

# Medal

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parade. They also will be honored by a military jet fly-over.

Simanek, retired recently from a government position with the federal Small Business Association, has been a Farmington Hills resident since 1959.

He received the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" for his actions as a Marine radioman on Aug. 17, 1952. The official record says:

"... Private First Class Simanek exhibited a high degree of courage and a resolute spirit of self-sacrifice in protecting the lives of his fellow Marines."

With his unit ambushed by an enemy mortar and small-arms fire and suffering heavy casualties, Simanek was forced to seek cover with the remaining members of the patrol in a trench, the record

continues.

Then an enemy soldier tossed a grenade into the midst of the Americans.

"... he (Simanek) unhesitatingly threw himself on the deadly missile, absorbing the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his own body and shielding his fellow Marines from serious injury or death."

"Gravely wounded as a result of his heroic action, Simanek, by his daring initiative and great personal valor in the face of almost certain death, served to inspire all who observed him and upheld the highest traditions of the United States naval service."

Simanek recovered from his wounds in time to receive his medal from President Eisenhower. He treasures a photograph of

the presentation.

Then he got on with his life, first taking a white collar job with General Motors and then studying at Michigan State University and Wayne State.

These days, he's interested in establishing a Korean War Memorial much like the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"We have the land (near the Vietnam Memorial)," he said, "and we have the money. There's some discussion about the design, however."

Simanek's wife Nancy, a retired teacher in the Farmington Public Schools, will be with him at the ceremony Saturday. They'll attend the MSU-Wisconsin football game later that afternoon.

The Simaneks have a grown daughter, Anne Clark, who lives in northern Michigan.

Simanek, an avid golfer who shoots in the 90s, enjoys working around his house and wooded lot and feeding several raccoons who come around most mornings.



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

On the home front: Medal of Honor holder Robert Simanek tends the lawn of his Farmington Hills home. He'll be honored by the state on Saturday.

## Arts show benefits band

The Winter Arts and Crafts Show, a benefit for the North Farmington High School Band Boosters, will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the

school, 32900 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

A few spaces for crafters remain. For more information, call Sue Leon at 553-6699.

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