Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery

Donel C. Kinnard

Donel Kinnard was born in Logan, West Virginia, in 1936 to Clifford and Emmalene Kinnard. He graduated from Milton High School, later married Rebecca McCann and was a resident of Putnam County.

Don entered the United States Marine Corps on July 28, 1954 and served in the United States Navy as part of the UDT and the SEALS team. He completed seven tours of duty in Vietnam and was the most highly decorated veteran in Putnam County, receiving the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest medal, along with seven Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star and many other medals, commendations and citations.

After retiring, Don continued to serve his country, fellow citizens and veterans. He was the state commander of the VFW and president of the Hurricane Lions Club as well as a member of the Legion of Valor, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, UDT-SEAL Association, Fleet Reserve Association, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America and the Military Order of the Cooties.

Don played an instrumental role in the establishment of the state's 120-bed nursing facility for veterans in Clarksburg. He served as Chairman of the West Virginia Veterans Council, Chairman of the West Virginia Veterans Nursing Home Committee and Chairman of the West Virginia Veterans Cemetery Committee.

Before his passing on February 14, 2009, Don asked that his final resting place be at the new West Virginia State Veterans Cemetery. In recognition of his extraordinary valor and exemplary service to his country, fellow veterans and state, the cemetery is named the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery.