



# THE UNITED STATES WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION<sup>SM</sup>

October 2, 2018

## HONORARY CHAIRS

The Honorable James E. "Jimmy" Carter  
President of the United States (1977-1981)

The Honorable George H.W. Bush  
President of the United States (1989-1993)

The Honorable William J. "Bill" Clinton  
President of the United States (1993-2001)

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States (2001-2009)

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States (2009-2017)

## COMMISSIONERS AND APPOINTING AUTHORITY

Chair, Mr. Terry Hamby  
*(Senate Majority Leader)*

Vice Chair, Mr. Edwin L. Fountain  
*(Senate Majority Leader)*

Ms. Debra Anderson  
*(Veterans of Foreign Wars)*

Cmndr. Zoe Dunning, SC, USN (Ret.)  
*(House Minority Leader)*

Mr. Jerry L. Hester  
*(Senate Minority Leader)*

Col. Thomas Moe, USAF (Ret.)  
*(Speaker of the House)*

Mr. John Monahan  
*(American Legion)*

Dr. Matthew Naylor  
*(National WWI Museum & Memorial)*

Dr. Libby O'Connell  
*(President Barack Obama)*

Ambassador (Ret.) Tod Sedgwick  
*(President Barack Obama)*

Dr. Monique Brouillet Seefried  
*(Speaker of the House)*

Maj. Gen. Alfred A. Valenzuela, USA (Ret.)  
*(President Barack Obama)*

### Support for the WWI Valor Medals Review Task Force and its Goals

WHEREAS, service-members of a diverse array of different races, religions, and cultural backgrounds fought valiantly in the Great War a century ago, many notably serving in segregated units;

WHEREAS, individuals in that war, including those in said units, undoubtedly displayed feats worthy of the nation's highest military honor;

WHEREAS, such recognition exists in the form of the Medal of Honor;

WHEREAS, significant changes occurred in how and why the Medal of Honor was awarded during the war;

WHEREAS, these changes magnified confusion and led to inconsistent standards for Medal of Honor nominations;

WHEREAS, the approval and awarding of the Medal of Honor for service in World War I was patently denied African American service-members until the 1990s, and was potentially denied to members of other minorities as well, despite valorous service in said war;

WHEREAS, Congress has authorized systematic reviews into minority veterans who were potentially deserving of the Medal of Honor, yet overlooked owing to vagaries, in all American wars after World War I, but not for that war itself;

WHEREAS, the Commission has organized a "Valor Medals Review Task Force," consisting of volunteers dedicated to implementing such a systematic review for veterans of World War I;

WHEREAS, the Commission's efforts have been endorsed by the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in nationally adopted resolutions,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States World War I Centennial Commission does hereby endorse the Valor Medals Review Task Force, and calls upon the United States Congress and Department of Defense to authorize a systematic review of the valor medals awarded to African American service-members, and those of other minorities, who were potentially and wrongfully denied the Medal of Honor in spite of displaying conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty.

Terry Hamby  
Chairman  
WWI Centennial Commission