Three U.S. buildings will be dedicated to Anderson



Webster Anderson is congratulated on his receiving of the Medal of Honor by President Richard M. Nixon.

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Reprinted from the Jan. 25, 2005 issue

Three buildings - one at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, one at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma and a government building in Washington, D.C. - will be named after the late Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Webster Anderson.

He was the only Fairfield County native to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. The facility at Fort Campbell to be named in his honor, part of the fort's training center, will house an engagement skills simulator and will be named the Sgt. 1st Class Webster Anderson Marksmanship Facility.

According to a Fort spokeswoman, a dedication ceremony is expected to He died on Aug. 30, 2003.

In June 2003 the portion of 321 from the Chester County line into Winnsboro was named in honor of Anderson in a ceremony held at the M.H. Boykin Community Center (The Fairfield County Recreation Commission).

In April 2003 the Fairfield County Council voted unanimously to name the portion of 321 for Anderson, who lived on the road.

During the April 2004 air show at the Fairfield County Airport, a plaque, honoring Anderson, was put on display.

In the Fairfield County Museum, Anderson's uniform and a picture are on display.

Anderson was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism during a battle in South Vietnam in 1967. His actions in leading and protecting troops under him left him a triple amputee with both legs and an arm blown away.

"It is definitely an honor that people continue to remember his contributions, even after his death," Davis Anderson said. "We appreciate the tribute to our father and hope that we can live up to his legacy."

The following description of the battle was published in The Herald Independent: "During the early morning hours of Oct. 15, 1967 in Tam Key, Vietnam. Sgt. 1st Class Webster Anderson's platoon was holding the high ground of a battery position when it was attacked by a larger North Vietnamese infantry.

"The initial enemy onslaught ripped through the American defensive perimeter and threatened to overun the Americans.

"Anderson, with complete disregard for his own personal safety mounted the exposed American perimeter and began firing his weapon and rallying his troops to hold firm. When hand grenades started flying into his men, he repeatedly picked them up and threw them back into the charging enemy, all the while continuing to fire his rifle and direct his men.

"While standing in his exposed position and directing the American return fire into the charging enemy, two enemy grenades exploded at his feet and knocked him down Both of his legs were blown off. Despite



excruciating pain and his inability to walk, Anderson, realizing the extreme danger to the men, propped himself on a mound of dirt and continued to fight.

"Seeing another enemy grenade land next to a wounded soldier near him, Anderson lunged at the explosive and started to throw it back, when it exploded in his hand. Although minus an arm and both legs, Anderson continued to encourage his men, who were eventually able to fight back the enemy attack.

"For his valor, Anderson was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration given by the United States."