

PC-FTORD-FBM

SUBJECT: MEMORIAL PLAQUE

24 JUN 1993

SANDY MARONEY

Following is the information requested.

BARKER THEATER

IN MEMORY OF

PFC CHARLES H. BARKER

Co K, 17th INF REGT

7th INF DIV

AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOR

FOR HEROIC ACTION ON

4 JUNE 1953

HANSON THEATER

IN MEMORY OF

PFC JACK G. HANSON

Co F, 31st INF REGT

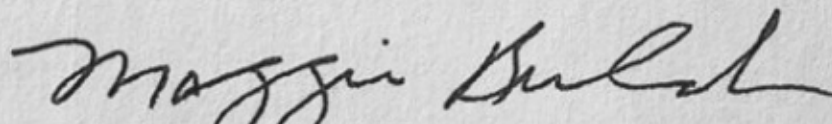
7th INF DIV

AWARDED MEDAL OF HONOR

FOR HEROIC ACTION ON

7 JUNE 1951

Any further questions or information needed, please contact
MS. Bulah or Judy Aflague at; (408)899-2835, 899-3088, 899-3283.



MAGGIE BULAH

Food Business Manager

*BARKER, CHARLES H.

Rank and organization: Private First Class (then Pvt.), U.S. Army, Company K, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division.

Place and date: Near Sokkogae, Korea, 4 June 1953.

Entered service at: Pickens County, S.C.

G.O. No.: 37, 7 June 1955.

Barker's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

Pfc. Barker, a member of Company K, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. While participating in a combat patrol engaged in screening an approach to "Pork-Chop Outpost," Pfc. Barker and his companions surprised and engaged an enemy group digging emplacements on the slope. Totally unprepared, the hostile troops sought cover. After ordering Pfc. Barker and a comrade to lay down a base of fire, the patrol leader maneuvered the remainder of the platoon to a vantage point on higher ground. Pfc. Barker moved to an open area firing his rifle and hurling grenades on the hostile positions. As enemy action increased in volume and intensity, mortar bursts fell on friendly positions, ammunition was in critical supply, and the platoon was ordered to withdraw into a perimeter defense preparatory to moving back to the outpost. Voluntarily electing to cover the retrograde movement, he gallantly maintained a defense and was last seen in close hand-to-hand combat with the enemy. Pfc. Barker's unflinching courage, consummate devotion to duty, and supreme sacrifice enabled the patrol to complete the mission and effect an orderly withdrawal to friendly lines, reflecting lasting glory upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the military service.

Last Known Activity

Charles Heyward Barker (April 12, 1935 – June 4, 1953) was a United States Army soldier in the Korean War who received the U.S. military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor.

Biography: Born on April 12, 1935, in Pickens County, South Carolina, Barker joined the Army from that county. He served in Korea as a private with Company K of the 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. During the Battle of Pork Chop Hill on June 4, 1953, near Sokkogae, his platoon was on patrol outside the Pork Chop outpost when they stumbled upon a group of Chinese soldiers digging entrenchments. Barker and another soldier provided covering fire with their rifles and grenades while the rest of the platoon moved to a better position on higher ground. As the fight intensified and ammunition ran low, the platoon was ordered to withdraw to the outpost. Barker volunteered to stay behind and cover the retreat; he was last seen engaging Chinese soldiers in hand-to-hand combat.

Barker was initially classified as missing in action, then declared dead one year after the battle. He was posthumously promoted to private first class and, on June 7, 1955, awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on Pork Chop Hill.[1]