

# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

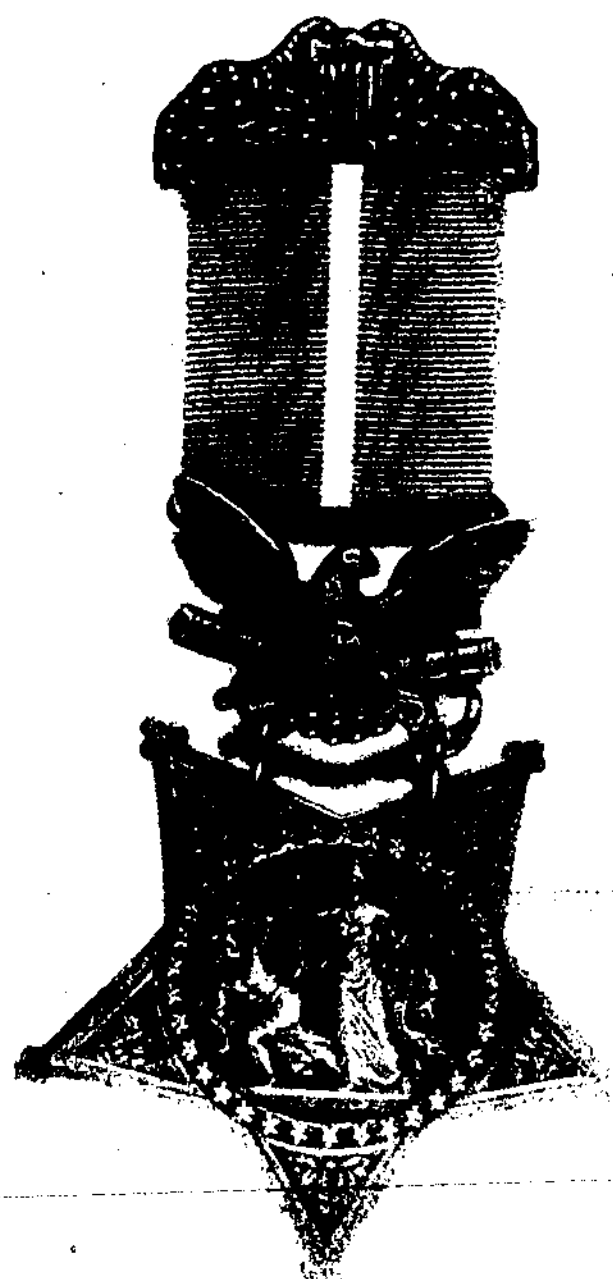
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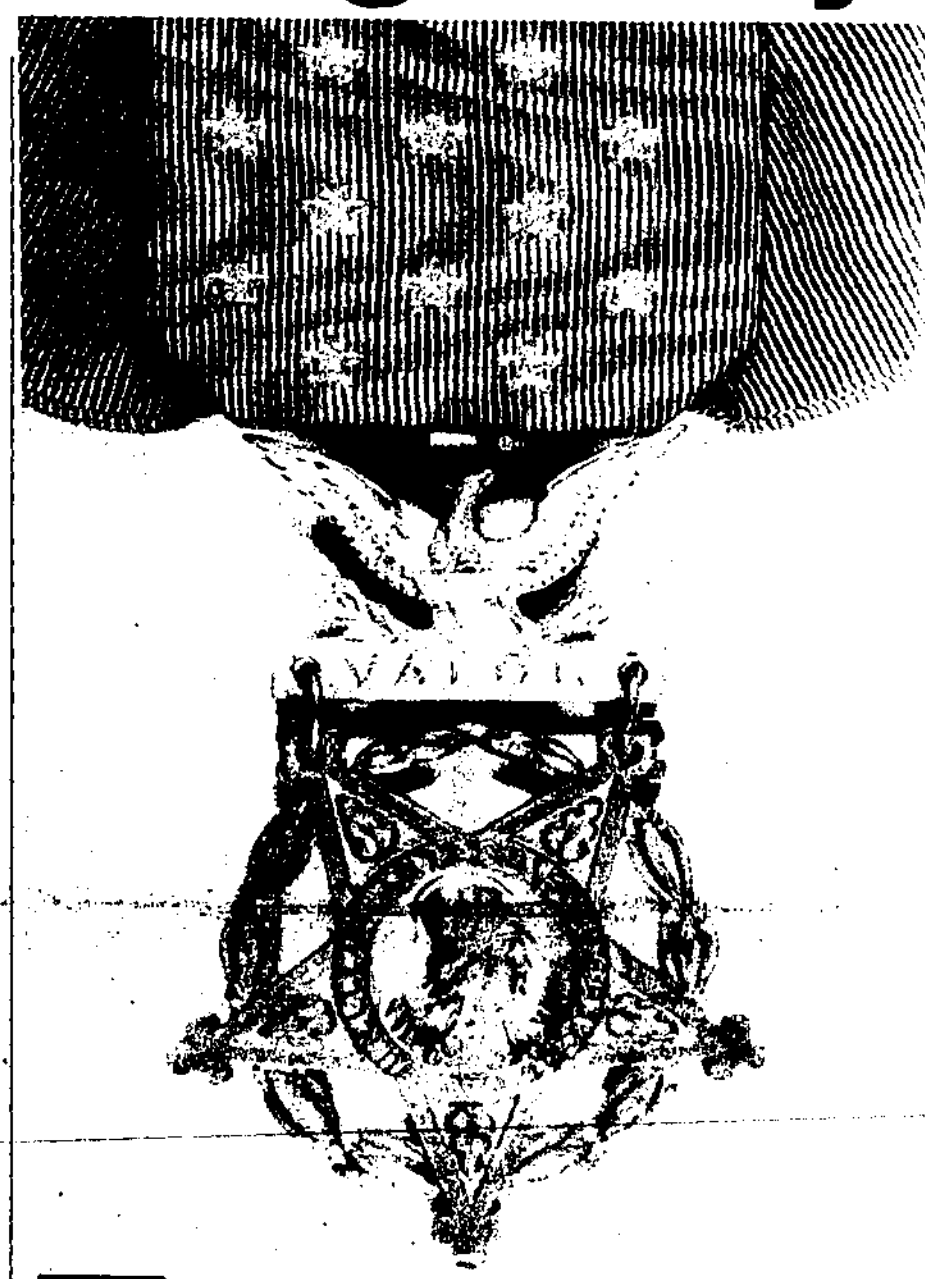
## County recognizes its most valiant heroes with a library dedicated to their gallantry



THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



FOR THOSE WHO SERVED GALLANTLY - Unveiling a flag at the Nov. 7 dedication ceremony for the Union County Congressional Medal of Honor Library, left to right, are: Nicholas Oresko, a Congressional Medal of Honor winner; Union County Freeholder



THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



ROLLING FOR LIFE - With "Bert" and "Ernie" from television's "Sesame Street" to help give them advice children from the afternoon kindergarten classes at Clark's Frank K. Hehny and Valley Road Schools demonstrate the "stop, drop and roll" technique for putting out clothing fires. Participating, left to right, are: Standing, Jaimie Yuhas, Matthew Rosen, Stacey Salfucio and Amy Gentry; on the floor, Danielle Hughes, Raymond Doss and Amanda Desmond.

### WISHING YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING

By R. R. Faszczewski  
A part of the realization of the dream of three comrades in search of greater recognition for America's most distinguished military heroes came to fruition on Nov. 7 when the Union County Congressional Medal of Honor Library was dedicated.

According to Paul Angelo of Rahway, the supervisor of veterans affairs for Union County, the library is part of a continuing effort by himself and his two "partners," Raymond L. Collins of Alexandria, Va., a trustee for the Medal of Honor Historical Society, and Sister Maria Veronica, the supervisor of the United States Medal of Honor Archives maintained by the Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pa.

Mr. Angelo told *The Rahway News-Record* and *The Clark Patriot* the federal government's effort to begin and maintain a listing of Medal of Honor recipients began with President Harry Truman's directive to do so and was heightened when President Gerald Ford in 1976 issued an edict to have the graves of Medal of Honor winners designated with special markers.

However, according to the supervisor of veterans affairs, the government does not maintain a list of the birthplaces or burial sites of the medal winners.

A major part of this effort comes from Mr. Angelo, whose main sources of information are Mr. Collins and Sister Veronica, along with the facts he gathers from searching cemetery records and speaking with

relatives, friends and acquaintances of medal winners.

