

# APRIL 2019

*Tell everyone about God's power. His majesty shines down on Israel; his strength is mighty in the heavens. God is awesome in his sanctuary. The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God! Ps 68:34-35, New Living Translation.*

## Free Veterans Trips to see the War Memorials, D.C.

Franklin County Honor Flight: [www.fchonorflight.org](http://www.fchonorflight.org).

Greater Saint Louis Honor Flight: [www.gslhonorflight.org](http://www.gslhonorflight.org)

VetsRoll (Four Day Bus Ride for anyone including Rosie the Riveters that served prior to Dec 31, 1963): [www.VetsRoll.org](http://www.VetsRoll.org)

Jefferson Barracks POW MIA Museum: [jbpow-mia.org/](http://jbpow-mia.org/)

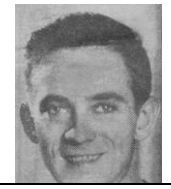
Veterans' Daily Spiritual Vitamins: [DUKEDUVALL.COM](http://DUKEDUVALL.COM)  
(800-939-5689)

This calendar compliments of Pvt George Phillips Detachment #1214, Marine Corps League P.O. Box #1, Ballwin, MO 63022, Carl E. Ramsey, editor. **To learn you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction. Pr 12:1.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Okinawa, 4/1- 6/22/1945.	<b>2</b> Copen- hagen, 1801; Argentina invades Falklands, 1982.	<b>3</b> Grant takes Richmond, 1865. US takes Baghdad, 2003.	<b>4</b> Nato, 1949. Fallujah thru May 1, 2004.	<b>5</b> Alexander Nevsky, Battle of the Ice, 1242.	<b>6</b> Shiloh, 1862. US declares war on Germany, 1917.
<b>7</b> US sinks Yamato 1945.	<b>8</b> Khe Sanh, 1/21- 4/8/1968 or 7/9/1968.	<b>9</b> Appo- mattox Court House, 1865.	<b>10</b> Vimy Ridge, 1917. USS Thresher lost, 1963.	<b>11</b> Napoleon abdicates, 1814. Great Locomotive Race, 1862.	<b>12</b> Ft Sumter begins, 1861.	<b>13</b> Civil War cavalry battle at, Morrisville, 4/13- 15/1865.
<b>14</b> Ft Sumter falls, 1861. Lincoln shot, 1865.	<b>15</b> Titanic sinks, 1912.	<b>16</b> US liberates Colditz POW camp, 1945.	<b>17</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Battle of Pork Chop Hill, 4/17- 18/1953.	<b>18</b> Gold and scarlet official USMC colors, 1925.	<b>19</b> Lexington & Concord, 1 <sup>st</sup> battle of American Revolution, 1775.	<b>20</b> Red Baron shoots down planes 79- 80; KIA next day, 1918.
<b>21</b> San Jacinto, Texans capture Santa Anna, 1836.	<b>22</b> Imjin British fight in Korea, 4/22- 25/1951.	<b>23</b> Kapyong Chinese offensive halted, 1951.	<b>24</b> Attempted Iran hostage rescue, 1980.	<b>25</b> Spanish American War, 4/25/- 8/12/1898.	<b>26</b> Battle of Cape Girardeau, MO, 1863.	<b>27</b> US Marines take Derne, Tripoli, 4/27- 5/13/1805.
<b>28</b> Bounty Mutiny, 1789. Mussolini hanged, 1945.	<b>29</b> Last American dies in Vietnam.	<b>30</b> Hitler Suicide, 1945.	<div> <b>US Navy &amp; Marines disbanded April, 1783, reactivated for Naval War with French Republic, 1798.</b> </div>			

# April is a month of great battles and great heroes Page 2

(Sources include Wikipedia, [www.homeofheroes.com](http://www.homeofheroes.com), and [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)). Medal of Honor Heroes pictured below.



**4/1/1899, Samoa Civil War, Gunner's Mate, 1st Class Frederick Thomas Fisher (No Pic), Sgt Michael Joseph McNally, Sgt Bruno Albert Forsterer, & Pvt Henry Lewis Hulbert, for distinguished conduct in the presence of the enemy, when Anglo American landing force walked into ambush.** **April, 1942, Lt Richard N. Antrim, POW at Makasser, Celebes, intervened at risk of life when he offered to take beating of fellow POW.**

**4/1/1942, General Douglas MacArthur** for defense of Philippines. (MOH recommended for Vera Cruz, 1914, & WW I) **4/1/1970, Sgt Gary B. Beikirch**, medic who endured gunfire and injuries to save wounded & Sp4 Peter C. Lemon, 1st Canadian MOH since WW II, wounded, fired machinegun at enemy, refusing evacuation until injured comrades were taken. **4/3/1945, PFC Walter C. Wetzel** smothered 2 grenades, Birken, Germany, KIA.



