



For Immediate Release
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Six Ohio World War II Veterans To Be Awarded French Legion of Honor

COLUMBUS – Six Ohio veterans who helped liberate France during World War II will be awarded that country's Medal of Knight of the Legion of Honor in a ceremony scheduled for 1 p.m. Friday in Veterans Hall of the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

The medals will be presented by Honorary Consul of France Stephen Knerly Jr., assisted by Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell. Honorary Consul Knerly will also present a brief history of the award.

The veterans being honored are:

- **Charles Malachosky, 92, of Cuyahoga Falls.**
Mr. Malachosky entered the Armed Forces in 1942 and served as a Technician 5th Grade in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Armored Division. He served overseas from February 1944 until April 1946, and participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Malachosky is a recipient of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the American Theater Ribbon.
- **Richard R. Robb, 95, of the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky.**
Mr. Robb entered the Armed Forces in 1941 and served as a Technician 5th Grade in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 27th Infantry Battalion, 4th Armored Division. He served overseas from January 1944 until October 1944, and was wounded by shrapnel in Normandy in August 1944. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Robb is a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five battle stars,

the Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

- **John W. Stauffer, 91, of the Ohio Veterans Home – Sandusky.**

Mr. Stauffer entered the Armed Forces in 1942 and served as a Private First Class in Company E, 331st Infantry Regiment, 83rd Infantry Division. He served on the European mainland from June 1944 until November 1945, and was wounded in Normandy in August 1944. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Stauffer is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five battle stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the American Campaign Medal, as well as the Jubilee of Liberty Medal from the Government of Normandy.

- **John J. Turk, 89, of Novelty.**

Mr. Turk entered the Armed Forces in 1943 and served as a Technician Fifth Grade in Battery A, 67th Anti-Aircraft Gun Battalion. He served on the European mainland from February 1944 until December 1945, and participated in the campaigns of Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr. Turk is a recipient of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

- **John Weske, of Sandusky.**

(Note: Mr. Weske died in 2013, and the award will be accepted in his honor by his daughter, Ms. Jan Bucholz).

John Weske entered the Armed Forces in 1943 and served as a Technical Sergeant in Company B, 175th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division. He served on the European mainland from June 1944 until December 1945, landing in Normandy at Omaha Beach and taking part in the battle of St. Lo. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Southern France, and Rhineland. Mr. Weske is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four battle stars, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

- **Robert E. Zonneville, 88, of Mentor.**

Robert E. Zonneville entered the Armed Forces in 1943 and served as a Staff Sergeant in Company H, 121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. He served overseas from December 1943 until July 1945, and was wounded at St. Lo in July 1944 and wounded again in Northern France in September 1944. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Mr.

Zonneville is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Certificate of Merit, and three Overseas Service Bars.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon, and is presented to "...those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France." People who have been named Knights of the French Legion of Honor include those in the military, government, industry and the arts.

U.S. veterans who participated in the liberation of France during World War II are eligible for the award of Knight of the Legion of Honor. For information, contact Liz Mannebach at the French Consulate in Chicago, at (312) 327-5221, or liz.mannebach@diplomatie.gouv.fr.

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Media needing more information, contact - Mike McKinney at 614-728-0235 or Michael.mckinney@dvs.ohio.gov.