



*Honoring the Spirit of America*

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### **“Pfc. Desmond Doss”**

Grades 3-8

**Objective:** The student will create a graphic organizer that contains acts of bravery Doss accomplished that earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

#### **Materials:**

- Website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medal\\_of\\_Honor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medal_of_Honor)
  - Provides a description of the Congressional Medal of Honor
- Website: <http://history.amedd.army.mil/moh/dossd.htm>
  - Provides in detail the brave acts of Pfc. Desmond Doss
  - Provide one copy of this page per student
- Paper
- Pencils

#### **Procedure:**

1. Begin by giving a brief description of the Congressional Medal of Honor. (See website listed above.)
2. Ask students to list acts that a person would have to do to receive one of these medals. If desired, record student responses on the board.
3. Introduce students to Private First Class Desmond Doss. Inform students that he was a marine, but because of his religious background, he refused to carry a weapon, or kill another person, including an enemy. Because of this, he was a medic. He was the first person of this kind to receive the Medal of Honor.
4. Read, or have students read individually, the description of the acts of bravery Doss did that earned him the medal.
5. Allow students to work in pairs to complete a graphic organizer that contains all the acts Doss accomplished using a copy of the web page listed in the materials section. Students may use any graphic organizer, but one example that would work would be the bubble map.
6. In conclusion, have students reflect on their acts and ask if they would receive a medal for the choices they make in life. If desired, encourage students to continue reflecting by making a bubble map of their own with acts they make, or could make, that would earn them a medal.

#### **Assessment:**

Evaluate students on the accuracy of the bubble maps, making sure that all events from Doss listed on the web page are included.