



Staff Sergeant
Willie Alphonso
Barnes, Jr,
(Retired)
United States Army

Posthumous Award



Staff Sergeant (SSG) Willie Alphonzo Barnes, Jr., affectionately known as “Bubba,” was a 1951 graduate of Pattillo High School where he was an outstanding athlete playing both baseball and football. He was also recognized for his great leadership qualities.

After graduation, these leadership qualities were an inspiration for him to enlist in the United States Army. He reported to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas for basic training. Upon completion of Basic Training, he transferred to Fort Gordon, Georgia for his Military Occupation Specialty Training where he earned his credentials as a Radio Repairman. He was recognized and selected to serve as an instructor teaching new recruits the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for the Radio Repairman position. During this time, he earned the respect of many of his comrades, becoming known as an expert in his field.

SSG Barnes served in several overseas locations including: San Isidro, Dominican Republic; Camp Piliaau, Korea; and two tours in Vietnam. During his second tour and last stint in Vietnam, he returned to combat risking his life and returning home wounded (both visible and invisible).

SSG Barnes was a dedicated and loyal Non-Commissioned Officer (a soldier’s soldier). He received many decorations and medals to include: the Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with 4 bronze service stars; Vietnam Campaign Medal; 2 Overseas Bars; United Nations Device Medal; Korean Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea); Good Conduct Medal; Purple Heart and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm. *The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm was awarded for bravery in combat. This is a foreign award that was issued by the Army of South Vietnam and is equivalent to the US Army Silver Star.*

After retiring from the Army with 26 years of honorable service, he joined the American Legion in Georgia where he served as a faithful member. He lived in Augusta, Georgia until his death on February 5, 2013. He was the proud father of six children, Dennis, Danita, Willie, Annette, Wesley and Erica and had 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

His service to this nation distinguishes him and reflects great credit on him, his family, the United States Army and the “Ideals High” of the W. A. Pattillo High School.