

The National Memorial Day Association of Georgia and The Avenue of Flags is honored and pleased to have U.S. Army Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore (RET) as our speaker for Memorial Day, May 31, 2010.

In August 2005, General Honore (pronounced ON-or-ay) was designated Commander of the Joint Task Force Katrina with the duty of coordinating military relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina-affected areas across the Gulf Coast. He took over in his usual way of getting results. Then Mayor Ray Nagin was quoted saying: "Now, I will tell you this – and I give the president some credit on this –he sent one John Wayne dude down here that can get some stuff don and his name is General Honore." General Honore is a native of Lakeland in Pointe Coupee Parish, LA with the nick name "the Ragin' Cajun." He was honored with the Omar N. Bradley "Spirit of Independence Award" because of his leadership in the recovery of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

General Honore has served in a variety of command and staff positions all over the world. He was Commanding General, First United States Army, Fort Gillem, Georgia; Commanding General, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division in South Korea; Vice Director for Operations, J-3, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.; Deputy Commanding General and Assistant Commandant, United States Army Infantry Center and School, Fort Benning, Georgia; and most recently, Commander, Standing Joint Force Headquarters – Homeland Security, U.S. Northern Command.

Some of General Honore's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (four Oak Leaf Clusters), Meritorious Service Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters), Southwest Asia Service Medal (one Bronze Service Star), Korean Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).