



THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONIAL WAS AUTHORED BY TED THROCKMORTON:

----- FORWARDED MESSAGE -----

FROM: Ted and Lynne <tedblacksmith@gmail.com>

TO: ted Throckmorton<tedblacksmith@gmail.com>;["jbkranger@aol.com"](mailto:jbkranger@aol.com)<jbkranger@aol.com>

SENT: Monday, February 27, 2023 at 10:38:37 PM CST

SUBJECT: Sgt. Minatra

Rangers, I am about to the end my watch. I have been battling two types of cancer for 13 years, and Bone Cancer has been chewing on me for its dinner now for over two years. Actually I am just an old man left with a few of the memories that I can remember. So I am writing this only as something that may be a point of interest to you. I want to express how important it is to pick, and carefully choose who you associate and train with, because "Iron Sharpens Iron." I know that you know quite a bit about MSG JOHN D. MINATRA, but here is just a bit more of how he was groomed to be the outstanding Ranger and leader that he was.

Our PLATOON SERGEANT was **MSG WILLIAM OSBORN** ~ US Army RANGER. When he looked at you, he could see through you. I believe his stare could melt a rock. What I am saying is that he was **RANGER TOUGH**. Here is an example of MSG William Osborn's toughness. We traveled light, and when we were out of water, **he would have us put rocks under our tongue. SERGEANT MINATRA BECAME A CARBON COPY OF THAT DYNAMIC SOLDIER.** That is why I say "Iron Sharpens Iron."

Here is a bit about our Platoon Sergeant MSG Osborn, who later became Captain Osborn.

Captain William Chester Osborn, United States Army

Date of Birth: 01/20/1931 Home of Record: Tipton Date of Casualty: 05/05/1964

He served as a Fixed Wing Aviation Unit Commander - Pilot. On Tuesday, May 5, 1964, a de Havilland Canada CV-2B Caribou (#61-2593) from the 61st Aviation Company, U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), crashed in a rice paddy shortly after takeoff from Tan Hiep Air Base, Dinh Tuong Province, South Vietnam. The aircraft suffered a failure of the #1 engine, suspected to be from hostile small arms fire which

was compounded when the crew turned into the feathered engine in an attempt to return to Tan Hiep airstrip, where they had just picked up several passengers. The aircraft's left wing stalled, rolled inverted, and crashed before a recovery could be completed. **Pilot: Captain Osborn.**

So, this is my first year serving under **SERGEANT JOHN D. MINATRA**. He was my squad leader in the 101st ABN DIV, 327th INF RECON. For my first year, everything I did was structured as to develop and produce a highly trained soldier. I was not able to go on pass the whole first year because the demand for training was so intense. That platoon produced a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame (**MASTER SERGEANT JOHN D. MINATRA**) who was my squad leader. **Minatra**, 82, retired from the U.S. Army as the third highest decorated Tennessean to serve in the Vietnam War in 1973.



And, another squad leader in our platoon was **First Sergeant Lawrence N. Koontz**, who was considered the highest decorated in the state of Tennessee to serve in the Vietnam War. They named a highway after him.

(Minatra)

RE: An act to name a segment of State Route 374 (101st North Parkway) in Montgomery County in honor of **FIRST SERGEANT LAWRENCE N. KOONTZ**, United States Army, Ret...

WHEREAS, upon his retirement on July 31, 1972, with over 20 years total active service in the United States Army, Sergeant Koontz's decorations, medals, badges, and commendations included the Purple Heart, Silver Star with 2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and 6th Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal with 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal with 6th Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device, Vietnam Service Medal with six Service Stars, and four Overseas Service Bars.

THAT WAS THE TYPE OF LEADERSHIP I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RECEIVE, and because of that rigid training, I have no question that it eventually saved my life many times.

MY ONLY CLAIM TO FAME IS THAT I KNEW THESE FINE SOLDIERS.



AP Wirephoto
 Lt. My. Viet Nam—Sgt. John Minars of Pulaski, Tenn., U.S. Army adviser, uses radio to coordinate operations as South Vietnamese troops move against the Viet Cong near the Da Nang air base sector.

