

6/18 (2)

John

**From:** John Murray  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** Steve Ledoux  
**Cc:** 'Jim Ettwein'; Tom Tidman; James MacRae; Catherine Fochtman; 'DKrug@concordma.gov'; Bill Klauer; Dennis Ahern; Marcia Rich  
**Subject:**

Steve,

I would respectfully request the BoS to rename the North Acton Recreational Area "NARA" to the Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area "NARA".

Nathaniel M. Allen was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions of gallantry during the Battle of Gettysburg July 2, 1863. A description of his actions rescuing the colors and his Medal of Honor are displayed in the historic section of Memorial Library. His CMOH was awarded March 29, 1899 barely a year before his death. Nathaniel Allen is laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery.

I believe Corporal Allen is Acton' sole recipient of the CMOH. Corporal Allen was originally from Boston but lived with his sister in Acton when awarded the CMOH.

More details concerning Corporal Nathaniel M. Allen actions on July 2, 1863 are available at the following link:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=dRSzh4JQZqwC&pg=PT51&lpg=PT51&dq=Nathaniel+Allen+MOH+Acton+ma&source=bl&ots=OLrtG7izAS&sig=1xM3Yom6QmFeOz1YKYZEbpOmRn4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Py7GT937AdG9gAe-vcDIBg&ved=0CFYQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q&f=false>

I would like to have a renaming ceremony during our Veterans Day 2012 Celebration

John

The Attorney General of Massachusetts has determined:

1. Email is defined as any message created and received on an electronic mail system. An electronic mail system is a service that provides facilities for creating messages, transmitting them through a network and displaying them on a recipient's computer terminal. The email message may be text or word processing documents, spreadsheets or other data compilations transmitted through such a system.
2. All email created or received by an employee of a Massachusetts governmental unit is a public record. In Massachusetts, the term "public record" is broadly defined to include all documentary materials or data created or received by any officer

## John Murray

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**From:** Marcia Rich  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:42 PM  
**To:** John Murray  
**Cc:** Bill Klauer; Dennis Ahern  
**Subject:** RE: Re-naming NARA  
**Attachments:** AllenNathanielLetter.jpg; NathanielMAllenMOHMasonicFDC1.jpg

As Dennis has already forwarded the photo, here is some other information and sources you might find useful:

[http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/civilwar/records/Allen\\_NM.htm](http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/civilwar/records/Allen_NM.htm) Among other things, you can click through on this to a shot of his gravemarker, which has the Medal of Honor designation on it.

Let me know if there's anything else you need.

## NATHANIEL ALLEN

*“When his regiment was falling back, this soldier, bearing the national color, returned in the face of the enemy's fire, pulled the regimental flag from under the body of its bearer, who had fallen, saved the flag from capture, and brought both colors off the field.” –*

Medal of Honor Citation for Nathaniel M. Allen, Corporal, Company B, 1st  
Massachusetts Infantry

Nathaniel M. Allen was born on April 29, 1840 in Boston. His father, Gaius Allen, was from Acton and had served in the Davis Blues during the War of 1812. Nathaniel was a watchmaker when he enlisted as a private in Company “B” of the 1st Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry at East Boston on May 22, 1861. In April 1862, he was promoted to Corporal of the Color Guard, and held that rank until he was discharged on May 25, 1864.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor on March 29, 1899 for rescuing and protecting the State and National flags at the Battle of Gettysburg. Of the 1,527 Medals of Honor awarded for action in the Civil War, more than half were for capturing the flag of an enemy force, or preventing one's own flag from being captured.

On the afternoon of July 2, 1863, the second day of the battle of Gettysburg, the 1st Massachusetts Infantry came under heavy attack by the advancing Confederates. During the engagement, Corporal Allen received the National Colors from his wounded Color Sergeant, William Eaton. As the regiment was rapidly falling back under heavy fire, Corporal Allen saw Color Sergeant William Kelren fall dead with the State Colors beneath him. Running back in the face of heavy fire from the advancing enemy, Allen pulled the flag and staff from under Kelren's body. He brought both State and National colors safely off the field. More than half of Allen's Company were killed or wounded in that action.

In addition to Gettysburg, Allen carried the colors in sixteen other battles, among them the battles of Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Despite being in the color guard, a prime target for enemy fire, he was never wounded, hospitalized, or taken prisoner.

After the War, Nathaniel Allen returned to Boston and then lived in Marblehead for a few years before his failing eyesight made it hard to earn a living at watch repair. He moved in with his unmarried sisters, Adaline and Charlotte in South Acton where he lived out his days. He died on July 30, 1900 at age 60, fourteen months after he received his Medal of Honor at a banquet of the 1<sup>st</sup> Massachusetts Regiment Association. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Acton.

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**From:** John Murray  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:14 PM  
**To:** Bill Klauer; Marcia Rich; Dennis Ahern  
**Subject:** FW: Re-naming NARA

Do you folks know if a photo or image of Cpl. Allen exists?

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**From:** Smith, Margaret [mailto:Msmith@wickedlocal.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:05 PM  
**To:** John Murray  
**Subject:** RE: Re-naming NARA

Do you know, is there a photo or image of Cpl. Allen and thanks,

Margaret

--  
Margaret Smith  
Editor, The Beacon  
Arts Editor, GHMNE Northwest Unit  
<http://www.wickedlocalacton.com>  
<http://www.wickedlocalboxborough.com>  
Phone: 978-371-5732  
Fax: 978-371-5711

**WICKED LOCAL** Serving Acton and Boxborough  
**The Beacon**  
NEWS FROM WICKED LOCAL ACTON & BOXBOROUGH

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**From:** John Murray [mailto:jmurray@acton-ma.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:57 AM  
**To:** John Murray; Steve Ledoux  
**Cc:** 'Jim Ettwein'; Tom Tidman; James MacRae; Catherine Fochtman; 'DKrug@concordma.gov'; Bill Klauer; Dennis Ahern;

## The Nathaniel Allen Recreation Area

I am in favor of the town of Acton renaming NARA Park- The Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area- thus the park will still be known as NARA Park.

Nathaniel Allen received the medal of honor for actions taken during the civil war, in particular, Nathaniel received the medal for "saving the colors".

During the civil war, the job of color bearer was one of the most hazardous as well as important duties in the Army. Soldiers looked to the flag for direction and inspiration in battle and the bearer was usually out in front, drawing heavy enemy fire while holding the flag high.

There is a total of 3,400 recipients of the medal in it's 151 year history, over 1,500 recipients during the civil war alone and only 1,900 recipients since the civil war with only two living recipients in the State of Massachusetts today.

THE MEDAL IS INDEED RARE.

The Town of Acton is honored to have a recipient of the medal of honor resting in peace at Woodlawn Cemetery. I would like to see that is honor is recognized by officially renaming NARA Park- The Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area.

Thank you.

God Bless America

Dick Krug  
95 River Street  
Acton

Town of Concord  
Director of Veterans' Services

## John Murray

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**From:** Dick Krug [dkrug@concordma.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 11:31 AM  
**To:** John Murray; Steve Ledoux  
**Cc:** Jim Ettwein; Tom Tidman; James MacRae; Catherine Fochtman; Bill Klauer; Dennis Ahern; Marcia Rich  
**Subject:** RE:

John,  
I want to thank you for taking a stand on this issue. I am a forty plus year resident of Acton and was hoping of all hopes that NARA Park in North Acton would be renamed Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area (still NARA) in honor of the only recipient of the medal of honor (our nations highest military honor) that has been laid to rest in the Town of Acton- all before I am laid to rest.  
Thank you again for leading the charge on this matter and I am at your assistance in seeing this to closure.

God Bless America,

--rfk

Richard F. Krug  
Director of Veterans' Services  
Town of Concord  
978-318-3038  
978-318-3002 fax  
[dkrug@concordma.gov](mailto:dkrug@concordma.gov)

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**From:** John Murray [<mailto:jmurray@acton-ma.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** Steve Ledoux  
**Cc:** 'Jim Ettwein'; Tom Tidman; James MacRae; Catherine Fochtman; Dick Krug; Bill Klauer; Dennis Ahern; Marcia Rich  
**Subject:**

Steve,

I would respectfully request the BoS to rename the North Acton Recreational Area "NARA" to the Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area "NARA".

Nathaniel M. Allen was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions of gallantry during the Battle of Gettysburg July 2, 1863. A description of his actions rescuing the colors and his Medal of Honor are displayed in the historic section of Memorial Library. His CMOH was awarded March 29, 1899 barely a year before his death. Nathaniel Allen is laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery.

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## John Murray

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**From:** Dennis Ahern [ahern@world.std.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:16 PM  
**To:** John Murray  
**Cc:** Steve Ledoux; 'Jim Ettwein'; Tom Tidman; James MacRae; Catherine Fochtman; 'DKrug@concordma.gov'; Bill Klauer; Marcia Rich  
**Subject:** Nathaniel Allen

As a trustee of the Acton Memorial Library, I heartily endorse this proposal. When the Library was dedicated in 1890 it was in honor of those men of Acton who served and sometimes died, in the Union cause. In later years men who were not from Acton originally settled here and joined the Isaac Davis Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. One of these was Nathaniel Allen who had served in the First Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. His parents and older siblings had all been born in Acton, and he likely would have as well except that his father, Gaius Allen, a veteran of Acton's Davis Blues Militia Company from the War of 1812, had taken a job in Boston as a police officer the year before Nathaniel was born. He served throughout the War in the 1st Mass. Infantry, and on the second day of the battle of Gettysburg was a Corporal in the Color Guard of the First when they were ordered forward out of the line by their brigade commander, General Sickles. This was a big mistake on the part of Sickles who mistakenly believed it would be a higher elevation. Instead, the advanced regiments drew the focus of the advancing Confederates and the brigade took heavy casualties when they were overrun at the Emmetburg road. Forced to retreat, Allen was the only surviving member of the 10-man color guard and he managed to retrieve both the national and regimental colors.

Allen survived the War without ever once being wounded. After being discharged he lived for a time in Marblehead and worked as a watchmaker. His eyesight failing him, he came to Acton to live out his days with his two unmarried sisters. He had a small watch repair shop inside the weigh station at the train depot in South Acton, but he could not do much of the finer work and had to apply for an increase in his pension due to disability.

The Library's Civil War exhibit includes a section on Nathaniel Allen. In it, we have a replacement Medal of Honor obtained for us by Congressman Marty Meehan. I'm told by the Cemetery Department, that they sometimes have tourists come to the office asking for the whereabouts of Nathaniel Allen's grave. It seems some people make a hobby of visiting MoH graves wherever they travel.

See [http://www.actonmemoriamlibrary.org/civilwar/records/Allen\\_NM.htm](http://www.actonmemoriamlibrary.org/civilwar/records/Allen_NM.htm) for Nathaniel Allen's page in the Library's Civil War Archives. There you will find a regimental history of the First Mass. Infantry, pages from Allen's pension file at the National Archives, his personal war sketch from the Isaac Davis Post remembrance book, a newspaper article about his Medal of Honor, his obituary and his burial location.

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Dennis Ahern, Trustee | Acton Memorial Library  
Acton, Massachusetts | <http://www.actonmemoriamlibrary.org>  
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On Wed, 30 May 2012, John Murray wrote:

> Steve,  
>  
>



## John Murray

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**From:** Jim Ettwein [jim@ettwein.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 12:26 PM  
**To:** John Murray; Steve Ledoux  
**Cc:** Tom Tidman; James MacRae; Catherine Fochtman; DKrug@concordma.gov; Bill Klauer; Dennis Ahern; Marcia Rich  
**Subject:** RE:

John,

Thanks for bringing this idea forward. We have talked about this in our Legion meetings many times. It would be a very fitting tribute to Nathaniel Allen to honor him this way. Not many towns in America have Congressional Medal of Honor recipients and it'd be very appropriate to make sure that ours is duly recognized.

I have a PowerPoint presentation on some background material and I'll forward it along if I can find it.

If there's anything that the Legion Post can do to help, you know you can count on us to do it.

Warmest regards,  
Jim Ettwein  
Commander  
Edwards-Quimby American Legion Post 284  
Acton, MA

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**From:** John Murray [mailto:jmurray@acton-ma.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 30, 2012 10:54 AM  
**To:** Steve Ledoux  
**Cc:** 'Jim Ettwein'; Tom Tidman; James MacRae; Catherine Fochtman; 'DKrug@concordma.gov'; Bill Klauer; Dennis Ahern; Marcia Rich  
**Subject:**

Steve,

I would respectfully request the BoS to rename the North Acton Recreational Area "NARA" to the Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area "NARA".

