



“Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now”

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
Executive Editor

TED BANKS
Advertising Manager

JERRY FOSTER
Account Executive

LISA LOVING
News Editor

BRIAN STIMSON
Reporter

DAVID KIDD
Graphic Designer

MONICA J. FOSTER
Seattle Office Coordinator

JULIE KEEFE
SUSAN FRIED
Photographers



The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published each Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc., 415 N. Killingsworth St., P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228. Telephone (503) 285-5555. E-mail: info@theskanner.com World Wide Web site: <http://www.theskanner.com> Fax: (503) 285-2900 *The Skanner* is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

All photos submitted become the property of *The Skanner*. We are not responsible for lost or damaged photos either solicited or unsolicited.

© 2010 *The Skanner*. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION PROHIBITED.

**Knowing What’s
Important Can
Change Your Life!**

Subscribe to *The Skanner* – don’t miss an issue!

Please sign me up for:

- ☐ 1 year \$74
- ☐ 2 year \$140
- ☐ New Subscription
- ☐ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Mail with check or money
order to: **The Skanner**
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228

Two Brave Soldiers. One Medal.

Two weeks ago, Nov. 16, President Obama awarded Staff Sergeant Sal Giunta America’s highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

The award recognized Giunta’s exceptional bravery during combat, in rescuing a comrade from Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. Giunta’s company was stationed in one of the most dangerous regions on earth: the Korangal Valley, known by soldiers as the Valley of Death, on the Pakistan Afghanistan border.

A supremely modest man, Giunta has said he feels that any soldier would have done what he did. But while it’s true that many serviceman act with selfless courage during combat, Giunta’s incredible bravery in confronting enemy fire to rescue his comrade was exceptional. Giunta well deserves the Medal of Honor.

Here at *The Skanner* we were struck by the similarity between Staff Sgt. Giunta’s actions the courageous behavior of another man did during another war. Sgt. Henry Lincoln Johnson received the Croix de Guerre from the French government for his exceptional bravery during WWI, but was passed over by his own country – because he was Black.

Compare for yourself:

**Staff Sgt. Giunta’s
Bravery in Combat.**

After dark on Oct. 25, 2007, Giunta and six other troops were returning to their outpost on a sparsely forested hill, when 10 to 15 insurgents ambushed them, attacking from both the north and the west, with AK 47s, 10 rocket propelled grenades and three machine guns. Two of the men were hit – one died immediately. As Giunta rushed to help a com-

**FROM THE
PUBLISHER**

Bernie Foster



rade who had been hit on the helmet, his ceramic vest plate was hit along with the weapon he was carrying.

Giunta and his men threw

during combat.

Johnson and a comrade, Needham Roberts, were on guard in a forward post, several hundred yards ahead of where their company was sleeping on the night of May 13, 1918. The terrain was the Argonne Forest, a heavily wooded plateau where the French were attacking an entrenched German force.

In the dark early hours of the morning they heard German voices, then the click of wire cutters clipping through their barbed wire

Enemy troops seized Johnson’s rifle,
but he pulled out his bolo knife and
kept striking hard until he repelled
them

grenades to disrupt the attack and kept moving. As they advanced they helped Spc. Eckrode, who’d been wounded. Squad leader Errick Gallardo called a MEDEVAC. Giunta continued looking for Sgt. Joshua Brennan. When he couldn’t find him Giunta ran after the retreating Taliban soldiers. Two of the insurgents were dragging the wounded Brennan away by his arms and legs. Giunta ran through enemy fire, firing at Brennan’s captors. He killed one and wounded the other, who dropped Brennan and fled.

Giunta managed to pull Brennan to safety and looked after him until the MEDEVAC team arrived. Later that day Brennan died in surgery.

**Sgt. Henry Lincoln
Johnson’s courage**

defences. Needham and Johnson began furiously tossing grenades and firing at the attackers with their rifles. Enemy troops seized Johnson’s rifle, but he pulled out his bolo knife and kept striking hard until he repelled them.

