

A day to remember

One Vietnam vet recalls survival, achievements

By Worthy Evans
Staff Writer

Memorial Day is more than just parades and picnics.

Just ask Winnsboro native and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Webster Anderson.

"This day was set aside to honor those veterans who made the supreme sacrifice for freedom," he said. "Without that sacrifice, we wouldn't have the freedom to talk as we are talking to each other today."

Vietnam

Staff Sergeant Anderson's unit, Battery A, Second Battalion, 320th Artillery, 101st Airborne Division, was stationed in Tam Ky, South Vietnam in 1967.

Howitzer batteries were placed toward the rear, on top of a mountain or on the highest hill, Anderson said.

"I was a section chief," he said. "I was responsible to make sure everything was done correctly before any round was fired."

The section chief had an awesome responsibility, Anderson said.

"If the elevation and deflection were off by as little as three or five millimeters, shells would fly way right, left up or down," he said. "If you aren't careful, you could be hitting your own troops because of those tiny errors."

His unit came under attack in the



Photo/SPECIAL

Medal of Honor recipient Webster Anderson.

of his howitzer section and defended his position with rifle fire, while his gun crews were hammering the onslaught with direct fire.

"One of our young men who was hit was calling for help," he said. "I felt like he was drawing fire on our position, so I went out to get him."

As Anderson was helping his fallen comrade, two grenades exploded at his feet, knocking him down with severe leg wounds.

“

There is no glory
in war.

Webster Anderson
Decorated veteran

”

Anderson grabbed the grenade and tried to throw it over the parapet, but it exploded, severely wounding him in the right arm.

"When that one blew up, it blew a bunch of sandbags back on me," he said. "We didn't have any cover after that, so the young man and I had to crawl around the side of the parapet."

"I knew my legs were gone. I could feel the warm blood," he said. "I knew my right hand was gone. I couldn't feel my fingers."

With only his left arm untouched, Anderson threw back any hand grenade he could find and encouraged his battery to continue firing.

After spending nearly a year recuperating from his wounds, Anderson spent six more months in a hospital at Fort Gordon, Ga. He was discharged in 1969.

Anderson was ultimately promoted to master sergeant and awarded the



LETTERS

he garden clubs of
ield County was
sful again this year.
one that has ever
pted to organize one of
activities can tell you
success depends on a
ative effort.

clubs extend much
ciation the Town of
sboro, the News and
d Tavern, the town
department, and Bill
ger. A special thanks go
o each of the garden
Anemone, Fairfield,
and Country, Winnsboro

of Fairfield County
Mary Jane O'Keefe,
Secretary

Hallelujah!

Dear Editor:

Have you ever seen or been involved in an endurance ride?

It is fun, work, and more fun. Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped at the second annual Hallelujah Benefit Ride for St. Jude's Childrens Hospital, held May 10 at Paradise Plantation in Longtown. It consisted of a 25, 50- and a 100-mile race on horseback. The trails were in the woods, on wide dirt roads and along the shores of Lake Wateree.

In endurance riding all who finish with a sound horse that passes a strenuous vet check is a winner.

We would like to thank many volunteers: the Fairfield County EMS and Rescue

Squad, Sandhills Saddle Club

most of all we'd like to give thanks to Patricia Jackson, her nephew John and our other friends who worked all month measuring the trail and fixing trouble spots to make it safe, as well as to Dean and Bryant Jackson.

St. Judes Hospital should be receiving approximately \$3000.

Hallelujah!

**Linda Fisher and
Lucy Hancock
Ridgeway**

take \$409,031 to run the system for a year.

We have monitored the buses for several years, and have found an average of less than one rider per sighting. For the very few that ride the bus system, Fairfield County would find it cheaper to give each of them a Cadillac and a gas credit card, and let them park in their own driveway.

Each year the portion extracted from Fairfield County taxpayers has increased. Will there be a time when the entire funding will be from county taxpayers? It seems to be heading that way, at a time when SCE&G is considering selling the V.C. Summer plant. If that happens, we will lose nearly 20 million dollars in taxes each year. When that happens, your taxes will go up by 400 percent to make up the shortfall. Can we stand this?

Who does the transit system serve? It serves only those who draw a paycheck from it. Is this reason enough to continue throwing away over \$300,000 for a transit system that serves no-one?

Ralph L. Hobbs

Why transit?

Dear Editor:

In the application for funds to operate the next fiscal year, the Fairfield County Transit System has a total of \$344,031; of which \$161,511 will come from Fairfield

County taxes, \$119,863 will come from federal funds, and \$62,657 will come from state funds. In their request they state that they expect to generate \$65,000 from user fares.

Anyone who has seen the buses running around the



See VETERAN, page 3

He said something about a grenade, so I
Congressional Medal of Honor at the White
House on Nov. 24, 1969, for his

"I fell close by that young man," he said.
"They said something about a grenade, so I
and a live one
redawn hours of Oct. 15, 1967.
"It was a suicide attack," he said.
"He said something about a grenade, so I
and a live one
at my own section"