

*Remarks to the  
Dedication for LTG Nat Troutt Road  
June 21, 2001*

Thank you, General Lipscomb. It is an honor to be a part of today's ceremony dedicating this new road and new entrance to Camp McCain.

With this new interchange from Interstate 55, the men and women of the Mississippi National Guard will have easier access to Camp McCain. In times of emergency or crisis, this road will make the work of these soldiers more efficient.

Camp McCain has seen its share of soldiers over the years. From its beginning as a training site during World War II, to its brief use as a prisoner of war camp, to the vital role it plays today as a modern military camp for the National Guard and Reserves, Camp McCain is full of history.

Nat Troutt saw much of that history. In 1947, when General Troutt graduated from high school in Charleston – not too far from here – Camp McCain was formally activated as a training site for the Mississippi National Guard.

Thirty years later, General Troutt would return to Camp McCain as Post Commander, a position he held for five years.

General Troutt rose through the ranks, always focused on his duties, always committed to his state and his country.

It is only fitting that we honor Nat Troutt in this way. He dedicated more than 35 years of his life to the Mississippi National Guard, beginning with his commission in May 1952 through his service as Adjutant General.

Last weekend I had the opportunity to speak at a cookout honoring our American heroes - - the men and women who have served our country in the armed forces.

Will Rogers once said that “we can’t always be heroes because someone has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by.”

Today, we’re at the curb of Nat Troutt Road – and we’re clapping. We honor the service the memory, and the commitment of Nat Troutt to his state and his country.

Thank you.