



Tributes Paid to:  
**Major Audie L. Murphy**



“America’s Most Decorated Combat Soldier of World War II”

**July 16, 1945:** Audie Murphy was featured on the cover of Life Magazine. Only a handful of Medal of Honor recipients were similarly honored. These include Sgt. John A. Pittman, USA; BGen Joseph Foss, USMC; General Douglas MacArthur, USA; Captain John Lucien Smith, USMC

**July 8, 1948:** Audie was awarded the title of “Honorary Citizen” of Holtzwihr, France by the municipal council, under the presidency of Mainaur Bathisi Henri, Mayor of the Commune.

**July 17, 1948:** In Paris, France, Audie was made an honorary member in the 159th French Alpine Regiment.

In a letter to me dated May 12, 2003, from Lt. Colonel COULOM, Commanding Officer, National Center for Alpine Combat Training, I was advised the following in regards to Regimental Insignia of the 159<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Alpine Infantry: Colonel Coulom said “It was awarded to all servicemen who served in this regiment. It is worn on the parade or ceremonial uniform.”

“It was presented to Audie Murphy by Major BATANI to remind him of a meal they shared with the men of the 159<sup>th</sup> RIA in Ramatuelle.”

**September 10, 1948:** Audie Murphy Rodeo Arena was dedicated to Audie. It is located one mile east of Euless, Texas on Highway 183.

**February 12, 1949:** During special and unprecedented ceremonies at Texas A&M University, Audie became the first honorary cadet Colonel in the history of the institution, thus making him an Aggie.

**February 15, 1949:** Audie was made an honorary member of the Texas Rangers in the Governor's office. This was followed up on July 2, 1949 when Audie was presented with a second Honorary Commission in the Texas Rangers in ceremonies at Falfurrias, Texas.

**February 14, 1955:** Initiated into the Scottish Rite of Long Beach, California and became 32 degree KCCH Mason on 12-11-65

**February 9, 1960:** Audie received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

**1971:** The Chamber of Commerce of Decatur, Alabama instituted the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award to take place during their "Spirit of America Festival." Dignitaries honored included General Omar Bradley, General Alexander Haig, Senator Jeremiah Denton, Colonel Charles Scott and astronaut John W. Young.

**1971:** In the County of Los Angeles, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, in Patriotic Hall on Figueroa Street. A plaque was officially displayed in ceremonies. The plaque is inscribed: "Audie L. Murphy 1924 – 1971 The most decorated soldier of World War II serving his nation as an infantry officer in the European Theater of Operations, he was awarded these decorations that testify to his heroic actions in combat against the enemy. Congressional Medal of Honor - Distinguished Service Cross - ETO Campaign Ribbon with Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster seven battle stars – Legion of Merit – Expert Infantryman Badge – Bronze Star – French Legion of Honor Chevalier – Purple Heart – Croix de Guerre with two palms – Presidential Unit Citation – French Fouragere. Dedicated by the Board of Supervisors – County of Los Angeles 1971"

**June 3, 1971:** Audie Murphy's death was entered into the Congressional Record (page 17858) by Congressman Ray Roberts of Texas.

**July 4, 1971:** "Audie Murphy Patriotism Award" is given during the Spirit of America Festival in Decatur, Alabama. Audie was to be the first recipient, but was killed, Memorial Day Weekend, May 28, 1971. His widow, Pamela Murphy, accepted this award on his behalf. Now, this award is given each July 4th to outstanding individuals or groups.

**October 13, 1971:** H.R. 11220 designated that the Veterans Administration Hospital, then under construction, at San Antonio, Texas be designated as the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital.

**June 7, 1972:** Application for an historical marker on US highway 69 in the eastern part of Celeste, Texas, the hometown of Audie Murphy where he attended school. This was authorized under Hunt County Order 4235

**November 11, 1972:** a bronze plaque, 21-3/4" x 31 -3/4", honoring the memory of Audie Murphy, was accepted for permanent and prominent display in the lobby of Patriotic Hall, County of Los Angeles, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 1816 South Figueroa Street.

**February 22, 1973:** The Hunt County Historical Survey Committee presented Two Texas Historical Markers. The ceremony took place in the High School Auditorium Celeste and was accepted by Hon. John W. Gover, County Judge of Hunt County. Inscription on the Celeste marker:

“AUDIE MURPHY – Most decorated soldier in World War II.” Born 4.5 miles south, June 20, 1924, sixth of nine children of tenant farmers Emmett and Josie Killian Murphy. Living on various farms, Audie Murphy went to school through the 8th grade in Celeste - –considered the family’s hometown. He had to quit school to help support the family, acquiring marksmanship skills by hunting to provide food. On his 18th birthday, after being rejected by the Marines because of his size (5 feet, 7 inches; 130 pounds) he enlisted in the Army, while working in Greenville.”

