May 20, 2011

SIXTEEN SERVICE CROSS RECIPIENTS SCHEDULED FOR INDUCTION
AT LOUISIANA MILITARY HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Secretary of State Tom Schedler and the Friends of the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and Museum are inviting the public to attend the fourth induction ceremony at the museum on the grounds of the Chris Crusta Airport in Abbeville on Sunday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sixteen service cross recipients from Louisiana will be inducted into the Hall of Fame during a ceremony at 2 p.m.

Inductees are:
- Sgt. Richard Franklin Abshire, U.S. Marine Corps, Navy Cross, from Abbeville;
- Ensign John Burton Bain, U.S. Navy, Navy Cross (second award), from Franklin;
- Gen. Robert H. Barrow, U.S. Marine Corps, Distinguished Service Cross and Navy Cross, from St. Francisville;
- Brig. Gen. Steve A. Chappuis, U.S. Army, Distinguished Service Cross, from Rayne;
- 2nd Lt. Conrad C. Derouen Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, Navy Cross, from Abbeville;
- Rear Adm. Thomas Michael Dykers, U.S. Navy, Navy Cross (second award), from New Orleans;
- Rear Adm. Walker Thomas Griffith, U.S. Navy, Navy Cross (second award), from Mansfield;
- 1st Lt. (Chaplain) Joseph Verbis LaFleur, Army Air Force, Distinguished Service Cross, from Ville Platte;
- 1st Lt. Herman Moyse, U.S. Army, Distinguished Service Cross, from St. Gabriel;
- Rear Adm. Thomas John Ryan Jr., U.S. Navy, Medal of Honor (Peacetime) and Navy Cross (second award), from New Orleans; and
- Col. William T. Whisner, Army Air Force, Distinguished Service Cross (third award), from Shreveport.
Each branch awards their service cross members who have demonstrated extreme valor in the face of an armed enemy. These awards are second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Family members, friends and guests from throughout the United States will attend. Admission is free. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. For more information about the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and Museum, visit www.sos.louisiana.gov/lmhofam or call 337.356.1881.

- www.sos.louisiana.gov -