**4/4/1969, SSgt Felix M. Conde-Falcon** MOH awarded posthumously for courageous actions serving as an acting platoon leader 82d Airborne Division during combat operations against armed enemy. **4/4-8/1970, SFC Gary L. Littrell** risked his life to direct artillery and air support by day and marked unit's location by night; despite enemy fire he led his men until help arrived. **4/4/2003, SFC Paul R. Smith** held enemy at bay allowing for wounded to be carried out; KIA in process. **4/5/1945, Cpl Thomas J. Kelly**, Alemert, Germany, made 10 separate trips through brutal fire, each time bringing out a man. He guided 7 more casualties who were able to crawl by themselves from the hail of fire. After he had completed his self-imposed task and was near collapse from fatigue, he refused to leave his platoon until the attack had been resumed and the objective taken.

**4/5/1945, PFC Sadao Munemori**, near Serravalle, Italy, took command and in frontal one-man attacks, took out 2 machineguns, then saved 2 soldiers by jumping on grenade, KIA. **4/5-6/1945, 2nd Lt Vernon J. Baker** destroyed enemy personnel and equipment, Viareggio, Italy; he took out 2 machine guns the first night. **4/5/1951, Hospitalman Richard De Wert**, although wounded gave medical assistance to four consecutive wounded Marines; killed tending fourth.



**4/5/1970, Sgt Brian L. Buker** sacrificed life to lead men against enemy and personally destroyed 2 bunkers with grenades.

Color Guide: Black Air Force/ Army Air Corps; Green Army, **Marines/ Navy Corpsman**; Blue Navy/Coast Guard.  
Background: **Yellow=POW MIA**, Grey=Grenade.



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**4/6/1945**, 1st Lt Raymond O. Beaudoin enabled a messenger to secure help, saving a stricken unit & defeating enemy near Hamelin, Ger. & 1st Lt James E. Robinson Jr., mortally wounded, captured town with small surviving force, then walked 2 miles to aid station where he died.



**4/7/1945**, Pvt Willy F. James, Jr. Lippoldsberg, Germany, 1 of 7 African Americans upgraded to MOH by Clinton; as lead scout was first to draw enemy fire & was pinned down for over an hour while he observed enemy positions. Returning to his platoon, he assisted in working out a plan of maneuver, then led a squad in the assault, accurately designating targets until he was killed by enemy machine gun fire while going to the aid of his fatally wounded platoon leader.



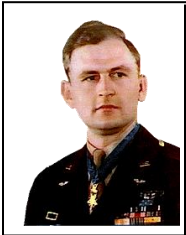
**4/7/1943**, 1st Lt James E. Swett flight, leader of VMFA-221 on first combat mission, shot down 8 bombers Solomon Islands. **4/7/1945**, PFC Mike Colalillo near Untergriesham, Germany, killed or wounded 25 of the enemy in bitter fighting, and assisted a wounded soldier & TSgt Yukio Okutsu on Mt Belvedere, Italy, eliminated 2 machine guns & captured 3. **4/8/1945**, SSgt John R. Crews, Loberbacherhof, Germany, wounded, eliminated machinegun & strongly emplaced automatic rifle. 7 surrendered and the others fled.



**4/8/1967**, Sp4 Don L. Michael destroyed a Viet Cong Bunker and was then killed as he chased retreating soldiers. **4/9/1943**, Pvt Robert D. Booker, Fondouk, Tunisia, drew fire to silence 1 machinegun, KIA attacking 2nd. **4/9/1945**, PFC Edward J. Moskala killed 25 Japs in dangerous position during 3 hour fight, KIA protecting wounded after killing 4 infiltrators. **4/10/1969**, Sp4 Jesus S. Duran received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as an acting M-60 machine gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during combat operations against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1969. **4/10-13/1972**, Lt Thomas R. Norris (Left Pic 1 & 2), Navy Seal who rescued 2 downed pilots deep within heavily controlled enemy territory with Petty Officer 3rd Class Nguyen Van Kiet who received Navy Cross for rescue. His actions were dramatized in the movie *Bat\*21*.

