US soldier who saved Jews in POW camp awarded Medal of Honor
(from The Times of Israel)

An American soldier who is credited with saving the lives of 200 Jewish comrades in a prisoner of war camp in Germany during World War II will receive the US military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor. He is a veteran of the 106th Division.

The award to Roddie Edmonds, who died in 1985, comes more than a decade after Israel's Holocaust memorial, Yad Vashem, recognized him as a "[Righteous Among the Nations](#)" an honor bestowed by Israel on non-Jews who aided Jews during the Holocaust.

Edmonds, a sergeant from Knoxville, Tennessee, was the highest-ranking soldier among a group taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945 when the Nazis asked him to identify the Jews in the group. Understanding that anyone he identified would likely be killed, Edmonds made the decision to have all of the soldiers present themselves as Jews. When a Nazi challenged him, he famously proclaimed: "We are all Jews here!"

The show of solidarity came to light only after Edmonds' death, when a Jewish man who had been among the soldiers at the camp shared his recollection with the New York Times. When they found the article several years later, it was the first that Edmonds' family had heard about the incident.

On March 2, 2026, Chris Edmonds came to the White House to receive the Medal of Honor on his father's behalf.

L: Edmonds; R: President Obama speaks during "Righteous Among the Nations" ceremony.