

'Real Forrest Gump' to speak at Pierre Claeysens Military Ball

By EMILY LESLIE

NEWS-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

With a broken back, three broken ribs, shrapnel wounds and a gunshot wound, 21-year-old Sammy L. Davis protected his battalion with cover fire as North Vietnamese soldiers attacked the unit where he was based in Cai Lay in 1967.

Not only did Sgt. Davis continue fighting despite his wounds, he also swam across a river using an air mattress to save the lives of three injured U.S. soldiers.

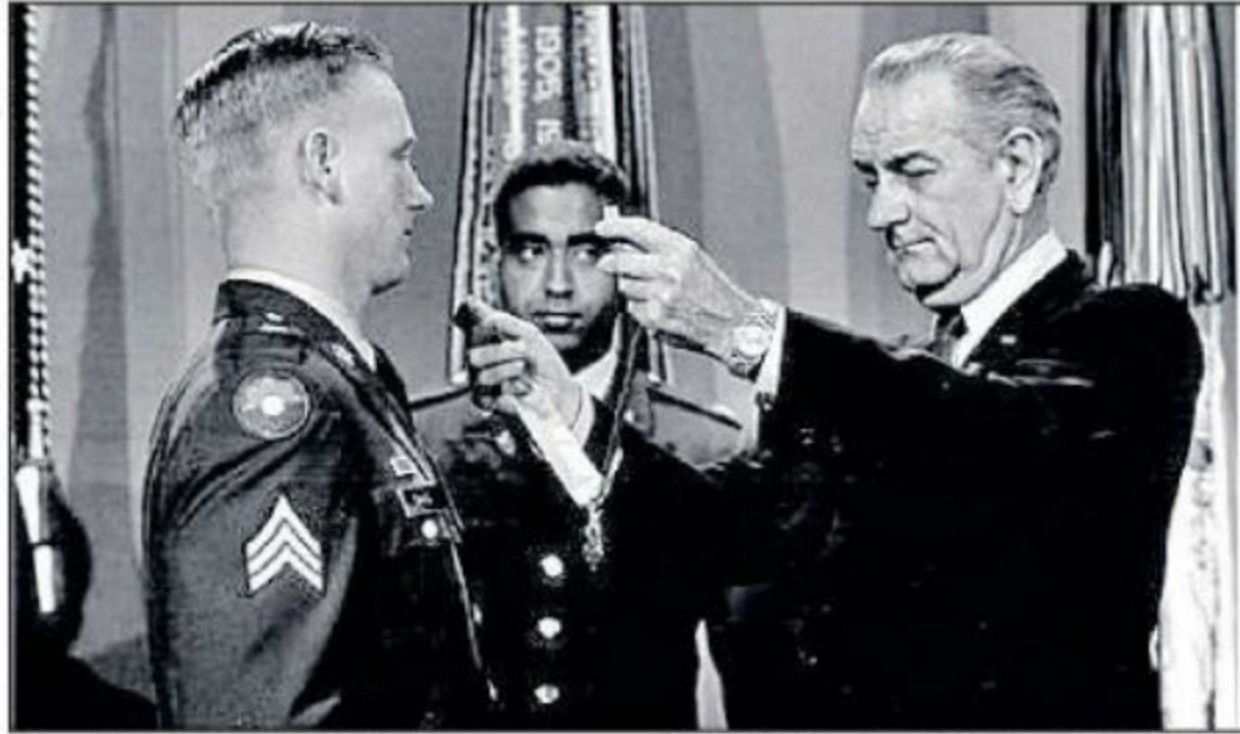
"You do for your brothers what you know in your heart they would do for you," he said. "How could I not swim across the river and get those men when I knew they would do it for me?"

For this, Congress awarded Sgt. Davis with the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration.

President Lyndon B. Johnson presented the medal, and footage of the 1968 ceremony was featured in the movie "Forrest Gump," with actor Tom Hanks superimposed into the scene.

"(The movie) has done an excellent job in helping me spread my message of the fact that you don't lose until you quit trying," Sgt. Davis said.

He regularly shares the story of the fight in Vietnam with the men



President Lyndon B. Johnson presents Sgt. Davis with the Medal of Honor in 1968.

and women in the military today.

