

The Case for One of The Greatest Choctaw Warriors of All Time

By Gary Murray

Grover Murray was born in Bennington, Ok 19July 1931 to WWI veteran Arthur Murray and Louella Mae Jones (Choctaw). In Bennington he would learn to hunt, fish and run cattle at an early age. His mom died when he was 3 / his dad sent him to Chilocco Indian School when he was about 12. He never wanted to leave home but his dad sent him anyway. At Chilocco he entered the dairy farming program and joined the school boxing team and also played football (he said the only reason he played football was to stay in shape for boxing). The boxing team was nationally known and Grover remembers being in 10th grade and boxing college teams with older fighters with beards! He and a fellow classmate joined the Marines after their junior year in high school and within a couple of years after boot camp the Korean War broke out. Grover was immediately deployed and sent to Korea on an aircraft carrier. He spent 23 months in the Korean War. He was on the front line, the 38th Parallel watching the North dig into the mountains during the ceasefire thinking that if the war doesn't end they are going to have to go up those mountains and flush out the enemy. Fortunately the war ended. Grover, a natural born leader of men, was now a sergeant and became a Drill Instructor at Camp Pendleton in California. From there he joined the First Force Reconnaissance Team as a Recon Leader: In the U.S. Marine Corps, Reconnaissance Battalions (Division Recon) and Force Reconnaissance companies are elite reconnaissance units that operate at the division and task force levels, respectively. They conduct deep reconnaissance, surveillance, raids, and direct action missions, often in high-risk environments, and share many tactics and equipment with special operations forces. Grover was the Force Recon leader tapped to test new methods of deployment in times of conflict; One of the first men to jump from Jet Aircraft with full recon gear, the first to deploy from an underwater submarine with full recon gear, Grover trained to be ready for any calling.

In 1963 he was married with 2 young children when the Marines moved him from Camp Pendleton, to Altoona, Pa to do a 2-year stint as a US Marine Corp Recruiter. From that small town in Central Pa, he would be the top recruiter in the nation for the US Marine Corp. He actually turned away more young men than he enlisted. He had a gift of giving council and encouragement to young men finding their way. Grover Murray was amazing at reading people.

The Vietnam War was picking up steam about this time and in 1966 he received orders to go to Vietnam. Before he went, several returning Marines briefed him on what to expect. This motivated him to move his family to North Miami, FL to be near his wife's mother: In the Vietnam War, there was over 100% casualty rate for Recon Leaders. The Marines were sending in more Recon Leaders than they were getting back out. Grover let his wife, Margie know he did not expect to come home so he bought a house close to his Mother-in-Law. He wanted Margie to have help raising the kids in case he did not return.

Grover was 35 when he went to Vietnam and a 2nd Lieutenant at that time. He had already fought in a war and was an elite Recon leader with great skills. While in Vietnam, he would lead 33 missions (2, 3 & 4 days at a time) behind enemy lines, NEVER losing a man! Unheard of and never replicated during the war - Grover knew of no other Recon Leader that had this distinction (he brought many young Marines home alive - he taught knife fighting and hand to hand combat to soldiers before they were deployed as well).

On 25 January 1967 2nd Lieutenant Grover Murray earned the SILVER STAR MEDAL
Here is the link:

[Grover Murray - Hall of Valor: Medal of Honor, Silver Star, U.S. Military Awards](#)

A proud Choctaw, respected and loved by his fellow Marines that would tell you he had a 6th sense. "No Hollywood movie could ever depict the cool of Grover Murray. He had tremendous awareness, it was like he had eyes in the back of his head."

Attached are a couple pictures that you can actually sense and feel the 'cool', 'calm' confident Warrior. In 1 picture, Grover is in a helicopter on the right side of the picture. In the other picture he's in the recovery boat after a submarine training mission.

Grover retired after a 20 year career in the Marines as a Captain. After retirement he moved back to Central, Pa and bought a dairy farm and started an International Harvester Farm Machinery business. He built the farm machinery business into one of the top selling dealerships in the country. After 13 years he sold the farm and businesses and moved back to Boswell, Ok. Where he he would later serve as Boswell Police Chief and then a Captain at Stringtown and McAlister prisons where he would train officers at the shooting range and in his late 50's, he was repelling out of helicopters as the dedicated sniper in any hostage situation. An amazing dad that taught invaluable life skills to his children, all successful and flourishing today. All proud of their Choctaw Heritage that is forever entwined in the legacy of one of the greatest Choctaw Warriors of all time.