



Pvts. Philip Shadrach, left, and George Wilson were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions in what is now known as the Great Locomotive Chase. (U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)

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Civil War heroes receive Medal of Honor

More than 160 years after participating in what's now known as the Great Locomotive Chase, Pvts. Philip Shadrach and George Wilson were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

The two Civil War heroes were recognized with the nation's highest award for valor by President Joe Biden during a July 3 ceremony at the White House.

"This was a long time coming," Biden said during the ceremony, as he described the Great Locomotive Chase as "one of the most daring operations in the entire Civil War."

"The risks to this mission were enormous," Biden said. "All the men were given the chance to walk away. Not one of them did."

Gerald Taylor, Shadrach's great-great-nephew, and Theresa Chandler, Wilson's great-great-granddaughter, accepted the award from the president. "To volunteer for a venture they knew little about, and to know if they failed, they would be put to death, makes me realize how dedicated they were," Taylor said.

Shadrach and Wilson belonged to the 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

In April 1862, they joined 20 other Union soldiers and two civilians on a daring mission led by James Andrews, a Kentucky-born civilian spy, to infiltrate Confederate territory, to steal a locomotive and drive it north nearly 200 miles while destroying enemy railroad tracks and telegraph

lines. The goal was to destroy rail and communication lines and prevent reinforcements from interfering with an attempted capture of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Shadrach was just 21 years old.

The Union team, which became known as Andrews' Raiders, infiltrated the South in small groups, dressing in civilian clothes to avoid suspicion. On April 12 at Big Shanty, Georgia, 22 of the raiders commandeered a locomotive known as the General. They uncoupled the engine, fuel car and three boxcars before escaping with the train, according to the Army. They sped up the track, cut telegraph lines and tried to burn bridges along the way, according to the Army.

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NOONREPORT

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Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs

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This webinar will include a Q&A session in which questions submitted by the audience will be selected and asked by the moderator.

A recording of the webinar will be available on our Youtube page the following day.



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Join us on Tuesday, 30 July, at 12:00 PM EDT, to hear a presentation by Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. He will give a top-to-bottom rundown on MHS Genesis, the Military Health Service's state-of-the-art, streamlined electronic health record system, designed for servicemembers, veterans and their families.



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Panel: Army should not rely on AI models like ChatGPT

As the U.S. Army works to become a more datacentric organization, the one thing it should not do, according to a panel of experts, is rely too heavily on artificial intelligence large-language models to get there.

“Don’t do it,” said Stephen Riley, a customer engineer on Google’s Army engineering team, in a discussion July 2 at the Association of the U.S. Army’s Hot Topic on cyber and information advantage.

“It’s the easy button,” he said, but using large-language models, or LLMs, such as ChatGPT or Google’s Gemini is akin to “boiling the ocean to make yourself a cup of coffee.” The main issue, he said, is the availability of sufficient computing power at the tactical level.

Instead of relying on LLMs, Google built a “knowledge graph” that mapped what Riley called “commonly accepted truths.” Comparing information in the knowledge graph to the search engine results that users found most useful enabled Google to fine-tune its search algorithm to deliver useful answers that “conform



Subject-matter experts discuss the role of artificial intelligence in Army systems during an AUSA Hot Topic forum focused on cyber warfare and information advantage. (AUSA PHOTO)

with generally accepted truth,” Riley said. Doing this required serious computing power but not the use of LLMs, he said.

Building an Army-centered knowledge graph would require significantly less computing power than trying to build an Army-specific LLM, Riley said.

Young Bang, the Army’s principal deputy assistant secretary for acquisition, logistics and technology and

the panel’s moderator, asked how the Army could avoid allowing foreign malign influence to overwhelm that knowledge graph and artificially shift the window of accepted truths.

Riley emphasized the importance of human oversight. Google has “humans in the loop,” he said, who are watching trends and those potential shifts in what is acceptable to society. “We cannot abdicate human reasoning to the machines,” he said.

Medal of Honor

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Andrews and his fellow raiders were slowed by oncoming trains as they navigated the single-track railway. “They kept going for nearly seven hours,” Biden said.

After 87 miles and running low on fuel, the Union team abandoned its effort just 18 miles shy of Chattanooga and fled into the countryside. “But one by one, Confederate soldiers, supporters and their bloodhounds rounded them up,” Biden said. Held in a tiny, underground room, chained and starved, the raiders “remained unbowed and unbroken,” he said.

Andrews and seven soldiers, including Shadrach and Wilson, were tried and convicted as spies. Andrews was executed on June 7, 1862, while

the seven soldiers were executed by hanging on June 18, 1862.

