

Lancaster County Medal of Honor Recipients

Milton Blickensderfer

- Rank: Corporal (Highest Rank: Sergeant)
- Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War
- Unit/Command: Company E, 126th Ohio Infantry
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: April 3, 1865
- Medal of Honor Action Place: Petersburg, Virginia, USA

Citation: Capture of flag.

- **Awarded Posthumously: No**
- **Presentation Date & Details: May 10, 1865**
- **Born: May 20, 1835, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA, United States**
- **Died: March 17, 1916**
- **Buried: Eastlawn Cemetery (MH) (1-152-6), Sugar Creek, OH, United States**

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Trustim Connell

- Rank: Corporal
- Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War
- Unit/Command: Company I, 138th Pennsylvania Infantry
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: April 6, 1865
- Medal of Honor Action Place: Deatonville (Sailor's Creek), Virginia

Citation: Capture of flag

- **Awarded Posthumously: No**
- **Presentation Date & Details: May 10, 1865**
- **Born: May 12, 1844, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA, United States**
- **Died: February 17, 1937, Pheonix, AZ, United States**
- **Buried: Rosedale Cemetery (PM) (I-160-1SW), Los Angeles, CA, United States**
- **Location of Medal: Arizona Science Center (currently on loan to the Wells Fargo Museum, Phoenix, AZ), Phoenix, AZ**

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Charles H. Fasnacht

- Rank: Sergeant (Highest Rank: First Lieutenant)
- Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War
- Unit/Command: Company A, 99th Pennsylvania Infantry
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: May 12, 1864
- Medal of Honor Action Place: Spotsylvania, Virginia, USA

Citation: Capture of flag of 2d Louisiana Tigers (C.S.A.), in a hand-to-hand contest.

- **Awarded Posthumously: No**
- **Presentation Date & Details: April 2, 1878**
- **Born: March 27, 1842, Lancaster County, PA, United States**
- **Died: July 21, 1902**
- **Buried: Greenwood Cemetery (MH) (Mifflin-1010), Lancaster, PA, United States**

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Isacc N. Fry

Rank: Orderly Sergeant

Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War

Unit/Command: U.S.S. Ticonderoga

Military Service Branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Medal Of Honor Action Date: January 13 - 15, 1865

Medal Of Honor Action Place: Fort Fisher, North Carolina, USA

Citation: On board the U.S.S. Ticonderoga during attacks on Fort Fisher, 13 to 15 January 1865. As orderly sergeant of marine guard and captain of a gun, Orderly Sgt. Fry performed his duties with skill and courage as the Ticonderoga maintained a well-placed fire upon the batteries to the left of the palisades during the initial phases of the three-day battle, and thereafter, as she considerably lessened the firing power of guns on the mount which had been turned upon our assaulting columns. During this action the flag was planted on one of the strongest fortifications possessed by the rebels.

Awarded posthumously: No

Born: 1839, Hinkletown, Lancaster County, Pa, United States

Died: November 3, 1900, Edison Township, SD, United States

Buried: Summit Hill Cemetery (1-2-5-6), Garretson, Edison Township, SD, United States

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Chester Furman

- Rank: Corporal
- Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War
- Unit/Command: Company A, 6th Pennsylvania Reserves
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: July 2, 1863
- Medal of Honor Action Place: Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, USA

Citation: Was one of six volunteers who charged upon a log house near Devil's Den, where a squad of the enemy's sharpshooters were sheltered, and compelled their surrender.

- **Awarded Posthumously: No**
- **Presentation Date & Details: August 3, 1897**
- **Born: February 14, 1842, Columbia, Lancaster County, PA, United States**
- **Died: July 22, 1910**
- **Buried: Old Rosemont Cemetery (MH), Bloomsburg, PA, United States**

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John Kinsey

- Also Known As: McKenzie, John
- Rank: Corporal
- Conflict/Era: U.S. Civil War
- Unit/Command: Company B, 45th Pennsylvania Infantry
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: May 18, 1864
- Medal of Honor Action Place: Spotsylvania, Virginia, USA

Citation: Seized the colors, the color bearer having been shot, and with great gallantry succeeded in saving them from capture.

- **Awarded Posthumously: No**
- **Presentation Date & Details: March 2, 1897**
- **Born: 1844, Lancaster County, PA, United States**
- **Died: December 19, 1904, Indianapolis, IN, United States**
- **Buried: Crown Hill Cemetery (PM) (21-1-10), Indianapolis, IN, United States**

This Medal of Honor Recipient gave his name as "John Kinsey" with a birthplace in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, when he enlisted in the 48th Pennsylvania Infantry in January 1862. He later continued his military service under alias when he enlisted in Co. H, 5th US Infantry in 1866, but gave his birthplace as Baltimore, Maryland. There is no record for why he used this alias when his true name was John McKenzie with a birthplace in Baltimore, Maryland.

His official military record continues to reflect the biographical information he gave at the time of his first enlistment.

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William H. Strayer

- Rank: Private (Highest Rank: Sergeant)
- Conflict/Era: Indian Campaigns
- Unit/Command: Company B, 3d U.S. Cavalry
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: April 26, 1872
- Medal of Honor Action Place: Loupe Fork of the Platte River, Nebraska, USA

Citation: Gallantry in action.

