



Honor Flight – Chuck Splitgerber

Introduction

On May 24 – May 26, 2013 I took an Honor Flight – San Diego plane trip to Washington D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial.

This book will tell the story of the experience. It starts with my application, invitation, the flight, visit and return to San Diego.

Charles A. Splitgerber
6994 Caminito Entrada
San Diego, CA. 92119

November 8,2012

Honor Flight San Diego

Attn: Veteran Application

9423 Keck Court

San Diego, CA. 92129

I am sending you an application for your Honor Flight. I sent an email to you this evening but I wasn't sure the application went with the email. Therefore I am sending you a copy of the application in case you didn't receive it with the email.

Thank you.

For Honor Flight San Diego Use Only LAST NAME: _____ DATE RECEIVED: _____



Veteran Application

Honor Flight San Diego (HFSD) recognizes American veterans for your sacrifices and achievements by flying you to Washington, DC to see YOUR memorial at **no cost**. Top priority (for which we are currently accepting application only) is given to WW II and terminally ill veterans from **all** wars. In the future, *Honor Flight* will be expanded to include Korean and Vietnam veterans. In order for *Honor Flight* to achieve this goal, guardians fly with the veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping veterans have a **safe**, memorable and rewarding experience. For what you and your comrades have given to us, please consider this a small token of appreciation from all of us at *Honor Flight*. For further information, please contact Jeff at (858) 837-2895 or visit us at www.honorflightsandiego.org

YOUR NAME: Charles Albert Splitgerber NICKNAME: Chuck
(IMPORTANT: As it appears on your ID for airline travel) (If Applicable)

ADDRESS: 6994 Caminito Entrada

CITY: San Diego STATE: CA ZIP: 92119

PHONE/Day: 619-462-6508 Evening: 619-462-6508 Mobile: 990-5268

E-MAIL: Splitgerbercm@yahoo.com WEIGHT: 190 DOB: 4-4-1927

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT HONOR FLIGHT? Tom Splitgerber

T-SHIRT SIZE: (S, M, L, XL, XXXL): _____

ALTERNATE CONTACT (son, daughter, etc.): NAME: Muriel Splitgerber
PHONE: 619-462-6508 E-MAIL: splitgerbercm@yahoo.com RELATIONSHIP: wife

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION (someone available the days you travel)

Name: Muriel Splitgerber RELATIONSHIP: wife

Address: 6994 Caminito Entrada San Diego, CA

PHONE/Day: 619-462-6508 Evening: 619-462-6508 Mobile: _____

SERVICE HISTORY BRANCH OF SERVICE: US Navy RANK: S2/L

HOME TOWN (from which city/state did you enter the service?): Plymouth, Wt.

ACTIVITY DURING WWII: Great Lakes Pt. Hueneme, CA. Guam

MEDICAL: INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL NOT DISQUALIFY YOU! IT PERMITS US TO ASSESS THE SUPPORT WE NEED DURING THE TRIP. INFORMATION IS FOR HONOR FLIGHT & MEDICAL PERSONNEL ONLY.

Please list your physician's name and phone number in case of an emergency. Dr. Webb 1-619-589-8626

Do you use mobility equipment? YES NO If YES, please circle device: CANE WALKER WHEELCHAIR SCOOTER
MEDICATIONS (name, dose and how often you take it)

| MEDICATION | TAKE HOW OFTEN? | MEDICATION | TAKE HOW OFTEN? |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Aspirin 325</u> | <u>1 daily</u> | <u>Hydralzine 10mg</u> | <u>2-3x daily</u> |
| <u>Carvedilo (Coreg)</u> | <u>2 2x daily</u> | <u>Levostin 20mg</u> | <u>1x daily</u> |
| <u>Furesmide (Lasix)</u> | <u>every other day</u> | <u>Potassium 20mg</u> | <u>1x daily</u> |

Do you have any drug allergies? Penicillin

Do you have a history of seizure? YES NO Please describe what type (e.g., grand mal, petit mal, other)

When was your last seizure? None If within past 5 years, STRONGLY advise you discuss trip with your private physician.

Are you able to provide all self-care independently, including eating, bathing and dressing? YES NO
PLEASE COMPLETE SECOND PAGE

Do you have problems with **motion sickness** (sea or air)? YES NO If YES, is it controlled with medications? YES NO
If motion sickness is not controlled with medications, it is STRONGLY advised you discuss the trip with your private physician!

Do you have any **breathing problems**? YES NO If YES, please describe:

Do you use a home **nebulizer** machine? YES NO If YES, you are STRONGLY advised to discuss the trip with your private physician concerning the use of portable hand-held nebulizers during the trip.

Do you use **oxygen** at any time? YES NO If YES, you will need your private physician to write a prescription for oxygen to be used during the flight and during the tour. The prescription must be turned in with the application and oxygen will be provided.

Do you have a **problem walking** the length of a football field without assistance? YES NO If YES, please describe the reason(s) (e.g., lung problems, arthritis, heart problems, etc.):

Do you have a history of **open head injuries, sinus problems, or ear problems**? YES NO If YES, have you flown since the open head injury, sinus or ear problem occurred? YES NO If YES, did you have any problems? YES NO
If YES, it is STRONGLY advised you discuss the trip with your private physician. If you have NEVER flown since the open head injury, sinus or ear problem began, we STRONGLY advise you to discuss the trip with your private physician.
Do you have a **urostomy or colostomy bag**? YES NO If YES, please make sure the bag is vented prior to flight. If you do not know if your bag is vented, it is STRONGLY advised that you discuss this issue with your private physician.

Additional Comments or Concerns: _____

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY AND SIGN:

The undersigned acknowledges and agrees that:

1. As photographic and video equipment are frequently used to memorialize and document *Honor Flight San Diego (HFSD) and the Honor Flight Network (HFN)* trips and events, his/her image may appear in a public forum, such as the media or a website, to acknowledge, promote or advance the work of the *HFSD and the HFN* program. I hereby release the photographer and *HFSD and the HFN* from all claims and liability relating to said photographs. I hereby give permission for my images captured during *HFSD and the HFN* activities through video, photo, or other media, to be used solely for the purposes of *HFSD and the HFN* promotional material and publications, and waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto.

