

Other recognitions for William N. Parker:

2022 State of Oklahoma Veteran of the Week April 18, 2022

Technical Sergeant William Norman Parker was recognized April 18, 2022 as State of Oklahoma Veteran of the Week. State Senator Kevin Matthews, District 11, presented Parker to the full Senate with a Citation of Commendation. Parker was born November 1, 1924. He attended McCurtain High School until 1943, when he received draft papers for WWII. Parker traveled by train for boot camp to prepare for war, at Ft. Sill and later at Camp Wolters, Texas. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Parker, followed by the rest of the 116th Infantry's 2nd Battalion, entered WWII. When the ramp dropped, he led the charge out of the English Channel and on to the French beach. Parker believes he was the first soldier to touch sand. The 116th lost over 1,000 men that day.

"I believe I was the first, because there were no dead bodies in front of me," he said.

Parker was among the victorious on D-Day. He later learned he marched 600 miles (some of those miles with a foot so swollen with shrapnel, he briefly thought he was going to lose it) across France and Germany until he met the Russians on the other side of the Elbe River.

Parker was discharged October 25, 1925. He was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, multiple ribbons for battles fought, a Good Conduct medal, and a Sharp Shooter medal.