

RECOMMENDATION PROCESS

Receiving the Medal of Honor is the highest military honor bestowed by Congress, and personally presented by the President of the United States. Because of the need for accuracy the recommendation process can take in excess of 18 months with intense scrutiny every step of the way. The following charts demonstrate this process.

Service Secretary submits recommendation package



**Director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management
(OEPM)**



**Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Military Personnel Policy**

**THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS PLAY KEY
ROLES IN THE MEDAL OF HONOR RECOMMENDATION PROCESS:**

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Submits award recommendation that meets the two-year submission time limit to
Department each Branch of the Military, Human Resources Command

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

Submits award recommendation that is outside the two-year limit for submission to Department of respective Human Resources Command or the Secretary of each branch who forwards request to Human Resources Command.

DEPT. OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMAND

Decoration Board - Merit Review, can disprove based on criteria (Cdr, HRC can overrule)
Senior Army Decorations Board - Recommends approval, disapproval, or downgrade.

MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS

Concurs or non-concurs with Board recommendation

CHIEF OF STAFFS

Concurs or non-concurs with Board recommendation

SECRETARY OF EACH MILITARY BRANCH

Recommends approval or can disapprove. Also forwards packet to Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff for comment.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Recommends approval or can disapprove.

PRESIDENT

Approves or disapproves:

- Invitations to attend Presidential inaugurations and accompanying festivities. Military recipients and those who are civil servants have traditionally been authorized administrative absence instead of chargeable leave to attend.
- A special engraved headstone for deceased recipients of the Medal of Honor (provided by VA).
- Accorded on base billeting commensurate with the prestige associated with the Medal of Honor.