

Colonel Carl Sitter, U.S. Marine Corps

Captain Carl Sitter received his Medal of Honor citation for Korean War in 1950: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of Company G, in action against enemy aggressor forces. Ordered to break through enemy-infested territory to reinforce his battalion the morning of 29 November, Capt. Sitter continuously exposed himself to enemy fire as he led his company forward and, despite 25 percent casualties suffered in the furious action, succeeded in driving through to his objective. Assuming the responsibility of attempting to seize and occupy a strategic area occupied by a hostile force of regiment strength deeply entrenched on a snow-covered hill commanding the entire valley southeast of the town, as well as the line of march of friendly troops withdrawing to the south, he reorganized his depleted units the following morning and boldly led them up the steep, frozen hillside under blistering fire, encouraging and redeploying his troops as casualties occurred and directing forward platoons as they continued the drive to the top of the ridge. During the night when a vastly outnumbering enemy launched a sudden, vicious counterattack, setting the hill ablaze with mortar, machine-gun, and automatic-weapons fire and taking a heavy toll in troops, Capt. Sitter visited each foxhole and gun position, coolly deploying and integrating reinforcing units consisting of service personnel unfamiliar with infantry tactics into a coordinated combat team and instilling in every man the will and determination to hold his position at all costs. With the enemy penetrating his lines in repeated counterattacks which often required hand-to-hand combat, and, on one occasion infiltrating to the command post with hand grenades, he fought gallantly with his men in repulsing and killing the fanatic attackers in each encounter. Painfully wounded in the face, arms, and chest by bursting grenades, he staunchly refused to be evacuated and continued to fight on until a successful defense of the area was assured with a loss to the enemy of more than 50 percent dead, wounded, and captured. His valiant leadership, superb tactics, and great personal valor throughout 36 hours of bitter combat reflect the highest credit upon Capt. Sitter and the U.S. Naval Service."

Biography: Brother Carl Sitter was born in Syracuse, Missouri, but grew up in Pueblo, Colorado. Upon graduating from Pueblo's Central High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on June 22, 1940. He served for eight months in Iceland, then was ordered to the Pacific area. He was serving as a corporal in the Wallis Islands when, on December 12, 1942, he was given a field commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. He later received a regular commission.

Brother Sitter saw combat on Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands and Guam in the Marianas. He was first wounded on February 20, 1944 on Eniwetok, but went back into action almost immediately.

He was wounded again the following July on Guam, during the action in which he earned the Silver Star. The situation was similar, though on a smaller scale, to the one in which he earned the Medal of Honor: he exposed himself to enemy fire to lead his rifle platoon, and when wounded refused to be evacuated until his mission was accomplished.

Captain Sitter was awarded the Medal of Honor for leadership during a two-day battle at Hagaru-ri, Korea. In the bitter fighting between the Chinese Communists and the surrounded U.N. forces near the Chosin Reservoir in November 1950, Captain Sitter was wounded by hand grenades, but continued to lead his men until he repulsed a counterattack.

Sitter had a thirty-year career in the United States Marine Corp. He retired from active duty on June 30, 1970, after reaching the rank of Colonel in the Marine Corps.

After the Marines, he worked for the Virginia Department of Social Services where he retired in 1985. Sitter passed away on April 4th, 2000.

Military Medals: Medal of Honor, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart with two gold stars, Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star, Navy Unit Commendation with one bronze star, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two bronze stars, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, Korean Service Medal with four bronze stars, United Nations Service Medal, Chungmu Cordon Medal, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation with one award star.

Masonic History: Brother Sitter was a member of Oasis of Mara Lodge No.735 in Twentynine Palms, CA and a National Sojourner.