

Virtual Capitol Lessons

Honoring Nebraskans for Their Service

Author	Jean Lukesh
Editor	Karen Graff, Ed.D.
Grade Level	Fourth
Class Period(s)	2

This lesson is designed to precede or follow a field trip to Lincoln or a virtual field trip (<http://nebraskavirtualcapitol.org>) to the Nebraska Capitol.

Nebraska Social Studies Standards

SS 4.4.1 Students will examine chronological relationships and patterns, and describe the connections among them.

SS 4.4.1.d Examine the chronology of historical events in Nebraska and their impact on the past, present, and future.

SS 4.4.2 Students will describe and explain the relationships among people, events, ideas, and symbols over time using multiple types of sources.

SS 4.4.2.a Describe and explain the relationships among historical people, events, ideas, and symbols, including various cultures and ethnic groups, in Nebraska by era.

SS 4.4.4 Students will analyze past and current events, issues, and problems.

SS 4.4.4.e Describe the relationships among historical events in Nebraska and the students' lives today

Nebraska Language Arts Standards

LA 4.1.5 Vocabulary: Students will build and use conversational, academic, and content-specific grade level vocabulary.

LA 4.1.5.c Acquire new academic and content-specific grade-level vocabulary, relate to prior knowledge, and apply in new situations.

LA 4.1.6 Comprehension: Students will construct meaning by using prior knowledge and text information while reading grade-level literary and informational text.

LA 4.1.6.e Determine main ideas and supporting details from informational text and/or media.

Nebraska Fine and Performing Art Standards

FA 5.2.4 Students will examine contemporary, historical, and cultural context in art and life.

FA 5.2.4.a Identify ways that artists influence lives and communities.

FA 5.2.4.d Explore how images and objects are used to convey a story, familiar experience, or connection to the world.

Overview

Throughout history our military members have been called upon to help gain, maintain, and/or protect our freedom and sometimes to help our allies or protectorates do the same thing. Individuals and countries have heroes who are courageous and willing to stand up and help others—sometimes even to risk his or her life. In the military (and in some other occupations), such heroes are said to have “gone above and beyond the call of duty.” America has had many heroes who have done just that. As a result, some of those members of our military have received our country’s highest award—The Medal of Honor (sometimes called The Congressional Medal of Honor)—including some military heroes from Nebraska.



Virtual Capitol Lessons

Key Vocabulary

- **Chamber**-a room
- **Commemorate**-to celebrate, honor, and remember someone or something very special
- **Congress**-group name for federal government officials called Senators and/or Representatives; also the place where those officials work in Washington D.C.
- **Duty**-something that a person is expected or required to do
- **Hero**-someone who does extraordinary things for others
- **Heroism**-the quality of being a hero
- **Medal of Honor**-the highest honor awarded by Congress to U.S. military members for bravery and going above and beyond the call of duty (sometimes called the Congressional Medal of Honor)
- **Memorial**-in memory of (or in honor of) someone or something special
- **Memorial chamber**-a room or place where someone or something special is honored, celebrated, or remembered
- **Military**-a word relating to the armed forces of a country (e.g., in the U.S., the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard)
- **Monument**- a sculpture or statue meant to honor a person, place, or event
- **Mural**-a painting applied directly to a wall
- **Plaque**-metal plate attached to a wall or to a monument, often used to display information or list names of people to be remembered in history
- **Posthumous**-after death
- **Recipient**-someone who receives something

Materials

<http://nebraskavirtualcapitol.org/>
Virtual Capitol Tour Website

Procedures

*****Many of our students have connections to deployed or previously deployed service members, some of whom have/have had illness or injuries as a result. In any case, be aware of these circumstances before teaching this lesson.**

SESSION ONE

1. Begin the lesson by accessing Virtual Capitol Tour and visiting the Memorial Chamber. Note that it is "dedicated to the forms of heroism called for in the public service and in devotion to humanity". Select the "The Ideal of International Law" mural which "shows a human timeline of Nebraskans who served in the U.S. military." Read the description with students. Share the list of Medal of Honor recipients from Nebraska and the wars in which they performed their heroic actions. Which wars/time periods are not represented in the mural? (Civil War, Indian Campaigns, War with Spain, years 1901-1911) Why do you think the artist arranged the service members in chronological order from the background to the foreground? (distant past to the present) What might you infer from their facial expressions? (Their jobs are serious and important which is reflected in their demeanor.) One service member is holding a medal. Can you tell what it is? (The Purple Heart) Explain that there are *many* awards that can be earned by service members depending on their actions and the branch of service. The Medal of Honor is the *highest* award however. (There is a Medal of Honor plaque in the Memorial Chamber but it is not clickable so students will not be able to view it. However, you might share the article about the unveiling of the updated plaque on Veterans Day in 2013.)

