

**Paul Baginski**

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**From:** Louis LaCivita [loulacivita@msn.com]

**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2011 1:07 PM

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: : Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag down?

[REDACTED]

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Subject: FW: : Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag down?  
Date: Wed, 23 Mar 2011 11:54:17 -0400

Don't forget - you miss 100% of the shots you don't take.

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To:

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag down?

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You might remember a news story several months ago  
About a crotchety old man  
who defied his homeowners association and refused to  
take down the flagpole on his property  
and the large flag that flew on it  
Now you can find out who, exactly, that old man was.  
On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg -- probably didn't  
make much news back then.  
Twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, near Carano , Italy , Van T. Barfoot,  
who had enlisted in the US Army in 1940, set out to flank German machine gun  
positions from which fire was coming down on his fellow soldiers. He advanced  
through a minefield, took out three enemy machine gun positions and returned  
with 17 prisoners of war.



If that wasn't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions.



That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a colonel after also serving in Korea and Vietnam, a Congressional Medal of Honor.



*Sergeant Van Barfoot, later promoted to second lieutenant, earned the Medal of Honor while serving with L Company, 157th Infantry Regiment. (Courtesy of 45th Infantry Division Archives)*

(from "The Rock of Anzio" with permission of Flint Whitlock)

What did make news was a neighborhood association's quibble with how the 90-year-old veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home. Seems the rules said a flag could be flown on a house-mounted bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21-foot flagpole were unsuitable.



He had been denied a permit for the pole, erected it anyway and was facing court action if he didn't take it down. Since the story made national TV, the neighborhood association has rethought its position and agreed to indulge this old hero who dwells among them.





"In the time I have left I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference," Barfoot told The Associated Press.

As well he should.

And if any of his neighbors still takes a notion to contest him, they might want to read his Medal of Honor citation. It indicates he's not real good at backing down.



Van T. Barfoot's Medal of Honor citation:



This 1944 Medal of Honor citation, listed with the National Medal of Honor Society, is for Second Lieutenant Van T. Barfoot, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry:



If you got this email and didn't pass it on - guess what - you deserve to get your butt kicked! I sent this to you, because I didn't want to get MY butt kicked.

WE ONLY LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE...  
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE! AND, BECAUSE OF OLD MEN LIKE VAN BARFOOT.

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