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### **Congressional Medal of Honor Society Announces 2025's Citizen Honors Awards Finalists**

#### **Awards to be Presented at Dinner on National Medal of Honor Day, March 25**

Washington, DC, February 13, 2025 – Today, The Congressional Medal of Honor Society (The Society), announced the top 20 finalists for the 2025 Citizen Honors Awards. The finalists were selected through two rounds of judging by independent panels. More than 300 nominations from around the country were received for this prestigious award.

The Citizen Honors Awards recognize Americans whose exceptional courage and selfless service embody the values of the Medal of Honor: courage and sacrifice; commitment and integrity; citizenship and patriotism.

Americans across the country display remarkable 'courage' and selflessness every day. Whether through a single heroic act or a sustained commitment to serving others, these actions reflect the very essence of the American spirit and are celebrated annually by our nation's greatest heroes.

Medal of Honor Recipients selected VETLIFE from Howell, Michigan as Finalist for the Citizen Honors Award for their work to create a healthier and more prosperous lifestyle for veterans and their families. Through innovative programming, direct outreach, and community partnerships, VETLIFE makes a tangible difference by ensuring that military service members, veterans, and their families receive the support they need to thrive. The organization's efforts extend across multiple domains, including healthcare, education, mental health, employment, and quality of life, with a focus on bridging systemic gaps that often leave veterans underserved. A cornerstone of VETLIFE's work is connecting veterans to their entitled benefits through personal, hands-on outreach and innovative technology. By providing veterans with the tools and support they need to succeed, VETLIFE creates a ripple effect that benefits communities, organizations, and the nation as a whole.

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The full list of finalists is attached.

From the finalists, five U.S. citizens and one organization will receive the Citizen Honors Awards. The Valor Awards (Single Act and Young Hero) and Service Awards (Service Act, Community Service, and Youth Service) will be presented on March 25, 2025, National Medal of Honor Day, at a formal dinner at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Arlington, Virginia.

The honorees receive this award from a group of Americans whose actions have defined the words courage and selfless service — the living members of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. These brave Americans received the Medal of Honor for their acts of valor performed during wartime and will proudly

present the Citizen Honors Awards to Americans who have shown courage or have dedicated themselves to service at home.

**About National Medal of Honor Day:**

March 25 was established by Congress in 1991 as National Medal of Honor Day to “foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor Recipients.” March 25th was chosen because it was on this day in 1863, that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrews’ Raiders. To its Recipients, the Medal of Honor represents more than recognition of combat actions. It symbolizes the sacrifices of those they served alongside and those who came before.

This year, Medal of Honor Recipients will spend several days participating in community outreach activities and events across the country, including a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, wreath-laying services will take place at the Medal of Honor Memorial in Indianapolis, IN, the Medal of Honor Memorial in Riverside, CA, and the Medal of Honor Museum on the U.S.S. Yorktown in Mount Pleasant, SC.

**About the Congressional Medal of Honor Society**

Chartered by Congress in 1958, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society’s membership is comprised of those who wear the Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest military award for valor. As individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, the Medal of Honor Recipients are committed to serving our country in peace as they did in war by championing the values of courage, sacrifice, integrity, commitment, patriotism, and citizenship. The nonprofit Society preserves their stories and shares their values through Outreach and Education initiatives and its Medal of Honor Museum. By serving, remembering, supporting, and honoring the sacrifice of the Recipients, by sharing the stories and values inherent in them, we understand the responsibility and potential within each one of us to impact the world.

**About the Medal of Honor Foundation**

The Medal of Honor Foundation, the producer of the Citizen Honors Awards, is a gold-rated 501(c)(3) charity established to advance the work of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and ensure it has the resources to thrive in its mission. The Foundation delivers educational programs built upon the Medal of Honor values: courage, commitment, citizenship, integrity, sacrifice, and patriotism. This includes the Medal of Honor Character Development Program, a free K-12 values-based curriculum for schools. The program utilizes a vast library of living history videos featured on cmohs.org: the most comprehensive internet resource on the Medal of Honor available. The Foundation’s programs and operations are fully funded by generous donors.

More information on the finalists and the Citizen Honors Awards are available by contacting Kristi Hellmuth at 703-731-1042 or [Kristi.hellmuth@datocwitten.com](mailto:Kristi.hellmuth@datocwitten.com) or visit <https://www.cmohs.org/citizen-honors>

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