

# DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE SPECIAL FORCES REGIMENT



**MASTER SERGEANT  
EARL D. PLUMLEE**  
*U.S. Army, Medal of Honor*

Inducted November 3, 2022



Master Sergeant Earl D. Plumlee was born in 1982 in Clinton, Oklahoma. He was presented the Medal of Honor on December 16, 2021.

His citation reads.

Then-Staff Sergeant Earl D. Plumlee distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while engaging with the enemy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, on August 28, 2013. Plumlee served as a weapons sergeant assigned to Charlie company, 4th Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), at Forward Operating base Ghazni, when the complex was attacked. Plumlee instantly responded to a massive explosion that caused a 60-foot breach in the base's perimeter wall.

Ten insurgents wearing Afghan National Army uniforms and suicide vests, poured through the breach. Plumlee and five other special operations Soldiers, intent on defending the base, mounted two vehicles and raced toward the detonation site. Plumlee's driver purposefully maneuvered the vehicle into enemy fire to shield three dismounted teammates, two of who were injured, placing the vehicle under effective enemy fire from the front and right side. Using his body, to shield the driver from enemy fire, Plumlee exited the vehicle while simultaneously drawing his pistol and engaging an insurgent 15 meters to the vehicle's right. Without cover and with complete disregard for his safety, he advanced toward the enemy force, engaging multiple insurgents with only his pistol.

Upon reaching cover, he killed two insurgents. Plumlee left cover and continued to advance alone. Moving forward, he engaged several combatants at close range. Under intense enemy fire, Plumlee temporarily withdrew to cover, where he joined another Soldier. Plumlee, ignoring his injuries, quickly regained his bearing and reengaged the enemy.

Intense enemy fire once again forced the two Soldiers to temporarily withdraw. Undeterred and resolute, Plumlee joined a small group of American and coalition Soldiers moving from cover to counterattack the infiltrators. As the coalition forces advanced, Plumlee engaged an insurgent to his front left, Plumlee then ran to a wounded Soldier, carried him to safety, and rendered first aid. Afterwards, he organized three coalition members in a defensive stance, as he methodically scanned the area. He remained in a security posture and continued to scan for any remaining threats. Throughout the entire engagement, Plumlee repeatedly placed himself in extreme danger to protect his team and the base, and to defeat the enemy. Plumlee's extraordinary heroism and selflessness beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the U.S. Army.

Master Sgt. Plumlee is currently assigned to the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne).