

# Bush decorates Gulf war heroes

By Frank J. Murray  
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President Bush presented Medals of Freedom yesterday to Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and Gen. Colin Powell, "the men that our heroes look up to," at a White House ceremony where he also honored his Desert Storm brain trust.

"Under your leadership, America sent its sons and daughters to confront an enemy abroad, and in the process you transformed a nation here at home," Mr. Bush said to the two generals.

Renewing a theme he hit hard at the war's end, Mr. Bush said, "Desert Storm marked the end of an era of self-doubt and lingering uncertainty about America's staying power and sense of purpose."

At the East Room ceremony, attended by ambassadors from many of the coalition nations that fought with U.S. troops, Mr. Bush noted that the medals usually are given at the end of a career to honor the recipient's life work. But he said he made an exception because "Desert Storm was such a watershed event, so unique, so singular."

He also gave Medals of Freedom, the nation's highest civil honor, to Secretary of State James A. Baker III, Defense Secretary Richard Cheney and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, whom he called one of the unsung heroes of the Gulf War.

"He was at my side, poor guy, throughout the crisis, quite literally from the early morning hours on August 2nd until victory," Mr. Bush said.

The president also presented the prestigious Presidential Citizens Medal to the six members of his "small group" of advisers who tracked every jog of policy throughout the crisis.

"Despite the modest name, the contribution made by the 'small group' to our success in the Gulf was really nothing short of monumental," Mr. Bush said as he presented medals to:

Deputy National Security Adviser and CIA director nominee Robert Gates; National Security Council regional specialist Richard Haass; Adm. David Jeremiah, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Deputy CIA Director Richard Kerr, who skipped his honeymoon to stay

on the job; Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs and nominee for ambassador to Germany Robert Kimmitt; and Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz.

In addition to his "small group," Mr. Bush gave Citizens Medals to Deputy Defense Secretary Donald Atwood and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, recalling the latter's "mission to Israel, cane in hand, amid the torn and twisted ruins on streets shattered by a Scud attack."

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The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_  
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