Through the darkness, he could detect figures dragging Roberts away. He followed and attacked the retreating troops. Unsure how many men they were up against, the German troops dropped Roberts and fled, firing back at Johnson and Roberts.

In the battle, Johnson had been shot three times and suffered numerous bayonet wounds. Roberts too was seriously wounded.

In daylight, the troops found seven pairs of wire cutters, 40 grenades and numerous other weapons. Investigators concluded

that Johnson and Roberts between them had killed at least four enemy troops and wounded a dozen more. They held their post. The French recognized both men’s heroism with the Croix de Guerre, the highest battle honor France can give.

But at home in the United States, Johnson and Roberts contributions were ignored. Finally, in 2003, a campaign succeeded in obtaining a Distinguished Service Cross for Sgt. Johnson. Herman A. Johnson, his son, a Tuskegee airman, accepted that award from President Bush. At *The Skanner*, we believe Sgt. Johnson was cheated of the Medal of Honor he so richly deserved.

Why, almost a century later does that matter? It matters because it was wrong. The French recognized many African American soldiers. The United States recognized not one single Black soldier from WWI.

Blogger MarineAuntie1 had this to say on the website AllMilitary.com, about Staff Sgt. Sal Giunta’s Medal of Honor.

“Seeing this reminded me so much of my mother, who was proud of her Italian heritage and would have taken a proprietary interest in SSgt. Giunta’s story.”

African Americans would like to feel a similar sense of pride in our heroic heritage, but have been denied that satisfaction. It’s never too late to right this wrong.

President Obama, it’s time to give recognition to Sgt. Henry Lincoln Johnson and the Medal of Honor.

What Do You Think?

You can post your comments
on www.theskanner.com

Leave your comments here

Comment

A Radical Plan: Start Where We Agree

Last week, the two co-chairs of The President’s National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform released an initial proposal for reducing the federal government’s wide budget deficit. Predictably, a rush of negative reaction immediately followed from both the left and the right. Each side warning that the other wants to either raise your taxes or slash valued benefits and services.

The silence, however, is deafening when it comes to the Commissioners’ explicit recommendations to Congress to cut many of the carve outs and giveaways won over the years by lobbyists for corporate special interests.

Moving forward, leadership in Congress has a choice. They can either begin the process of real fiscal reform by focusing on the specific remedies in the Commissioners’ recommendations that make sense to taxpayers and have bipartisan support or they can dodge the issue by continuing to fan the flames of disagreement and gridlock.

If they choose progress over paralysis, they should start by reviewing common ground

POLICY ADVOCATE OSPRIG

Jon Bartholemew

reforms. Right and left alike can agree to end unnecessary pay-

the lobbyists for the direct beneficiaries, would argue that it is a national priority to spend taxpayer funds on TV ads in Asia, Europe and elsewhere hawking consumer products on behalf of multinational corporations. The so-called

omable heights. The government continues to award sole-source contracts – contracts without any competitive bidding process – to, in several expensive examples, produce far more goods than it needs.

Competition and planning are values that cross the partisan divide.

Americans heard quite a bit about extravagant federal spending in this election. Many candidates made taming the spending culture in Washington their lead campaign theme. Now in office, these lawmakers have a chance to match the rhetoric that brought them to office with actions that begin the process responsible fiscal management.

We urge Congress, the new members as well as leadership – including Rep. Walden, to start where the left and right can agree, where lobbyists for corporate special interests have gamed the system, where the American people hope and expect progress can be made by working together.

Government can work better and safeguard taxpayer dollars. There is common ground if our leaders are willing to look for it

Overspending on unaccountable
contractors has reached
unfathomable heights

ments to mature, profitable industries that do not need taxpayer sub-

Market Access Program has outlived whatever its original purpose

If they choose progress over paralysis,
they should start by reviewing
common ground reforms

sitized financial incentives to run their businesses. Few, outside of

might have been.

Overspending on unaccountable contractors has reached unfath-