<http://capitol.nebraska.gov/index.php/news/blog/medal-of-honor-plaque-unveiling-on-veterans-day>



Virtual Capitol Lessons

2. Move around the Chamber to view the mural for "The Ideal of Universal Peace." Read the description and study the art. Note the differences in the two murals, especially the roles of service members. Compare to police officers who may be involved in dangerous confrontations but spend most of their hours in crime prevention by patrolling and being available to the public for problem-solving. Explain that most of us may not be viewed as "heroes" and will not receive such meritorious awards in our lives. However, if we fulfill our roles as responsible members of our society, all people in our world (family, school, community, etc.) will benefit. Compare to a team where perhaps only one or two players are celebrated for their scoring ability, but they are supported and defended by team members who are essential but may not be as recognized.

SESSION TWO

1. Share the article from the Lincoln Journal Star about Donald K. Schwab. Because of its length, complexity, and some graphic details, you may want to summarize the information or read/display excerpts for the class. Why was the Medal of Honor awarded to him (posthumously) after so many years?

"The unusual historical accounting that will lead to the new medals began in 2002 when Congress, as part of the military spending bill, ordered the Pentagon to look into whether Jewish and Hispanic service members had been passed over unfairly for the nation's highest military honor.

Defense Department officials said there was specific evidence to suggest such discrimination may have existed in the ranks, including instances in which Hispanic and Jewish soldiers apparently changed their names to hide their ethnicity."

http://journalstar.com/news/local/nebraska-veteran-to-receive-medal-of-honor/article_51d60f2e-ed12-59e2-82ef-67f973380005.html

Why is it important to recognize individuals, even after their deaths? (It shows respect and appreciation for their actions and acknowledges their families. We can correct misinformation.) This is a good opportunity to reinforce why it is important to study history. (New information emerges, we interpret historical information differently, we have the opportunity to redress errors from the past.)

Assessment

Quick write-

- Explain the meaning and purpose of "The Ideal of International Law" and "The Ideal of Universal Peace" murals in the Memorial Chamber.
- Why is the Medal of Honor such an important award?

Ask students to define any of the vocabulary words that were especially relevant to your discussions.

Extensions

1. Is there a Nebraska Medal of Honor recipient from your hometown? Assign each student several names from the Medal of Honor Recipients list in the *Nebraska Blue Book*. They should go to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society's web page archive at <http://www.cmozs.org/recipient-archive.php> Enter the names of the recipients and view the biographies to see how they are affiliated with Nebraska. If you find a hometown winner, conduct additional research and determine if s/he has received any local recognition.
2. Research the Congressional Award for 14-23 year-olds <http://congressionalaward.org/about/> and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/campaign/medal-of-freedom>



Virtual Capitol Lessons

Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the two awards or use a 3-way Venn diagram to include the Medal of Honor.

Sources/Resources

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/bluebook/79-80.pdf>

Nebraska Medal of Honor Recipients List from Nebraska Blue Book

<http://nebraskavirtualcapitol.org/>

Virtual Capitol Tour Website

<http://capitol.nebraska.gov/building/rooms/memorial-chamber>

Memorial Chamber art

http://journalstar.com/news/local/nebraska-veteran-to-receive-medal-of-honor/article_51d60f2e-ed12-59e2-82ef-67f973380005.html

Article about Medal of Honor Winner Donald K. Schwab

<http://www.cmohs.org/medal-history.php>

Congressional Medal of Honor Society (optional teacher background, extension activity)

<http://capitol.nebraska.gov/index.php/news/blog/medal-of-honor-plaque-unveiling-on-veterans-day>

Teacher Background on Medal of Honor Plaque

<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/pdf/bluebook/70-78.pdf>

Nebraska Hall of Fame Bios from Nebraska Blue Book (extension activity)

<http://www.nebraskaeducationonlocation.org/nebraska-notables/nebraska-medal-honor-recipients/>

This site provides a list of Nebraska Medal of Honor recipients and the conflicts in which they fought.

<http://themedalofhonor.com/>

The Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation's site has background information about the Medal of Honor, recipients, and lesson plans for character development. It is the teacher's responsibility to preview the lessons and determine their usage as they have not been previewed by the authors or editors of this project.