2. I further state that medical insurance is the responsibility of the veteran, guardian, volunteer and I understand that *HFSD and the HFN* does NOT provide medical care. I understand that I accept all risks associated with travel and other *HFSD and the HFN* activities and will not hold *HFSD and the HFN* responsible for any injuries incurred by me while participating in the *HFSD and the HFN* program.

SIGNED: Charles Albert Splitzger

DATE: 11 / 6 / 12 (E-mail applicants will be required to sign prior to actual flight date)

Please submit this form to:

Honor Flight San Diego
ATTN: Veteran Application
9423 Keck Court
San Diego, CA 92129

OR Sign, Scan and E-Mail to: info@honorflightsandiego.org
OR FAX to: 858-484-4605 (Please call first to have the fax turned on)



"We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by."

- Will Rogers

Officers and Directors

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Dawn Rogers
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Judith Radke
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Carmen Wilson
Team Leader

Our Mission

Honor Flight San Diego is an all Volunteer Non-profit created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials.

· Top priority is given to the senior veterans - World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

· Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation-- and as a culturally diverse. free society.

May 16, 2013

Mr. Charles Splitgerber
Honored WWII Veteran
Honor Flight San Diego

Dear Mr. Splitgerber,

On behalf of the Board of Honor Flight San Diego, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you aboard our flight to Washington D. C. This 2013 voyage has been organized by the San Diego Honor Flight Hub "**Honoring our World War II Veterans**" and your service to our nation.

It is with heartfelt respect that we share with our "**World War II Heroes**" the opportunity to visit the WWII memorial dedicated to your service and sacrifice. This is **YOUR** memorial and we are so pleased to participate in your visit.

Thank you again for your dedication and commitment to protecting the freedoms enjoyed by so many citizens of the greatest nation on earth, the United States of America.

Enjoy your visit and the opportunity to connect with fellow WWII veterans.

Welcome Aboard!

Sincerely,

David A. Smith
Chairman and Co-Founder



Subject: Honor Flight San Diego
From: Carmen Wilson (cbwkwilson@cox.net)
To: splitgerbercm@yahoo.com;
Date: Sunday, May 5, 2013 3:24 PM

Hello, Chuck...

We are excited to have you on the May 24-26 Flight of Honor to Washington D.C.

Attached you will find the Welcome Letter, Itinerary, Packing List, Covenant Not to Sue, and Updated Medical Form. Please send the last two back to me at:

Carmen Wilson
1855 Rockhoff Rd
Escondido, CA 92026

Please email me stating you have this information. Call me with any questions/concerns. I look forward to our flight.

Warmest regards,
Carmen



HONOR FLIGHT SAN DIEGO TRIP ITINERARY

Dear Veteran:

Congratulations on your selection for an Honor Flight tour on Saturday, May 25, 2013!

It's going to be a long day, but I guarantee you that we will do everything we can to make this trip both memorable and rewarding. This is our tribute to you for all of the sacrifices you've endured so the rest of us can live free. This is your "Tour of Honor" – enjoy a flight to YOUR memorial and be treated with the honor you so richly deserve!

Your Team: Blue
Team Leader: Carmen Wilson - Cell 760 703-3320

| Friday - May 24, 2013 | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Depart San Diego | |
| 6:00 a.m. | Meet at San Diego International Airport, Terminal 2, East Entrance SPECIAL NOTE: Go to the first set of doors at Terminal 2 <u>NOT THE US AIRWAYS SIGN</u> Look for someone holding the Honor Flight San Diego sign and SD Airport Ambassadors at the <u>FIRST SET OF DOORS</u> at Terminal - 2 You will check in and receive your boarding pass and name tags When the entire group is present, we will be escorted through security by SD Airport Ambassadors and TSA |
| 7:15 a.m. | Begin boarding US Airways Charter flight |
| 8:00 a.m. | Depart San Diego |
| 4:00 p.m. EST | Land at Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) Honor Flight Ground Crew will escort us to the shuttle buses |
| 4:30 p.m. | Shuttle transfer between airport and the BWI Hilton (~10 minute drive) Hotel address: 1739 West Nursery Road, Linthicum Heights, Maryland, 21090 |
| 4:45 – 5:15 p.m. | Check in at BWI Hilton Honor Flight will have a table set up and you will receive your room assignments |
| 6:00 p.m. | Pick up your Honor Flight San Diego T-shirt in the lobby |
| 7:00 p.m. | Welcome Dinner Please wear your Honor Flight San Diego T-shirt |
| 8:00 p.m. | Brief overview of Saturday's itinerary and a safety meeting |



"We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by".

Will Rogers

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- Top priority is given to the senior veterans - World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

- Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation—and as a culturally diverse, free society.

**Program Agenda
Honor Flight San Diego
"Tour of Honor" Welcome Dinner**

Hilton BWI
Friday – May 24, 2013

| | |
|---------|--|
| 7:00PM | Welcome - Dave Smith |
| 7:02PM | Presentation of the Colors – Color Guard |
| 7:08PM | Pledge of Allegiance - Dave Smith |
| 7:10PM | Empty Table Remembrance – Jeff Hall |
| 7:13PM | Invocation – Dr. Roberta Flynn |
| 7:15PM | Dinner – Music by Glenn Miller and his ORCHESTRA |
| 8:00PM | History of the Honor Flight Network – Dave Smith |
| 8:10PM | "Our Flag" Flown over the Arizona and Missouri – Dave Smith |
| 8:20PM | "Star Spangled Banner" – Bill Maheu |
| 8:30PM | Saturday Agenda – Dave Smith Veterans and Guardians Wear HFSD T-Shirts Breakfast use tickets Meet for Bus in Lobby 7:10AM Tour Highlights Restrooms Lunch Return to the Hotel for Dinner Sunday Morning Breakfast and Travel Plans |
| 8:35PM | Benediction – Dr. Roberta Flynn |
| 8:30 PM | Close – Dave Smith |
| 8:35 PM | Safety Briefing – Guardians Only – Jeff Hall & Team Leaders |





Saturday - May 25, 2013:

TOUR OF HONOR IN WASHINGTON D.C.

