

# Navy Compass

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## Visions of Valor Exhibit Commences at Balboa

JO1(SW) Jason McKnight

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SAN DIEGO - TriWest Healthcare Alliance opened a traveling exhibit of museum-quality photographs spotlighting people who wear the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, at Naval Medical Center San Diego Jan. 25.

The Visions of Valor exhibit features large reproductions of black and white portraits from a book by photographer Nick Del Calzo spotlighting the Medal of Honor and those who earned it.

Six recipients of the Medal of Honor, among them local hero Lt. John Finn, Representatives Duncan Hunter and Susan Davis, and Mayor Jerry Sanders all turned out for the event, and several of the dignitaries mingled with the hospital's patients prior to the unveiling.

Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Marine Corps Col. Robert Modrzejewski said he'd been asked by reporters if he considered himself a hero, to which he



**HM3 Lisa McCarthy and HM3 RoseAnn Robles, from the Directorate of Nursing Services at Naval Medical Center San Diego look at the newly unveiled "Visions of Valor" exhibit displaying many of America's Medal of Honor recipients at the hospital's quarterdeck.** Official U.S. Navy photo by JO1(SW) Jason McKnight

said no.

"We had a job to do. We went, and we did it," said Modrzejewski. "Heroes today are what people call rock stars and sports figures. I say our

real heroes are in Arlington, Fort Rosecrans, and our other national cemeteries.

"The real heroes have their names inscribed on the Vietnam War Memorial. Our real

heroes are the 2,200-some who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Congressman Duncan Hunter said the heroes who wear the Medal of Honor and the heroes who still go unrecognized brought freedom to millions of people at the end of World War II and the Cold War.

"And now we're engaged in another war bringing freedom to millions more," said Hunter. "And when I talk to

the wounded heroes here at the hospital, I see the same ingrained sense of duty that is just as much a part of them as it is a part of those we honor with this exhibit today."

Congresswoman Susan Davis added that even though the veterans of previous wars were very uniformly modest and didn't want to be called heroes, "you've earned our celebration of you as our heroes, and that's what we'll call you."

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Lisa McCarthy and HM3 RoseAnn Robles toured the exhibit and said they found it "awesome," and "very moving."

McCarthy said, "The quotes (under each Medal of Honor wearer's portrait) are highly motivational."

Robles said after meeting and talking with the veterans, she found them to be very humble.

"They all said there were just doing their duty," said Robles. "I think it's a tragedy that people today are so unpatriotic. If people would just listen to (the heroes') stories and read the citations and quotes in this exhibit, they'd be better for it."

The exhibit will be displayed in the quarterdeck at NMCS D until the first week of March, when it begins its journey to other military clinics throughout the U.S.