



**UTAH NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
12953 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper, UT 84020  
P: (801) 432-4407 - F: (801) 432-4677 - [www.ut.ngb.army.mil](http://www.ut.ngb.army.mil)  
Twitter: @UTNationalGuard - [Facebook.com/utahnationalguard](https://www.facebook.com/utahnationalguard)

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**Contact: Lt. Col. Hank McIntire, (801) 420-4778**

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Utah National Guard's Honorary Colonels Corps Hosts 50th Annual Bronze Minuteman Awards Dinner**

SALT LAKE CITY – The Utah National Guard will host its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Bronze Minuteman Awards Dinner Wednesday, June 15, at Salt Lake's Little America Hotel at 6:30 p.m.

The Honorary Colonels Corps of Utah will sponsor the event. The Corps is an organization of community leaders who promote goodwill and positive relations between the National Guard and local Utah communities. Members provide annual support for Utah Army and Air National Guard activities such as the Freedom Academy and Veterans Day concert.

Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet and Honorary Colonels Corps Commander, retired Brig. Gen. E.J. "Jake" Garn, will present Bronze Minuteman awards to the Utah Patriot Guard Riders, Ruby J. Price, Greg Adamson, Command Sgt. Maj. James Sproul (posthumously), Monsignor J. Terrence Fitzgerald and Honorary Colonel Fred P. Lampropoulos for their individual devoted service to and leadership among the citizens of Utah.

Here is a short summary of each recipient's accomplishments:

The Patriot Guard Riders is a national organization founded in 2005 by a chapter of American Legion Riders in Kansas. The organization now has over 221,000 members nationwide. Approximately 1,000 of these members live in Utah. The mission of the Patriot Guard Riders is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission has two basic objectives: first, to show sincere respect for our fallen heroes, their families, and their communities; and second, to shield mourning families and friends from interruptions created by protestors.

Ruby Price, is a longtime educator and community activist. She has taught children in both Davis and Weber Counties to read, write and do arithmetic for nearly seven

decades. She began as the first African-American schoolteacher in Utah, working at the Intermountain Indian School. She was also the first president of the Ogden branch of the NAACP and later, in the 1980s, chairwoman of the Davis County Republican Party. She has been named Utah Mother of Year on more than one occasion and has been recognized many times with civic and volunteer awards.

As co-founder of the nationally recognized Heart 2 Home Foundation, Adamson has led 15 home-makeover projects in Utah, volunteering his time and energy to oversee hundreds of volunteers, media and tradespeople to gift complete homes or renovations to Utah families in need. Through Adamson's leadership, vision, and dedication, these families now have beautiful homes that accommodate their needs. Entire communities have rallied behind these home makeovers, creating excitement, passion and celebrations for service. He volunteers 100 percent of his time with no financial compensation in return.

Command Sgt. Maj. James C. Sproul distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious service to the Utah Army National Guard beginning with his initial enlistment in 1979 until his untimely death in 2010. This concluded nearly 31 years of exemplary service that culminated with his assignment as command sergeant major for the 300<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade. Command Sergeant Major Sproul always accepted challenging assignments with great vigor throughout his military service. His was a career characterized by enduring passion for leading, mentoring, and taking care of all Soldiers. He had an unwavering commitment to his fellow Guardmembers and their families. Sproul's wife Suzanne will receive the award on his behalf.

In 1954 Fitzgerald attended Mount Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, Oregon, and in 1962 was ordained to the Catholic priesthood. He then attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and in 1964 earned a Master's Degree in social work from the University of Utah. In 1991, Monsignor Fitzgerald was elevated to Prelate of Honor by Pope John Paul II. In 2002 he was the recipient of the Papal honor, Supernumerary Protonotary Apostolic. This is the highest honor is given to a diocesan priest. From 1994 to 1998, Monsignor Fitzgerald supervised the construction of the Skaggs Catholic Center in Draper.

Lampropoulos has been in the medical device industry for almost 30 years. After serving as chairman and chief executive officer of Utah Medical, he founded Merit Medical Systems, Inc. in 1987, where he currently serves as chairman and CEO. He has invented and holds nearly 200 patents on devices used in the diagnostic and therapeutic treatment of cardiovascular disease. Since 1987, Merit Medical has grown from a start-up to a publicly traded company forecasting revenues of approximately \$285 million in 2010. The company has manufacturing and distribution capabilities in Texas, Virginia, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

**Media Notes:** Salt Lake's Little America hotel is located at 500 S. Main. Media are welcome to cover the black-tie event. For more information, please contact Lt. Col. Hank McIntire at (801) 420-4778.