

Too Many Heroes

Yes, in May, or even year-round, America should honor those who have served. But for the MOAA May issue to use “Honoring Heroes” [From the Editor] as the title to an article [that] includes all members of the armed services ... is a false characterization of most of us (who aren’t heroes) and cheapens (because it expands the definition of the word so broadly) the title earned by those who really are.

Later, there is an article on Companions for Heroes, which provides therapy and service dogs to deserving servicemembers. Continuing on, there is an article about national cemeteries, which “honor America’s fallen heroes,” but the content embraces all who are buried there. The word has been so over-used it no longer has meaning.

It is not just [*Military Officer*]: San Antonio has a Heroes Stadium. ... What is happening is the raising of the designation of all who have been in uniform up to the point that true heroism is not honored.

I had a total of 42 years of service. In that time, I never did anything that was heroic. (OK, there was the time I told a three-star he was an embarrassment to the uniform.) A few of my contempo-

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raries I know well did brave things in combat, but none was a “hero.” ...

There is a perfectly good word [that] describes every one of us. It also applies equally to all of us. Each of us is proud to say we served our country and that we are a veteran. That is honor enough. Please call us what we really are — and not what we aren’t.

—Brig. Gen. J. Ronald Carey, USA (Ret)

Life Member
via email