**Carlos Hathcock**

***“White Feather”***

Carlos Hathcock was born May 20, 1942 in Little Rock, Arkansas. His father served during the Second World War, which served as part of Hathcock’s inspiration for joining the Marine Corps, although his biggest inspiration came from John Wayne when he played Sergeant Stryker in the *Sands of Iwo Jima*.

Hathcock became a crack shot by his mid-teens using a .22 rifle for hunting. When he was seventeen, he enlisted in the Marine Corps quickly becoming recognized for his sharpshooter capabilities and was quickly recommended for sniper school.

He was shipped to Vietnam in 1966. Here he became known as “White Feather” to the Vietcong-the deadliest sniper of the US Armed Forces. He was so much hated by the North Vietnamese Army that they ended up putting a bounty of $30,000 on his head.

Hathcock was indispensable to the Corps and the Vietnam War, as he scored ninety-three confirmed kills against the enemy (three-hundred unconfirmed) including the head North Vietnamese general which was the longest recorded shot for a sniper-2,500 yards with an M-2 .50 caliber machine gun. It took Hathcock three days to crawl to the right position to get this commander, in fact, his movements had to be so slow that he took thirty minutes to take a sip of water from his canteen. Hathcock also took out a top NVA sniper “Cobra” by shooting him through his scope. He was that good.

Hathcock stayed in Vietnam until 1968 when he was shipped back home, but soon sent again to Vietnam where he stayed until September 16, 1969 when he was involved in a fierce firefight. He sustained many severe burns. He went through months of recuperation trying to get back on his feet. After he recovered, he began teaching snipers in the Marine Corps and eventually helping to establish the Marine Corps Scout Sniper School in Quantico, Virginia.

Hathcock retired from the Marine Corps after nearly twenty years of service. He will always be remembered as one of the Corps’ most talented and dedicated Marines. During his service, he received numerous awards including the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Carlos Hathcock passed away in 1999 at the age of fifty-seven.