

MEDAL OF HONOR ARTHUR J. JACKSON



My friend...

(c) 2018 by JD (Jerry) Poss

It was truly my honor to call Arthur Jackson friend. I retired from Palm Springs Police in California in 2009, and moved to Boise Idaho. I love to play saxophone and would often walk down to the Boise River and play. The river is always very relaxing, and tranquil ... a quiet, restful, little paradise to feel at peace.



One day I was walking home and had time to sightsee. I noticed a house down the street had a Marine Corp flag out on the porch. I walked towards the house and noticed a gentleman sitting on the porch having a beer. As I was passing in front of the house I asked if he was in the Corp, and he replied, "Yep". I asked if that was the Army Engineer Corp? Arthur noticed that I was wearing a cavalry hat, smiled and said, "You a cavalry man with no horse?" He than said come and join me and have a beer. I did.

Arthur's wife Betty came out on the porch and joined us. We talked and visited a while, and he asked about my Army experience. I asked if he was in WWII, and replied that he was. I listened to his experiences in the war. Arthur showed me a newspaper clipping article with the heading: Arthur Jackson: Medal of Honor Recipient. I was floored and felt in awe just meeting such a honored man.

Arthur and his wife, Betty invited me into their home. We continued to visit and Arthur continued to regale his war experience on Peleliu. Arthur acting alone on September 18, 1944, displayed Uncommon Valor. PFC Arthur Jackson destroyed 12 pill boxes and killed 50 soldiers of the Imperial Army of Japan. This was done with no assistance from other Marines.

What came next was something I never expected. Arthur went into his room and when he returned he asked if I wanted to see his MOH and citation. He opened the medal case and there was his MOH. I came to attention and gave the best salute I could. He was pleased that I gave him the deserved respect due him.

I had the pleasure of being his friend for almost 9 years. I treasure our weekly breakfast's that we shared. Our trips to Boise State University to watch the Bronco's football team. Arthur was honored at the home coming game the year before he died.



THE MARINES INCH FORWARD AGAINST SUICIDAL RESISTANCE ON PELEIU ISLAND.

Arthur's health began to decline about three years before he went to Heaven to guard the streets, as a U.S. Marine. His memory was fading and he regressed in memory and thought back to Peleliu.

I remember Arthur the war hero and recipient of the MOH. I treasure my memories and the fact I was called friend by Arthur. I was fortunate to know him for six years before his decline. It was during this time I got to know him. He would receive letters from people who wanted his photo and autograph.

One day I was visiting when he received a letter from a young boy in Oregon. The boy asked for the usual photo and autograph. As Arthur read the letter he looked up at me and said, "This kid wants to be just like me -- a Marine". He then said that kid does not have a clue what he wants."

Arthur used to get ticked-off when he would be asked to wear his medal and come support "THE" cause of the week. He hated the fact that he would be asked to degrade his Medal of Honor in such a way.

He never did.

The last time I saw Arthur was three days before his death. He was sedated. As I stood at the side of his bed I knew that his time was coming due. I looked at him lying in peace and I thought in his 92 years, he had an extraordinary life. His action, bravery and combat valor, was above what other men could do at that time and island hell. Arthur was indeed among the *few good man*.

Arthur loved Idaho, and would say that Idaho is the last place where the values of *Leave It To Beaver* were still in style. He is buried in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise, Idaho.

I was honored to call Arthur Jackson friend, and truly blessed to be called *friend* by Arthur Jackson.

SEMPER FI

JD Poss

Arthur Jackson USMC MOH recipient WWII



L/R: Arthur Jackson, USMC MOH recipient WWII - JD (Jerry) Poss, Vietnam War

MOH CITATION FOLLOWS



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

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JACKSON, ARTHUR J.

Rank: Private First Class	Organization: U.S. Marine Corps
Company: 3d Battalion	Division: 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division
Born: 18 October 1924, Cleveland, Ohio	Departed: Yes (06/14/2017)
Entered Service At: Oregon	G.O. Number:
Date of Issue: 10/05/1945	Accredited To: Portland, OR
Place / Date: Island of Peleliu in the Palau group, 18 September 1944	



CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with the 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on the Island of Peleliu in the Palau group, 18 September 1944. Boldly taking the Initiative when his platoon's left flank advance was held up by the fire of Japanese troops concealed in strongly fortified positions, Pfc. Jackson unhesitatingly proceeded forward of our lines and, courageously defying the heavy barrages, charged a large pillbox housing approximately 35 enemy soldiers. Pouring his automatic fire into the opening of the fixed installation to trap the occupying troops, he hurled white phosphorus grenades and explosive charges brought up by a fellow marine, demolishing the pillbox and killing all of the enemy. Advancing alone under the continuous fire from other hostile emplacements, he employed similar means to smash 2 smaller positions in the immediate vicinity. Determined to crush the entire pocket of resistance although harassed on all sides by the shattering blasts of Japanese weapons and covered only by small rifle parties, he stormed 1 gun position after another, dealing death and destruction to the savagely fighting enemy in his inexorable drive against the remaining defenses and succeeded in wiping out a total of 12 pillboxes and 50 Japanese soldiers. Stouthearted and indomitable despite the terrific odds. Pfc. Jackson resolutely maintained control of the platoon's left flank movement throughout his valiant I-man assault and, by his cool decision and relentless fighting spirit during a critical situation, contributed essentially to the complete annihilation of the enemy in the southern sector of the island. His gallant Initiative and heroic conduct in the face of extreme peril reflect the highest credit upon Pfc. Jackson and the U.S. Naval Service.