I can only send this to people of our generation, since most of today’s people don’t have any idea who these men were...and that’s a pity. They were all heroes in their own right and made America great in it's own right! Back then Hollywood went to war as well!

Alan Hale - Jr. - US Coast Guard.
Buddy Hackett - US Army anti-aircraft gunner.
Burgess Meredith - US Army Air Corps.
Clark Gable - US Army Air Corps. B-17 gunner over Europe .
Cesar Romero - US Coast Guard. Coast Guard. Participated in the invasions of Tinian and Saipan on the assault transport USS Cavalier.
Chuck Connors - US Army. Tank-warfare instructor.
Clifton James - US Army- South Pacific. Was awarded the Silver Star- Bronze Star- and Purple Heart.
DeForest Kelley - US Army Air Corps.
Dennis Weaver - US Navy. Pilot.
Don Adams - US Marines. Wounded on Guadalcanal - then served as a Drill Instructor.
Don Knotts - US Army- Pacific Theater.
Don Rickles - US Navy aboard USS Cyrene.
Earl Holliman - US Navy. Lied about his age to enlist. Discharged after a year when the Navy found out.
Ed McMahon - US Marines. Fighter Pilot. (Flew OE-1 Bird Dogs over Korea as well.)
Eddie Albert - US Coast Guard. Bronze Star with Combat V for saving several Marines under heavy fire as pilot of a landing craft during the invasion of Tarawa.
Efram Zimbalist Jr. - US Army. Purple Heart for a severe wound received at Huertgen Forest.
Ernest Borgnine - US Navy. Gunners Mate 1c- destroyer USS Lamberton. 10 years active duty. Discharged 1941- re-enlisted after Pearl Harbor.
Forrest Tucker - US Army. Enlisted as a private- rose to Lieutenant.
Gene Autry - US Army Air Corps. Crewman on transports that ferried supplies over "The Hump" in the China- Burma-India Theater.
George Gobel - comedian, Army Air Corps, taught fighter pilots. Johnny Carson made a big deal about it once on the Tonight Show, to which George said "the Japs didn't get past us."
Harvey Korman - US Navy.
Hugh O'Brian - US Marines.
Jack Klugman - US Army.
Jackie Coogan - US Army Air Corps. Volunteered for gliders and flew troops and materials into Burma behind enemy lines.
James Arness - US Army. As an infantryman- he was severely wounded at Anzio- Italy.
James Stewart - US Army Air Corps. Bomber pilot who rose to the rank of General.
Jason Robards - US Navy. was aboard heavy cruiser USS Northampton when it was sunk off Guadalcanal. Also served on the USS Nashville during the invasion of the Philippines - surviving a kamikaze hit that caused 223 casualties.


John Wayne - Declared "4F medically unfit" due to pre-existing injuries- (from playing football @ Southern Cal) - he nonetheless attempted to volunteer three times (Army- Navy and Film Corps.) so he gets ‘honorable mention’.


Karl Malden - US Army Air Corps. 8th Air Force- NCO.


Lee Van Cleef - US Navy. Served aboard a sub chaser then a mine sweeper.


Mickey Spillane - US Army Air Corps - Fighter Pilot and later Instructor Pilot.

Neville Brand - US Army- Europe. Was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Norman Fell - US Army Air Corps.- Tail Gunner- Pacific Theater.


Peter Graves - US Army Air Corps.

Randolph Scott - Tried to enlist in the Marines but was rejected due to injuries sustained in US Army, during World War I.


Robert Montgomery - US Navy.

Robert Preston - US Army Air Corps. Intelligence Officer

Robert Ryan - US Marines.


Rod Serling - US Army. 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific. He
jumped at Tagaytay in the Philippines and was later wounded in Manila.
Rod Steiger - US Navy. Was aboard one of the ships that launched the
Doolittle Raid.
Ronald Reagan - US Army. Was a 2nd Lt. in the Cavalry Reserves before
the war. His poor eyesight kept him from being sent overseas with his
unit when war came so he transferred to the Army Air Corps Public
Relations Unit where he served for the duration.
Russell Johnson - US Army Air Corps. B-24 crewman who was awarded
Purple Heart when his aircraft was shot down by the Japanese in the
Philippines.
Soupy Sales - US Navy. Served on USS Randall in the South
Pacific.(that’s the ship which transported
Elvis Presley...who was a tank driver in the
US Army from 1957-1960...to Bremerhaven, Germany. In 1959 I also
traveled from Southampton, England to New York on the USS Randall.) [Chuck Allen...USAF aircraft radio repairman 1962-1966]
Sterling Hayden - US Marines and OSS. Smuggled guns into Yugoslavia
and parachuted into Croatia. Silver Star.
Steve Reeves - US Army - Philippines.
Ted Knight - US Army - Combat Engineers.
Telly Savalas - US Army.
Tom Bosley - US Navy.
Victor Mature - US Coast Guard.
William Holden - US Army Air Corps.

And of course we have Audie Murphy, America’s most-decorated soldier,
who became a Hollywood star as a result of his US Army service that
included his being awarded the Medal of Honor.

Would someone please remind me again how many of today’s Hollywood
elite, sports celebs and politicians put their careers on hold to
enlist for service in Iraq or Afghanistan?

The only one who even comes close was Pat Tillman, who turned down a
contract offer of $3.6 million over three years from the Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the US Army after Sept, 11, 2001 and serve as a Ranger in Afghanistan, where he died from tragic ‘friendly fire’ in 2004. But rather than being lauded for his choice and his decision to put his country before his career, he was mocked and derided by many of his peers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I submit to you that this is not the America today that it was seventy years ago. And I, for one, am saddened.

My generation grew up watching, being entertained by and laughing with so many of these fine people, never really knowing what they contributed to the war effort. Like millions of Americans during WWII, there was a job that needed doing they didn't question. They just went and did what they could to help win it. Those who came home returned to their normal life and carried on, obviously. Very few ever saying what they did...or saw.

They took it as their "responsibility". Their duty to our country, to protect & preserve our freedoms & way of life. Not just for themselves, but for all future generations to come. They DID THE JOB!

I'm forever humbly in their debt.