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**4/11/1862**, Great Locomotive Chase that resulted in 1<sup>st</sup> MOH recipients. (See Page. 8) **4/11/1944**, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Edward S. Michael landed a damaged plane, evading fighters because his bombardier's chute was too shot up for use. **4/11/1966**, Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class William H. Pitsenbarger refused evacuation tending wounded and defending position, KIA. **4/11/1966**, Sgt James W. Robinson sacrificed life to destroy bunker and protect soldiers, KIA. **4/11/1970**, LCpl Emilio De La Garza smothered grenade, KIA.



**4/13/1945**, PFC Dexter J. Kerstetter, Luzon, Philippines, killed 16 Japs taking key position. **4/14/1945**, PFC John D. Magrath near Castel d'Aiano, Italy, eliminated 3 machineguns & numerous enemies. **4/14/1945**, Lt Cmdr George L. Street III, Harbor of Cheju, Quelpart Island, off the coast of Korea, torpedoed 3 ships while captain of USS Triante. **4/14/2004**, Cpl Jason Dunham, Iraq, near Syrian Border; fought hand-to-hand, then fell on grenade, KIA.



**4/12/1945**, SSgt Henry E. Erwin, Japan, after phosphorus bomb exploded in his aircraft, wounding him, he picked up burning device & tossed it out a window. **4/12/1945**, PFC Joe R. Hastings, (also see grave bottom page) eliminated 20 mm gun, 40 mm gun, machine guns, & German soldiers; KIA. **4/13/1911**, Capt Julian Edmond Victor Gaujot, crossed field of fire to obtain the permission of the rebel commander to receive surrender of surrounded forces of Mexican Federals and escort them together with five Americans held as prisoners (1 of 5 sets of MOH Brothers). **4/13/1945**, TSgt Beauford T. Anderson, Okinawa, risked his life to save soldiers and single-handedly repel enemy; intrepid conduct in the face of overwhelming odds accounted for 25 enemy dead and several machineguns and mortars destroyed, thus removing a serious threat to the company's flank.

**Lower Left: 4/15/1945**, PFC Harold Gonsalves, Okinawa, fell on a grenade, KIA. **4/16/1945**, Cpl Richard E. Bush, Okinawa, fell on grenade & survived (In WW II 4 of 27 Marines who survived grenades and were awarded the Medal of Honor were Richard Bush, Jacklyn H. Lucas, Carlton R. Rouh, and Richard K. Sorenson.) **4/16/1952**, Cpl Duane E. Dewey, Korea, fell on grenade & survived. **4/16/1967**, Sp4 George A. Ingalls (Below) smothered grenade, KIA.





# April is a month of great battles and great heroes Page 5

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**4/17/1915**, Chief Gunner's Mate Frank W. Crilley wreck site USS F-4 (bottom page 7) off Honolulu, rescued another diver tangled in wreckage and trapped underwater. **4/17/1918**, Ship's Cook 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Jesse W. Covington & Ensign Frank M. Upton, USS Stewart, both dove overboard and rescued man surrounded by boxes of explosives. **4/17/1945**, Nuremburg, Germany, 1st Lt Frank Burke killed 11, wounded 3 & took leading role in which an additional 29 enemy were killed or wounded.

**4/18/1942**, Lt Col Jimmy Doolittle led raid over Japan. **4/18/1945**, Nuremburg, Germany, 1st Lt Michael J. Daly single-handedly eliminated 15 German soldiers, including a German patrol, and destroyed 3 machinegun nests. **4/18/1945**, Lohe, Germany, Pvt Joseph F. Merrell in a spectacular 1 man attack killed 6 Germans in first machinegun nest, 7 in next, & an additional 10 infantrymen in his path to weapons which would have decimated his unit, when he was KIA. **4/19-21/1945**, PFC Martin O. May, Ryukyu Islands, against overwhelming forces, killed 16 Japs & was mainly responsible for maintaining American lines until KIA.



