

Troy Dyer

The Story of a Hero, a Legend, and an Inspiration

Troy learned responsibility at an early age. Both he and his brother started work while they were both still kids for their uncle who was a brick mason.

After graduating from Ringgold High School, Troy Dyer voluntarily enlisted into the Marines at the age of 18 in 1967. He was sent to Vietnam and during that time, he was shot twice. Both times required him to receive care at a hospital in Guam, and both times he returned to active service in Vietnam.



Shortly after his second return to combat, Troy suffered a devastating injury from a land mine, resulting in both of his legs being severed. Miraculously, he survived these injuries, again at the American hospital in Guam. His spirits remained intact, and he even out-joked Bob Hope when he visited Troy personally.

He was released from the hospital again, but this time he was headed home. He was minus two legs, but he had been awarded two Purple Heart Medals and a Bronze Star with Combat Valor. More importantly, neither Troy's boundless good spirits, sense of humor, nor strong work ethic were tarnished.

When he returned to Ringgold GA, he toured the state with Max Cleland, a serving state senator at the time, who was a very strong advocate for veterans returning from Vietnam – Max suffered similar injuries as Troy in Vietnam in 1968, and went on to be the Administrator of Veterans Affairs under President Carter, the GA Secretary of State, and a US Senator.

Troy went to college receiving a BS in accounting. Afterwards, he tried working for a bank but wasn't happy being confined to a building. He went back to his former trade and became a Master Brick Mason. He didn't let his disabilities stand in the way of his work ethic and doing what he loved. He was well known for out-working his coworkers. It was common for people to stop on the side of the road to watch him work. His reputation for quality of work consistently kept him booked over a year in advance.

Troy married Faye Hullander and together they had two children. Troy sang in a local gospel group and later formed a band where they frequently performed VFW and Toys-for-Tots events – always with a smile and always with words of encouragement.

Troy died in 2002 surrounded by his family. Despite his adversity, he refused to let his injuries define him. It was important to him to lift up others, especially children. He regularly visited them in the hospital, and particularly enjoyed demonstrating how to pop wheelies. He may have been reduced down to less than 4ft, but to anyone who ever got to know him, he was a giant.