



GANDY-GRIFFIN VFW POST 4262
5821 N. MAIN STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29203
(803) 754-1614



Commander: Augustus Singleton
March 27, 2015

Governor Nikki Haley
State of South Carolina
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

The Gandy-Griffin VFW Post is planning a tribute for several members of the 24th Infantry Regiment from the Korean War. The 24th Infantry Regiment was the last African American combat regiment in the U.S. military. This tribute and awards ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at 3:00p.m. You are cordially invited.

We are requesting that April 19, 2015 be named as the 24th Infantry Regiment Day in the State of South Carolina and a proclamation be issued in its honor. We are also requesting that a proclamation be issued in honor for each of the following members of the 24th Infantry Regiment:

Mr. Archae Anderson
Mr. Rufus Medlock Jr.
Mr. Harvey Pierce
Mr. Lathus Williams

We have attached hereto a summary biography/brief profile of each of the above individuals. We are hopeful that you will be in attendance, if possible, to present the proclamation to each member.

The general public is invited to this event and we are looking forward to seeing and meeting with you and your staff.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Augustus Singleton
Commander

Attachments: Summary Biographies:
Mr. Archae Anderson
Mr. Rufus Medlock, Jr.
Mr. Harvey Pierce
Mr. Lathus Williams

Summary Biography for

Archae Anderson

Archae Anderson, Private First Class, Bronze Star Medal, Korean Service Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge winner. He is the son of a brick layer, Mr. Lewis Anderson, and mother, the late Mrs. Lessie Anderson, a hospital assistant. Archae was born on June 19, 1931 in Columbia, South Carolina.

Archae graduated from C. A. Johnson High School in Columbia, South Carolina in July 1950. He entered the US Army on January 4, 1951. Archae completed his basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in 1951 as an infantry soldier. He was reassigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment on September 18, 1951 at Inchon, Korea. Archae was assigned to Company D, 4th Squad, as the Squad's M1918 Machine Gunner.

Archae's infantry company fought the North Korean Army from Inchon, Korea to the Manchurian Border, observing the Russian Army to the right of the Manchurian Border and the Chinese Army to the left of the Manchurian Border. Thinking that the unit had accomplished their combat requirements, by pushing the North Korean Army across the Chinese Border, the unit relaxed and returned to what is now the DMZ in Korea. However, in December 1951 the Chinese pulled a surprise attack that literally caught the 24th Infantry Regiment while asleep, causing panic in the 24th ranks that resulted in the death of a large number of the 24th members. The Chinese Army pushed forward and at the Huns River, the 24th took a stand. Archae witnessed so much taking of human life at the Huns River, he said, "the Huns River turned red from the blood of the enemy soldiers."

Archae suffers from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to his very stressful combat experience. Archae was awarded the Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and Korean Occupation Medal for his valor and dedication to his country. Private First Class Archae Anderson spent three (3) years in the US Army and was discharged in 1953. Archae, like his father, is a retired brick mason, retiring in June 1992.

Archae is married to Mrs. Juanita Anderson, from Columbia, South Carolina, they have five children (Lessie Anderson, Gleenwood Anderson, Archae Mae Anderson, Dian Anderson and Rochelle Anderson).

Summary Biography for

Rufus Medlock, Jr.

Rufus Medlock, Jr., retired, Command Sergeant Major, with a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart, and both a Korean and Vietnam Service Medal and numerous other medals and awards. He is the son of a house wife, the late Mrs. Doria Medlock. Rufus was born on the 3rd of July, 1936. He was born on the Hartland Crow Reservation (Native American Reservation) in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Rufus attended Phoenix High School in Bismarck, North Dakota. Rufus received a Registered Nursing Degree from Beaumont Technical College in Beaumont, Texas in May 1963.