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| 6:00 a.m. | Breakfast buffet opens Be sure to eat a hearty (FREE) breakfast |
| 7:00 a.m. | Meet in the lobby and begin boarding the charter bus Please wear your Honor Flight T-shirt |
| 7:30 a.m. | Depart hotel for the U.S. National World War II Memorial |
| 8:15 a.m. | Arrive at World War II Memorial, unload group and tour the site Find Kilroy! |
| 9:45 a.m. | Board bus and depart for Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans and Korean War Veterans Memorials |
| 10:00 a.m. | Arrive at Lincoln, Vietnam, and Korean Memorials Tour the sites |
| 11:45 to 12:30 p.m. | Board bus for short tour across the Potomac River Enjoy box lunch while driving to Arlington National Cemetery This is a good time to take medications as necessary |
| 12:30 p.m. | Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery Tour the site |
| 1:00 p.m. | Witness changing of the Guard Respectful silence is observed |
| 1:30 p.m. | Board bus and depart for Iwo Jima Memorial (Marine Corps War Memorial) |
| 1:45 p.m. | Arrive at Iwo Jima Memorial Take group photo |
| 2:30 p.m. | Depart for U.S. Air Force Memorial |
| 2:45 p.m. | Arrive at Air Force Memorial |
| 3:30 p.m. | Board bus and depart for U.S. Navy Yard Museum |
| 3:50 p.m. | Arrive at Navy Yard Museum |
| 4:35 p.m. | Board bus and depart for BWI Hilton |
| 5:15 p.m. | Arrive at the BWI Hilton |
| 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | Dinner at the BWI Hilton |
| 8:00 p.m. | Enjoy the rest of the evening! |



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Will Rogers

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Program Agenda Honor Flight San Diego Tour of Honor Welcome Dinner

Hilton BWI
Saturday – May 25, 2013

| | |
|---------|---|
| 6:30PM | Welcome - Dave Smith Enjoy Photos of your "Tour of Honor" throughout dinner |
| 6:32PM | Pledge of Allegiance - Dave Smith |
| 6:33PM | Invocation – Dr. Roberta Flynn |
| 6:40PM | Dinner – Music by Glenn Miller and his ORCHESTRA |
| 7:10PM | CAPT Steven B. Shepard, USN Director, Joint Military Intelligence Training Center |
| 7:30PM | Sunday Agenda – Dave Smith Breakfast use tickets – Service beginning 6AM Meet for in Lobby Shuttles to Airport 8:30AM Shuttles Transport to Airport beginning 9:00AM TSA Screening Begin Boarding US Airways Flight #9090 – 11:20AM Take off from BWI 12:00 Noon Land back in San Diego 2:45PM |
| 7:40PM | Benediction – Dr. Roberta Flynn |
| 7:45 PM | Close – Dave Smith |





Sunday: May 26, 2013 Return to San Diego

| | |
|------------|--|
| 6:00 a.m. | Breakfast buffet opens Be sure to eat a hearty (FREE) breakfast |
| 9:00 a.m. | Begin boarding shuttles for transport to BWI airport |
| 9:45 a.m. | Process through TSA security Consolidate our group at the gate for departure |
| 11:20 a.m. | Board US Airways Charter flight |
| 12:00 p.m. | Flight departs from BWI |
| 2:45 p.m. | Flight lands in San Diego |
| | Family and friends can arrange to meet you at Terminal 2 baggage claim Say goodbye and head home to enjoy the rest of your Sunday |

Please pray for good weather and the protection of our Veterans and staff!

QUESTIONS?

Contact Trip Leaders:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jeff Hall | Cell 858 837-2895 |
| Carmen Wilson | Cell 760 703-3320 |
| Laura Giambattista | Cell 610 308-4097 |
| Gary Roehm | Cell 619 892-2058 |
| Dave Smith | Cell 858-442-8337 |

VETERANS

World War II vets to go to D.C. on Honor Flight

SAN DIEGO

About 90 World War II vets are scheduled to leave San Diego early today for an all-expenses-paid whirlwind visit to Washington, D.C.

The weekend trip, known as an Honor Flight, is designed as a "thank you" to the vets, all of them in their 80s or 90s. They'll be treated to meals, hotel rooms and a bus tour of the capital's monuments, including the World War II memorial.

"I'm so excited I can hardly stand it," said Bill Zavala, 85, an El Cajon resident who served in the Navy at the end of the war.

Honor Flight San Diego, a nonprofit organization funded by donations, typically does trips in the spring and the fall. It is chartering a US Airways plane this time to transport the vets and about 60 "guardians," many of them relatives of those being honored. The group returns Sunday.

The World War II Memorial opened nine years ago. For many of the vets, this will be their first and probably last chance to see it. The memorial includes a wall with 4,000 gold stars on it, each one representing 100 fallen U.S. service members. Sometimes the vets are moved to tears there and will leave behind flowers or a photo in tribute to a buddy who died on the battlefield.

Wherever they go during the trip, the vets cause a stir. Joggers come up and shake their hands. Other travelers at the airports form reception lines and applaud their arrival. They are treated like heroes.

"And who would pass that up?" joked Escondido's Jane Mullen, who is going on the Honor Flight with her husband of 68 years, Karl. They met while both served in the Army Signal Corps in England during the war.

