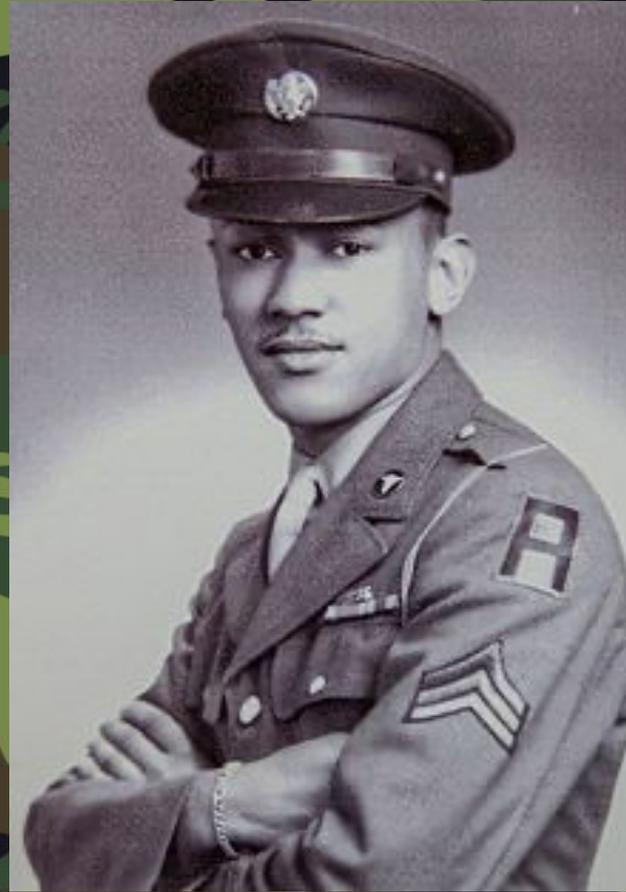


**CELEBRATING THE COURAGEOUSNESS OF
Corporal Waverly Woodson Jr.**



Girl Scout Troop 423

Hi. We are Girl Scout Troop 423 from South Carolina. We have been learning about individuals from World War II. We would like to share our knowledge with you about one specific individual - Corporal Waverly Woodson, Jr.



We'll begin with a question. Do you know how many black men stormed the beaches on D-day?



The 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion is the only entirely African- American unit to storm the beaches on June 6, 1944.

A LOOK AT THE ROLE OF THE 320TH BARRAGE BALLOON BATTALION



Nearly 2,000 black soldiers landed on the the shores of Normandy. However, the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion was the only all-black combat unit to protect against enemy aircraft. They sent large balloons in the sky which prevented attacks to the troops and their ships.



The day after D-day, there were no more strafing runs by the enemy for the rest of the war. The 320th is also credited for downing a fighter.



HIGHLIGHTING THE BRAVEST OF THEM ALL

By the time they were finished over 156,000 allied troops landed in Normandy on D-Day and were all heroes. But, Cpl. Waverly Woodson was the bravest of them all.



WAVERLY WOODSON - THE EARLY YEARS



- ❖ **Waverly Woodson Jr. was born in Philadelphia, on August 31, 1922.**
- ❖ **Pearl Harbor was attacked when he was a sophomore at Lincoln University near Philadelphia.**
- ❖ **The US then entered WW2.**
- ❖ **Waverly enlisted in the Army and scored so high on every test that the Army pulled him out of boot camp and sent him to officer training school.**
- ❖ **Although he performed well, he was not promoted to be an officer and was sent to medical school.**

CORPORAL WOODSON'S ACTION DURING D-DAY



- ❖ **Early in the morning of D-Day just before landing, Waverly's landing craft was hit with enemy artillery.**
- ❖ **25 of the 35 men on board were killed.**
- ❖ **Waverly was badly wounded with shrapnel in his butt, back, and groin.**
- ❖ **Cpl. Woodson got bandaged up and built a medical tent. He then tended to the wounded and dying for the next 30 hours straight.**
- ❖ **He performed amputations, set broken bones, stitches, and bandages and provided comfort to badly wounded soldiers.**
- ❖ **It is documented that he saved over 200 lives on that day.**

- ❖ **After 30 non-stop hours of saving lives, Cpl. Woodson was ordered to go get cleaned up, have his wounds looked at and to get some rest.**
- ❖ **While walking back to his tent, he ran down to the water where three British soldiers had just drowned when their landing craft hit a mine.**
- ❖ **Cpl. Woodson did CPR and revived all three men before passing out.**
- ❖ **He was taken to the medical tent he built the day before and the doctors said he was too badly wounded for them to work on and he was sent to a hospital ship.**

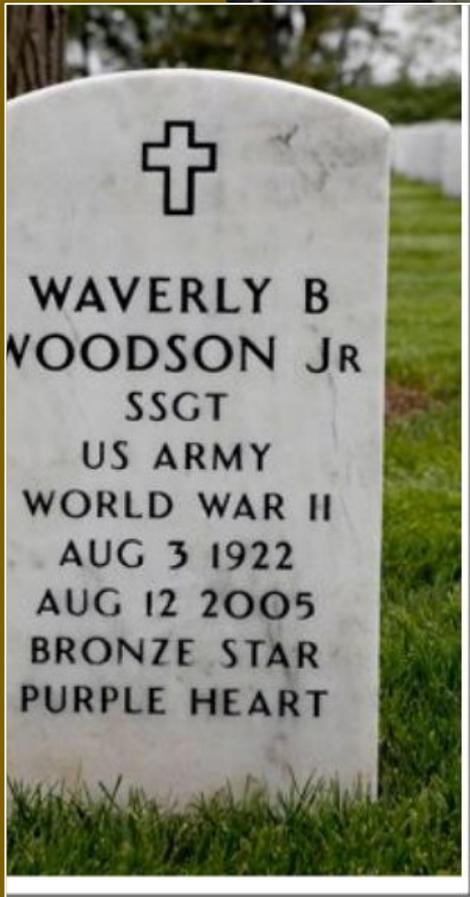


**MORE OF CORPORAL
WOODSON'S HEROICS**

CORPORAL WAVERLY WOODSON'S LIFE AFTER WORLD WAR II



- **1948 - Earned his Medical Technology Degree from Lincoln University**
- **1950 - Promoted to Staff Sergeant in the Korean War.**
- **1952 - Married JoAnne Snowden, had 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.**
- **1952 - Began his career at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Maryland as the Director of the Morgue.**
- **1990 - Retired as Supervisor in the Clinical Pathology Department at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland.**



Cpl. Waverly Woodson, Purple Heart and Bronze Star Recipient, passed away in 2005 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

CALL TO ACTION

- ❖ **Recently, 80 years after D-Day, the US Army upgraded Cpl. Woodson's Bronze Star to the Distinguished Service Cross.**
- ❖ **The second highest award of heroism and the highest military honor that can be earned.**
- ❖ **Troop 423 feels Cpl. Waverly Woodson should be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and would like to ask for your help to convince Congress to do so.**
- ❖ **Please share with your friends and families.**
- ❖ **Go to [House.gov](https://www.house.gov) to find your Congressman and forward this to them.**
- ❖ **Thank you from Girl Scout Troop 423 and God Bless America.**



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Thank
you!*

Special thanks to General Simmering, Capt. Kevin Braafladt and the 1st Army for providing us with valuable information used to upgrade Cpl. Woodsons Bronze star to the Distinguished Service cross.



Joann Woodson, the widow of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Waverly Woodson Jr., stands in front of his portrait, prior to a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington on September 24, 2024, to receive on his behalf the posthumously awarded Distinguished Service Cross.

Special thanks to Senator Van Hollen and his staff as well as Delegate Brian Crosby and his staff for providing us with a previous resolutions that didn't pass. Below and on the next page are the HR and senate bills.

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8194

2

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., for acts of valor during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

Mr. TRONE (for himself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. HOYER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. MFUME) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., for acts of valor during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL**
4 **OF HONOR TO WAVERLY B. WOODSON, JR.,**
5 **FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING WORLD WAR II.**

6 (a) **WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS.**—Notwith-
7 standing the time limitations specified in section 7274 of
8 title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation

1 with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons
2 who served in the Armed Forces, the President may award
3 the Medal of Honor under section 7271 of such title to
4 Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., for the acts of valor during
5 World War II described in subsection (b).

6 (b) **ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.**—The acts of valor
7 referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Waverly
8 B. Woodson, Jr., on June 6, 1944, at Omaha Beach when,
9 as a Corporal in the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, he
10 saved the lives of dozens, if not hundreds, of his fellow
11 soldiers over the course of 30 hours, despite being struck
12 by shrapnel while aboard his Landing Craft Tank and
13 wounded in his groin and back, actions for which the his-
14 torical record indicates General John C.H. Lee rec-
15 ommended Corporal Woodson be awarded the Medal of
16 Honor.

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., for acts of valor during World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to Waverly B. Woodson, Jr., for acts of valor during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION FOR AWARD OF THE MEDAL**
4 **OF HONOR TO WAVERLY B. WOODSON, JR.,**
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2

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12 wounded in his groin and back, actions for which the his-
13 torical record indicates General John C.H. Lee rec-
14 ommended Corporal Woodson be awarded the Medal of
15 Honor.

○

Here is link to an article in the Washington Post by a former 1st Army Commanding General.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/06/20/77-years-later-still-seeking-appropriate-honor-heroic-black-medic-d-day/>



Special thanks to the 1st Army for sending us the Distinguished Service cross citation.



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 9 July 1918, (amended by act of 25 July 1963) has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to:

CORPORAL WAVERLY B. WOODSON, JR.
UNITED STATES ARMY

For extraordinary heroism while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States on 6 June 1944, while serving as a Medic assigned to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, Very Low Altitude, in France. As his landing craft approached the Normandy beach, it was disabled by a flurry of shell strikes and an underwater mine explosion, swamping the motor and leaving the passengers at the mercy of the tide. Corporal Woodson was wounded in the intense shell fire by shrapnel to his groin, inner thigh and back. After having his wounds hastily dressed by another medic, Corporal Woodson began treating the other wounded surrounding him. He struggled through the waves to reach Omaha Beach where he assisted in the establishment of a first aid station and moved the wounded to treatment in the face of intense small arms fire and artillery fire. Despite his own wounds Corporal Woodson spent 30 grueling hours saving the lives of his fellow Soldiers, treating more than 200 casualties and delivering life-saving care. Just after being relieved from duty to rest and seek his own medical care, Corporal Woodson was called over to a group of Soldiers in distress. These troops had been attempting to reach the beach in rough surf from a vessel just off the coast. As the Soldiers made their way from the ship, by means of a rope anchored to the shore, the rope broke, and three of the men were quickly submerged. Corporal Woodson's was called over to assist in giving artificial respiration to the seemingly lifeless men being pulled from the surf. Due to his assistance, the Soldiers were saved from the drowning and were able to rejoin their unit. After his actions, Corporal Woodson was sent to the hospital for further treatment of his wounds. Corporal Woodson's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity, at great risk to his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



ICT 2005



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY ACT OF CONGRESS
HAS AWARDED

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

TO
CORPORAL WAVERLY B. WOODSON, JR.
UNITED STATES ARMY
FOR
EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN ACTION

ON 6 JUNE 1944 IN FRANCE

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024

A stylized signature in black ink.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
U.S. Army Human Resources Command
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40122-6408



A signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Wormuth".

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ❑ https://www.army.mil/article/277628/waverly_woodson_a_legacy_of_distinguished_service_recognized_at_rock_island_arsenal
- ❑ <https://www.nps.gov/people/waverly-woodson-jr.htm>