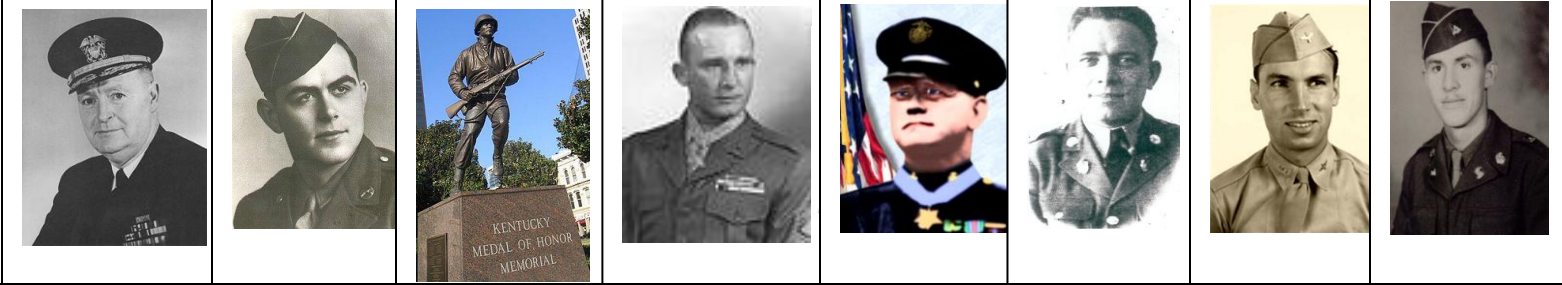
**4/19/1967**, Maj Leo K. Thorsness risked life in rescue of 3 downed aviators. He was shot down two weeks later and spent 6 years in captivity in North Vietnam as a prisoner of war. After his military service, Thorsness served one term in the Washington State Senate (He is one of only nine known Eagle Scouts who also received the Medal of Honor. The others are **Aquilla J. Dyess** and **Mitchell Paige** of the U.S. Marine Corps, Robert Edward Femoyer and Jay Zeamer, Jr. of the U.S. Army Air Forces, Arlo L. Olson, Benjamin L. Salomon of the United States Army, and **Eugene B. Fluckey** and **Thomas R. Norris** of the United States Navy). **4/20-22/1945**, San Tendola, Italy Pvt Joe Hayashi eliminated multiple machineguns & enemy soldiers before he was KIA. **4/20,26/1967**, Lt Cmdr **Michael J. Estocin**, flying an A-4 Sky Hawk destroyed 3 SAM sites on first date and was attacking a SAM site as part of a coordinated attack on Hai-phong Harbor on second date when he was hit by a SAM; he was presumed to be a POW until 1993 when it was determined he died in crash; MIA.



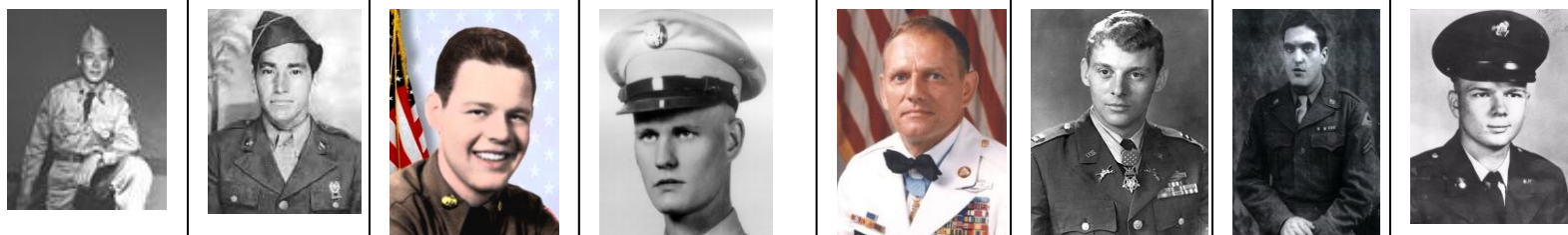
**4/21/1945**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Daniel K. Inouye (Pic 4 Prev column) eliminated 2 machineguns, killed 25, captured 8, severely wounded in his arm, later US senator from Hawaii. **4/21/1967**, Pvt Gary W. Martini sacrificed life to move wounded comrade to safety. **4/22/1914**, Maj Smedley Butler, was best known of 9 USMC & 53 Navy MOH recipients for US occupation of Veracruz, "for distinguished conduct in battle." When he said he didn't deserve it was ordered to wear it prominently. He received second for Haiti in **11/17/1915**; known in the Corps as **Old Gimlet Eye**. **4/22/ 1945**, PFC William H. Thomas, Philippines, legs blown off, refused aid & continued to fire, killing 3; died next day. **4/22/1951**, Pvt Herbert A. Littleton smothered grenade, KIA.