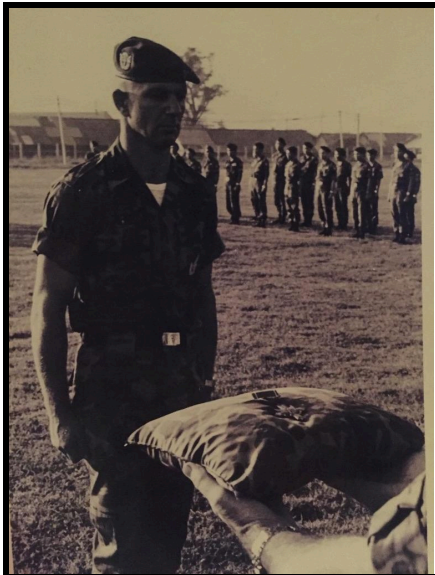


Sergeant First Class John D. Minars receives the Distinguished Service Cross in April, 1968, General W. C. Howerland presents the award.





RANGERS LEAD THE WAY
MASTER SERGEANT JOHN DORVAL MINATRA





FROM: jbkramer@aol.com

SUBJECT: MSG John Dorval Minatra Memorial Highway Dedication

DATE: July 18, 2020

The Giles County Commission voted to name a stretch of Highway 31 South, from the Elkton city limits to the Highway 64 Bypass in Pulaski, TN in memorial honor of MSG John Dorval Minatra.



Left to Right: Rangers King & Toohy, Minatra's twin sons (Larry & Barry), and Rangers Hall & Wagers. Ranger Toohy is holding a framed 1970 photo of the Ranger cadre stationed at the Mountain Ranger Camp at Camp Merrill, Dahlonega, GA. Rangers Minatra and Toohy served together at the MRC in charge of reconnaissance patrol training during that time. RLTW on a stretch of Highway 31 South in Tennessee !

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in present use and was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782. It was the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded or who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat with a declared enemy of the United States of America. The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the US Army Ranger Association (USARA) is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly, make sure we never forget.

The Purple Heart Designation is one of the most prestigious honors a Ranger Base can receive. It is with much admiration, honor and respect that we should salute all of the Veterans and Purple Heart Recipients.

The only requirements for it is that Ranger Base Minatra honor, thank, and acknowledge Purple Heart Veterans. Once the Proclamation is signed by the commander and XO declaring the post a Purple Heart Entity, it will be added to the Purple Heart Trail Website for all of the nation to see.

There are more than 900 Purple Heart locations in the United States, honoring the 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients. I hope that Ranger Base Minatra can be amongst the other locations.



PROCLAMATION

Declaring Ranger Base Minatra a Purple Heart Post

Whereas, Ranger Base Minatra has great admiration and the utmost gratitude and respect for all the men and women who have, and are, selflessly serving their country and this community in the Armed forces; and

Whereas, Veterans have paid the high price of freedom by leaving their families and communities and placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and,

Whereas, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

Whereas, many men and women in uniform have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces; and

Whereas, citizens of our country have received the Purple Heart Medal as a result of being wounded while engaged in combat with an enemy force, construed as a singularly meritorious act of essential service; and

Whereas, Ranger Base Minatra seeks to remember and recognize veterans who are recipients of the Purple Heart Medal; and

Therefore be it resolved, that Ranger Base Minatra is to be proclaimed a Purple Heart Ranger Base, honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform, wounded or killed by the enemy while serving to protect our freedoms.

ADOPTED, this 12th day of November 2022. Now, therefore, I, Joey B. King, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Commander of Ranger Base Minatra, do hereby proclaim Ranger Base Minatra to be a Purple Heart Ranger Base in recognition of our communities' Purple Heart Medal recipients.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Ranger Base Minatra to be affixed this 12th day of November 2022.

Joey B. King, Commander

CERTIFICATE

I, Nathan Lyons Executive Officer of Ranger Base Minatra, do hereby certify that the foregoing proclamation is a true and exact copy.

Nathan Lyons, Executive Officer

Subject: Minatra Ranger Base is a Purple Heart Organization

Date: November 13, 2022 at 10:26 AM

Howdy Tennessee Rangers:

I am pleased to announce that, recently, we were approached by Marine Corporal Andrew Farrer about designating the Minatra Ranger Base as an official organization with the Military Order of the Purple Heart. I am very pleased to announce that we voted to approve the proclamation on 12 Nov 2022. Below are Ranger Hall of Fame Member Mike Wagers (left) and Ranger Jim Toohey (right) holding the proclamation. Both men received the Purple Heart in Vietnam. Also, I am including the link to the website where our approval has been posted.

<https://www.purpleheart.org/PHTrailState/TN?fbclid=IwAR1dAB3au7O9cAg8OWOB-A-qOyceXzxJJ9bYh5YR9Oxox-FglvuhUBYBmU>