“For unusual courage and bravery, he received 24 decorations, including the U. S. Congressional Medal of Honor; the French Legion of Honor, Chevalier; the Distinguished Service Cross; and Silver Star.”

“After the War he became a successful actor, his most prominent role, portraying himself in the film ‘To Hell and Back.....”

“Following his untimely death in a plane crash in Virginia, May 28, 1971, and burial in Arlington National Cemetery, the U. S. Congress paid him a final tribute, dedicating a new veteran’s hospital in San Antonio to the memory of this American hero.”

“Survived by widow, Pamela, sons Terry and James.”



The other marker is 1.5 miles south of Kingston on U.S. Highway # 69, is identified as the Birthplace Marker. The birth marker is inscribed: “Birthplace of Audie Murphy – Most decorated soldier in World War II. Born June 20, 1924 to Emmett and Josie K. Murphy 400 yards east on the W. F. Boles farm. Enlisted in the army on his 18th birthday while working in Greenville. He was awarded 24 citations for bravery in action including Congressional Medal of Honor and French Legion of Honor, Chevalier. After the war, he became a successful actor, with his prominent role portraying himself in the war file To Hell and Back. Died May 28, 1971, in a Virginia plane crash and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.” Mr. W.C. Fugitt, Mayor of Celeste, accepted the Celeste marker.

**March 2, 1973:** The Main Post Gymnasium, Building 2818, at the United States Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Georgia was designated in memorialization orders as the Audie Murphy Fitness Center.

**May 28, 1973:** A memorial marker was erected in downtown Farmersville and dedicated by the community of Farmersville. It is inscribed: “In memory of Audie L. Murphy 1924 – 1971 and all American men and women of all races and creeds – military and civilian – who have loyally and proudly served this nation in times of war and peace; to their courageous sacrifices and their unselfish devotion to duty without regard to personal preference or safety, we owe our liberty and right to the pursuit of happiness.” --- ‘Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.’ St John 15:13

**November 17, 1973:** November 17, 1973, the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital in San Antonio, Texas was dedicated. There is a one-ton bronze, eight-foot-tall statue of Murphy, created by sculptress Jimilu Mason. He is dressed in battle fatigues holding a rifle with bayonet; Some of Audie's memorabilia are displayed in the hospital lobby.

**November 10, 1974:** At the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Site, Brush Mountain, Virginia stands a plaque in tribute to Audie at the site of his death. The plaque is mounted on the large granite stone and was erected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 5311, Christiansburg, Virginia. It is inscribed: "Audie Leon Murphy June 20, 1924 May 28, 1971 Born in Kingston, Texas, died near this site in an airplane crash. America's most decorated veteran of World War II. He served in the European Theatre – 15th Infantry Regiment – 3rd Infantry Division and earned 24 decorations, including the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross and three Purple Hearts. He was survived by his wife, Pamela, and two sons, Terry Michael and James Shannon."

**January 21, 1975:** The Society of The Third Infantry Division outpost in Richardson, Texas was chartered as the Audie L. Murphy Outpost # 35.

**March 4, 1975:** Approved Texas Historical Marker with post erected at 2920 Lee Street, Greenville. The marker is 18" x 28" and authorized under Hunt County Order 4235. It is located outside the old Greenville Post Office, when on June 20th, 1942, Audie joined the army. In 1973, the city of Greenville deemed this building for historical preservation.

**May 21, 1975:** An eight-foot, one ton bronze statue was unveiled and dedicated at the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans' Hospital at San Antonio, Texas. Artist and sculptor, Miss. Jimilu Mason, designed this tribute to Audie. At the base of the statue is a bronze plaque which reads: AUDIE LEON MURPHY - CITIZEN - SOLDIER - FARMERSVILLE, TEXAS 1924-1971

**April 20, 1977:** VFW Post 1837, Dallas, Texas was designated as Audie L. Murphy Memorial Post No. 1837

**1981:** Audie inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame

**November 3, 1984:** A six-foot bronze statue of Audie Murphy was dedicated at Camp Mabry, Texas Army National Guard Academy, Austin, Texas. Noted artist Bill Leftwich of Fort Davis, Texas designed this tribute. After World War II, Audie joined the 36th Infantry Division and eventually attained the rank of Major.

**August 23, 1985:** During the Third Annual Western Stars Awards in Woodland Hills, California, the Golden Boot Award, a Special Memorial Award in honor of Audie Murphy, was presented to Mrs. Pamela Murphy.

