



Office of the Mayor
Richard M. Daley
Mayor

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Contact: Mayor's Press Office
(312) 744-3334

DALEY ANNOUNCES CHICAGO TO HOST 2009 MEDAL OF HONOR COVENTION

Chicago has been chosen to host the 2009 Medal of Honor Convention, an annual gathering of the recipients of the nation's highest award for military valor, Mayor Richard M. Daley announced today.

"This is not a very big convention, as Chicago conventions go, but it will be one of the most exclusive groups of people ever to set foot in Chicago," Daley said at a news conference at the Pritzker Military Library, 610 N. Fairbanks Ct.

"Of the more than 3,500 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, only 110 are living today. Not all the recipients will be able to attend the convention, but we expect more than 60 to be our guests for the four-day event."

The convention is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 15 through 19, 2009.

"We will encourage the Medal of Honor recipients to appear at events throughout the city, especially in the schools," Daley said. "They have a lot to tell us about duty, honor and service – and about the value of the armed forces in protecting the freedoms that so many of us take for granted."

The Mayor thanked the Tawani Foundation; its president, J.N. Pritzker, and vice president, Edward Tracy, for leading the effort to bring the convention to Chicago and for donating \$250,000 to help cover convention costs.

Other organizations that worked to attract the convention are USO of Illinois, the Mayor's Office of Special Events, the Junior ROTC Program, the McCormick Tribune Foundation and the Chicago Sun-Times.

Daley reminded Chicago's veterans that the City is sponsoring a free Veterans Job Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 18, in the Illinois Institute of Technology's Herman Union Building, 3241 S. Federal St. More than 80 public and private employers will be represented.

"Despite all they learn in the military services, returning veterans often have a hard time finding good jobs – and we need to do all we can to help them make the transition back to civilian life," Daley said.

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