



Ewell Lee Smith Jr.



Mr. Lee Smith is a 1942 graduate of North Texas Agricultural College. He is honored for his professional achievements during his military service but most notably during a very successful and illustrious law career which has led him to his current position as a partner in the law firm of Smith, Smith, Dunlap and Canterbury of Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Smith is a native-born Texan (fourth generation) born in Denton, Texas and graduated from the Dallas Public Schools. He attended North Texas Agricultural College, better known as

NTAC, where he graduated in 1942. He participated as a member of the Corps of Cadets. He reached the rank of Cadet Lieutenant and served as a platoon leader. He was the Vice-President of his Senior Class. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army.

After training in California as an enlisted man and after graduation from Infantry Officer's School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Mr. Smith was sent to the European theater of Operations where he joined the 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division in Wales. He served as a rifle company commander. He was in combat action in five major campaigns in Europe, beginning with the Normandy Invasion and ending with the Battle of Germany. He was decorated with the **Distinguished Service Cross**, three Bronze Star Medals, **four Purple Hearts Medals**, and his unit (3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry) received two Distinguished Unit Citations from the President for extraordinary heroism. His entire division was cited twice by regent Prince Charles for Gallantry in the Belgian Army orders of the Day for holding the North Shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge, receiving the Belgian Croix de Guerre twice, and each member at the time is entitled to wear the Belgium Fourragère. He was separated from active service in late 1945. He was in the Army Reserves until 1950.

Following his discharge, Mr. Smith entered Southern Methodist University and received his Business Administration degree in 1947 and his law degree in 1949. He received his license to practice law in Texas in 1948, four months before graduation and has been in practice in Dallas since that time. He is a member of the American, Texas, and Dallas Bar Associations.

He has lectured at various legal institutes throughout the United States and at many association conferences. He is the author of "Supervisor's Guide to Personnel Relations," and "Labor Law and Labor Law Management Viewpoint."

He is a member of the Brookhaven Country Club, Dallas Petroleum Club, North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Military Order of the World Wars, the Legion of Valor and the American Legion. He has served in many capacities in various Dallas civic groups. He has been very active with the Dallas County Democratic Committee both locally, state level and at national conventions.

Mr. Smith was honored as a Distinguished Alumni by the University of Texas at Arlington in 1965. He is a member of the University Development Board and of the Advisory Board of the Graduate School of Social Work and has taken an active interest in university affairs for many years.

Mr. Smith's performance while at North Texas Agricultural College as a cadet in the corps of Cadets, his achievements and recognition while serving in the United States Army, his subsequent achievements in his chosen career field of law, and his contributions to the local community and in particular, The University of Texas at Arlington, have brought great credit and recognition upon himself and The University of Texas at Arlington.

Ewell Lee Smith, Jr.
First Lieutenant, U. S. Army
Distinguished Service Cross

GENERAL ORDERS:

Headquarters, Ninth U.S. Army, General Orders No. 26 (1944)

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Second Lieutenant (Infantry) Ewell Lee Smith, Jr., United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of an Infantry Company of the 3d Battalion, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division, in action against enemy forces on 20 July 1944, in France.

In an attack on le Bois de la Roche, France, an entire company was stopped by a heavy artillery barrage. It was imperative that the left flank assault platoon, commanded by Lieutenant Smith, drive on regardless of casualties, or the entire company would suffer heavily. Withstanding this artillery shelling and constantly exposing himself to merciless machine gun and small arms fire, Lieutenant Smith moved among his men, encouraging them and urging them on. Despite heavy casualties, the platoon advanced upon the enemy, driving forward with inspired aggressiveness. During this drive, Lieutenant Smith was seriously wounded. Heedless of his own personal safety and disregarding his wound, he continued to display coolheaded, courageous leadership as he placed his remaining men in position. As the result of this daring drive by Lieutenant Smith and his platoon, the company was able to push on to their objective and only after reinforcements arrived would he permit himself to be evacuated to safety. Second Lieutenant Smith's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, the 2d Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

<https://www.militaryhallofhonor.com/honoree-record.php?id=315823#:~:text=Distinguished%20Service%20Cross&text=It%20was%20imperative%20that%20the,and%20the%20United%20States%20Army.>