

# warrior stories: Combat experiences defy reason

No glory sought, we had a purpose

By Mike Mackay  
Special to the News-Leader

**NO ONE** — Day and darkness were not shared. "Warrior" Williams, Ronald Bremer and Steven Ptery led the nation's highest military honor.



MEDAL OF HONOR

Williams, Bremer and Ptery were part of this week's Medal of Honor ceremony in Knoxville. Williams, Bremer and Ptery were up on a stage at a ceremony in Knoxville. Williams, Bremer and Ptery were up on a stage at a ceremony in Knoxville. Williams, Bremer and Ptery were up on a stage at a ceremony in Knoxville.

— don't give me anything's an honor. In 20 before even another Bremer led the charge of his company up a heavily fortified mountain ridge near Fong 955. Bremer single-handedly killed at least 10 enemy soldiers in close-range combat and made arrangements to ensure dead and injured comrades. "I think a medal should be where a soldier is needed," said the 44-year-old, who had two brothers who were killed in action in Korea and Vietnam. Bremer said he's doing what he's doing because the Medal is a long. "I could feel bullets going through my clothes, but I was never hit," he recalled. "People asked me how I survived. I guess I just wanted the hell out of there."



Medal of Honor recipient Larry Ptery takes questions from students during a visit to Sacred Heart Cathedral School on Friday. The visit was in conjunction with the Medal of Honor Convention, being held this week in Knoxville. Ptery had his right hand in a cast in Afghanistan.

MEDAL OF HONOR  
High 1A

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students proceeded to the gymnasium, where members of the Air National Guard Band and the Knoxville Eagle's Flight Team (United States Marine Corps) welcomed them with military honors. Bremer and Ptery were then escorted to the front of the gymnasium, where they were presented with their medals. Bremer and Ptery were presented with their medals. Bremer and Ptery were presented with their medals.

They also shared stories about their combat experiences and the challenges they faced. Bremer and Ptery were presented with their medals. Bremer and Ptery were presented with their medals. Bremer and Ptery were presented with their medals.



Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Gen. James Everett Livingston, right, answers questions from students during a visit to the nation's highest military honor for his actions in the Vietnam War, was among several medal recipients to visit local schools.

one half-hour of combat. His efforts during several hours of combat helped saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and helped his division hold its position. The pair reminded students to be thankful for what they have as Americans and to remember how those things were obtained. "Freedom is like your driver's license. If you don't take care of it, it can be taken away from you," Ptery said. Although recipients were also held Friday to give the public a chance to meet Medal of Honor recipients face-to-face. The ceremony will conclude today with the Patriot Award Gala at the Knoxville Convention Center Ballroom.



Medal of Honor holder Maj. Gen. James Everett Livingston, retired from the United States Marine Corps, talks with middle school student Houston Rogers on Friday. Livingston was awarded the United States' highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, for heroic actions in 1968 during the Vietnam War.