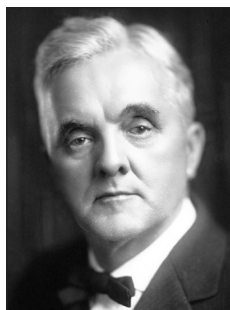


NEBRASKA HALL OF FAME⁵¹

The Nebraska Hall of Fame was established in 1961 to officially recognize prominent Nebraskans. The Hall of Fame honors people (1) who were born in Nebraska, (2) who gained prominence while living in Nebraska, or (3) who lived in Nebraska and whose residence in Nebraska was an important influence on their lives and contributed to their greatness.

The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, which has members appointed by the governor, names people to the Hall of Fame.⁵² Until 1996, the commission named one person every two years, except when two people were named in the first two years of the Hall of Fame's existence, and four people were selected in 1976 in honor of the nation's bicentennial. Legislation passed in 1998 provides that no more than one person can be added to the Hall of Fame every five years. The 1998 legislation also provides that no person can be considered for the Hall of Fame until at least 35 years after his or her death. Busts of Hall of Fame members are displayed in the State Capitol and in other commission-approved locations.

George W. Norris (1861-1944), U.S. House of Representatives 1903-13, U.S. Senate 1913-43. Initiator of reform of House rules, anti-injunction law for labor, Tennessee Valley Authority, rural electrification and 20th amendment to U.S. Constitution. Sponsor of Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. Lived in Beatrice, Beaver City and McCook. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1961.



George W. Norris

Willa Cather (1873-1947), Pulitzer Prize-winning author. "The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman" (from Cather's book *O Pioneers!*). Lived in Red Cloud. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1962.

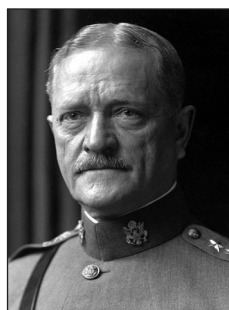


Willa Cather

⁵¹ Source: Nebraska State Historical Society.

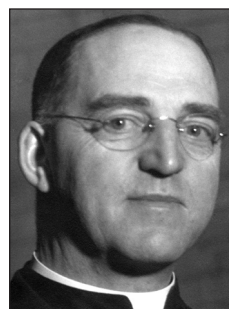
⁵² See Page 728 for more details on the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission.

John J. Pershing (1860-1949), soldier. Commandant of cadets, University of Nebraska, 1891-95; founder, Pershing Rifles; service, Indian Wars, Cuba, Philippines; commander, Mexican Border, 1916; commander, American Expeditionary Forces, France, 1917-19; general, Armies of the United States, 1919; and Army chief of staff, 1921-24. Lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1963-64.



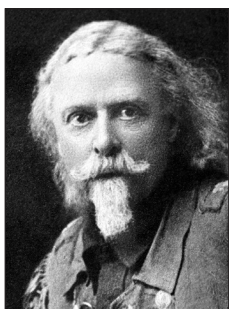
John J. Pershing

Edward J. f (1886-1948), founder of Father Flanagan's Boys Home, Boys Town. "I have never found a boy who really wanted to be bad." Lived in Omaha and Boys Town. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1965-66.



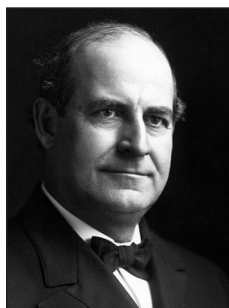
Edward J. Flanagan

William Frederick Cody (1846-1917), a.k.a. "Buffalo Bill," soldier, buffalo hunter, Army scout, actor, rancher, irrigationist and showman of the West. Lived in North Platte. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1967-68.



William Frederick Cody

William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), three-time Democratic Party nominee for president of the United States, U.S. congressman, U.S. secretary of state, orator, religious leader and author. Lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1969-70.



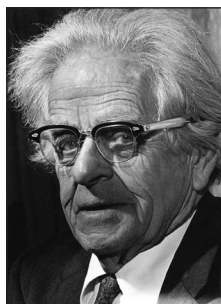
William Jennings Bryan

Bess Streeter Aldrich (1881-1954), author. Aldrich, narrator of Nebraska, gave literary life to Nebraska pioneer memories and honored the trials and dreams of settlers, that all may realize and cherish their heritage. One Aldrich novel, *A Lantern in her Hand*, was translated into many languages. Lived in Elmwood and Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1971-72.



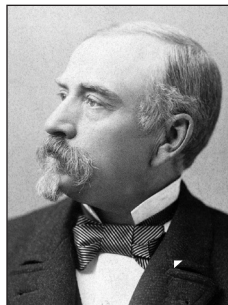
Bess Streeter Aldrich

John Gneisenau Neihardt (1881-1973), named Nebraska Poet Laureate in 1921. Epic poet of the West, historian, philosopher and friend of the American Indian. "My God and I shall interknit as rain and ocean, breath and air; and O, the luring thought of it is prayer" (from Neihardt's poem *L'Envoi*). Lived in Wayne and Bancroft. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1973-74.



