

NAVY DISPATCH NEWSPAPER

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'Visions of Valor' Medal of Honor exhibit in SD

Medal of Honor recipients attended the Jan. 24 opening of a traveling photographic exhibit honoring recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for valor under fire. The exhibit runs through March 10 at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

Medal of Honor recipients Jay Vargas of San Diego and Robert Modrzejewski, along with special guest recipient John Finn, the oldest living recipient and a Pearl Harbor hero, attended an opening ceremony and reception.

A duplicate exhibit donated by TriWest healthcare Alliance to the Pentagon is on permanent display in the Pentagon's new Hall of Heroes.

"TriWest Healthcare Alliance is proud to present these portraits, taken by photographer Nick Del Calzo, of our nation's Medal of Honor recipients," said David J. McIntyre, Jr., president and CEO of TriWest Healthcare Alliance. "We acquired this exhibit with the express purpose of honoring our nation's greatest heroes and sharing their legacies with America."

Visions of Valor is the first and largest exhibit of its kind in the nation's history to honor the courage, commitment and character of Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, whose numbers are declining. Only 117 recipients are still living today. The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 3,460 recipients to date.

The traveling exhibit moved to San Diego from Phoenix and will be displayed over the next several months at veteran's facilities and major military bases and posts across the western United States, including Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, and

Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Wash.

The exhibit is intended to educate the public about the Congressional Medal of Honor and to perpetuate the patriotism, courage and honor of its recipients.

Former Marine Corps Captain Vargas received the Medal of Honor in Vietnam for braving intense enemy fire to rescue a superior officer and inspiring his men to repel enemy forces during strong counterattacks. He was wounded twice in that action.

Former Marine Corps Major Modrzejewski received the Medal of Honor in Viet-

nam for blocking an enemy supply trail. Wounded several times, he crawled 200 meters to provide ammunition to his men and to direct artillery fire, aiming it dangerously close to his position.

Visit www.cmohs.org to read their full citations and for more information about the Congressional Medal of Honor.