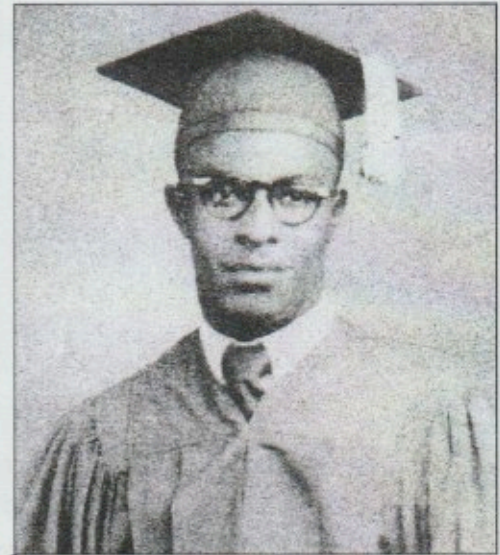


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## Private Euriah Helms

U.S. Army Purple Heart Recipient,  
Casualty of Korean War



The war began on 25 June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea following a series of clashes along the border. The United Nations, with the United States as the principal force, came to the aid of South Korea. China came to the aid of North Korea, and the Soviet Union also gave some assistance to the North. The United Nations Command, supported by the United States, the North Korean People's Army, and the Chinese People's Volunteers, signed the Armistice Agreement on 27 July 1953 to end the fighting. Dead — United States: 54,246; among them were Euriah Helms. He was killed in action on November 5, 1950.

Helms was the basketball player with the special "sky hook" shot according to his Peake High School classmate, Henry Wilson. And whenever he took one of those special shots, Mr. Jones, their basketball coach, would yell, "No, no, no!"

But when the ball would swoosh in, Mr. Jones was more complimentary and appreciative, saying, "Good shot; good shot!" And that is how he earned the nickname, Euriah "Hooks" Helms.

*Excerpt from Peake High School yearbook, circa 1951:*

### *In Memoriam*

#### **Euriah Helms**

Class of 1950

His name was Euriah Helms; he was Arkadelphia's son  
And he whistled "Yankee Doodle" as he stood beside his gun  
There was laughter in his makeup; there was manhood in his face  
And he knew the best traditions and the courage of his race;  
Now there's not a heart among us but should swell with loyal pride  
When he thinks of Euriah Helms and the splendid way he died.

~Anonymous

Helms was from the Gum Springs, AR community. Family members are parents Gladys and Adolphus Helms, three brothers: Jeff, Charley, and William, and four sisters: Gertrude, Ima Jean, Ruthie Helms Biggs, and Janice.

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