

Fulton in World War II

Carlton Barrett

- Carlton W Barrett was born in Fulton on November 24, 1919.
- Barrett joined the Army in October 1940, just over a year before the US entered World War II.
- During World War II Barrett was a private in the US Army, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division.
- On June 6th, 1944, D-Day, Barrett saved many of his wounded comrades from drowning at Omaha Beach and was awarded the Medal of Honor, America's highest decoration.



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Citation: “For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, in the vicinity of St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France. On the morning of D-day Pvt. Barrett, landing in the face of extremely heavy enemy fire, was forced to wade ashore through neck-deep water.

Disregarding the personal danger, he returned to the surf again and again to assist his floundering comrades and save them from drowning...



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...Refusing to remain pinned down by the intense barrage of small-arms and mortar fire poured at the landing points, Pvt. Barrett, working with fierce determination, saved many lives by carrying casualties to an evacuation boat lying offshore.

In addition to his assigned mission as guide, he carried dispatches the length of the fire-swept beach;...



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...he assisted the wounded; he calmed the shocked; he arose as a leader in the stress of the occasion. His coolness and his dauntless daring courage while constantly risking his life during a period of many hours had an inestimable effect on his comrades and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.”



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- Barrett remained in the Army until June 1963 and retired with the rank of Staff Sergeant.
- Barrett moved to California and died on May 3, 1986 at the age of 66.



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- In April 2023 Fulton elementary teacher Mr. Bill Cahill and his wife met with Assembly Minority Leader William Barclay, who sponsored an Assembly resolution for the City of Fulton to honor Carlton Barrett on Tuesday, June 6th, 2023.
- On May 23, 2023 the FCSD Board of Education adopted a resolution declaring June 6th of each year "Corporal Carlton Barrett Day" in the Fulton City School District.

