

NAVY CROSS



LEWIS B. "CHESTY" PULLER
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Record of Units Below
Hometown: Saluda, Va.

Compendium of Citations:

A Marine officer and enlisted man for 37 years, General Puller served at sea or overseas for all but ten of those years, including a hitch as commander of the "Horse Marines" in China. Lewis Puller, better known as "Chesty", attended the Virginia Military Institute before enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1918. He was appointed a Reserve second lieutenant in 1919, but due to the reduction of the Marine Corps after World War I, was placed on inactive duty. He therefore rejoined the Marines as an enlisted man, to serve as an officer in the Gendarmerie d'Haiti, where over almost five years, where he saw frequent action against the Caco rebels. After brief state-side duty, in the 1930's he served in Nicaragua where he earned two Navy Crosses. During World War II he earned a third Navy Cross at Guadalcanal, and 14 months later earned a fourth Navy Cross at Cape Gloucester, New Guinea. In Korea, he landed with the 1st Marines at Inchon, Korea, in September 1950, and then lead his Marines during the Chosin Reservoir action where he earned a fifth Navy Cross and the Army Distinguished Service Cross. Achieving the rank of Lieutenant General, he died while on the Marine Corps temporary disabled retired list on October 11, 1971, following a long illness. His record five Navy Crosses (as well as the Army Distinguished Service Cross) is unmatched in U.S. Marine Corps History.