

## Silver Helmet Award History



The Silver Helmet was first presented at the AMVETS 10th Anniversary Dinner to World War II hero and diplomat General of the Army George C. Marshall, in recognition of his contributions as a soldier, statesman and American. This unique silver replica of the World War II GI helmet, has over the years acquired a well-deserved reputation as the most prestigious of all the awards given by veterans organizations and is now known as the “Veterans Oscar.”

Symbolizing General George C. Marshall’s leadership, the award is given to recognize excellence and achievements in fields such as Americanism, Defense, Rehabilitation, Congressional Service, Civil Service and Peace.

In addition to the Silver Helmet Awards, the AMVETS Auxiliary, since 1976, presents the Humanitarian Award to an outstanding American who serves our country in peace and war, who builds and maintains the welfare of the United States of America toward lasting prosperity and peace for all its inhabitants. The Sons of AMVETS also recognize a distinguished civic leader for their National Aid and Support.

Nominations for the Silver Helmet Awards originate with individual AMVETS members and AMVETS posts, and are endorsed by the respective state AMVETS honors and awards committees prior to the AMVETS national convention in August.

The AMVETS National Honors and Awards Committee, composed of all past national commanders and the last five “AMVET-of-the-Year” awardees, reviews the nominations and makes recommendations to the convention to determine the recipients.

The Silver Helmet Awards Banquet is held annually in conjunction with the AMVETS Spring National Executive Committee meeting. In addition to AMVETS members, the audience includes cabinet members, members of Congress and military officials who come to pay tribute to the recipients of the award and AMVETS.

## Silver Helmet Honorees of Note

Patrick Hallinan, 2015 Civil Service  
Judge Robert Russell, 2015 Rehabilitation  
Gus Bilirakis, 2014 Congressional  
Donald Driver, 2013 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Judge Robert P. Milich, 2012 Civil Servant  
Edward R. Boyer, 2011 Rehabilitation  
Mike White, 2010 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Tammy Duckworth, 2009 Civil Servant  
Jerry Reed Hubbard, 2009 Special Award  
Shauna Fleming, 2008 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Morrill Worcester, 2008 Americanism  
Charlie Daniels, 2007 Americanism  
McCormick Tribune Foundation, 2006 Americanism  
Wayne Newton, 2005 Americanism  
Mary Kay Rena Tarbet, 2004 Special  
Cloyd C. Pinson, Sr., 2004 Americanism  
George W. Bush, 2003 Gold Helmet Award  
Bart Starr, 2003 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Rudolph Giuliani, 2002 Civil Servant  
Dolly Parton, 1999 Humanitarian  
William S. Cohen, 1999 Defense  
Max Cleland, 1999 Rehabilitation  
Zachary & Elizabeth M. Fisher, 1997 Aux Humanitarian  
Jennifer Wilson, 1996 Americanism  
Hillary Rodham Clinton, 1996 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Joe "Jah Paul Jo" Ramsey, 1995 Special  
Kimberly Clarice Aiken, 1995 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Irv "Kup" Kupcinet, 1995 Americanism  
Marlo Thomas, 1994 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Pete Coors, 1994 Americanism  
Silent Crew of the U.S.S. Arizona, 1993 Memorial  
(Posthumous)  
Rosalyn Carter, 1993 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
George H.W. Bush, 1992 Gold Helmet Award  
Barbara Bush, 1992 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Norman Schwartzkopf, 1992 Defense  
Colin Powell, 1991 Defense  
Arthur Kaplan, 1991 Americanism  
Kevin Dobson, 1990 Americanism  
Abigail (Dear Abby) Van Buren, 1990 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Jimmy Crum, 1989 Special  
Sam Nunn, 1988 Meritorious Achievement  
Lee Greenwood, 1988 Americanism  
Jack Klugman, 1987 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
the Special Olympics, 1987 Special  
Nancy D. Reagan, 1986 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Elizabeth H. Dole, 1986 Civil Servant  
Bill Kurtis, 1985 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Lee Iacocca, 1985, Americanism  
Dom and Carol DeLuise, 1984 Americanism  
John McCain, 1984 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Danny Kaye, 1983 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Frank Sinatra, 1982 Special Award  
Bob Dole, 1982 Congressional  
Ronald Reagan, 1982 Gold Helmet Award  
Alan Cranston, 1981 Congressional  
Pope John Paul II, 1981 Peace  
Martha Roundtree, 1980 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Rocky Bleier, 1980 Rehabilitation  
Hugh O'Brian, 1980 Americanism  
Eunice Shriver, 1979 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Robert W. Miller, 1978 Americanism  
Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, 1978 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Gerald Ford, 1977 Gold Helmet Award  
Ralph Nader, 1977 Special Award  
Kathryn "Kate" Smith, 1977 Americanism  
Mrs. Spencer Tracy, 1977 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Corrine "Lindy" Boggs, 1976 Auxiliary Humanitarian  
Daniel J. "Cappie" James, Jr., 1976 Defense  
Gordon Sinclair, 1975 Special  
Joe DiMaggio, 1974 Americanism  
Johnny Mann, 1973 Americanism  
Raymond Burr, 1973 Special  
John Wayne, 1972 Americanism  
Henry Kissinger, 1972 Peace  
Pope Paul VI, 1971 Peace  
Danny Thomas, 1971 Special  
Richard "Red" Skelton, 1970 Americanism  
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, 1970 Special  
Richard Nixon, 1970 Gold Helmet  
W. Averell Harriman, 1969 Peace  
William C. Westmoreland, 1969 Defense  
Lyndon Johnson, 1968 Gold Helmet  
Walter Winchell, 1968 Americanism  
Martha Raye, 1967 Special  
Richard K. Mellon, 1966 Special  
Carl Vinson, 1965 Defense  
Adlai E. Stevenson, 1965 Peace  
John F. Kennedy, 1964 Peace (Postumous)  
Carl Sanders, 1964 Americanism  
Edmund S. Muskie, 1963 Congressional  
Robert S. McNamara, 1963 Defense  
Eleanor Roosevelt, 1962 Peace  
Hyman G. Rickover, 1962 Defense  
J. Edgar Hoover, 1962 Americanism  
Astronaut Team of Project Mercury, 1962 Special  
Bob Hope, 1961 Special Award  
Henry Cabot Lodge, 1961 Peace  
Lyndon B. Johnson, 1960 Defense  
Richard M. Nixon, 1960 Peace  
Dwight Eisenhower, 1959 Peace  
Harry Truman, 1958 Americanism  
Phil Silvers, 1957 Americanism  
John Foster Dulles, 1952 Peace  
General George C. Marshall, 1957\*

*\* First Silver Helmet Award*