John Gneisenau Neihardt

J. Sterling Morton (1832-1902), father of Arbor Day, U.S. secretary of agriculture, editor, farmer, legislator and Nebraska territorial secretary. “Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future.” Lived in Nebraska City. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.



J. Sterling Morton

Grace Abbott (1873-1939), social reformer and social worker. A native Nebraskan internationally honored for her courageous and effective championship of children and mothers and for her promotion of pioneer social legislation of enduring benefit to U.S. citizens. Born and raised in Grand Island. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.



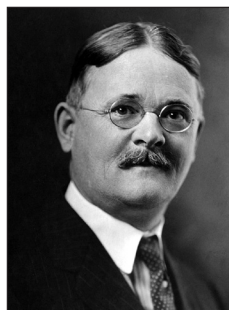
Grace Abbott

Mari Sandoz (1896-1966), novelist, historian and friend of the Indian. “The real frontier lies in the stimulation of the creative mind of man.” Born in Sheridan County near Gordon; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.



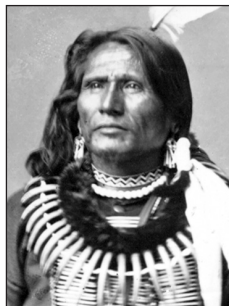
Mari Sandoz

Nathan Roscoe Pound (1870-1964), botanist, pioneer ecologist, dean of University of Nebraska Law College and dean of Harvard Law School. Born and raised in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.



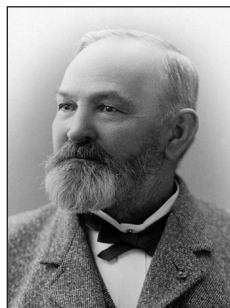
Nathan Roscoe Pound

Standing Bear (1829-1908), Ponca Indian chief; symbol for Indian rights. "I have found a better way" (Standing Bear). "An Indian is a person within the meaning of the law" (Judge Elmer Dundy). Probably born in northeast Nebraska; lived near the mouth of the Niobrara River in present Knox County at the time of his death. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1977-78.



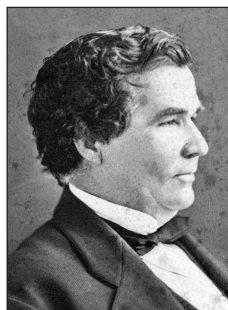
Standing Bear

Robert W. Furnas (1824-1905), newspaperman, soldier, historian, Nebraska governor 1873-75 and agriculturist. Lived in Brownville. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1979-80.



Robert W. Furnas

Edward Creighton (1820-74), telegraph pioneer and banker. Lived in Omaha. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1981-82.



Edward Creighton

Susette LaFlesche Tibbles (1854-1903), Omaha Indian, a.k.a. “Inshata Theumba” or “Bright Eyes,” speaker and writer for Indian rights. Born in Bellevue; raised on Omaha reservation in Thurston County near Macy; lived in Lincoln; died in Bancroft. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1983-84.



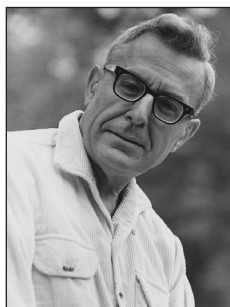
Susette LaFlesche Tibbles

Gilbert M. Hitchcock (1859-1934), newspaperman and politician. Founder of the *Omaha World-Herald* in 1889; U.S. House of Representatives 1902-04 and 1906-11; U.S. Senate 1911-22. Born in Omaha; lived in Omaha. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1985-86.



Gilbert M. Hitchcock

Loren Eiseley (1907-77), anthropologist, poet and philosopher of science. Born in Lincoln; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1987-88.



Loren Eiseley

Hartley Burr Alexander (1873-1939), anthropologist, poet, philosopher, educator and authority on North American Indian mythology. Best known as author of the symbolism and inscriptions on the Nebraska State Capitol and other buildings across the United States. Born in Lincoln; raised in Syracuse; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1989-90.



Hartley Burr Alexander

Arthur Weimar Thompson (1886-1970), premier auctioneer. In a 46-year career, Thompson called more than 7,500 livestock sales from New York to California and from Canada to Mexico. World's *Who's Who* recognized Thompson as "the leading purebred livestock auctioneer in the United States and Canada." Born in Bradshaw; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1991-92.