He added the discovery of one grave and the pursuit of the history of one medal winner will often help him get on the trail of another American hero honored for gallantry "above and beyond the call of duty," but forgotten for a time because records have been misplaced or family members have died.

For the Nov. 7 ceremony George J. Albanese, the New Jersey commissioner of human services and the former Union County manager, returned to the Union County Court House in Elizabeth to dedicate the project he initiated in 1978—the county library listing the histories and burial places of Medal of Honor recipients born or interred in the Union County area.

Current available information in the library, which is housed in Mr. Angelo's office in the county administration building across from the court house, now includes the entire state.

The mission of locating some 400 recipients dating back to the Civil War has been spearheaded by Mr. Angelo, who calls the effort a pursuit he has enjoyed, "since my boyhood."

"The Medal of Honor is the highest decoration the United States can bestow on a soldier," he explained. "It was originated by President Abraham Lincoln and even generals must salute a Medal of Honor recipient."

As recently as two weeks ago Mr. Angelo tracked down a former slave who was given his country's highest honor.

A sergeant with Company B of the 39th United States Colored Troops from Maryland in the Civil War, Decatur Dorsey, was honored for planting the Union flag on Confederate land in advance of his regiment. When his regiment was driven back behind Union lines he carried the colors there and rallied the men.

Sgt. Dorsey's bravery, along with the valorous deeds of hundreds of other servicemen are now catalogued in Union County and are available to anyone researching these and other related topics. The permanent library is now open from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"It's a kind of lost-and-found operation," the supervisor explains. "I get my first thread of information by searching through records or by word of mouth. Then I spend a lot of time in libraries and cemeteries trying to trace these brave men."

He said the ideal situation occurs when the discovery of one recipient leads to others and he thanks the area's news media for helping him reach the public.

Last month news stories, including one in *The Rahway News-Record*, on Gunnery Sgt. Fred William Stockham of Irvington, led to nine other "finds."

Among those attending the Nov. 7 ceremony was Nicholas Oresko, a World War II Army veteran who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor after single-handedly wiping out two German machine gun installations and killing 12 Germans.

Also present were Union County Manager Arthur J. Grisi, Walter Ulrich of Rahway, the deputy New Jersey Commissioner of Human Services, and Frank H. Lehr, the chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The opening remarks were given by Edward Demarest, the chairman of the county's flag guardian committee, which consists of nine Union County veterans who specialize in educating school children and the public about the history and proper care of the American flag.

Union County flag officer Jerome DeParlier, led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by an invocation by Rabbi Yale Fishman of the Elmore Hebrew Center, a welcome by Mr. Grisi and remarks by Mr. Lehr.

Mr. Albanese conducted the dedication and, following remarks by Mr. Ulrich, Edward Durning, a member of the Flag Guardian Committee, introduced the officials present.

The Medal of Honor Citation was read by Lee R. Chapin, another member of the Flag Guardian Committee.

After remarks by Mr. Oresko, in which he described his own efforts which gained him the medal, and a description of the quest for the graves of medal winners by Mr. Angelo, the program closed with a Benediction by Dr. Theodore Granberg, the pastor of the Elmore Presbyterian Church.

Those wishing additional information on the medal library may telephone Mr. Angelo at 527-4946.

## Mother Seton to open house

Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark will sponsor an open house for seventh-and-eighth-grade girls and their parents on Tuesday evening, Nov. 29, from 7:30 to 9:30 o'clock. The evening will be designed to accommodate students who have already visited the school as well as newcomers.

The school is a Catholic girls' regional high school located at the Parkway Circle at Exit No. 135 of the Garden State Parkway. It educates students from Union, Middlesex and Essex Counties in liberal arts and business programs. Busing is provided to the school from all three counties.

The school is staffed by several Sisters of Charity of Convent Station and by several lay faculty members.

A scholarship examination will be offered for eighth-grade girls on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 9 a.m.



WALKING AWAY WITH IT - Matthew J. Derham, left, the president of the New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park, presents an American Automobile Assn. Pedestrian Safety Award to Clark's Police Chief Anthony T. Smar, center, and Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage. Clark had no pedestrian fatalities in 1982. This local community was one of 54 northern New Jersey municipalities honored for outstanding pedestrian safety achievement at a recent luncheon held at the Maplewood Country Club and sponsored by the automobile club. James Pindar, the special representative to Gov. Thomas H. Kean, was the guest speaker.