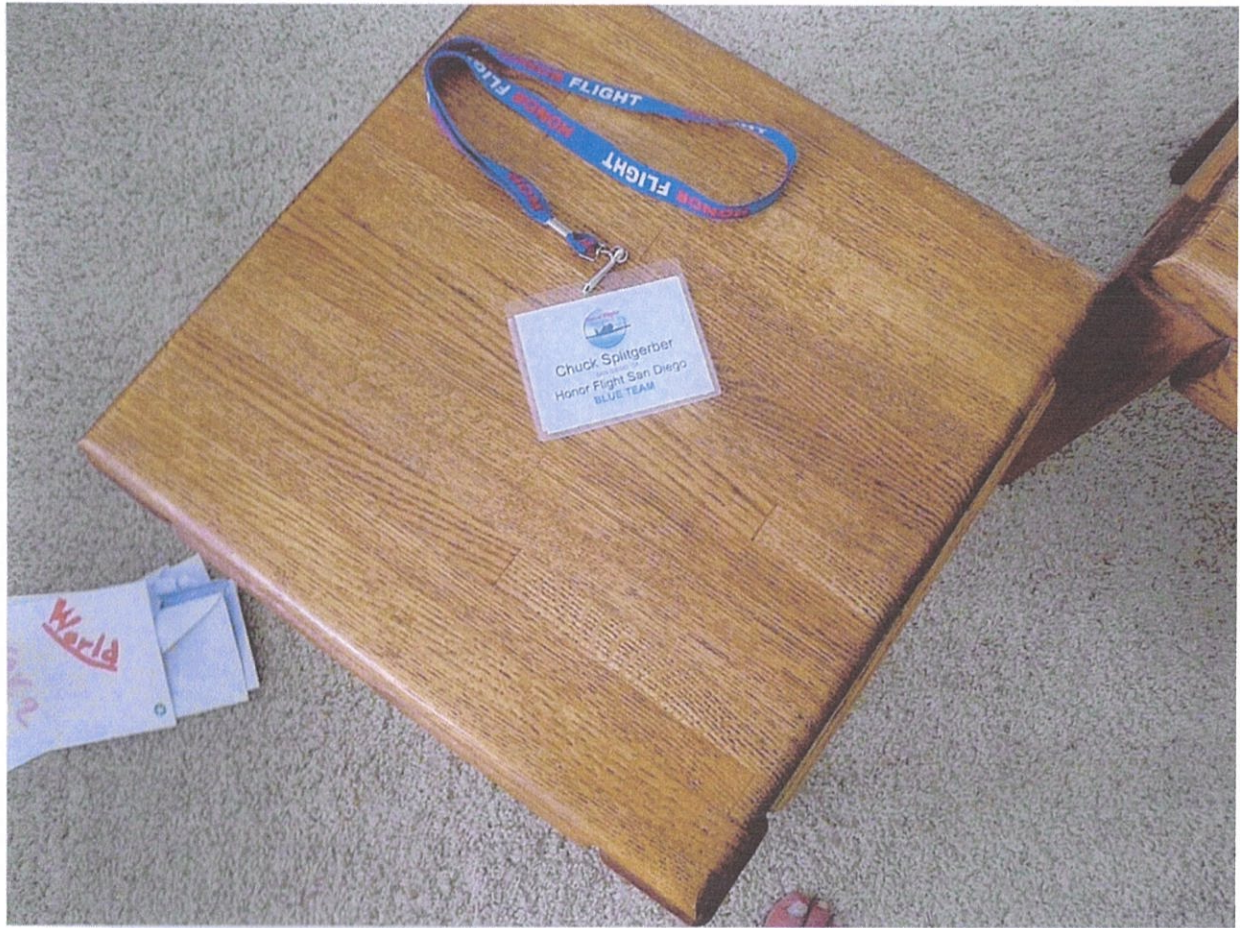
"I can't say it wasn't interesting," Mullen said about her time sending and receiving code in an underground office at the headquarters of Jimmy Doolittle, the famed aviator and head of the Eighth Air Force. "It was the highlight of my life."

JOHN WILKENS • U-T

How to reach us | PHONE: (619) 293-1



Checking in – We were directed to go to Terminal 2 – check in at the Blue table to receive a boarding pass and name tags



Name Tag – Honor Flight



Waiting to go to the Gate area – When we were ready to go to our gate we were put in a wheelchair, taken up an elevator, past the security check directly to Gate 21 where US Airways had a plane waiting for us.

We had a wait of about one-half hour before we started loading the plane. There was a large table filled with many breakfast products for us to eat while we waited.



Boarding the plane – we boarded the plane in our designated groups. Our group was the last group to board the plane thus we were in the back of the plane. I sat in the last row. It wasn't bad because I could see the entire length of the plane.

The plane was decorated with red, white and blue balloons, red, white and blue crepe paper streamers along with small flags. Part way through the flight our group leaders and caretakers had a mail call. The group leaders had contacted a family member in each of their groups to contact friends and relatives to request them to send a short message to the veteran in their family. The mail call was called to distribute the messages.



MAIL

CALL

Subject: Have a great trip!

From: Tom Splitgerber (tsplitgerber@san.rr.com)

To: splitgerbercm@yahoo.com;

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2013 7:39 AM

Chuck, so glad to hear that you are going on the Honor Flight to DC. The memorials are great! don't know if you will be receiving this on your way to or coming back. I saw a group that had Mail Call on the way to Austin TX coming from DC. Hope you treat your Air Force escort's well. Being with fellow veterans probably stirred up some great stories and I am sure they are better than ever. The time in DC will bring back so many memories. I am so glad that I had a little part in your being able to go. Thanks so much for being my big brother.

Tom

Sent from Tom's iPad

Subject: honor flight
From: Christine Kaufmann (christinemkaufmann@gmail.com)
To: splitgerbercm@yahoo.com;
Date: Monday, May 13, 2013 11:14 AM

Dear Auntie M,

I am so proud to hear that Uncle Chick is on the Honor Flight. Dan and I happened to be flying into the Milwaukee airport the same evening that the Honor Flight was returning. I cried...the number of different bands that were playing and the volume of people in uniform and the family members waiting for their Veteran to return home..it was an event I will never forget. I am mailing you a letter this afternoon for "The Mail Call", I hope you receive it in time.

