony honoring eight Northern Virginia residents who were awarded the Medal of Honor.

The Medal of Honor recipients and their families were very impressed and appreciative that you took time out from your busy schedule to attend the ceremony. Your presence at the ceremony and remarks at the luncheon helped make July 1, 1983 a day many of us will not soon forget.

Please accept this Medal of Honor Commemorative Postage Stamp album as a souvenir of this most memorable day.

If I can be of assistance to you in any way please do not hesitate to let me know.

With Warmest Regards,

Jerry

Gerald F. Merna
Sectional Center Manager
MSC Northern Virginia 22081-9998

H. R. PEROT
7171 FOREST LANE
DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

August 5, 1983

Mr. Gerald F. Merna
Sectional Center Manager
United States Postal Service
MSC Northern Virginia 22081-9998

Dear Jerry,

I had a great day with you and your team at the ceremony honoring the Medal of Honor winners.

Your tour of the postal center was particularly exciting to me. You have built a strong team. I wish every taxpayer could see the level of effort and enthusiasm your people have for their work.

The book commemorating the Medal of Honor ceremony just arrived. Looking through it brought back many pleasant memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Jerry, please excuse my delay in writing. I have been travelling non-stop on a public school project for the State of Texas since we visited.

I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Ross

RP/sw



United States Postal Service

July 1, 1983

Welcome to the Northern Virginia Management Sectional Center.

This facility was opened in March, 1972 and is located in Fairfax County at 8409 Lee Highway, Merrifield, Virginia. It occupies approximately 26 acres, including a central Vehicle Maintenance Facility, customer and employee parking and landscaped areas.

The workroom and several support management offices occupy the ground floor area of this industrial type building. On the next floor (lobby level) is the Merrifield Branch with its window service, lockboxes and Philatelic Center. Also on that floor is the Employee & Labor Relations Offices, personnel office, employment office, the claims office and the Arlington-Northern Virginia Postal Employees Federal Credit Union. The MSC Manager's office, his immediate staff, and the Inspection Service offices are located on the second floor.

This Management Sectional Center has the administrative and operational responsibility for 86 post offices and 58 branches and stations in the Northern Virginia area. The Merrifield Facility has approximately 1700 employees engaged in Mail Processing, Customer Services, Finance and Personnel. Our 144 field units have an additional 2300 employees, for a total of over 4000 employees.

We hope that the Medal of Honor Ceremony was a memorable event and that you enjoyed your visit to our facility.

Tours are available upon request by calling (703) 698-6600.

Sincerely,

Gerald F. Merna
Sectional Center Manager
MSC Northern Virginia 22081-9998

GERALD F. (JERRY) MERNA

Gerald F. Merna was appointed Sectional Center Manager of the Northern Virginia Management Sectional Center, located in Merrifield, VA, May 1, 1982. In this position he directs postal operations for 1.7 million customers in a 3,861 square mile area, with an operating budget of \$125 million. He has the administrative and operational responsibility for 156 post offices, branches and stations in 11 counties of the Northern Virginia area, including three Vehicle Maintenance Facilities with over 1,000 postal vehicles. The Merrifield Facility has 1,700 employees engaged in Mail Processing, Customer Services, Finance and Personnel. The 156 field units have an additional 2,300 employees, for a total of over 4,000 employees.

Mr. Merna was the Executive Assistant to Postmaster General William F. Bolger from December 1978 to April 1982. In this position, he served as a principal personal advisor to the Postmaster General on matters involving policy formulation, organization, and administration. He also served as Secretary to the USPS Executive Committee and coordinated the activities for Board of Governors meetings, and was USPS liaison to the Postal Rate Commission. He joined the Postal Service as an Administrative Officer in the Bureau of Research and Engineering in October 1968 and advanced through Management positions of Program Analyst, Branch Manager in the Office of Compensation (Job Evaluation), General Manager of Budget and Planning in the Employee and Labor Relations Group, and National Coordinator of the Postal Service's Revenue Protection Task Force. He was Special Assistant to Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar from January to December 1978. Postal field experience included assignments as Acting Postmaster/OIC of the Lynchburg, Virginia Post Office/General Mail Facility and Acting Manager of the Northern Virginia Management Center early in 1981.

He was born in New York City, and at an early age became a resident of St. Dominic's and St. Agnes Convents in Rockland County, New York. From age 17 he served for almost 22 years as an enlisted man and a commissioned officer in the U. S. Marine Corps, with combat service in the Korean Conflict in 1952-1953 and the Vietnam War in 1966-1967, and is the recipient of numerous personal and unit military awards, decorations, and citations.

Mr. Merna graduated from Tappan Zee High School in Piermont, New York, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Master's degree in Personnel Management from the George Washington University in Washington, D. C. He has also completed the Advanced Management Program at the University of Southern California and management seminars at Harvard University, the University of Virginia, American Management Associations, and the National Institute of Public Affairs. He also attended the Systems Acquisition Management Course for General/Flag Officers, Department of Defense, at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia in 1981.

Mr. Merna is active in civic and community affairs. He currently serves as a Director (Class of 1986) of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) and was a member of the Board of Governors of the George Washington University General Alumni Association from 1976 to 1982; he also served as Vice President for Operations of the Virginia Hills Citizens Association in Alexandria (Fairfax County), Virginia.

He and his wife, Dorothy, have two children, Mrs. John (Linda) Figura, 29, and Gerald T., 27.



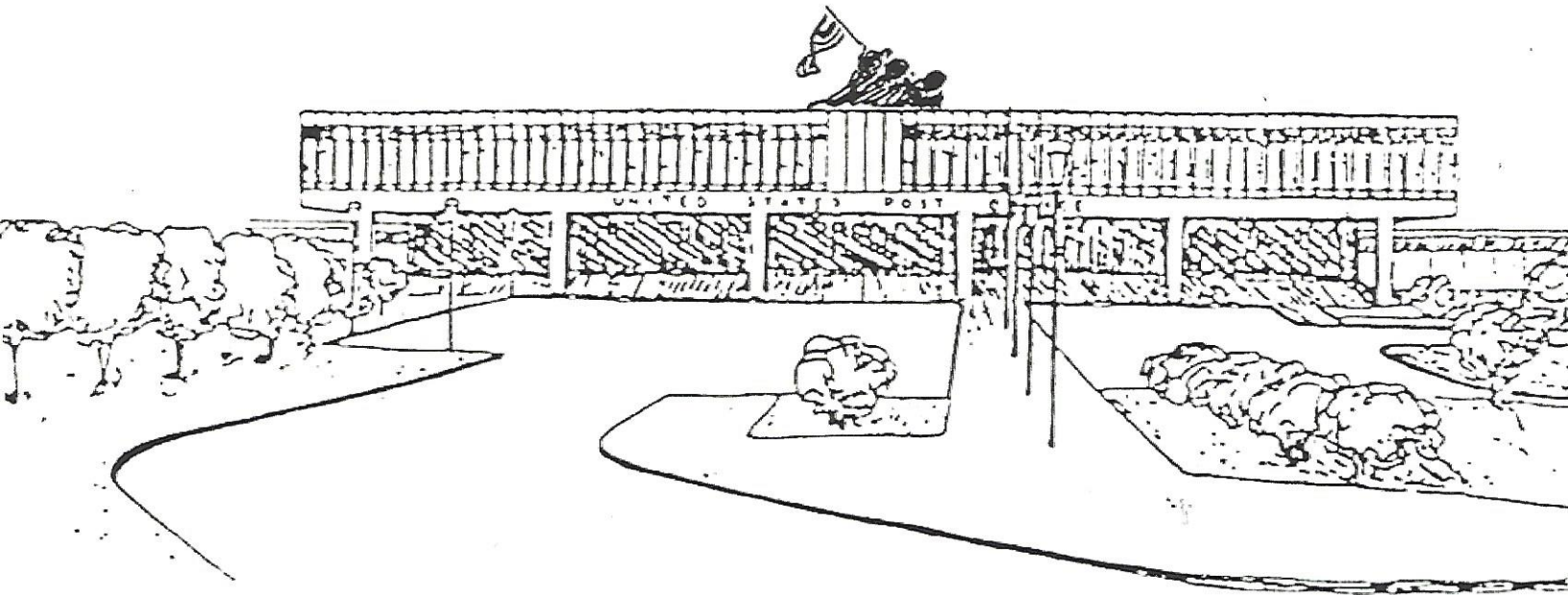
Heroes

Northern VA MSC Manager Gerald F. Merna (fourth from left) honors six Medal of Honor recipients who reside in his MSC area during a special philatelic ceremony July 1 at Merrifield. The Medal of Honor recipients, from left: Col. Reginald R. Myers, of Annandale; Lt. Col. Walter J. Marm, of Woodbridge; Lt. Col. Jack H. Jacobs, of Annandale; Merna; SFC John F. Baker Jr., of Alexandria; Gen. Leon W. Johnson, of McLean; and Col. Lloyd L. Burke (Ret.), of Burke.



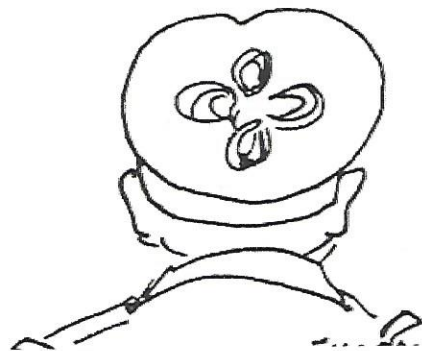


SEMPER FI



U. S. POSTAL SERVICE

MSC NORTHERN VIRGINIA 22081-9998



"LOOKS LIKE MERNA'S
PUTTING UP THA
FLAG AGAIN!!"