**April 23, 1986:** Audie was posthumously inducted into the Alamo Area National Guard Hall of Fame during ceremonies in San Antonio, Texas. Audie was the seventh Hall of Fame Honoree.

**September, 1986:** FORSCOM (Forces Command) Regulation 215-7, provided for the establishment of SAMC at Fort Hood, Texas. The club consists of noncommissioned officers (NCOs) who have consistently demonstrated performance; inherent leadership qualities; professionalism and regard for the welfare of his soldiers and abilities characterized by those of Sergeant Audie Murphy.

**March 23, 1990:** Audie Murphy was one of three Medal of Honor recipients to have a building dedicated in his honor at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The other recipients honored were PVT. Elden H. Johnson and PVT. Joseph F. Merrell. Audie's building is designated as "Murphy Hall."

**May 14, 1991:** The railroad overpass within the City of Greenville (Greenville, Texas) between Crockett Street, St. John Street, Stuart Street and Hamphill Street was designated as the "Audie L. Murphy Memorial Overpass."

**October 14, 1991:** The West African nation of Sierra Leone issued a set of 12 stamps recognizing key WW II Motion Pictures. One stamp, Le 2 value, honors Audie Murphy in "To Hell and Back" (Scott No. 1409).

**October 18, 1993:** The country of Guyana in NE South America issued a set of 11 stamps in tribute to World War II. One stamp, \$6.40 value, recognizes Audie Murphy's Medal of Honor action on January 26, 1945 (Scott No. 2697).

**July 20, 1995:** Nevis Island of St. Kitts and Nevis, one of the Leeward Islands in the West Indies, an independent member of the Commonwealth of Nations, issued a souvenir sheet of stamps commemorating the 50th Anniversary of The End of World War II. The sheet consists of eight stamps each with a value of \$1.25. One stamp honors Audie Murphy. (Scott No. 2446)

**March 16, 1996:** The Country Music Association of Texas honored and inducted Audie Murphy into their Hall of Fame during ceremonies which took place at the VFW Post # 3892 in Harker Heights, Texas.

**March 16, 1996:** The National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center inducted Audie Murphy into their Hall of Fame during ceremonies in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the "35th Annual Western Heritage Awards".

**May 30, 1996:** House of Representatives, Ralph M. Hall of Texas introduced into the Congressional Record statements recognizing the 25th anniversary of the death of Audie Murphy, "most decorated soldier of World War II."

**June 20, 1996:** A Resolution passed by the State of Texas proclaimed as Audie Murphy Day in Hunt County, Texas. To this end, the Greenville Area Postal Customer Advisory Council honored Audie with a Special Pictorial Stamp Cancellation during ceremonies and activities in the Fletcher Warren Civic Center, Greenville, Texas. Also, included was the unveiling of a marker designating part of U.S. 69 as the Audie Murphy Memorial Highway. Finally, Music Association of Texas presented Audie's family with a plaque recognizing his introduction into their Hall of fame.

**June 20, 1996:** House Concurrent Resolution (H.C.R. No. 46) resolved that the House accept for and in behalf of the State of Texas, the oil painting of Audie Murphy in uniform by Dallas, Texas artist Kipp Soldwedel. Furthermore, it was resolved that this portrait be appropriately hung in a place of honor in the State Capitol Building with the portraits of other distinguished Texans.

**July 1, 1996:** A & E Cable station (Arts & Entertainment), for their BIOGRAPHY series, aired the documentary "Audie Murphy - Great American Hero." Audie's oldest son, Terry Murphy, provided technical advice and input. Public response for ordering this tape was one of the largest requests A & E ever had!

**September 3-5, 1996:** The Seventy-eighth National Convention of The American Legion, in Salt Lake City, Utah introduced Resolution No. 260 recommending that the United States of America issue a postage stamp honoring the late Audie L. Murphy.

**February 21, 1997:** The country of Guyana issued a second stamp honoring Audie. The stamp is part of a set honoring movies about war. (Scott No. 3139c)

**May 23, 1998:** In the Fletcher Warren Civic Center in Greenville, Mayor Pro Tem, Byron Chitwood, read a proclamation while presenting the state highway map, highlighting the 51 miles of the highway and renamed it as the Audie Murphy Highway.

**November 7, 1998:** World War II Veterans Committee presented its first Audie Murphy Awards to Mary Harrington Nelson, a nurse who survived the Bataan Death March during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines; Michael Warrish, an eyewitness to the sinking of the USS Dorchester where the Four Chaplains went down with their ship; and Admiral Thomas Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The criteria for this award is For Distinguished Service in the U.S. Army in WWII."

**1999:** Governor [George W. Bush](#) also issued a proclamation declaring June 20 to officially be "Audie Murphy Day" in the State of Texas.

**February 1, 1999:** The Department of the Army established the existence of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC), authorized under TRADOC Regulation 600-14. The TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command) Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is an elite organization of noncommissioned officers (NCOs) who have demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities and abilities characterized by those of Sergeant Audie Murphy. Those NCO's selected receive a Certificate of Membership and a bronze medallion. The TRADOC Headquarters is Fort Monroe, Virginia. Regulation 600-14 authorized and extended the SAMC for commands assigned or attached to TRADOC: (**Forts:** BLISS - Texas; CARSON - Colorado; KNOX - Kentucky; HUACHUA – Arizona; LEONARD WOOD – Missouri; POLK - Louisiana; RILEY - Kansas; SAM HOUSTON - Texas; SILL - Oklahoma; Military District of Washington; and the 25TH Infantry Division – Hawaii.)

**January 29, 2000:** A plaque, 1.20 meters high and 2.70 meters long, was unveiled in Holtzwihr, France by local authorities and veterans. The plaque symbolizes Audie Murphy on his tank destroyer. It was attached on a wall at the site where Audie Murphy carried out his famous Medal of Honor action.

**May 3, 2000:** The United States Post Office issued a .33-cent Audie Murphy commemorative stamp. The image of Audie was reproduced from a photo, which was taken June 2, 1945 just after his Medal of Honor ceremony in Werfen, Austria.

**September 1, 2000:** The Gun Museum in the Confederate Research Center at The Harold B. Simpson History Complex at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas was re-named the "Audie Murphy WW II Gallery of the Texas Heritage Museum". The museum has a permanent Murphy exhibit including books, magazines, movie posters, photographs and personal affects.

**September 2000.** (Memorial Day) A full size bronze bust of Audie was dedicated outside City Hall. The bust rests on a one-ton granite base. The bust was created by artist, Bill Leftwich of Fort Davis, Texas and is marked with serial number 1. Dignitaries included Billie and Gene Murphy as well as Judge Joe Bobbitt.

**March 9, 2001:** Department of The Army Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, Mechanized Multinational Division (North) Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina dedicated a newly refurbished building that is now part of the visitors lodging facilities on Eagle

Base, Tuzla. The building provides a comfortable place for visitors to stay while they visit the hard working soldiers of Multinational Division (North).

The two-story Audie Murphy Inn is a two story 4,700 square foot, 27-room facility that includes all the amenities of a quality guesthouse. The project took only 4 months to complete from inception and yielded a professional looking facility befitting of this memorialization. For photos: <http://www.audiemurphy.com/inn.htm>

**November 30, 2001:** Audie Murphy Theatrical Award, one of several categories of the American Veterans Awards, pays tribute to a seminal performance that has changed the scope of the way the American public views the military. It is bestowed in an effort to recognize theatrical performances in military and patriotic- theme roles and to preserve the distinguished legacy of Audie Murphy. The first honoree was Robert De Niro.

**June 22, 2002:** Ten foot, 2,200 pound hollow bronze statue of Audie Murphy, created by Gordon Thomas, mounted on 15 ton granite base was unveiled and dedicated at 1 p.m. on the grounds of the Audie Murphy - American Cotton Museum in Greenville, Texas. The statue depicts Audie as he charges the German machinegun nests near Ramatuelle, France on August 15, 1944. This is the action in which his best, Lattie Tipton, was killed and for which Audie received the Distinguished Service Cross.

**August 15, 2004:** Killeen Independent School District, located at Killeen, Texas dedicated a brand new middle school named after Audie Murphy. The school serves grades 6 through 8 and is actually situated directly on Fort Hood property serving military and civilian children alike. The school's mascot is the Falcon. The school motto includes the words "Respect, Team Spirit, Academics".

**October 23, 2004:** During a yearly event, an Audie Murphy Star was dedicated at the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District. A "Texas Trail of Fame" was established to honor those individuals who have made a significant contribution to our Western way of life. Audie's Star can be found on Main Street near the Western Museum. Ten others were inducted during the ceremonies.

**October 21, 2005:** The 8th Annual Silver Spur Awards took place in Studio City, CA. and was sponsored by "REEL COWBOYS." Michael Dante presented Pamela Murphy, widow of posthumous honoree Audie Murphy, the award while sons Terry and James Murphy looked on.

**July 11, 2007:** Ft. Steward, Georgia: Audie Murphy Soldier Support Center was established where soldiers, families and civilians arriving, leaving or transferring within the army can take care of all their paperwork.