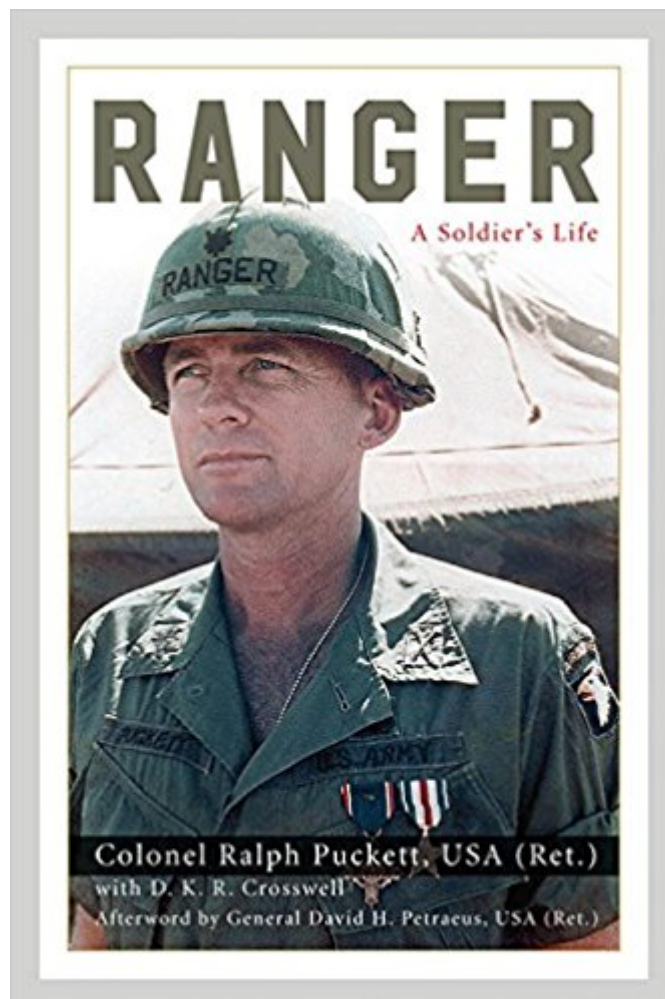




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Ranger: A Soldier's Life (American Warrior Series)



Synopsis

On November 25, 1950, during one of the toughest battles of the Korean War, the US Eighth Army Ranger Company seized and held the strategically important Hill 205 overlooking the Chongchon River. Separated by more than a mile from the nearest friendly unit, fifty-one soldiers fought several hundred Chinese attackers. Their commander, Lieutenant Ralph Puckett, was wounded three times before he was evacuated. For his actions, he received the country's second-highest award for courage on the battlefield—the Distinguished Service Cross—and resumed active duty later that year as a living legend. In this inspiring autobiography, Colonel Ralph Puckett recounts his extraordinary experiences on and off the battlefield. After he returned from Korea, Puckett joined the newly established US Army Ranger Department, serving as an instructor and tactical officer, and commanding companies at Fort Benning and in the Ranger Mountain Camp in north Georgia. He went on to lead companies in Vietnam, train cadets at West Point, and organize the Escuela de Lancero leadership course in Colombia. Puckett's story is critical reading for soldiers, leaders, military historians, and others interested in the impact of conflict on individual soldiers as well as the military as a whole.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"When once asked by a friend in uniform to describe Colonel Ralph Puckett in one word, I replied with emphasis, 'Inspirational!' That word best captures what Ranger Puckett was to countless

soldiers over his decades in uniform and best captures what he has been during his subsequent decades supporting those in uniform." — From the foreword by General David H. Petraeus, USA (Ret.) "General readers, history buffs, serious students, and military historians will find abundant sources and references for reflection or writing in this memoir of soldiering from World War II to the present." — Henry G. Gole, author of *Exposing the Third Reich: Colonel Truman Smith in Hitler's Germany* "Ranger arrived just in time. Just in time to remind us of the essence of what it means to be an American. Just in time to remind us that our liberty and the fate of all humanity depends on Soldiers who possess the courage, toughness, and determination to fight those who seek to extinguish freedom. Soldiers like Ralph Puckett — a man whose humility, commitment to selfless service, and willingness to sacrifice impels him to reject the label hero. Call him Soldier. Call him Ranger. Read this book to restore your faith in America and bolster your confidence in the future of this great nation. And ask your children to read this book so they might be inspired and understand better the intangible rewards of service and the sacred covenant that binds Soldiers to each other and the citizens in whose name they fight." — H. R. McMaster, author of *Dereliction of Duty: Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies that Led to Vietnam* "Ranger: A Soldier's Life is a gripping story of a leader in the making that held me spellbound. Anybody who desires to learn what motivates a true American hero should read this book." — Infantry Bugler

Colonel Ralph Puckett, USA (Ret.) led the Eighth Army Ranger Company during the Korean War and was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He served as the Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment, honorary instructor at the Infantry School, and was an inaugural inductee into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame in 1992. He is the author of *Words for Warriors: A Professional Soldier's Notebook*. D. K. R. Crosswell is the Colonel Richard R. Hallock Distinguished University Chair in Military History at Columbus State University, and the author of *Beetle: The Life of General Walter Bedell Smith*.

Excellent read. Great insights. I have had the privilege of meeting COL Puckett and he to this day continues to mentor young Rangers. He is a true inspiration and admired by many. He is a Soldier's Soldier and the best of the best Ranger!

Enjoyed this very well-written book by a truly inspirational leader and courageous soldier. His contributions to our country extended beyond his active duty days and continue. The credit he gives

his wife, Jeannie and his entire family for their support is touching and refreshing; it's not all about him. I had the honor of being a cadet under his command at West Point and he inspired all of us then and continues to be a role model as a patriotic hero. M Smith '69

Excellent book about/by a fine man and a fine Soldier. Lots of good life lessons here concerning leadership and integrity.

I know the author and he is a real soldier's soldier, and a true gentleman.

Fantastic. well written, easy to read. I know Ralph personally and have knowledge of some of his passages

Great book about a legendary Ranger Leader

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