

American Legion Post 11-11
Paul B, Historian --September 2013
Welcome Home to all the Veterans
Army Colonel- David Hackworth
The most decorated Soldier of VietNam



What more is there to say about Colonel David Hackworth, this brave soldier served two tours in Korea, and four tours in VietNam, the youngest colonel to command a Battalion. David Hackworth walked the walk with his soldiers, walking point, fighting battles, plus sustaining injuries eight different times in various battles.

In 1969, in the Mekong Delta, Colonel Hackworth was given command of the 4/329th Infantry, he named his soldiers Hardcore Recondo, in fact he was so hard on his soldiers that a bounty of \$3500 was put on his head, Hack said "No problem, I will throw in the first \$20.00". Colonel Hackworth also sustained injuries in Korea. Hackworth was given a battlefield commission due to his bravery and exceptional command of war zone fighting decisions.

To give you an idea of this brave soul; here is a partial list of his military decorations. Infantry combat badge; 10 Silver Stars, 8 Purple Hearts, twice awarded the Distinguished Service Cross; the Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with Valor Device 8 times; Legion of Merit 10 times; plus numerous other awards during his lengthy military career. Hack was also nominated for the Medal of Honor three times for bravery on the battlefield. Colonel Hackworth cared a lot for his soldiers, and would often fly on the skids of choppers to the battlefield to make command decisions with rounds flying all around him.

Always outspoken, Colonel Hackworth's dissatisfaction with the military system and the VietNam war came to a culmination during a television interview "Issues and Answers" with ABC on June 27th, 1971. Hack was vehemently critical of the upper echelon dictating the war from Washington. Hack felt that we should win the war quickly, instead of losing brave soldiers year after year. His interview outraged the top brass at the Pentagon. As might be expected, Hackworth was subjected to a course of action leading to a Court Martial offense. Colonel Hackworth was given the option to retire as a full Colonel instead of facing a Court Martial judge. Colonel David Hackworth thus left the Army, and retired to Australia becoming well off with a restaurant, and as an author of several books.

Colonel Hackworth died on May 4, 2005 from bladder cancer, many suspecting that the cause was from Agent Blue, one of the Herbicides sprayed on South VietNam along with Agent Orange which contained poisonous dioxin. After serving four tours in VietNam, chances are significant that he suffered from one of the Agents used in defoliating the vegetation. Colonel David Hackworth now rests at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 34, site 417-A. May you rest in peace- Colonel Hackworth.



Reference Credits: Wikipedia,
Brave Men
Steel my Soldiers Hearts-

David Hackworth
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