

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
- FEBRUARY 7, 2024 -**

**FRANCE TO DECORATE WWII VETERAN WITH THE LEGION OF HONOR  
DURING NEW ALBANY, MISSISSIPPI CEREMONY**

ATLANTA, GA – The Consul General of France in Atlanta will decorate World War II veteran **John D. ROBERTS** with the Legion of Honor, France’s highest merit, during a ceremony on **Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. at the Magnolia Civic Center, New Albany, MS.**

The Legion of Honor is bestowed upon French citizens as well as foreign nationals who have served France or the ideals it upholds, including individuals who have contributed to the country professionally, as well as veterans such as the Americans who risked their lives during World War II fighting on French soil.

President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron designates the recipients of the Legion of Honor. Mr. Roberts will be decorated by the Consul General of France in Atlanta Anne-Laure Desjonquères. Below is a brief summary of Mr. Roberts’s involvement in World War II.

John D. Roberts embarked on his military journey on July 15, 1943, at Camp Shelby, MS, undergoing Basic Training at Camp McCain and subsequently being stationed at Fort Eustis, VA. Crossing the Atlantic aboard the General Brooks troop transport ship, Roberts was assigned to Company B, 117th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division. He landed in Normandy six days after D-Day. The division engaged in relentless combat with German forces, navigating from the East bank of the Vire River through France into Germany, notably facing intense battles in Mortain, France. On October 3, 1944, during an operation near the Rhine River, Roberts sustained injuries from a German mortar round and a rifle round while positioned on a railroad track, demonstrating unwavering courage. Following his dedicated service, John D. Roberts received an honorable discharge on November 6, 1945, marking the conclusion of his valiant contribution to the war effort.

In recognition of his service, Mr. Roberts was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the Purple Heart Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Bronze Star, the WWII Honorable Service Button, the Distinguished Unit Badge, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

Some of the best-known American recipients of the Legion of Honor include Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Josephine Baker.

Mr. Roberts and the Consul General will be available after the ceremony for comment.

**What: Legion of Honor Ceremony**

**When: Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Where: Magnolia Civic Center, 127 East Bankhead Street, New Albany, MS 38652**