



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 27, 2020

Media Contact: Sophia Fischer
sfischer@reaganfoundation.org
818-292-4503

VETERANS FROM AFGHANISTAN AND VIETNAM TO MEET WITH LOCAL STUDENTS

ANNUAL REAGAN EDUCATION EVENT RECOGNIZES MEDAL OF HONOR MILITARY HEROES

Simi Valley, California – Nearly 800 students from 19 schools throughout Southern California will hear from four [Medal of Honor](#) recipients at an annual forum hosted by the [Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute](#). The event takes place at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley. Two veterans from the Vietnam War and two veterans from the Afghanistan conflict will share their stories of courage and sacrifice, exploring themes of patriotism, citizenship and integrity.

This year's speakers are Major Drew Dix, Army Special Forces who served in Vietnam and is current president of the Medal of Honor Society; Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Britt Slabinski, Navy Seal awarded for service in Afghanistan; Lt. Tommy Norris, Navy Seal awarded for service in Vietnam; and Staff Sergeant Ryan Pitts, Army, awarded for service in Afghanistan. Following the talk, the speakers will sign copies of "Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty," contemporary portraits of Medal recipients that is a New York Times bestseller.

Additional Medal of Honor recipients will speak to students at local schools on Tuesday, February 4. School sites are Wood Ranch Elementary School, Valley View Middle School, Apollo High School, and Royal High School.

The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor awarded in the United States. Only 3,500 military personnel have received this award since it was established during the Civil War, and there are fewer than 100 recipients living today.

“It is incredibly important for students to learn lessons of character as part of their education. We are fortunate to have an education partnership with the Medal of Honor Society that has led to more than 10,000 students learning about character firsthand from some of the most remarkable soldiers ever to defend our country,” said Anthony Pennay, Chief Learning Officer for the Reagan Foundation and Institute.

Participating schools on Wednesday, February 5, 2020:

Blair High School (Army JROTC)
Towers Elementary
Sinaloa Middle School
Valencia High School (Air Force JROTC)
Crescenta Valley High School
Our Lady of Divine Grace
Topaz Preparatory Academy
Oaks Christian School
Classic Conversations Homeschool
Doty Middle School
Valley Bible Academy
Lawrence Middle School
High Desert School
San Geronimo High School
SDG Academy
One Small Candle
Royal High School (JROTC) **presentation of colors**
Sycamore Elementary
Towers Elementary
Troy High School (NJROTC)

About The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute:

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the sole nonprofit organization created by President Reagan charged with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy, and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion, and the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation’s mission in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It now also serves as the final resting place of America’s 40th President and his first lady. www.reaganfoundation.org

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Photos available upon request.

