

Media Contact
April Smith-Miller
Director of Marketing
asmith-miller@pritzkermilitary.org
(262) 800-7422

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Sp4c. Gary George Wetzel



SGT. Allen James Lynch

Pritzker Military Museum & Library to Recognize Medal of Honor Recipients During Special Program

Sp4c. Gary George Wetzel, U.S. Army (Ret.) and SGT. Allen James Lynch, U.S. Army (Ret.) will be recognized.

KENOSHA, WI – March 10, 2026 – The Pritzker Military Museum & Library (PMML) will honor Vietnam veterans Sp4c. Gary George Wetzel, U.S. Army (Ret.) and SGT. Allen James Lynch, U.S. Army (Ret.) at the Medal of Honor Day Program on March 25 at 2 p.m. Central.

Wetzel and Lynch will be in attendance as PMML President Scott English and Kenosha Mayor David Bogdala recognize their bravery, courage, and service.

The program will feature a fireside chat with the two Medal of Honor recipients moderated by WGTD *Education Matters* host Dr. Bob Haggarty. The event will also include the National Anthem and a Presentation of Colors by the Kenosha Area Vietnam Veterans.

Honoring the Citizen Soldier is central to the mission of the Pritzker Museum and Library. PMML is committed to preserving and sharing the stories of those who served, and to recognizing the courage shown by members of every generation of military service. The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest military award, presented for acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. First authorized during the Civil War, it remains one of the rarest and most distinguished honors in American military history.

“The Medal of Honor recognizes valor at the highest level, but behind every citation is a human story of sacrifice, resolve, and service,” said Scott English, President of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library. “We are proud to honor Gary Wetzel and Allen Lynch and share their stories with our community and the nation.”

About the Medal of Honor recipients

Sp4c. Gary George Wetzel, U.S. Army (Ret.)

According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Sp4c. Wetzel was presented the Medal of Honor by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1968 for his actions. Wetzel was serving as a door gunner aboard a helicopter that was part of an insertion force trapped in a landing zone under intense enemy fire in Vietnam. Although bleeding profusely due to the loss of his left arm and severe wounds to his right arm, chest, and left leg, Wetzel staggered back to his original position in his gun-well and took the enemy forces under fire. Wetzel, who served with the 173d Assault Helicopter Company, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

Wetzel lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin is highly admired by his community, and advocates for disabled veterans.

SGT. Allen James Lynch U.S. Army (Ret.)

SGT. Lynch was presented the Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon in 1970. Alone, SGT. Lynch defended his isolated position for two hours against the advancing enemy. Using only his rifle and a grenade, he stopped them just short of his trench, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. The Society also notes that, disregarding his own safety in the face of heavy hostile fire, Lynch crossed 70 meters of exposed terrain five times to carry his wounded comrades to a more secure area. Once he had assured their comfort and safety, SGT. Lynch located a counterattacking friendly company and helped in directing the attack and evacuating casualties. His actions brought great credit upon himself, the 12th Cavalry, and the U.S. Army.

Lynch resides in Gurnee, Illinois, is the author of the book *Zero to Hero: From Bullied Kid to Warrior*, and advocates for Vietnam service members.

PMML's current Medal of Honor exhibit honors Hershel "Woody" Williams, the Medal of Honor recipient, known for his heroism during the Battle of Iwo Jima. During the Medal of Honor Day Program, PMML will also share its future vision for a larger and more prominent plans to honor Woody Williams and his legacy. The plan will invite visitors to pause, reflect, and engage more deeply with Woody Williams's service and legacy.

For more information on the Medal of Honor Day Program, please visit the [Pritzker Military Museum & Library website](#).

###

Located in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library collections consist of just over 40,000 artifacts and more than 70,000 book titles. A non-governmental, non-partisan organization, the Museum & Library features diverse collections, scholarly initiatives, and programs. With national and global reach, the Museum & Library shares the stories of those who served, helping citizens appreciate the relationship between the armed forces and the civilians whose freedoms they protect.