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More details concerning Corporal Nathaniel M. Allen actions on July 2, 1863 are available at the following link:

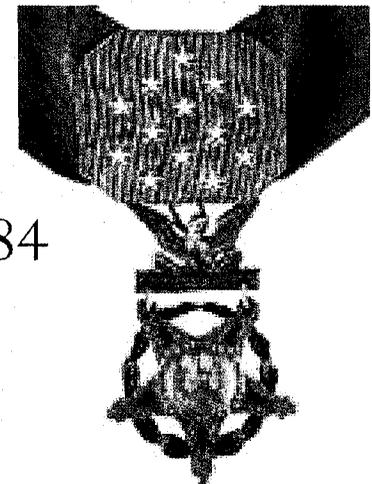
<http://books.google.com/books?id=dRSzh4JQZqwC&pg=PT51&lpg=PT51&dq=Nathaniel+Allen+MOH+Acton+ma&source=bl&ots=OLrtG7izAS&sig=1xM3Yom6QmFeOz1YKYZEbpOmRn4&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Py7GT937AdG9gAe-vcDIBg&ved=0CFYQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q&f=false>

# NARA Rededication and Memorial Project

Honoring Acton's *ONLY* Congressional Medal of  
Honor recipient

Edwards-Quimby American Legion Post 284

Acton, MA



# NARA

- Originally named for its location: North Acton Recreation Area
- There is a need in the town for more focus on historical people who have contributed to the honor brought to Acton
- There are many memorials to groups who have made contributions
- There are only a few to individuals



# NARA

- Some memorials like the Isaac Davis monument actually contain the remains of several Actonians
- There is one prominent Actonian who is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery
- Nathaniel M. Allen received the Congressional Medal of Honor
  - Born: April 29, 1840 at Boston, MA
  - Died: July 30, 1900 and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery
  - CMOH issued March 29, 1899



# NARA

- New American Legion project to rename NARA Park after Nathaniel Allen
- Would establish a strong historical perspective for an excellent son of Acton
- Would not require renaming or redesignating the abbreviation for the park (initials would allow the same short name to be used)
- Acton's Edwards-Quimby American Legion Post 284 would pay for the development and acquisition of a memorial plaque to be placed in a prominent position at NARA Park
- Any such memorial would be developed with the cooperation and guidance of the Acton Historic Commission



# NARA

- Timeline and Proposal
  - We would like to rededicate the park by the start of Spring, 2010
  - We would like there to be a public ceremony with speakers from the town, the Acton Minute Men, the US Army, and local and state politicians
  - Other signs would not have to change as the abbreviation would remain the same



## John Murray

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**From:** Anita Dodson [aldodson1@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2012 8:37 PM  
**To:** John Murray  
**Subject:** Re: Renaming NARA

John...I support your effort to rename NARA. Honoring Nathaniel Allen is much more appropriate than continuing with the name NARA. (which I have never liked)

Anita Dodson

----- Original Message -----

**From:** John Murray  
**To:** Historical Commission  
**Sent:** Friday, June 01, 2012 9:12 AM  
**Subject:** Renaming NARA

On June 18 at 7:15 PM, the Board of Selectmen will be considering my request to rename the "North Acton Recreational Area" to the "Nathaniel Allen Recreation Area".

Nathaniel Allen served in the First Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. His parents and older siblings had all been born in Acton, and he likely would have as well except that his father, Gaius Allen, a veteran of Acton's Davis Blues Militia Company from the War of 1812, had taken a job in Boston as a police officer the year before Nathaniel was born. He served throughout the War in the 1st Mass. Infantry, and on the second day of the battle of Gettysburg was a Corporal in the Color Guard of the First when they were ordered forward out of the line by their brigade commander, General Sickles. This was a big mistake on the part of Sickles who mistakenly believed it would be a higher elevation. Instead, the advanced regiments drew the focus of the advancing Confederates and the brigade took heavy casualties when they were overrun at the Emmetburg road. Forced to retreat, Allen was the only surviving member of the 10-man color guard. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his acts of gallantry in retrieving both the national and regimental colors.

I ask you to support the effort to rename NARA.

John

The Attorney General of Massachusetts has determined:

1. Email is defined as any message created and received on an electronic mail system. An electronic mail system is a service that provides facilities for creating messages, transmitting them through a network and displaying them on a recipient's computer terminal. The email message may be text or word processing documents, spreadsheets or other data compilations transmitted through such a system.
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3. All email messages are subject to public access and disclosure through the provisions of the Massachusetts Public Records Law. G. L. c. 66, § 10.
4. All email messages may be sought and obtained through the discovery process in litigation and may be admissible as evidence in a court of law.