"They have to know what is in your heart, and if you choose to share that with them, then they too will stand up strongly for what they believe is right in their heart, because that's what I did," he said.

"I want them to understand that no matter what they are faced with in life, they don't lose until they quit trying."

Sgt. Davis will be reunited with one of his Vietnam "brothers," Carl Besson, who served with him in the 9th Infantry Division, at the 20th an-

nual Pierre Claeysens Military Ball on Saturday.

Sgt. Davis will be the keynote speaker, which pays tribute to veterans in the Santa Barbara community.

Phil Conran, a retired Air Force colonel and board president for the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation, said the Military Ball aims to remind the public of the importance of veterans.

The goal is "to make the public aware of what the veterans have done and who the veterans are,"



COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Sammy L. Davis stands third from the left at the Medal of Honor ceremony on Nov. 19, 1968, with President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Col. Conran said.

"It used to be 10 to 15 percent of the population was connected with the military in some way. Now it's down to less than 1 percent," he said. "We have to keep this in front of the public with the fact that the veterans are vital to our freedom."

The ball begins at 5 p.m. Saturday at Fess Parker's Doubletree Resort, 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd. Limited seats remain. Tickets are \$125 per person and include a three-course

dinner.

For more information about tickets, visit <http://www.pierreclaeysensveteransfoundation.com/military-ball>.

The ball is one of many events held the weekend before Veterans Day by the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Foundation.

A Veterans Day Half Marathon will take off at 7:15 a.m. Saturday at UCSB.

On Sunday, the Veterans Day Pa-

rade will march down State Street beginning at noon. A free Veterans Day Concert by the Westmont Orchestra will follow, from 2 to 3:15 p.m. at Fess Parker's Plaza del Sol outdoor pavilion, 633 E. Cabrillo Blvd.

For more information on the Pierre Claeysens Veterans Day Weekend, visit www.pierreclaeysensveteransfoundation.com.

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ON THE RISE

Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz looks to build momentum after solid debate performance



SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

Former welder and financier reinvents himself to find success in the hard engraving



SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS



Oct 16/2016 Tue

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

75

Why state's community colleges will offer 4-year degrees

By KATHY BARON
SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

MONTEZUMA — When Santa Barbara Community College was getting up, she was offering students a choice of two paths: one to the coast for two years and then transferring to a four-year university, or staying in the state for two years and then transferring to a four-year university. The latter was the preferred path for many students, but the college's leadership decided to offer a four-year degree.

The expansion required a major investment in the college's infrastructure, including new buildings, new faculty, and new equipment. The college's leadership decided to offer a four-year degree, and the college's leadership decided to offer a four-year degree.

But these degrees are already in the works. The college's leadership decided to offer a four-year degree, and the college's leadership decided to offer a four-year degree.

Minimal arrests, citations during Halloween in IV



A group of participants play a round of trivia with LUPRO officers on Del Plaza Drive in Isla Vista on Saturday.

By NICHOLEA WHITE
SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

Despite Halloween being one of the busiest times of the year, Santa Barbara Law Enforcement reported minimal arrests and citations during the night. The event was a success, and the community was safe.

over 2014 in 2015, the Sheriff said.

Approximately 100 students participated in the event, and the community was safe. The event was a success, and the community was safe.

and the Sheriff said.

The Sheriff's office is sponsoring the event, and the community was safe. The event was a success, and the community was safe.

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Tragedy strikes Santa Ynez

Authorities ID victims of murder-suicide

By MERILL WAHBE
SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS

Tragedy struck in Santa Ynez on Saturday as a man shot and killed his wife and himself.

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With a broken heart, Dave decides to stop and take a break from his life. He goes to the beach and finds a young girl who is blind. He falls in love with her, and they get married.

The film is a true story, and it is a beautiful story. The film is a true story, and it is a beautiful story.



President Lyndon B. Johnson presents Sgt. Davis with the Medal of Honor in 1955.

and was in the military. He was a hero, and he was a hero. He was a hero, and he was a hero.



Sgt. Sewey L. Davis stands third from the left at the Medal of Honor ceremony on Nov. 16, 1954, with President Lyndon B. Johnson.

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