



MAY 12, 2006

Unique Medal of Honor exhibit opens on hill

Medal of Honor recipients and local dignitaries attended the opening of the nation's first traveling photographic exhibit honoring recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration, in a ceremony Thursday at the Academy's McDermott Library.

The exhibit, entitled "Visions of Valor" will remain in the McDermott Library through commencement week. It will then be moved to the Academy's Visitor Center June 2, where it will be available for viewing by the general public.

The exhibit features many dramatic black and white portraits of Medal of Honor recipients and pays special tribute to Capt. Lance P. Sijan, the only Air Force Academy graduate to receive the Medal of Honor.

Seven Southern Colorado Medal of Honor recipients are also honored. The exhibit is sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance.

"TriWest Healthcare Alliance is proud to present these portraits, taken by photographer Nick Del Calzo, of our nation's Medal of Honor recipients," Tri-West President and CEO David J. McIntyre said. "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 exhibit of its kind to honor the courage, commitment and character of Medal of Honor recipients, whose numbers are declining. Only 113 recipients are still living.

The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 3,460 recipients throughout the nation's history.

Following its showing in Colorado, the exhibit goes to Washington and Texas.