



Sergeant First Class Webster Anderson **Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient**

Webster Anderson was a United States Army Soldier and a recipient of America's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor—for his actions in the Vietnam War. He was born in Winnsboro, South Carolina on July 15, 1933. He joined the Army on September 11, 1953. By October 15, 1967 Webster Anderson was serving as a Staff Sergeant in Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, of the famed 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). On that day, Anderson's artillery unit was attacked by North Vietnamese forces near Tam Kỳ in the Republic of Vietnam. Anderson directed the defense of the unit's position and continued to lead after twice being severely wounded.

Sergeant Anderson survived his wounds and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Sergeant First Class. Due to his injuries, he was medically retired from the Army on October 16, 1968. In a ceremony at the White House on November 24, 1969 President Richard M. Nixon presented the Medal of Honor to Sergeant First Class Webster Anderson for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" during the battle.

Following his retirement, Sergeant First Class Anderson furthered his education pursuing courses of study in public speaking, physical therapy and electronic repairs. Subsequently, he established his own television and radio repair business in his hometown of Winnsboro.

Sergeant First Class Anderson was married to the late Ida Mae Davis Anderson. To this union three children were born, Vonnie, Webster II, and Davis. After her death, he married the former Vickie Ann Beard. To this union one child was born, Tanetta.

Webster Anderson died at age 70 and was buried in Blackjack Baptist Church Cemetery in his hometown of Winnsboro, South Carolina.



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1963, has awarded in the name of the Congress the Medal of Honor to

Sergeant First Class Webster Anderson
UNITED STATES ARMY

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Sfc. Anderson (then S/Sgt.), distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as chief of section in Battery A, against a hostile force. During the early morning hours Battery A's defensive position was attacked by a determined North Vietnamese Army infantry unit supported by heavy mortar, recoilless rifle, rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapon fire. The initial enemy onslaught breached the battery defensive perimeter. Sfc. Anderson, with complete disregard for his personal safety, mounted the exposed parapet of his howitzer position and became the mainstay of the defense of the battery position. Sfc. Anderson directed devastating direct howitzer fire on the assaulting enemy while providing rifle and grenade defensive fire against enemy soldiers attempting to overrun his gun section position. While protecting his crew and directing their fire against the enemy from his exposed position, 2 enemy grenades exploded at his feet knocking him down and severely wounding him in the legs. Despite the excruciating pain and though not able to stand, Sfc. Anderson valorously propped himself on the parapet and continued to direct howitzer fire upon the closing enemy and to encourage his men to fight on. Seeing an enemy grenade land within the gun pit near a wounded member of his gun crew, Sfc. Anderson heedless of his own safety, seized the grenade and attempted to throw it over the parapet to save his men. As the grenade was thrown from the position it exploded and Sfc. Anderson was again grievously wounded. Although only partially conscious and severely wounded, Sfc. Anderson refused medical evacuation and continued to encourage his men in the defense of the position. Sfc. Anderson by his inspirational leadership, professionalism, devotion to duty and complete disregard for his welfare was able to maintain the defense of his section position and to defeat a determined attack. Sfc. Anderson's gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Rank and organization: Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, Battery A, 2d Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Infantry Division (Airmobile). Place and date: Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, 15 October 1967. Entered service at: Winnsboro, S.C. Born: 15 July 1933, Winnsboro, S.C.



The **Medal of Honor** is the highest award for valor which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, who distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against any enemy of The United States. It was established by joint resolution of Congress, 12 July 1862 (amended by Act of 9 July 1918 and Act of 25 July 1963). Generally the Medal of Honor is presented to its recipient by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress; it is often called the Congressional Medal of Honor.