Rufus entered military service and completed eight weeks of basic training at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas in 1950. He completed military occupation specialties (MOS) training as a combat medic at Fort Riley, Kansas. Rufus attended US Army Ranger Training at Dahlonga, Georgia from November 1950 to January 1951, Ranger Number: 127. Rufus also completed six weeks of Survival Training School in Okefenokee, Florida. Rufus first landed at Pusan, Korea in 1951, when combat was at its' fiercest point. He was attached to the 24th Infantry Regiment as a combat medic. Rufus was also attached to the 11th Engineering Group, and the 1st Marine Division in Chohan, Korea. Rufus was then attached to Headquarters 24th Division and the 75th Ranger Regiment, Company D. Rufus was wounded at Musan, Korea in June of 1951 and assigned to the 3rd Infantry Hospital Division, 15th Regiment to recover from his wounds.

In 1964, Rufus was assigned to U.S. Military Assistance Command (MAC-V) in Saigon, South Vietnam. Rufus was returned to his old Korean Unit, the 75th Ranger Division, Delta Company, but now the unit is in South Vietnam. Rufus because of his height and size was placed in the "tunnel rat" squad.

Rufus has distinguished himself as an authentic American hero with the winning of a Silver Star; he has served his country with honor, distinction and valor. Rufus retired from the United States Army on January 1, 1981.

Rufus was married to the late Mrs. Betty Jean Medlock, they had two sons; Rufus P. Medlock (deceased) and Darren R. Medlock of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Summary Biography for

Harvey Pierce

Harvey Pierce, Staff Sergeant with 3 Bronze Stars and a Korean Service Medal. He is son of a farmer, the late Mr. David Pierce and mother, the late Mrs. Mary Drakeford Pierce, a house wife of Cassatt, South Carolina. Harvey was born in Camden, South Carolina on October 10th 1927.

Harvey graduated from Mathis Academy in Camden, South Carolina, in May 1942. Harvey also attended the University Of Maryland in Silver Springs, Maryland and Temple College in Washington, D.C.

Harvey completed basic training at Fort Jackson in 1950 and was directly assigned to the 55th Ordnance Field Support Troup as a High Explosive Demolition/Ammunition Specialist in Pusan, Korea. Harvey served the 24th Infantry Regiment both as a Grave Registration Specialist and an Ammunition Specialist from Pusan, Korea to the Manchurian Border. Harvey was injured accidentally while transporting munitions to the front line. He lost sight in both eyes as a result of the accident and was hospitalized for 6 weeks at the U.S. Army Field Hospital in Wa-Chon, Korea. He has permanent loss of sight in his left eye. Harvey ascended to the rank of Staff Sergeant and was discharged from the U.S. Army on the October 23rd, 1958.

Harvey distinguished himself as a dedicated soldier and was awarded 3 Bronze Stars and a Korean Service Medal for the dedication and his heroism.

Harvey is a retired Weather Service Satellite Specialist from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Weather Service Satellite Center, in Washington, D.C. Harvey retired in 1985.

Harvey was married to the late Mrs. Mary Wells Pierce of Buffalo, New York. They had one child, Veveronia Pierce Raiford.

Summary Biography for

Lathus Williams

Lathus Williams, Retired First Sergeant, a Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal, and Korean Occupation Medal winner. He is the son of a farmer, the late Mr. Albert Williams, and mother, the late Mrs. Annie Lee Williams, a house wife. Lathus was born in 1928 in Albany, Georgia.

Lathus finished Madison High School in Albany, Georgia in 1947. He entered the US military later in 1947. Lathus completed his basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey in 1947 as an infantry soldier. Lathus was assigned to the 24th Infantry Regiment directly out of basic training and sent to Gifu, Japan, where he spent the first three years of his military career.

In 1950, Lathus and the 24th Infantry Regiment was reassigned from Gifu, Japan to Pusan, Korea. Lathus spent his first three months, after arriving in Korea, on the frontline at Pusan. Fighting from hill to hill, valley to valley and sometimes in hand to hand combat.

Lathus was severely wounded at Pusan in 1951. He was hospitalized at Tokyo General Hospital, Japan to save his life. Lathus is a combat soldier and was awarded the Purple Heart, Korean Service Medal, and Korean Occupation Medal for his dedication and commitment to his country. First Sergeant Lathus Williams retired in 1972 at Fort Jackson, SC.

Lathus is married to Mrs. Ruth Marshall Scott Williams, they have three children Alfonzo Scott, Delbert Scott, and Gloria Williams.