So many things have happened this year...my 6th and 7th grandchildren were born on my birthday! Another set of twins to Liz and Ben...this time a set of identical girl twins! Rowan and Tahlia. Christina and Adam are expecting their 4th child in June. Who knew I would have 8 grandchildren of my own and 3 step grand kids!

Dan just had a hip replacement and is recovering nicely. So, hopefully he will be able to enjoy some of the summer here in Wisconsin, that's if it ever arrives. We had snow over Mother's Day weekend.

Will you be coming to Wisconsin in June?

Love to all,
Chrissy

Dear Uncle Chick,

I sure hope that you enjoyed your flight and time spent in Washington DC. As a young girl, I remember attending the Memorial Day parades, the ceremonies in the cemetery and the VFW color guard gun salutes. I remember the sounds of guns scaring me and my brothers along with other young boys scrambling to pick up the spent shells. In reality, I really didn't understand or appreciate why Memorial Day was celebrated.

Today, I am filled with pride that you were a part of the Honor Flight. Your generation, along with so many other brave Americans served our United States to protect and secure our freedom for all future generations. Today, I am the Grandmother of those future generations; I have enclosed pictures of your great, great nieces and nephews.

Thank you for your loyalty to our country. I am so proud to say you are a veteran and more importantly, My Uncle. Hope to see you in June!

All my love,
Chrissy

Subject: honor flight
From: clark kaufmann (kaufmann.c@sbcglobal.net)
To: splitgerbercm@yahoo.com;
Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 1:09 PM

Dear Chick,

There is a lot to thank you for, your service in the Navy is just one of those things.

I just want to let you know, that I am thinking of you today.

I appreciate everything that you have done for your family and your country.

I'm proud to know you.

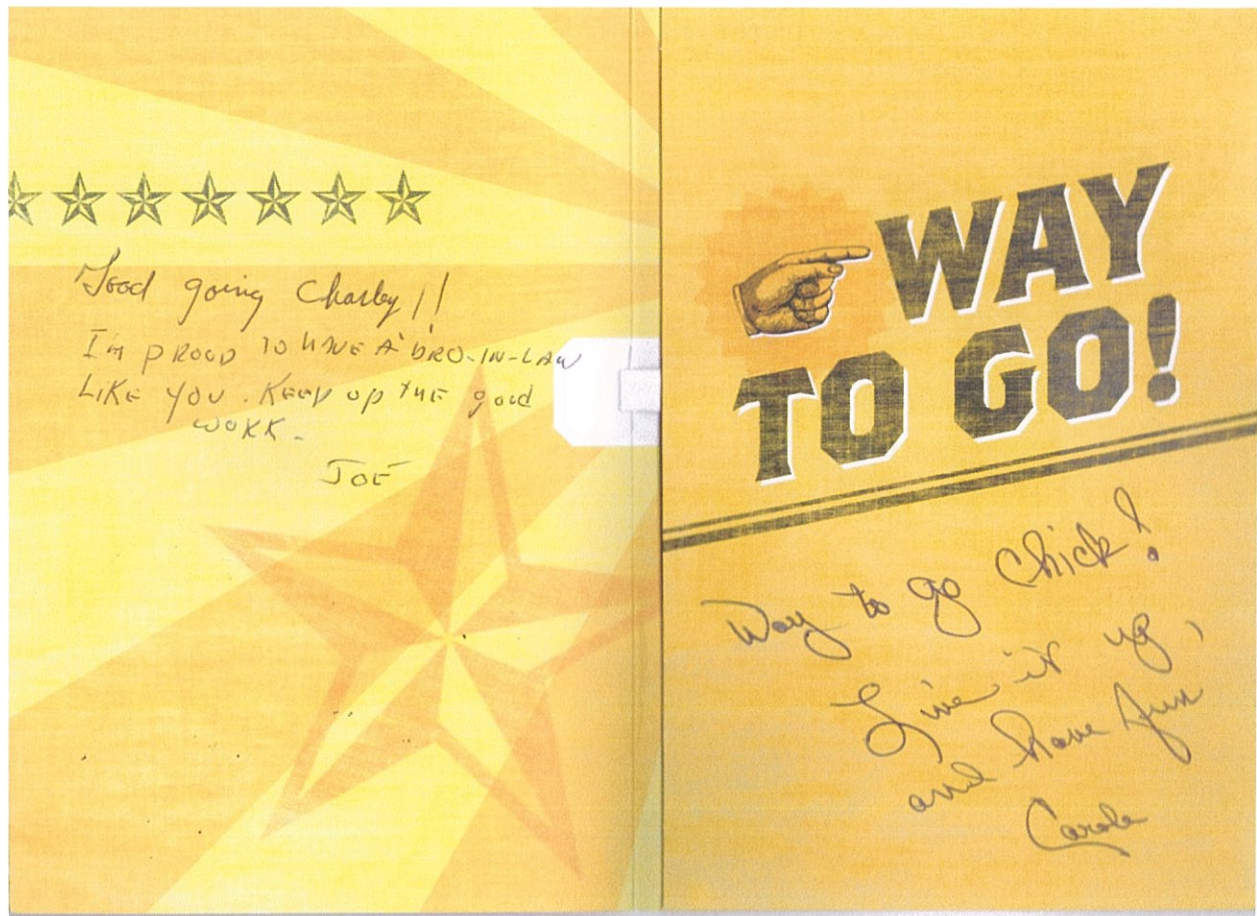
Your humble nephew,

Clark

PS: I'm glad I got my looks from your side of the family.