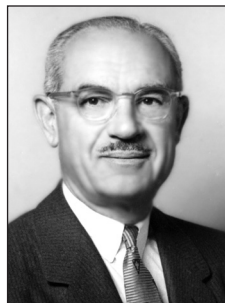
Arthur Weimar Thompson

Dwight Palmer Griswold (1893-1954), banker, publisher, Nebraska governor 1941-47, U.S. senator 1953-54, chief of the American mission for aid to Greece 1947-48. Born in Harrison; raised in Gordon. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1993-94.



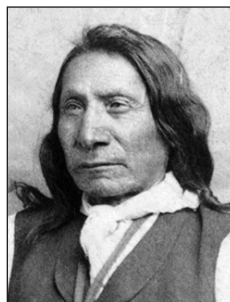
Dwight Palmer Griswold

Nathan J. Gold (1894-1970), businessman, civic leader, philanthropist and Nebraska booster. Lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1995-96.



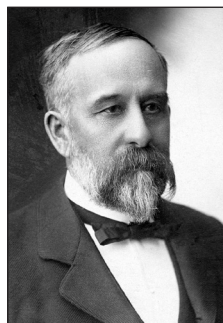
Nathan J. Gold

Red Cloud (1822-1909), statesman, war leader of the Oglala Sioux. Born in what became Garden County, he rose to leadership in the early 1860s. Red Cloud opposed westward expansion and in 1868 forced the government to abandon the Bozeman Trail in Wyoming. From 1873-77 the Red Cloud Agency was located on the White River in northwest Nebraska. He sought to ease his peoples' painful transition to reservation life. Inducted into Hall of Fame 2000-01.



Red Cloud

Charles E. Bessey (1845-1915), nationally known University of Nebraska professor of botany and horticulture, 1884-1915, and author of federal legislation establishing agricultural experimentation stations at land-grant universities. Bessey's experiments with tree planting in the Nebraska Sandhills, and his tireless promotion of the idea, led to the establishment of the man-made Nebraska National Forest by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902. Inducted into Hall of Fame 2007.



Charles E. Bessey

Alvin Saunders Johnson (1874-1971), internationally recognized economist, educator, humanitarian, author and social activist. Johnson was editor of *The New Republic* and founded the New School for Social Research in New York City — the model for American adult education — which he led for 22 years. Born near Homer; educated at the University of Nebraska. Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014.



Alvin Saunders Johnson

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Nebraskans who receive the Medal of Honor also are inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame. Individuals selected include people who have been awarded the Medal of Honor for service within Nebraska and native Nebraskans and others who have been residents for at least two years before or after their military service.

Civil War

Bates, Delavan
Bourke, John G.
Coates, Jefferson
Duncan, James K.L.
Flanagan, Augustin
Hanks, Joseph
Henry, Guy V.
Howe, Orion P.
Johnston, David H.
Josselyn, Simeon T.

McConnell, Samuel
Miller, Jacob C.
Miller, James P.
Prentice, Joseph R.
Shapland, John
Traynor, Andrew
Vifquain, Victor
Widick, Andrew J.
Williams, William H.

Indian Campaigns

Babcock, John B.
Butler, Edmund
Canfield, Heth
Cody, William F.
Co-rux-d-kah-Wadde (Traveling Bear)
Day, Matthias W.
Denny, John
Foley, John H.
Grant, George
Herron, Leander
Heyl, Charles H.
Himmelsback, Michael
Hubbard, Thomas
Johnson, Henry

Jordan, George
Leonard, Patrick J.
Leonard, Patrick T.
Lewis, William B.
Lohnes, Francis W.
Lytton, Jephtha L.
Miller, George
Mott, John
Stance, Emanuel
Strayer, William H.
Thompson, George W.
Vokes, Leroy H.
Wilson, William O.

War with Spain

Ehle, John W.

Meredith, James

1901-1911

Schmidt, Otto Diller

Philippines, 1911

Volz, Jacob

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS (CONT'D.)

World War I

Holderman, Nelson M.

Rickenbacker, Edward V.

World War II

Baker, Vernon

Bauer, Harold W.

Booker, Robert D.

Cowan, Richard E.

Hansen, Dale M.

Lindstrom, Floyd K.

Parle, John J.

Powers, Leo J.

Schwab, Donald K.

Tominac, John J.

Treadwell, Jack L.

Korean Conflict

Gomez, Edward

Kouma, Ernest R.

Vietnam Conflict

Coker, Ronald L.

Fous, James W.

Hagemeister, Charles C.

Hibbs, Robert J.

Keith, Miguel

Kerrey, Joseph R.

Young, Gerald O.

Somalia Campaign

Shughart, Randall D.