

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

Lt Col Michael E. Jackson awarded Ohio University Alumni Association's Medal of Merit

Athens, Ohio -- The Ohio University Alumni Association recently announced one of its four recipients of the 2006 Medal of Merit Award is Lt Col Michael E. Jackson. Jackson received his Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio University in 1968. Jackson is currently the President and Founder of the American Veterans Institute as well as the National Chairman for Operation Welcome Home.

The retired Air Force officer served in the USAF from 1968 to 1991, flying 210 combat missions in Vietnam. During his military career, he was awarded 21 different American and foreign decorations including the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart. Following his tour in country, Jackson served as an Air Force instructor pilot, a squadron and group commander at the USAF Officer Training School and a professor of Aerospace Studies at Wright State University.

In 1992, after accepting a position as executive director of the National Aviation Hall of Fame, he successfully guided the once debt-ridden organization to a thriving multi million dollar facility. Besides being a regular on the PBS and Discovery TV-series "Legends of Airpower," he is also a public speaker and radio/ television resource. His biography *Naked in Da Nang* is the inspiration for the national Operation Welcome Home celebrations for America's Vietnam Veterans. He was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 1997 for his work on behalf of veterans and he is currently working to establish the American Veterans Hall of Honor and American Veterans Research Library.

Medals of Merit are awarded to alumni who have either achieved distinction in their field or have demonstrated loyalty and an active interest in Ohio University.

Jackson will receive his award at the Alumni Awards Gala, which will be held Friday, October 12, in the Baker University Center with a reception beginning at 6 p.m. and a dinner at 7 p.m. with the program to follow.