Subject: TRIP
From: CubbaTroll@aol.com (CubbaTroll@aol.com)
To: splitgerbercm@yahoo.com;
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 12:39 PM

Hi Chick: Cambridge sent a message and Frank and I would like to wish you a very happy trip. It certainly will be an added plus to have Scott in attendance with you. I hope Tracy (your personal secretary) will write up a post trip. Her communications have always been full of news and mostly great to read, as long as its the good ones when you are on the mend. As always we wish you well and Bon Voyage! With Love, Frank and Rosemarie



This is from my Brother in law and Sister in law Joe and carole Knapp

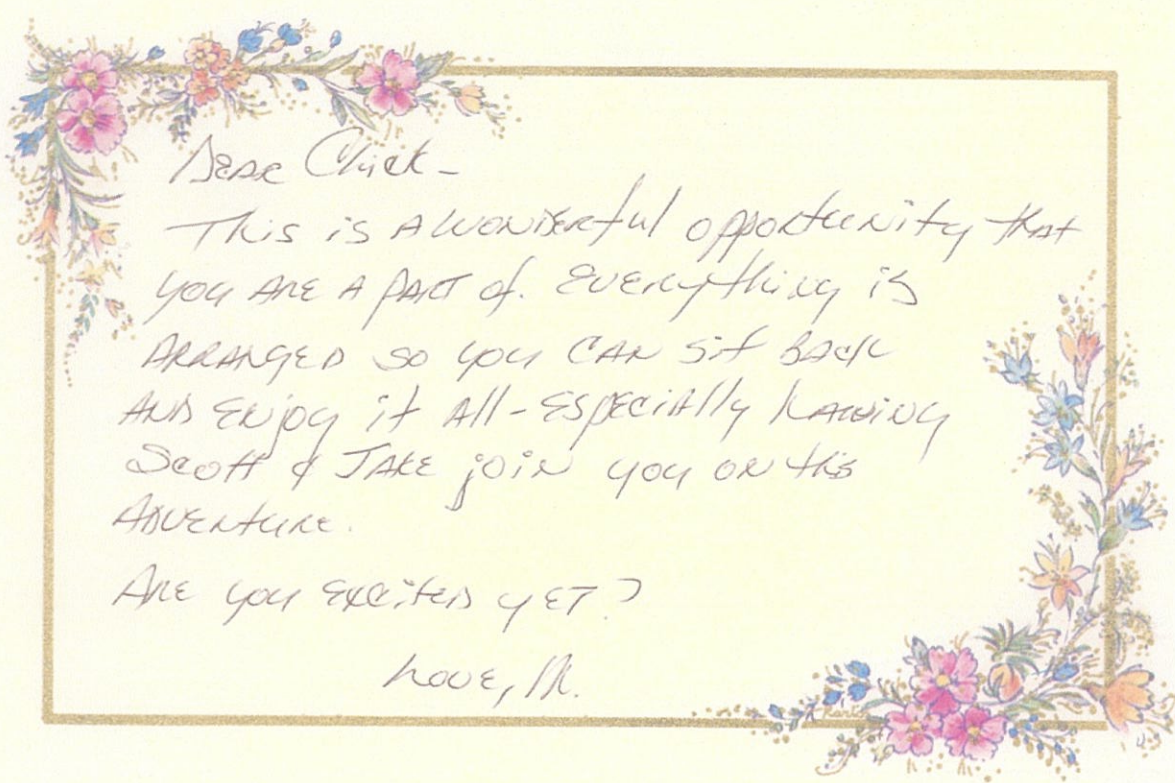
Dad ~

I don't think you
give yourself enough
Credit for your service.

You did an incredible
thing just because it
was the right thing to
do. I'm so glad you'll have
the opportunity to reflect
on your service, and that
of your contemporaries. You
are ~~so~~ real heroes!

Enjoy your trip.

Love from ~ Aunt



Dear Chick -

This is a wonderful opportunity that you are a part of. Everything is arranged so you can sit back and enjoy it all - especially having Scott & Jake join you on this adventure.

Are you excited yet?

Love, M.

I know it's early, but I
heard you were going on
some plane ride to
somewhere to do something
without me... Just wanted
to make sure you didn't
forget me!

Love forever

Mimi

I'm the gift
that gives all year!



Happy Father's Day
To my person

Even Mimi our resident cat sent a card for the mail call



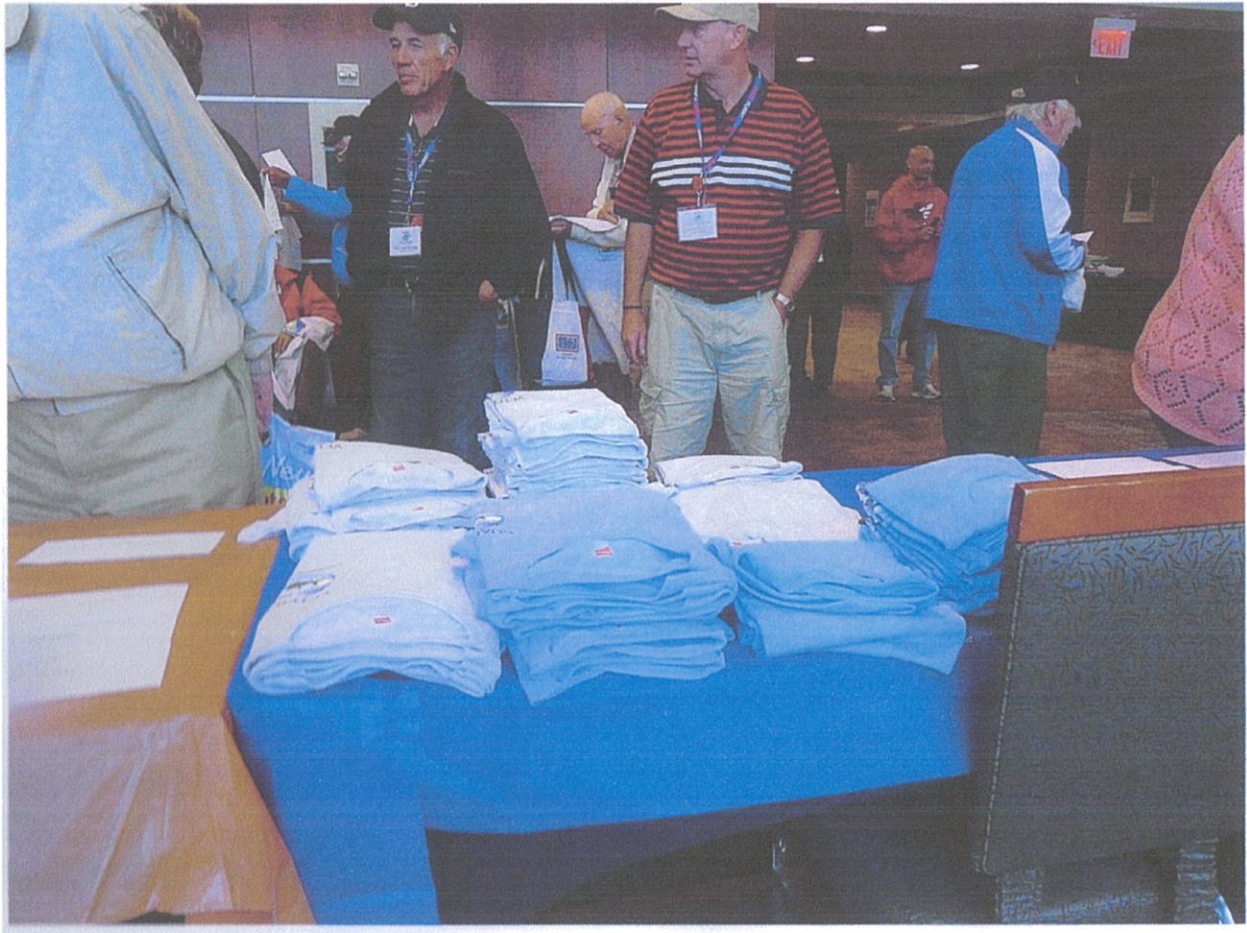
Baltimore/Washington International Airport



