

GENERAL BURCHSTEAD PRESENTS MEDAL OF HONOR FLAG TO WINNSBORO WIDOW

The South Carolina National Guard participated in a unique event in July when it designed and executed a special ceremony to pay tribute to a Medal of Honor recipient from Winnsboro. Major General Harry B Burchstead, the Deputy Adjutant General of South Carolina, presented the newly created Congressional Medal of Honor flag on behalf of the President of the United States to Mrs. Vickie Anderson, widow of Sergeant First Class (Ret) Webster Anderson. Sergeant First Class Anderson received the Medal of Honor for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" during the battle of Tam Ky in Vietnam in October 1967.



The Medal of Honor Flag was authorized by congress in 2002 and in accordance with the Congressional mandate, the Medal of Honor Flag shall be presented to the primary next of kin if the recipient is deceased. Sergeant First Class Anderson died in 2003 and is buried in Blackjack Baptist Church cemetery in Winnsboro. Consequently, his widow was designated to receive the flag.

Earlier this year, the Department of the Army's Casualty and Memorial Affairs Office asked the SC

National Guard to arrange an appropriate ceremony for the presentation of the Medal of Honor Flag to Mrs. Anderson. Project officer Lt Col Blake Cromer, Assistant Chief of Staff, wanted to make the event a first class production. Therefore, he assembled a diverse team of soldiers who worked diligently for three months to design the best ceremony possible, Cromer said.

In a solemn ceremony at Winnsboro's Fortune Springs Park, MG Burchstead presented the flag to Mrs. Anderson with the participation of the SC Army National Guard's Honor Guard and its 246th Army Band. In attendance were Anderson's children and family as well as three other Medal of Honor recipients from South Carolina. Colonel Charles Murray, Jr., Master Sergeant John Baker, Jr., and Chief Petty Officer Michael Thornton already received their flags at a ceremony aboard the USS Constitution in Boston last fall. After the event, Mrs. Anderson said that she was very pleased and was grateful to the SC National Guard.

Maj Jim St. Clair
SCMD Public Affairs Officer

NEWS FOR THE WARRANT OFFICER CORP

The warrant officer corp is losing some positions with the upcoming inactivation of battalions and units. However, we are gaining some new MTOE positions. We are getting four additional Utilities Operations and Maintenance Technicians (MOS 210A) positions. We need help filling them.

The enlisted feeder MOS for the 210A that can be award through civilian acquired skills are: 21R, Interior Electrician; 21S, Topographic Surveyor; 21K, Plumber; and 52C, Utilities Equipment Repairer. If you have knowledge or anyone in the Guard who works fulltime in any of these career fields, please refer them to CW5 Lloyd Carter, CW3 Kevin Bonderer, CW2 Brian Gleaton, or me. We would like to talk with them about becoming warrant officers.

We have had an excellent year as far as growth in the warrant officer corps. I appreciate the referrals you send to me on soldiers you know who are interested in becoming warrant officers. Your leads are a great assistance in finding qualified soldiers to fill warrant officer vacancies.

CW5 Jan Ready
CCWO for South Carolina