

The M.J. “Dolly” Cooper Veterans Cemetery



The cemetery is named in honor of M.J. “Dolly” Cooper who was born on 29 June 1920, to his proud parents, Dewitt and Elvie Campbell Cooper in Piedmont, South Carolina. After graduating from Piedmont High School in 1937, Mr. Cooper went to work in the Piedmont Mills and took a job with the Piedmont Economy Store in 1939. Mr. Cooper joined the South Carolina National Guard on 3 September 1940, and was called to active duty two weeks later. During the WWII era, he bravely served his country for five years and one month in the 30th Infantry Division. Mr. Cooper spent twenty months overseas and eleven months in combat duty, fighting in epic military battles such as the Battle of Normandy, the Battle of Mortain, the drive across France, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Rhine River crossing, among others. He was recognized with highest military honors for his exceptional commitment to his fellow soldiers and country, and was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with five Bronze Service Stars, American Defense Service Medal, and Combat Infantryman Badge. Mr. Cooper was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1974, serving on the Medical, Municipal, and Military Affairs Committee where he worked to improve health care for all South Carolinians. He retired from his role as legislator in 1990, at which time his youngest son, Dan, was elected to the seat. He was extraordinarily active in the Piedmont community. Mr. Cooper was awarded the Order of the Palmetto in 1990, by longtime friend and neighbor, Governor Carroll Campbell.

It is appropriate that this facility be named to honor the distinguished career of public and community service of a great South Carolina veteran