

**MEDAL OF HONOR CONVENTION KNOXVILLE 2014**

THE MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY  
CONVENTION KNOXVILLE 2014

# MOH recipients meet public

■ Families, admirers and volunteers a testament to 'completely supportive' community

By Jay Miller

jay.miller@knoxnews.com  
615-592-1114

More than 40 Medal of Honor recipients gathered Friday at the Holiday Inn at World's Fair Park to meet the public and sign autographs.

Recipients are invited during the hotel ballroom talking to fans and admirers. Hundreds of residents gathered with families, friends, neighbors and more to be signed by recipients of the nation's highest military honor. Attendees were limited to two items per person.

A table at the award ceremony were current and former military personnel and their families.

"I've been fortunate my first husband was in the military and my company works with the military," Shayer Henderson said. "I just wanted the opportunity to meet some of our heroes."

Volunteers for the 2014 Medal of Honor Convention also used the signing as an opportunity to meet recipients. Billings Michelle and John Michael



**MEDAL OF HONOR**



Medal of Honor recipient James Taylor greets Tracy Neff, R, during an autograph session at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society convention Friday at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park. Taylor was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in combat near Qui Son, Vietnam.

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**Photo gallery: Medal of Honor Convention autograph session**

Donovan were their representatives. Steve High School's Junior ROTC program.

"We are here because our dad was in the military, and we just love the military," John Michael Donovan said.

Nicholas Gribben, a member of the executive committee for the convention and director of the Medal of Honor Program at the University of Tennessee, said he is impressed by the support he has seen from Knoxville.

"The community has been completely supportive of this at every turn," Gribben said. "Local businesses have come through with lots of donor money and local organizations have been our backbones to make this possible."

The sold-out autograph signing was split up into three 20-minute sessions accompanied by a short presentation. Members of the Medal of Honor Project broadcast live from the floor of the event.

The convention, which begins Friday, wraps up today with an awards gala at the Knoxville Convention Center.



Medal of Honor recipient and World War II veteran Francis Gentry is surrounded by current military members at Friday's autograph session. Gentry, 85, was awarded the nation's highest military decoration for bravery during the Battle of the Bulge, Sept. 1944.



Medal of Honor recipients Charles Heppner, right, and Gary Luttrell are shown renovations by Scripps Networks Interactive Vice President of Corporate Giving Jennifer Brun, right, to the home and yard of injured veteran Robert Began Friday in Knoxville. The employees are volunteering their time to do the work.



Medal of Honor recipients Robert M. Patterson, left, and Robert M. Patterson, right, during an autograph session at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society convention Friday at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park.



Medal of Honor recipient Robert M. Patterson greets Kelly Whitt at the Congressional Medal of Honor Society convention. Whitt is the daughter of Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. William B. Staff Sgt. Bruce Price of the 27th Airborne Cavalry Regiment in Patterson's escort.

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