

## Troy Henderson Class of 2024



Command Sergeant Major, Troy Henderson, US Army, Retired, graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1984 playing three sports and excelling in wrestling with a four-year record of 128-12. He captured first place in was named Most Valuable Wrestler in several Northern Section tournaments and won in the Bay Area Wrestling Association Tournament of Champions. He was also on the football team for four years and was on the track team for three years. He was a member of the Future Farmers of America for three years.

While a student, Troy was also involved in the community participating in sports fundraising events, the beautification of Lake Oroville, the Feather River area, and helped coach youth in the Oroville wrestling and soccer clubs.

In 1986, Troy embarked on a 31-and-one-half-year distinguished career in the United States Army. His assignments included:

- 1986-89, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI, serving as a gunner and team leader, winning the BDE Soldier of the Quarter Award.
- 1990-1993, Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA. Served as Squad leader and team leader for the 109<sup>th</sup> Long Ranger Surveillance Detachment.
- 1994-1998, Troy was promoted to Staff Sergeant and hand-selected to serve as a Mountain Ranger Instructor.
- 1999-2003, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Fort Campbell, KY. He served as PSG for one year and was selected by the Division Commander to serve as First Sergeant for the Long Ranger Surveillance Detachment in direct support of the three infantry brigades.
- 2004-2007, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC, serving as First Sergeant for A Company 2/505 Infantry Regiment and deployed his company to Afghanistan two months after his arrival. The unit captured over 40 Taliban fighters and built unity across the region. Two months after redeployment, Troy's unit was called upon to deploy to Iraq to eliminate the Iraqi force's mortar teams. The unit seized over 10 mortar systems and 1,000 rounds killing insurgents and eliminating future threats for all coalition forces around the Airfield/Base.
- 2007-2012, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, Air Assault, Airborne 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade; Upon completing work at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Troy was promoted to Sergeant Major and deployed to Iraq and then back to the battlefields in Afghanistan, where the Taliban had a bounty on his head. While on the battlefield, he was wounded receiving shrapnel to his lower abdomen and fractured his elbow. Numerous attempts were made to get Troy off the battlefield, all failing. He remained with his soldiers and waited until the next morning for the scheduled extraction. The shrapnel was removed, and he was awarded The Purple Heart, given to him personally by 4 Star General Petraeus.

- 2012-2014, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division 1/66 Armored Regiment, Fort Carson, CO. Was selected to serve as the Command Sergeant Major with another deployment to Iraq.
- 2015-2017, Forces Command, Fort Bragg, NC; was inducted into Barbara “The Honorable Order of Saint Barbara” Field Artillery Hall of Fame and the Sait Maurice Infantry Hall of Fame for Military Service in Combat.

Troy served a total of seven years in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. Overseas deployments were to Afghanistan, Iraq, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the Philippines, and Korea. Troy received his honorable discharge, retiring in 2017.

Honors and awards came in abundance to Troy and included four Bronze Stars, five Meritorious Service Medals, seven Army Commendation Medals, 11 Army Achievement Medals, nine Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, and The Purple Heart.

Troy has been very active in his retirement in Oroville, serving as Feather Fiesta Days Parade Grand Marshall in 2022, and escorting a Korean War Veteran in the 2033 Veterans Day Parade. He continues to assist deceased veterans' families in marshaling their memorabilia, and when not taken by families, sees that it is donated to the Veterans Museum.

Troy makes his home in Oroville.