Here we are in the Baggage Area of the Baltimore Airport. We gathered here in our groups so our group leader could take attendance. There were two busses waiting for us to take us to our hotel. There were four groups thus the busses took two trips to the hotel.

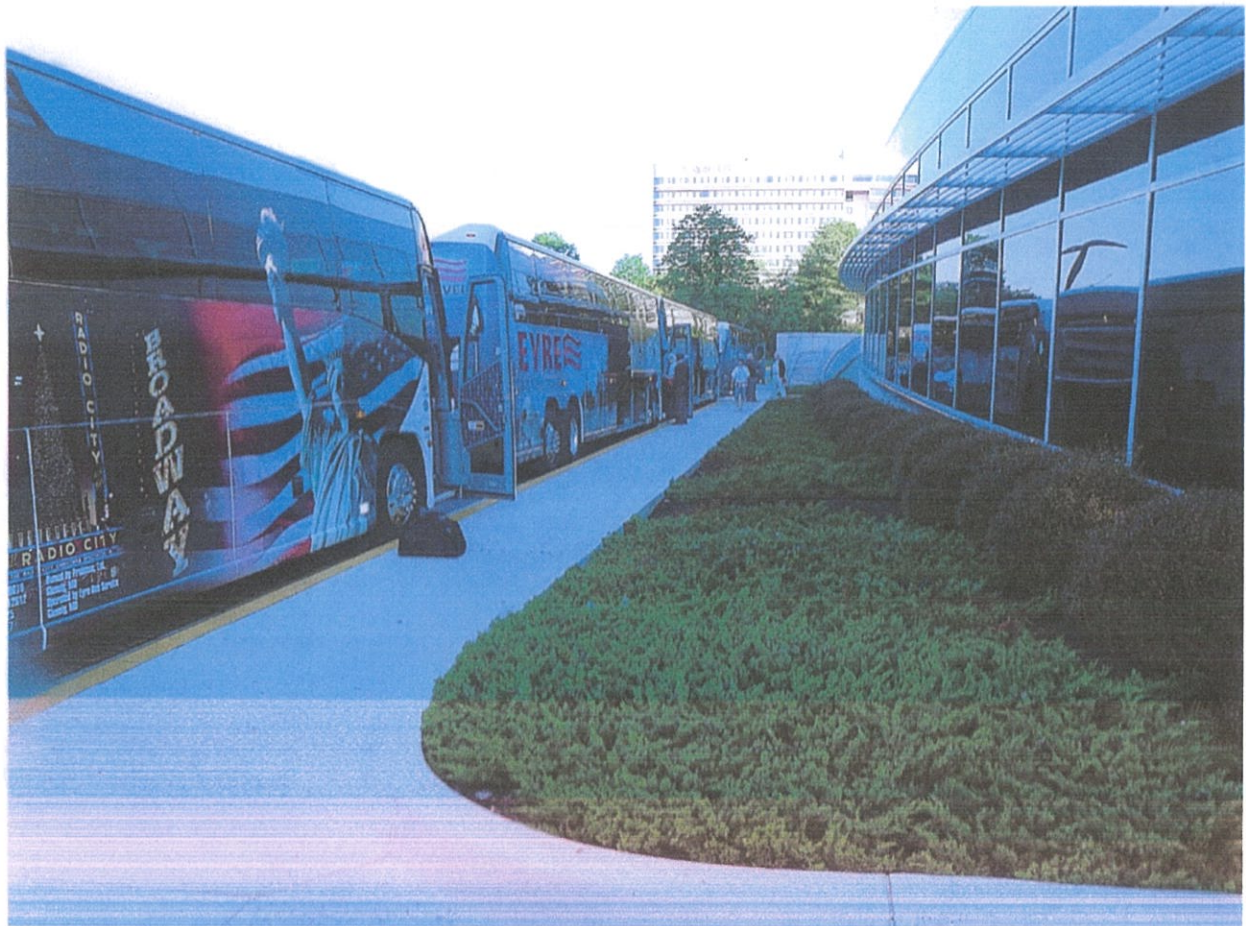


Baltimore/Washington International Hilton Hotel



In the Hotel receiving T – shirts.

