



North Mankato Post 518 Proudly Honors This



Veteran Of The Month

The Flag flying from this site is flown in honor of Marine Lt. General Lewis “Chesty” Puller for the month of April, 2025 by North Mankato American Legion Post 518.

Lewis Burwell Puller was born in West Point, Virginia on June 26, 1898. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1955 & spent the rest of his life with his wife Virginia in rural Virginia.

Gen. Puller is the most decorated U.S. Marine in history, and the only Marine to receive 5 Navy Crosses, the US Navy & Marines 2nd highest decoration after the Medal of Honor. During his career, he fought in Haiti, Nicaragua, and some of the bloodiest battles in WWII & Korea, and many times against forces of superior numbers. In one of those successful defensive battles, “The Battle for Henderson Field”, his battalion, against a regiment size Japanese force, his unit suffered 70 casualties & the Japanese force suffered over 1400 killed in action and his unit held the airfield. While on Guadalcanal, he was shot by a sniper twice and wounded by shrapnel in 3 different places. By his leadership, he saved 3 of his companies, surrounded by a large Japanese force, and got them evacuated. This action earned him the Bronze Star. In Korea, he earned a Silver Star during the landing at Inchon in 1950. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross from the Army for action from Nov 29 to Dec 5th of that same year. He received his 5th Navy Cross for action at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during which he made the famous quote, “We’ve been looking for the enemy for some time now. We’ve finally found him. We’re surrounded, that simplifies things”. Other quotes include: “All right, they’re on our left, they’re on our right, they’re in front of us, they’re behind us...They can’t get away from us this time.”

Gen Puller died on October 11, 1971 in Saluda, Virginia at age 73 and is buried in Christchurch Parish Cemetery on the southeast side of Christchurch School off Highway 33 (also called “General Puller Highway”). He was survived by his son, Lewis Burwell Puller, Jr, who served in Vietnam and was severely wounded by a mine, & also by his wife Virginia.

We note that Gen Puller was a distant cousin of Gen George S. Patton.

