

A class of their own

Medal of Honor recipients focus of PBS documentary, DVD package for schools

Four Medal of Honor recipients -- two soldiers and two Marines -- who grew up in Pueblo, Colo., are about to become schoolhouse heroes across the country.

In November, "Beyond the Medal of Honor" -- filmmaker Brad Padula's two-hour documentary about Pvt. Bill Crawford and Staff Sgt. Drew Dix and Marines Capt. Carl Sitter and 2nd Lt. Raymond "Jerry" Murphy -- will debut nationally on PBS stations.

To further the story, H. Ross Perot, who funded the film, is paying to send DVDs of the documentary to 17,500 public and private schools, nearly every school in the country. The special school DVD packages include the two-hour PBS documentary as well as one-hour discs devoted to each recipient and a special learning curriculum for teachers.

During World War II, after destroying two machine-gun nests, Crawford was taken prisoner by the Germans. While in captivity, he survived a

52-day, 500-mile winter march. He was reported missing in action and presumed dead by the Army. His father accepted the Medal of Honor for his son in 1943. Forty-one years later, President Reagan presented the Medal of Honor to a very much alive Master Sgt. Crawford on May 31, 1984. He died in March 2000.

Dix was a staff sergeant attached to IV Corps in Chau Doc province, Vietnam, on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 1968. Two heavily armed Viet Cong battalions attacked Chau Phu. Dix, with a patrol of Vietnamese soldiers, under heavy fire, rescued civilians trapped in the city. The following day, Dix braved intense enemy fire to clear the Viet Cong out of several key buildings in the city. Dix captured 20 prisoners, including a high-ranking Viet Cong. Dix was the first enlisted man in Special Forces to receive the Medal of Honor.

By Joe Chenelly & Laura Bailey