# Medal Sought for World War I Veteran

#### Oregon's political leaders lend support

Oregon politicians, family and friends are on a mission to give hero Henry Lincoln Johnson by

Johnson, an African American rate the story. soldier in World War I who died

black unit under French Command and single-handedly fought off a German raiding party and saved the life of a fellow soldier in the early morning hours on May 15, 1918.

His actions earned him the French equivalent of the Medal of Honor, but Johnson's unit was under proper recognition to World War I French command, so the U.S. military has claimed for more than nine providing with a Medal of Honor, decades that there are not enough which was denied to him in the past. credible U.S. sources to corrobo-

According to federal regulations, after the war in 1929, served in an all-the Medal of Honor is awarded by



Henry Lincoln Johnson

the President on behalf of the Congress, and incontestable sources of proof are needed to prove the action and all sources are subject to the also sent a letter to Defense Secresame level of scrutiny.

For more than 75-years he would not receive so much as a Purple Heart from the U.S. military. In recent years, however, family, friends and supporters are dedicated to have Johnson's valor recognized.

Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish, whose grandfather Hamilton Fish served as an officer in the 396th Infantry at the same time as Johnson, is among those seeking to honor him.

Last month, Oregon's U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley

tary Leon Panetta, urging the Department of Defense to reevaluate Sgt. Johnson's case for the Medal of Honor.

"Sergeant Johnson finally received his long overdue Purple Heart in 1996," wrote Wyden and Merkley in the letter. "In 2003 after a herculean effort by his family, friends, and supporters, Sergeant Johnson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Yet these awards do not properly recognize Sergeant Johnson's heroism."

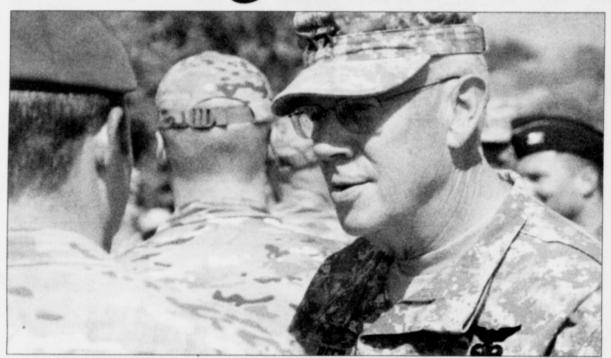
## General Leads Oregon Forces

The highest-ranking military officer in the state of Oregon is Major General Raymond F. Rees, who is responsible for providing the state with a ready force of citizen soldiers and airmen, equipped and trained to respond to any contingency, natural or manmade.

Rees directs, manages, and supervises the administration, discipline, organization, training and mobilization of the Oregon National Guard, the Oregon State Defense Force, the Joint Force Headquarters and the Office of Oregon Emergency Management.

He is also assigned as the Gov. John Kitzhaber's Homeland Security Advisor. He develops and coordinates all policies, plans and programs of the Oregon National Guard in concert with the governor and Oregon Legislature.

Rees began his military career in the Army as a West Point cadet in 1962. He earned a law degree from the University of Oregon and is a Vietnam War veteran.



Maj. Gen. Raymond F. Rees is the highest-ranking military officer for Oregon.

#### **Franklin Grad Joins Guard**

Franklin High School class of 2009 graduate Timothy A. Heller has completed basic infantry training Fort Benning, Ga.

During the nine weeks of training, the Army National Guard soldier received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history/

Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses.

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