Historical documents show that just before Wilson was put to death, he addressed the crowd and said he felt no hostility toward them and did not regret dying for his country because he knew the people would soon see the Union flag flying over them once again, according to the Army.

Chandler said she got chills when she read about what Wilson said. “It brought everything home, and you get so much more respect and appreciation for what they did and what they were fighting for,” she said.

All the other soldiers who participated in the Great Locomotive Chase received the Medal of Honor during or shortly after the war, said Brad Quinlin, a historian and author who

helped submit the Medal of Honor recommendation packet for Shadrach and Wilson.

This included Pvt. Jacob Parrott, who has the distinction of being the first soldier ever to receive the Medal of Honor. Parrott was highlighted in 2021 as part of the Association of the U.S. Army’s graphic novel series on recipients of the nation’s highest valor award.

One soldier turned down the medal because he felt he didn’t deserve it. Shadrach and Wilson, however, were overlooked.

“There was nothing anywhere in my research that said these two men did not do what these [other] men had done,” Quinlin said. “Their bravery, their dedication to the republic, was exactly the same.”

Army cautions service members of online intelligence-gathering attacks



An All-Army Activities message warns that foreign adversaries are using social media and fake job offers to gain sensitive information from Army personnel. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Foreign adversaries are targeting U.S. Army personnel on social media, job sites and gaming chats, the deputy Army chief of staff for intelligence, G-2, warned in a message to the force.

Issued in June, the All-Army Activities message, or ALARACT, warns that foreign adversaries are “increasingly” using social media and fake job offers to gain sensitive information from Army personnel and their families.

On sites such as LinkedIn, Indeed, Reddit, Facebook Messenger, Discord and Line, the adversaries may begin by asking innocuous questions such as where a soldier works or their hobbies, according to the message and a LinkedIn post from Army Counterintelligence Command.

When the soldier or family member replies, the adversaries use the responses to progressively ask for more sensitive information or offer “disproportionate payment for services, like \$1,000 for a two-page white paper or all-expenses paid travel to places such as China, Hong Kong or Macau,” the post from Army Counterintelligence Command says.

“We have the most capable and well-trained Army in the world,” Lt. Gen. Anthony Hale, the Army G-2, said in a previous message to the Army. “The People’s Liberation Army and others want to exploit your skills to improve their capabilities.”

According to the ALARACT and Army Counterintelligence Command, all Army personnel must report offers for secondary employment or invitations to contribute to academic projects.

They also must report frequent or regular contact with foreign people or business connections; financial assistance received from a foreign government, person or organization; and all threat-related incident as outlined in Army Regulation 381-12: Threat Awareness and Reporting Program.

Affected soldiers, civilian employees or family members should report incidents to Army counterintelligence personnel, security managers or commanders.

They also can use the iSalute website here or call 1-800-CALLSPY (1-800-225-5779).

The ALARACT is available here.

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PERK OF THE WEEK

AUSA members save on MetLife pet insurance.

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Spotlight on AUSA Association Partner: NATMD

The National Association of the 10th Mountain Division exists to preserve the division's legacy for future generations and enhance the lives of currently serving soldiers and their families.

Originally activated as the 10th Light Division (Alpine) in 1943, the division was redesignated the 10th Mountain Division in 1944 and fought in the mountains of Italy in some of the roughest terrain in World War II. It is the only unit of its size in the U.S. military to receive intense specialized training for fighting in mountainous and arctic conditions, according to the Army.

The association supports soldiers, veterans and families of the division through its scholarship program, which provides up to \$5,000 to full-time undergraduate and/or technical school students. "Since 2004, the association has awarded 89 total scholarships valued at nearly \$445,000 to



association members and their immediate families," the organization's website says.

In addition, the association publishes the *Blizzard* digital newspaper, provides support to wounded warriors and sponsors 10th Mountain Division monuments and me-

morials. In 2007, association leaders started a Memorial Brick Program to help raise funds for the 10th Mountain Division Scholarship Fund by selling custom engraved bricks that line the Memorial Park walkway at the division's home of Fort Drum, New York.

"We must succeed in our efforts. We owe it to all the soldiers who have worn and will wear the red, white and blue patch of the 10th Mountain Division," the association's website says.

For more information, please visit <https://10thmtdivassoc.org/>.

If your association is interested in partnering with AUSA, contact Susan Rubel at srubel@ausa.org.

Association Partnership with AUSA is an opportunity for like-minded military service organizations to join AUSA in support of the Total Army—soldiers, DoD civilians and their families.



