



## WAR MEMORIAL CENTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Sheet 1: “Going Above and Beyond”

### **Part I: Six Core Values of the Medal of Honor**

The Medal of Honor, the United States’ highest award for military valor in action, represents six core values listed below. Define each of the following terms in your own words and give one example of behavior that exemplifies each value. Think of examples that consider various life experiences (not necessarily military service):

1. Courage

Example:

2. Commitment

Example:

3. Citizenship

Example:

4. Sacrifice

Example:

5. Integrity

Example:

6. Patriotism

Example:

## Part II: Medal of Honor Citation<sup>1</sup>

Read the citation of Gary G. Wetzel's Medal of Honor and answer the following questions:

1. How do you understand the phrase "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity"? Use a dictionary if necessary.
2. In what role did Wetzel serve in Vietnam? What happened to his helicopter?
3. What happened when Wetzel was going to the aid of his aircraft commander?
4. What injuries did Wetzel suffer?
5. What did Wetzel do after he got severely injured?
6. Choose three of the six core values that you defined in Part I and find one example of each of the three values in Wetzel's citation.

Value 1:

Value 2:

Value 3:

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<sup>1</sup> Sp4c. means specialist fourth class. Wetzel was private first class when he received the Medal of Honor and was later promoted.

### **Part III: Reflecting on the Vietnam War**

Analyze the following quotes from the War Memorial Center video honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gary G. Wetzel's Medal of Honor. How do you understand them?

1. "I try not to relive it, but I don't forget it."
2. "Every night, when I do go to bed, I take the war off. And then every morning when I get ready for the day, I put the war back on."
3. "... Not glorifying battle but battle has its moments and there are people who go a little bit above and beyond what they should do and that's what this [the Medal of Honor] represents. You know, people going above and beyond, putting their lives in a line for their brothers."
4. "When I received this [the Medal of Honor], I got hate mail. You know, I'm a baby killer and warmonger and things like that. Of course, nobody signed their name but that's life. You don't sit and dwell on it. You forget about it. ... What people shouldn't do... they shouldn't associate the war with the warrior."