# April is a month of great battles and great heroes Page 6

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**4/23/1918**, Lt Cmdr Alexander G. Lyle one of only two dentists to receive Medal Of Honor; serving with 5th Marines, exposed himself to fire to treat wounded Cpl; retired as Vice Admiral in 1948. **4/23 - 24/1944**, PFC John C. Squires (Pic 2) captured over 13 machineguns & enemy soldiers, KIA in subsequent action, Padiglione, Italy (Pic 3 is statue of Squires). **4/23-24/1951**, TSgt Harold E. Wilson (Pic 4 served in WW II, Korea, and Viet Nam & also received 5 Purple Hearts), with multiple wounds continued to lead men when he could only load weapons in all night battle; accounted for everyone before walking unassisted to an aide station. **4/24/1932**, Cpl Donald Truesdale (Pic 5, later Truesdell), in Nicaragua, lost an arm attempting to throw a prematurely armed rifle grenade away from comrades (earliest known grenade MOH). **4/24/1943**, Sgt William L. Nelson (Pic 6), Tunisia, directed mortar barrage halting enemy counterattack, mortally wounded, continued to direct the fire until KIA 50 yards from the enemy. **4/24-25/1945**, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Raymond L. Knight (Pic 7) northern Po Valley, Italy, flying P-47 Thunderbolt, eliminated German aircraft which were poised to wreak havoc on Allied forces pressing to establish the first firm bridgehead across the Po River. He personally accounted for 12 aircraft while his flight accounted for 7 more; KIA when attempting to fly battle damaged plane back to base on 25th & crashed into Apennine Mountains. **4/24-25/1951**, Cpl Clair Goodblood (Pic 8), voluntarily covered withdrawal of his company; KIA after refusing medical aid and being rushed by enemy human wave charge; his body was found with over 100 enemy dead.



**4/24-25/1951**, Cpl Hiroshi M. Miyamura, 1st Top Secret MOH; he was in Chinese POW camp after killing 50 enemies many with bayonet in battle in which he was captured. **4/25/1945**, PFC David M. Gonzales, Philippines, KIA after digging out 2 of 5 men buried by 500 pound bomb accidentally dropped on American Lines. **4/25/1951**, Cpl John Essebagger, Jr. repeatedly attacked enemy with machinegun fire until KIA. **4/25/1951**, PFC Charles L. Gilliland KIA after volunteering to stay behind and keep enemy at bay so his unit could pull out.

**4/25/1967**, Sp4 Kenneth E. Stumpf rescued 3 injured squad members, then led squad to destroy heavily fortified bunker complex. **4/25/1968**, 1st Lt James M. Sprayberry led patrol which rescued 3 injured squad members; in process destroyed several heavily fortified bunkers and machinegun emplacements. **4/26/1951**, SFC Ray E. Duke convinced others to leave & seek safety as he continued to fire at the enemy until KIA. **4/26/1968**, PFC Milton A. Lee over ran enemy squad to provide cover fire, then over ran a second when he was mortally wounded.



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**4/27/1899**, Calumpit, Philippines, Col Frederick Funston, crossed the river on a raft enabling commanding general to carry enemy's entrenched position on north bank of the river & drive him with great loss from the important strategic position. Pvt William B. Trembley & Pvt Edward White swam river in face of fire and fastened rope to occupied trenches, enabling crossing and driving enemy from positions. **4/28/1943**, Pvt Nicholas Minue, Tunisia, killed 10 enemy, continued routing foe until KIA.

