

For Immediate Release

Contact: Capture It Productions, Brad Padula – 719-546-0250 brad@cipstudio.com

**Thousands of High Schools to Receive
PBS Documentary “Beyond the Medal of Honor”**

“These true accounts tell a story of ordinary men, who during the darkest hours of human conflict, performed deeds so unbelievable they have been called “hero”. One must look beyond the medal into the eyes of the men who wear it, into their heart, into their soul, and those they touched to fully understand the word hero.” – Tom Brokaw

The Beyond the Medal of Honor documentary profiling four of America's greatest Military heroes will air nationally on PBS beginning November 1, 2004. At the same time, the Perot Foundation has funded the donation of the five-disc DVD documentary set with curriculum to over 17,000 public and private high schools in America.

“This documentary pays tribute to our nation’s finest heroes ... for those who fought and almost died, freedom has a taste that the protected will never know.” – H. Ross Perot

A group of dedicated teachers volunteered countless hours developing the professional educational curriculum that will be used in conjunction with the film. Millions of students will view and will draw inspiration from these compelling stories of heroism. “Some of these students will become entrepreneurs, educators, soldiers, carpenters, writers and even astronauts”, commented Pete Lemon, co-producer of the film and also a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor “What these students become in life is not nearly as important as what they stand for. This project can help change the landscape of our nation, with lesson in character, courage, responsibility, respect, loyalty, duty, honor, country and above all, selflessness for the greater good of mankind.”

***“There are two tangible symbols of selfless sacrifice.
There are two symbols representing the ultimate offer of one's life for others.
One of those symbols is the cross of Christ ...
And the other is the Congressional Medal of Honor.” – Paul Harvey***

National radio network legend Paul Harvey eloquently expresses his thoughts during the opening moments of the new PBS documentary **Beyond the Medal of Honor**.

Beyond the Medal of Honor profiles four of America's greatest military heroes. Four men who in the heat of combat somehow conjured up the courage to perform deeds far beyond what could ever be expected. For their specific actions each one was awarded our nation's highest supreme honor The Congressional Medal of Honor. The four men: **Bill Crawford** - *The Fighter*, WWII; **Carl Sitter** - *The Captain*, Korea; **Jerry Murphy** - *The Lieutenant*, Korea; **Drew Dix** - *The Green Beret*, Vietnam. While these four men share the honor of receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor they also share another unique common bond – they were all raised in the same small town. Their sobering stories are told in graphic detail through interviews with each recipient, eyewitnesses, historians, family and colleagues. The film is illustrated with compelling footage from the US National Archives and exclusively acquired photos.

The film's director Brad Padula has captured the essence of the Medal of Honor with thorough research, exclusive one on one interviews and a focus on attention to detail. “Their stories are so spell binding you cannot help but become captivated,” said Padula. “We can all learn from these men – they offer inspirational lessons of leadership, courage, honor and duty.”

Beyond the Medal of Honor has been reviewed and strongly supported by several military historians for accuracy, content and historical perspective. Frank Provenza provides the minimal narration needed and the film features an original theme scored by Emmy award winning composer Charles David Denler.

“You know, I don't know that I did anything all that spectacular. I really don't.”
– Drew Dix

Those comments from medal recipient Drew Dix featured in **Beyond the Medal of Honor** are typical of the feelings of the other recipients. During a 56-hour period Dix risked his life over and over again to rescue civilians including an American nurse, trapped civilian volunteers and even family members of a South Vietnamese Commander.

“I was just sitting down the hall here, in my room, as a cadet, reading this story about the march up the Italian boot and I came across the name Bill Crawford. At first, it didn't dawn on me. Then I remember looking over at my roommate and saying, you're not going to believe this, but I think – I think Bill Crawford received the Medal of Honor. I think our janitor wears the Medal of Honor.” – Colonel James Moschgat

In a highly emotional moment in **Beyond the Medal of Honor**, Colonel James Moschgat recalls the moment he discovered the wise and humble janitor who had befriended him at the Air Force Academy was a Medal of Honor recipient.

“He was always going around and inspiring us, encouraging us. You know, we got it, boys hold on, we're going to do it - We're going to keep this hill. We did.”
– Lt. General Stephen Olmstead

Lt. General Olmstead is one of the many Marines interviewed in **Beyond the Medal of Honor**. Olmstead tells a graphic story about medal recipient Carl Sitter's heroic efforts at the infamous Chosin Reservoir battle.

“Why I did it, all I know is that I wanted to save some lives. I wanted to keep anybody from getting hurt. Other than that, I can't give you a key word or key sentence about this is what a hero is, I don't know, I really don't.” – Jerry Murphy

Beyond the Medal of Honor recipient Jerry Murphy speaks modestly of his combat feats. His action in Korea was not a heroic action to defeat the enemy but a heroic action to spare his men.

First awarded during the Civil War the Medal of Honor has been presented to 3,440 people. “Since the Civil War approximately 40 million Americans have gone into combat and less than 1 percent of 1 percent have received the Medal of Honor,” said Padula. “It is mind boggling how rare it is to have received it. I believe **Beyond the Medal of Honor** is an excellent tool to help more Americans learn about the realities of war and to understand the sacrifices that are made. This has been a very humbling experience for me.”

Underwriter: The Perot Foundation

Production Company: Capture It Productions – www.beyondthemedal.com

Director: Brad Padula – brad@cipstudio.com

Narrator: Frank Provenza

Photography: John Schymos

Executive Producers: Peter C. Lemon, Rudy Padula, Dan DeRose and Brad Padula