- **Awarded Posthumously: No**
- **Presentation Date & Details: May 22, 1872**
- **Born: October 17, 1847, Maytown, Lancaster County, PA, United States**
- **Died: January 29, 1876, Bainbridge, PA, US**
- **Buried: Camp Hill Cemetery, Mount Joy, PA, US**

From Wikipedia:

On April 25, 1872, Strayer left the fort with the rest of Company B led by Captain Charles Meinhold on the trail of a band of Miniconjou Sioux who had raided the McPherson station on the Union Pacific Railroad, located approximately five miles from the fort, killing several men and stealing a large number of horses. The regiment was guided by civilian scout William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and caught up to the Indian raiders the following morning, discovering their camp near the Loupe Fork (near present-day Stapleton, Nebraska) of the Platte River. Upon reaching the Loupe Fork, Captain Meinhold sent Cody and a detachment of ten soldiers under Sergeant John H. Foley for reconnaissance of the south bank of the river while the main force crossed to the north side.

Cody skillfully guided the soldiers to within fifty yards of the Sioux camp before being discovered. Though outnumbered two-to-one, Foley decided to attack the raiders rather than risk them escaping. Strayer was among the troopers who followed Sergeant Foley's charge into the camp and, according to a later report by Meinhold, "bravely closed in upon an Indian while he was fired at several times, and wounded him". Three of the Indian raiders were killed, one by Cody and two others chased down by the main cavalry force as they attempted to flee, while six others out hunting were alerted by the gunfire and successfully escaped. With the Sioux raiding party broken up, Strayer and the three men who fought beside him, William Cody and Sergeants John Foley and Leroy Vokes, were cited for "gallantry in action" and awarded the Medal of Honor on May 22, 1872.

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Robert Reem

- Rank: Second Lieutenant
- Conflict/Era: Korean War
- Unit/Command: Company H, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein)
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Marine Corps
- Medal of Honor Action Date: November 6, 1950
- Medal of Honor Action Place: vicinity of Chinhung-ni, Korea

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a platoon commander in Company H, in action against enemy aggressor forces. Grimly determined to dislodge a group of heavy enemy infantry units occupying well-concealed and strongly fortified positions on commanding ground overlooking unprotected terrain, 2d Lt. Reem moved slowly forward up the side of the ridge with his platoon in the face of a veritable hail of shattering hostile machine-gun, grenade, and rifle fire. Three times repulsed by a resolute enemy force in achieving his objective, and pinned down by the continuing fury of hostile fire, he rallied and regrouped the heroic men in his depleted and disorganized platoon in preparation for a fourth attack. Issuing last-minute orders to his non-commissioned officers when an enemy grenade landed in a depression of the rocky ground in which the group was standing, 2d Lt. Reem unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and, springing upon the deadly missile, absorbed the full impact of the explosion in his body, thus protecting others from serious injury and possible death. Stouthearted and indomitable, he readily yielded his own chance of survival that his subordinate leaders might live to carry on the fight against a fanatic enemy. His superb courage, cool decisiveness, and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon 2d Lt. Reem and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

- **Awarded Posthumously: Yes**
- **Presentation Date & Details: February 8, 1952 The Pentagon, presented by Under Sec. of the Navy Francis P. Whitehair to his Widow**
- **Born: October 20, 1925, Lancaster, Lancaster County, PA, United States**
- **Died: November 6, 1950, Chinhung-ni, Korea**
- **Buried: Arlington National Cemetery (MH) (6-9376-B), Arlington, VA, United States**
- **Location of Medal: U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD**

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William D. Port

- Rank: Sergeant (rank at time of action: Private First Class)
- Conflict/Era: Vietnam War
- Unit/Command: Company C, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division
- Military Service Branch: U.S. Army
- Medal of Honor Action Date: January 12, 1968
- Medal of Honor Action Place: Que Son Valley, Heip Duc Province, Republic of Vietnam

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sgt. Port distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with Company C, which was conducting combat operations against an enemy force in the Que Son Valley. As Sgt. Port's platoon was moving to cut off a reported movement of enemy soldiers, the platoon came under heavy fire from an entrenched enemy force. The platoon was forced to withdraw due to the intensity and ferocity of the fire. Although wounded in the hand as the withdrawal began, Sgt. Port, with complete disregard for his safety, ran through the heavy fire to assist a wounded comrade back to the safety of the platoon perimeter. As the enemy forces assaulted in the perimeter, Sgt. Port and three comrades were in position behind an embankment when an enemy grenade landed in their midst. Sgt. Port, realizing the danger to his fellow soldiers, shouted the warning, "Grenade," and unhesitatingly hurled himself towards the grenade to shield his comrades from the explosion. Through his exemplary courage and devotion, he saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and gave the members of his platoon the inspiration needed to hold their position. Sgt. Port's selfless concern for his comrades, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

- **Awarded Posthumously: Yes**
- **Presentation Date & Details: August 6, 1970**
The White House, presented by Pres. Richard M. Nixon to his family
- **Born: October 31, 1941, Petersburg, Huntingdon County, PA, United States**
- **Died: November 27, 1968, Republic of Vietnam**
- **Buried: Arlington National Cemetery (MH) (7-8120-B), remains recovered 1985, Arlington, VA, United States**

Note: According to the August 6, 1970, New Era, Mr. Port's family resided in Elizabethtown.

From Wikipedia:

Port survived the blast, but was seriously wounded and captured by the enemy. He died while a prisoner of war ten months later. Port was promoted to Sergeant and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle in August 1970.

Port, aged 27 at his death, was initially buried in a jungle grave along with 8 other prisoners. His remains were recovered in August 1985, and he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery two months later. In Huntingdon, Pennsylvania there is a bridge across the Juniata River named after William Port. A plaque describes his heroism.