## John Murray

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**From:** John Sonner [jsonner@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:11 PM  
**To:** Board of Selectmen  
**Subject:** Fw: Changing the name of NARA Park

FYI, some citizen input

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jeff Barry  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:35 PM  
**To:** John Sonner  
**Cc:** Patric Clark  
**Subject:** RE: Changing the name of NARA Park

RE: NARA Getting a Name Change? What Do You Think? (Acton Patch, 31-May-2012)

I think they should change the name. NARA is an acronym. Saying, "NARA Park" is like saying, "North Acton Recreational Area Park," which is a phrase they would come up with in the Department of Redundancy Department.

As to whether it should be changed to Nathaniel Allen Park, well, I don't know. Certainly he exhibited bravery in fetching the flag, and it was an important act since in those pre-electronics days the flag literally was a rallying point for the troops.

But I think there might be others from Acton's past who might be more worthy. How about Isaac Davis Park. Isaac Davis was an Actonite and was one of the first to die at the very start of the American Revolution, receiving a fatal wound at the battle of North Bridge in Concord. Personally I think Isaac Davis would be a better person to name the park after. Just my two cents worth.

Jeff Barry  
21 Martin St, Acton, MA

## John Murray

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**Subject:** FW: Changing the name of NARA Park

**From:** John Murray  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 12, 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** 'John Sonner'; Board of Selectmen  
**Subject:** RE: Changing the name of NARA Park

FYI -

Re: Honoring Davis, Hosmer and Hayward.

All three died from wounds suffered on April 19, 1775 - Davis and Hosmer at the Old North Bridge and Hayward pursuing the British retreat in Lexington. All three are interned in the Isaac Davis Monument

Honoring Isaac Davis - age 30 at the time of his death

- o Isaac Davis Plow - in Town Hall
  - o Davis Street
  - o Isaac Davis Way
  - o Isaac Davis Homestead Monument
  - o Isaac Davis Trail - Listed on National Register of Historical Places~ April 11, 1972
  - o Isaac Davis Monument - on the Common and the Town Seal
  - o Isaac Davis Blood Stone -It was given to Acton by the Town of Concord in 1900 and placed at the foot of the Isaac Davis Monument on the Main Street side of the Common.. According to some tradition, Isaac, after he had been shot when the British opened fire at the bridge, fell upon this stone, drenching it with his blood
  - o Isaac Davis Boy Scout Camporee - Annually
- Honoring Abner Hosmer - age 21 at the time of his death
    - o Hosmer St.
    - o Hosmer House - Home of the Acton Historical Society
    - o Headstone at the Isaac Davis Monument
  - 
  - Honoring James Hayward - age 25 at the time of his death
    - o Hayward Rd. Acton
    - o Headstone at the Isaac Davis Monument
    - o Hayward Avenue Lexington.
    - o Monument at the Finke Well -- at the intersection of the old Massachusetts Avenue and Wood Street, Lexington

-----Original Message-----

From: John Sonner [<mailto:jsonner@hotmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 10:11 PM  
To: Board of Selectmen  
Subject: Fw: Changing the name of NARA Park

FYI, some citizen input

## John Murray

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**From:** Stow Laboratories Inc [stomail@stolab.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2012 3:29 PM  
**To:** John Murray; Board of Selectmen  
**Cc:** 'Jim Ettwein'; Tom Rogers; James MacRae; Bill Klauer; Anita Dodson; 'Beth Petr'  
**Subject:** Re: Renaming NARA

I do not have an opinion on the choice of Corporal Allen for the renaming of NARA, but "Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area" will continue to be known as "NARA" accomplishing very little, if anything, to honor Corporal Allen. I also agree with the comment made by someone on ActonPatch --- the name is too long and tends to be further elongated by the unfortunate tendency to call it "NARA Park" -- i.e. North Acton (or Nathaniel Allen) Recreational Area Park -- a redundant duplication :-))

If the BoS wants to change the name, I suggest "Allen Park" ("Nathaniel Allen Park" shortens to "NAP" and that may not be a good thing). A suitable sign at the Park can provide further explanation of who "Allen" was, making the use of the first name unnecessary.

Charlie

On 6/11/2012 2:00 PM, John Murray wrote:

We seek as much support as possible on June 18 (7:15 pm Rm. 204 of Town Hall) for the Selectmen to rename NARA to Nathaniel Allen Recreational Area. Corporal Allen was awarded the Medal of Honor for his action at Gettysburg. For more information please see below.

Please pass the word.

John

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> On June 18 at 7:15 PM, the Board of Selectmen will be considering my request to rename the "North Acton Recreational Area" to the "Nathaniel Allen Recreation Area".

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> John

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## Myths, Little Known Facts and Potpourri

### Myths

**Myth: Out nation's highest honor for valor in combat is the Congressional Medal of Honor.**

**Fact:** While it is common for the Medal to be referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor, the official name is the Medal of Honor. Perhaps the misunderstanding stems from the fact the Medal is awarded "in the name of the Congress." Also confusing the issue is the fact that the Congress chartered the Society of living Medal of Honor recipients as the "Congressional Medal of Honor Society" in 1958.

**Myth: No women have ever received the Medal of Honor.**

**Fact:** One woman was awarded the Medal of Honor for her actions during the Civil War. Her name was Dr. Mary Walker and she cared for wounded Union soldiers on the battlefield and for the sick and wounded after she was captured and became a prisoner of war. Because she was a contract surgeon and not a member of the military, her Medal was rescinded by a board of review in 1917. It was reinstated during the administration of President Carter.

**Myth: You must be a U.S. citizen in order to be awarded the Medal of Honor.**

**Fact:** You must be serving in the U.S. military to qualify for the Medal of Honor, but it is not a prerequisite that an individual be a U.S. citizen. For example, Medal of Honor Alfred Rascon, who emigrated from Mexico, was not a U.S. citizen at the time of the action for which he was later awarded the Medal of Honor.

**Myth: No Medals of Honor have been awarded for non-combat action.**

**Fact:** There was a period of time between 1920 and 1940 when the Medal of Honor was awarded to a number of individuals who were not engaged in combat action. For example, Charles Lindbergh was awarded the Medal of Honor for his non-stop flight in the *Spirit of St. Louis* from New York and Paris in 1927. Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett were awarded the Medal of Honor for their flight over the North Pole in 1926. Today, one must be a member of the U.S. military engaged in combat to qualify for the Medal of Honor and, since 1940, all Medals of Honor have been awarded for heroism in combat.

**Myth: A superior officer must render a military salute to a Medal of Honor recipient of lower rank.**

**Fact:** Although not required by law or military regulation, it is customary for members of the uniformed services to render salutes to recipients of the Medal of Honor as a matter of respect and courtesy regardless of rank or status.

**Myth: No member of a foreign military has ever been awarded the Medal of Honor.**

**Fact:** The Medal of Honor has been awarded to the unknown soldiers of the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Belgium and Romania from WWI.

### Little Known Facts

**Factoid:** More than 60% of the Medals of Honor awarded since the beginning of World War II have been awarded posthumously.

**Factoid:** Of the more than 40 million veterans who have served since the beginning of the Civil War, fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded.

**Factoid:** Despite their many heroic actions, no Asian Americans or African Americans were awarded the Medal of Honor in WWII. This was redressed in the early 1990's when, upon review, 7 Medals of Honor were awarded to African Americans from WWII (only one was still living) and, in 2000, to 22 Asian Americans from WWII.

**Factoid:** The remains of the unknowns interred in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington Cemetery from WWI, WWII and Korea have been awarded the Medal of Honor by the President of the United States following those conflicts. Originally, the remains of the unknown from the Vietnam War were also entombed in the Tomb of the Unknowns and awarded the Medal of Honor. However, because of advances in science,

#### Documents

- [2011 In Review](#)
- [Other Documents](#)
- [Myths, Little Known Facts and Potpourri](#)

those remains were identified through DNA and removed from the tomb and returned to the family.

**Factoid:** One member of the U.S. Coast, Douglas Munro, was awarded the Medal of Honor during WWII for his actions at Point Cruz, Guadalcanal, on September 27, 1942. During wartime, the Coast Guard falls under the Department of the Navy.

**Factoid:** There have been 19 double awards of the Medal of Honor. Five of those were for the same action. Under an Act passed in 1918, an individual can be awarded the Medal of Honor only once.

**Factoid:** The Medal of Honor is the only military decoration worn around the neck. Other medals are worn over the left breast, normally on formal military uniforms.

**Factoid:** It is illegal to sell, wear, or manufacture the Medal of Honor. These restrictions were expanded to all military medals for valor by the Stolen Valor Act in 2005.

