



Trooper Curtis Womack

Curtis Donald Womack was born on May 27, 1928, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the United States Army in January, 1946. He graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and was assigned to the 365th Infantry Regiment.

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Denver, CO

Command Sergeant Major Womack is one of the most renowned and decorated soldiers of his time. It should be noted here that Corporal Womack was one of the last soldiers to serve and fight in the last black Infantry Regiment, the 24th, during its last tour of duty in Korea during 1950-1951. Corporal Womack earned four of his five Purple Hearts while he was serving in Korea. His first Purple Heart was earned on July 21, 1950, when his Regiment re-took Yechon. This action was the first victory of the Korean War for the United Nations Force. Corporal Womack's 77th Combat Engineer Company was attacked and Corporal Womack was injured. He was air-lifted to Japan for medical care. Nine days later, Corporal Womack returned to his Unit. He was again wounded in battle at Sanju, Korea, earning his second Purple Heart. In August, 1950, Corporal Womack was one of six volunteers who remained behind with Second Lt. Chester Lenon to cover the withdrawal of the 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment. Corporal Womack was shot in the face and arm and left for dead. The Battle Hill was taken and re-taken nineteen times in thirty days. Seven days after he was wounded in enemy territory, Corporal Womack was found alive by his Unit. This incident earned him his life back and a third Purple Heart. His fourth Purple Heart was earned when he was wounded while taking a small boat across the Hantan River under enemy machine gun, mortar and small arms fire. In spite of the overwhelming firepower of the North Koreans, Corporal Womack succeeded in planting the pontoon bridge line that allowed the 24th Regiment to cross. The North was pushed back across the 38th Parallel. Years later, the 24th Infantry Regiment's victory at Yechon, July, 1950, and the crossing of the Han River near Seoul, March, 1951, was an important part of what General Matthew B. Ridgway was referring to in an article in the New York Times published May, 1991. In that article, General Matthew B. Ridgway characterized these two battles as "the most successful single action fought by troops under my command during either World War II in Europe or in Korea." Because of the circumstances under which he served in the Korean War, Corporal Womack's Service and Valor bear a special mark of an extraordinary soldier. He was a soldier who chose to do his duty, to fight in the face of adversity and handicaps and to prevail.

Command Sergeant Major Womack had already retired from active duty when the War in the Middle East began in 1991. At age sixty-three he was called back to active duty and served six months in 'Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm'. There are many people who believe that Command Sergeant Major Womack is the main reason why that war was won as soon as it was!

Command Sergeant Major Curtis D. Womack (U.S. Army Retired)
Veteran of the 77th Engineer Company, 24th Infantry Regimental Combat Team
4 Purple Hearts in Korea
1 Vietnam (Special Forces - Green Beret)
Numerous Medals for Valor