



USS Midway Museum Former Military Heroes Thank Today's Frontline Heroes

Combat veterans show their appreciation for the service and sacrifice of COVID-19 heroes in poignant video

SAN DIEGO (May 14, 2020) – Tom Herskowitz flew 200 combat missions over the skies of Vietnam; Al Hanson took part in World War II combat missions in the Pacific Theater; and Ken Guyer served two tours as a patrol boat gunner during the Vietnam War. These quiet and humble U.S. military heroes of the past, each a volunteer at the USS Midway Museum, are sending their appreciation to today's frontline heroes in the fight against COVID-19 in an emotional 'thank you' video. Link to downloadable video - <https://we.tl/t-B7NxjNwSZQ>. The video can also be found at this YouTube link - https://youtu.be/WwMFd70_U4

"I want to thank everyone out there right now, the doctors, nurses, clerks, delivery people" said Al Hansen, who flew combat missions over the Pacific Ocean during World War II in various U.S. Navy bomber aircraft.

The USS Midway Museum's 'thank you' video features several former military veterans, each of whom have experienced their own extremely challenging times during combat tours. For them, the essential workers of today are true heroes.

"What I think a hero is, is somebody that goes into harm's way, knowingly," said Tom Herskowitz, who, as a U.S. Navy radar intercept officer in F-4 Phantom fighters, flew hundreds of combat missions during the Vietnam War.

"Anybody who puts their life on the line to help another human being, that's a hero," said Ken "Gunner" Guyer, a U.S. Navy patrol boat gunner in Vietnam.

These combat veterans, commended for their own acts of heroism, continue to give back to the community as volunteer docents at the USS Midway Museum, helping preserve the important legacy of all those who have served and continue to serve in the uniform their country. Who better to appreciate the heroic efforts of everyone working on the frontlines today?

"It's amazing what some of these people are doing now," said Willis King, who flew 20 combat rescue missions in Vietnam for the U.S. Navy as an H-46 Sea Knight helicopter pilot. "I salute them and just want to say thank you."

- USS Midway Museum-

The USS Midway Museum opened to the public in June 2004 and today is one of San Diego's most popular visitor attractions with more than 1 million guests coming aboard each year. The naval aircraft carrier was commissioned in 1945 and served for 47 years supporting U.S. military and humanitarian efforts around the world. Nearly 250,000 sailors and officers served their country aboard the USS Midway before it was decommissioned (retired) in 1992.

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