## Potpourri

There have been fewer than 3,500 "winners" of the Medal of Honor. It's true that fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded, BUT you don't "win" the Medal of Honor, you earn it and those who have received the Medal are referred to as "recipients." There are no "winners" in war; people die. The living Medal recipients adamantly resist being referred to as "winners."

The first African-American recipient of the Medal of Honor was William Carney for his actions during the Civil War on July 18, 1863 at Fort Wagner, SC. He seized the colors when the color bearer was fatally shot and carried it throughout the battle.

The Medal of Honor has been awarded to minorities:

- African-Americans – more than 85 (one African-American was awarded the Medal twice)
- Hispanic-Americans – more than 40
- Asian-Americans – more than 30
- Native-Americans – more than 20

The first action for which a Medal of Honor was ultimately awarded took place before the Civil War had even begun, February 13-14, 1861, in what is now Arizona. Bernard J.D. Irwin was an Assistant Surgeon in the Army when he voluntarily led a command of troops to relieve a surrounded detachment of the 7th Infantry. Irwin's Medal was not awarded until January 24, 1894, over 30 years after he had performed his deed.

The first Medals of Honor were awarded on March 25, 1863. The first was presented to Private Jacob Parrott from among a group of 6 men awarded the Medal for their actions in "The Great Locomotive Chase" in April 1862. They were the first ever to wear the Medal of Honor.

The last of the 6 of 15 Medal of Honor recipients who survived the Japanese attack on Hawaii and Pearl Harbor was John Finn who passed away in 2010 at the age of 100.

There have been two father-son awards of the Medal of Honor. One was President Theodore Roosevelt for leading the charge on San Juan Hill and his son, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. for actions on D-Day in WWII. The second was Arthur MacArthur, Jr. for his heroic action during the Civil War and son, Douglas MacArthur for action during WWII.

On July 25, 1963 Congress established a set of guidelines under which the Medal of Honor could be awarded that are still in effect today. The individual must be a member of the Armed Forces and distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

- While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or,
- While serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

## John Murray

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**From:** Silas Johnson [sjohnson@cmohfoundation.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 11, 2012 8:45 AM  
**To:** John Murray  
**Subject:** Fwd: Parks named for MOH recipients

John-I asked the archivist for a list of states that have done what you are trying to do. Use this as background for our talk. I will try to call you in few minutes.

Thanks, Si

Silas R. Johnson, Jr.  
President  
Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation  
[sjohnson@cmohfoundation.org](mailto:sjohnson@cmohfoundation.org)  
W: 703-237-1222  
C: 703-869-4430

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Archivist <[moharchive@earthlink.net](mailto:moharchive@earthlink.net)>  
**Date:** Fri, Jun 8, 2012 at 4:52 PM  
**Subject:** Parks named for MOH recipients  
**To:** Silas Johnson <[sjohnson@cmohfoundation.org](mailto:sjohnson@cmohfoundation.org)>  
**Cc:** Victoria Leslie <[vleslie@earthlink.net](mailto:vleslie@earthlink.net)>

Si-

Below is a list of parks named for MOH recipients. It's not exhaustive. The only ones I could find that are run by state entities were the Alvin York, Wetzel, and Bong ones.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park (ND): <http://www.nps.gov/thro/index.htm> Administered by the National Park Service

MacArthur Park, Los Angeles (CA): <http://www.laparks.org/dos/parks/facility/macArthurPk.htm> Administered by the City of Los Angeles

W. C. Wetzel State Recreation Area (MI):  
<http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?type=SPRK&id=507>; <http://www.fowsra.org/>  
Administered by Michigan State's Department of Natural Resources.

Merli-Sarnoski Park (PA): [http://www.lackawannacounty.org/attractions\\_mspark.aspx](http://www.lackawannacounty.org/attractions_mspark.aspx) Administered by the Lackawanna County Parks & Recreation Division

Sgt. Alvin C. York State Historic Park (TN): <http://www.tn.gov/environment/parks/adventures/>

Richard Bong State Recreation Area (WI): <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/richardbong/> Administered by the Wisconsin State Park System

Plus two in Massachusetts:

Captain James Burt Veterans Memorial Park (Lee, MA)

P.F.C. William R. Caddy Memorial Park (Quincy, MA)

I hope this helps,

Laura

Laura S. Jowdy, C.A.

Archivist

Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Mt. Pleasant, SC

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