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AUSA life skills program teaches auto repair to soldiers

The Association of the U.S. Army's NCO and Soldier Programs directorate had a busy month in June, starting with a trip to San Antonio, also known to many locals as "Military City, USA."

In San Antonio, we had the unique opportunity to speak at the Army's annual Installation Management Command Garrison Command Team Conference and educate garrison commanders and command sergeants major about all AUSA has to offer through its 122 chapters around the globe.

Later in the month, we landed in Garmisch, Germany, where we were

NCO & Soldier Programs

invited to speak at the 20th annual International Command Senior

Enlisted Leader Conference. We then traveled to Vicenza, Italy, to conduct leader development training for soldiers assigned to U.S. Army Southern European Task Force, Africa, and participate in AUSA's European region meeting.

June was a great month, especially when you get to go to places like San Antonio, Garmisch and Vicenza—locations at the top of many of soldiers' lists of preferred duty stations.

Even though we did important work at each of these locations, there was one other place we traveled to in June that, for me, was much more rewarding.

In mid-June, we were invited by AUSA's Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Mis-



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, right, AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs, instructs a soldier on vehicle safety inspections and routine maintenance during a life skills class at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

souri chapter to spend some time teaching life skills to soldiers at the installation. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Freddie Brock, the chapter president, had learned about the life skills program during one of our quarterly NCO and Soldier Programs meetings with chapter officers and asked us to host an event at Fort Leonard Wood.

Together with the Fort Leonard Wood Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program, the Fort Leonard Wood Auto Craft Shop, garrison leadership and the AUSA chapter, we put together a class to teach soldiers how

to perform vehicle safety inspections and routine vehicle maintenance. Each participating soldier also learned how to change their engine oil and filter, and AUSA picked up the tab and covered all the expenses.

The soldiers had an incredible time, but, more importantly, they learned a valuable life skill that will help keep their vehicles in tip top shape and save them a few extra bucks each time they need an oil change.

Along with the life skills event, the AUSA chapter also conducted a senior Army leader reception and a community breakfast, where they presented awards to several of their community partners.

Special thanks to the Fort Leonard Wood-Mid Missouri chapter, the installation's leadership and AUSA's community partners for all they do for our soldiers and families.

Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey is AUSA's vice president for NCO and Soldier Programs and was the 15th sergeant major of the Army.



Retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey, center, leads an AUSA-hosted life skills program for soldiers stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. (AUSA PHOTO)

Chapter leaders provide home improvement for veteran

In furthering the Association of the U.S. Army's mission of connecting soldiers with their communities and honoring those who have served, members of AUSA's Maj. Samuel Woodfill chapter recently volunteered to build safer walkways at the home of an elderly veteran.

The chapter partnered on the project with People Working Cooperatively, a local organization in Cincinnati that provides critical home repairs for people in need.

"People Working Cooperatively exists to help people in need, mostly elderly, stay in their homes and stay safe in their homes by providing home

Maj. Samuel Woodfill

and yard repair services for free to qualifying candidates," said retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Boyd, the AUSA chapter president.

The organization has two focused annual timeframes, called "repair affair" in the spring and "prepare affair" in the fall, where they request teams of volunteers. "We always step up and create a team or two to help veterans," Boyd said.

In June, chapter members gathered to help Army veteran Richard Walsh safely navigate the walkway to his house by installing aluminum handrails.

"We dug the holes, set the posts with concrete, cut the pipes and in-



Volunteer leaders with AUSA's Maj. Samuel Woodfill chapter in Cincinnati install aluminum handrails at the home of Richard Walsh, a local Army veteran. (AUSA PHOTO)

stalled the handrail," Boyd said.

Retired Lt. Col. Paul Fellingner, the chapter treasurer, led the effort and organized a team of volunteers made up of his wife, Patti; Boyd and his wife, Becky, and sons Luke and Markus; and retired Col. Bob Wetterstroem and his son Robert from one of the chapter's Community Partners, American Verified Home Inspections.

"Richard was extremely appreciative and happy to know that Army veterans helped him stay safe in his home," Boyd said.



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Boyd, left, president of AUSA's Maj. Samuel Woodfill chapter in Cincinnati, helps install aluminum handrails at the home of local Army veteran Richard Walsh. (AUSA PHOTO)

Community Partner Challenge

The following chapters are the June winners of AUSA's Community Partner Challenge in their award categories. Each winner receives \$500 and 5 points toward Best Chapter in their group.

- Redstone-Huntsville – Award Group 1
- Greater Augusta-Fort Eisenhower – Award Group 2
- Northern New York-Fort Drum – Award Group 3
- Rock Island Arsenal – Award Group 4
- Stuttgart – Award Group 5