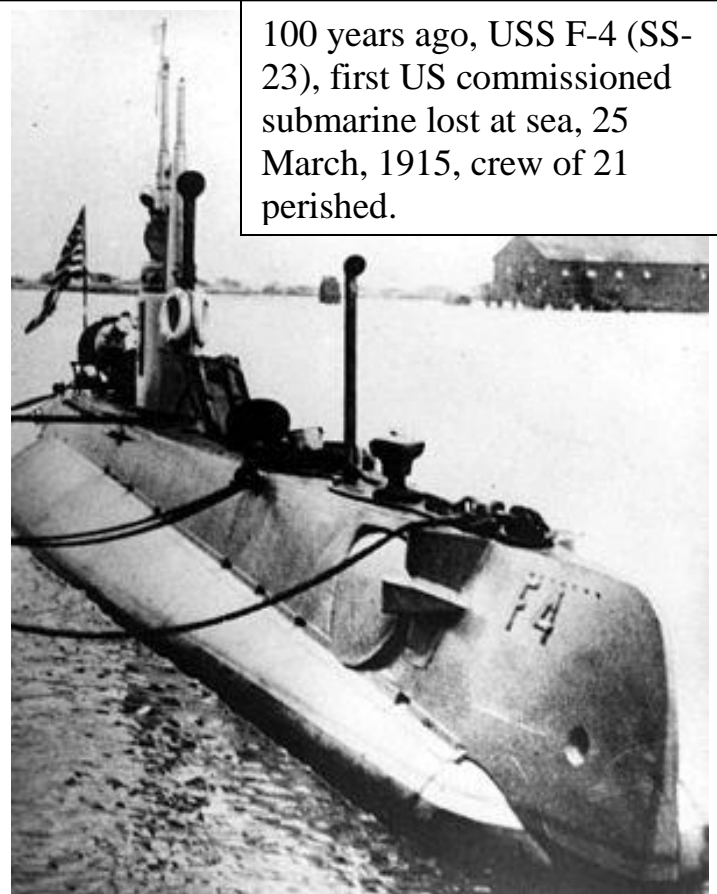


**4/28/1945**, PFC Alejandro R. Ruiz, Okinawa, attacked pillbox, killing 12 of the enemy and completely destroying the position. **4/28/1951**, MSgt Juan E. Negron received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions while serving as a member of Company L, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Kalma-Eri, Korea on April 28, 1951, KIA.



**4/29/1945-5/21/1945**, PFC Desmond T. Doss, Okinawa, Medic, first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor and 1 of only 3 so honored (Others are Thomas W. Bennett and Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr.). **4/30/1968-5/2/1968**, Capt Jay R. Vargas, wounded 3 times, continued to lead men in 3 day battle; requested mother's name engraved on medal.

100 years ago, USS F-4 (SS-23), first US commissioned submarine lost at sea, 25 March, 1915, crew of 21 perished.

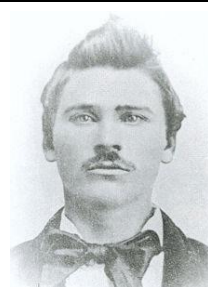
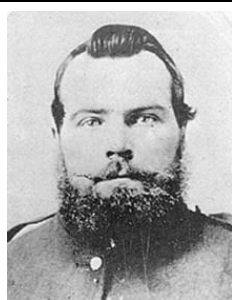
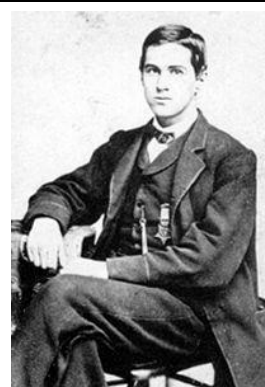
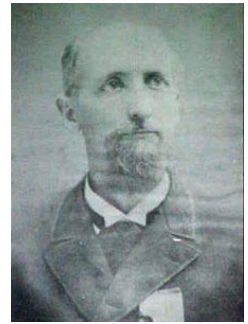


Left: USS Stewart. See MOH Story 4/17/1918



# April is a month of great battles and great heroes Page 8

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**4/11/1862**, Great Locomotive Chase, MOH awarded Mar 25: 1863, Row 1. Pvt Jacob Parrott, 1<sup>st</sup> recipient; Pvt William Bensinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> recipient; Pvt, Robert Buffum, 3<sup>rd</sup> recipient; Sgt Elihu H. Mason, 4<sup>th</sup> recipient; Sgt William Pittenger, 5<sup>th</sup> recipient (although he received his first in Walt Disney film, based on his book). Row 2. Cpl William H. H. Reddick, 6<sup>th</sup> recipient; MOH awarded Sep 17, 1863: Sgt Wilson W. Brown, served as the engineer; Cpl Daniel Allen Dorsey; Pvt Williams James Knight, Pvt John Reed Porter, last living raider; Row 3, Pvt Samuel Robertson; Sgt Major Marion A. Ross; Pvt John Alfred Wilson; Pvt Mark Wood, from Nottingham, England. MOH Awarded July 6, 1864: Pvt Ovid Wellford "James" Smith. Row 4, MOH awarded July 20, 1864, Pvt John Wollam; MOH awarded July 28, 1883: Pvt Samuel Slavens; MOH awarded Aug 4, 1866: Sgt John Morehead Scott, MOH awarded Jan 28, 2008: Pvt Charles Perry Shadrack (Philip Gephart Shadrach) & Pvt George Davenport Wilson.