



HISTORIC  
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MAY 2016



## **MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH**

Long overdue is a salute to our veterans of Korea and Vietnam. We share two stories here, from a book by J. Bolling Williamson, an instructor with Tigrett Corp. Williamson has amassed leadership examples from the alumni of his alma mater, Virginia Military Institute. The book will be released early next year.

### **Excerpt from "On the Field of Honor"**

*By J. Bolling Williamson*

Bravery and humanity can be expressed in many ways during time of war. When a Vietnamese farmer was brought to his



public health mission, **Major General James W. Humphreys, MD**, VMI Class of 1935, was confronted with a walking bomb: a live 40mm grenade was imbedded in the man's back. The sensitive fuse made removal particularly risky, and Dr. Humphreys elected to perform the dangerous extraction procedure himself, rather than assign the job to one of the surgeons on his staff.

**Verne Edward Chaney** graduated from VMI in 1945. One day after the Korean War erupted in 1950, Chaney resigned as a resident in surgery at Johns Hopkins to volunteer with the Army Medical Corps. He served in a forward hospital and then in a battalion aid station as battalion surgeon, and was evacuated after being wounded trying to rescue three medics in a mine field. When he left the Army to return to medical school, he had earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and French Croix de Guerre. After completing his medical education, Chaney worked for a period as Chief of Surgery in Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti and later with Dr. Thomas A Dooley training health workers in Vietnam and Cambodia. Following Dooley's death, Dr. Chaney gave up his private practice to establish the Thomas A Dooley Foundation, an organization that provides medical equipment and supplies for the improvement of health services in underdeveloped countries.



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