

Barney Ray Mecom was born June 19, 1925 to Tom (WWI veteran) and Georgia Leflore Mecom (Native American, Choctaw) in Milton, Leflore County, Oklahoma. Later moving to Bokoshe Oklahoma working for the state where he was called to serve in the Army as a combat infantryman.

October 7, 1943, he entered into active service. After training he was assigned to the Century Infantry Division with the 398<sup>th</sup>. Shipping overseas he landed in La Havre, France in October 1944. Barney was in several battles throughout Europe, including France, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy and Germany. While in Germany his unit along with the 397<sup>th</sup> and the 399<sup>th</sup> were in a 9-day battle against heavy Germany forces at the Battle of Heilbronn on the Neckar River. At this battle Barney was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions. Another battle he was involved with in the town of Bitche, France where he earned the title as a SON OF A BITCHE.

Barney attended Ranger School and Ski School during his active service. He was discharge on April 23, 1946. He returned back to Bokoshe Oklahoma and married Melba Dean Powell. He again worked for the State and on the family farm.

Then it happened again, on September 17, 1950 he was recalled by Uncle Sam for the Korea Conflict. He remained in Korea until his discharge date of May 12, 1951. Even though he fought in many skirmishes he was discharged on a hardship as his father Tom Mecom, WWI veteran, was involved in a auto accident and broke his back and was in the VA hospital in McAlester, Oklahoma. This hardship discharge was to return home, work on and manage the family farm which was located in Milton, Oklahoma. In Korea he was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Calvary.

Barney was stationed at Camp Chaffee Oklahoma, Fort Still Oklahoma, Fort Hood Texas and Camp Livingston Louisiana.

Barney was awarded the Bronze Star, Korean Service Medal, National Defense Medal, WWII Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Distinguished Unit Badge, Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) with Star. The badge represent his involvement in combat during WWII and the Star represents his involvement in combat during the Korean Conflict. Barney this time reached the rank of Corporal.

Returning to Oklahoma Barney went to college earning a degree as the Teacher. His first job as teacher was in Peru Kansas and then Coffeyville Kansas where he retired with the Kansas School System.

Barney is the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of a 4-generation military family:

Tom Mecom, WWI, Army, Not Choctaw

Barney Mecom, WWII & Korea, Army, Choctaw

Richard Mecom, Vietnam, Desert Shield/Storm, Navy Retired, Choctaw

Richard "Rick" Mecom Jr., Enduring Freedom, Global War on Terrorism, Navy Retired, Choctaw

Barney Ray Mecom passed away on July 25, 2024 in Tulsa Oklahoma at the age of 99 years, 1 month and 6 days. He had served his country and had a very rewarding life and will be missed by all.