All of us received one t-shirt and at the same time were given our hotel room key and were escorted to the room by one of the caretakers. They made life easy for us.

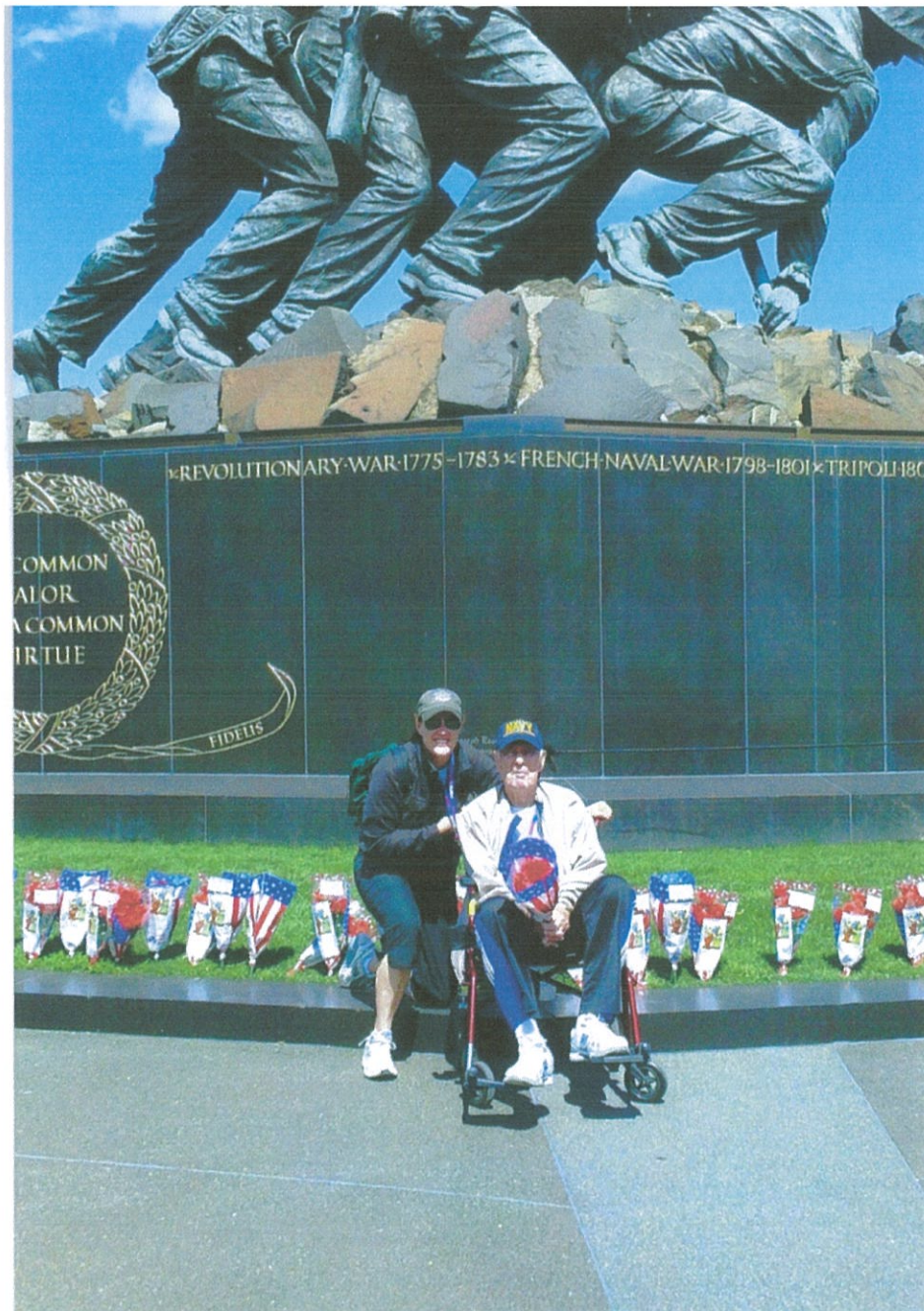


Here are the busses that took us to Washington D.C. There were four groups, each group riding in their designated bus. The groups waited inside until the busses were prepared to leave. The wheelchairs (20) used by the veterans were put in the baggage storage area of the bus. The wheelchairs were taken out to the bus by the caretakers. There were four groups so as usual group one loaded onto the first bus down the line to the fourth group loading last. When the busses were loaded the supervisor took roll to make certain they had everyone aboard. Once that was completed in all of the busses we were on our way.



We had a motorcycle escort from our hotel in Baltimore to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C. There were four motorcycles escorting us. The picture above shows one of the motorcycles that headed our caravan of four busses each containing one group of veterans and their caretakers.

It was an interesting experience. Our trip was about a thirty mile trip and the motorcycles on the side of the busses controlled the traffic so all four of the busses remained together. On ramps where cars were entering the interstate one motorcycle would drive in advance of the busses to block the entry of cars until the busses had passed. They completely controlled the traffic going to our destination.



Each of us were assigned a caretaker to push our wheelchair. My caretaker was Alana. See the picture above. In addition, she was also the tour guide for our group. As we moved on the bus to various locations she would describe to us what we were about to see. She lived in Washington D.C. so met us at the Memorial.

World War II Memorial

On May 24, 2013 I visited the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C., along with 78 WW II veterans, sponsored by Honor Flight San Diego. They stated “this is our tribute to you for all the sacrifices you’ve endured so the rest of us could live free.”

The Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization solely to honor America’s veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

The definition of a Memorial is “something designed to preserve the memory of an event.” World War II began on December 7, 1941 and ended on August 14 or 15 depending on time zones. The official surrender was September 2, 1945 aboard the Battleship Missouri.

President Clinton signed Public Law 103 -32 on May25, 1993, authorizing the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a WW II Memorial in Washington D.C. or its environs. It is the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II and acknowledging the commitment and achievement of the entire nation.

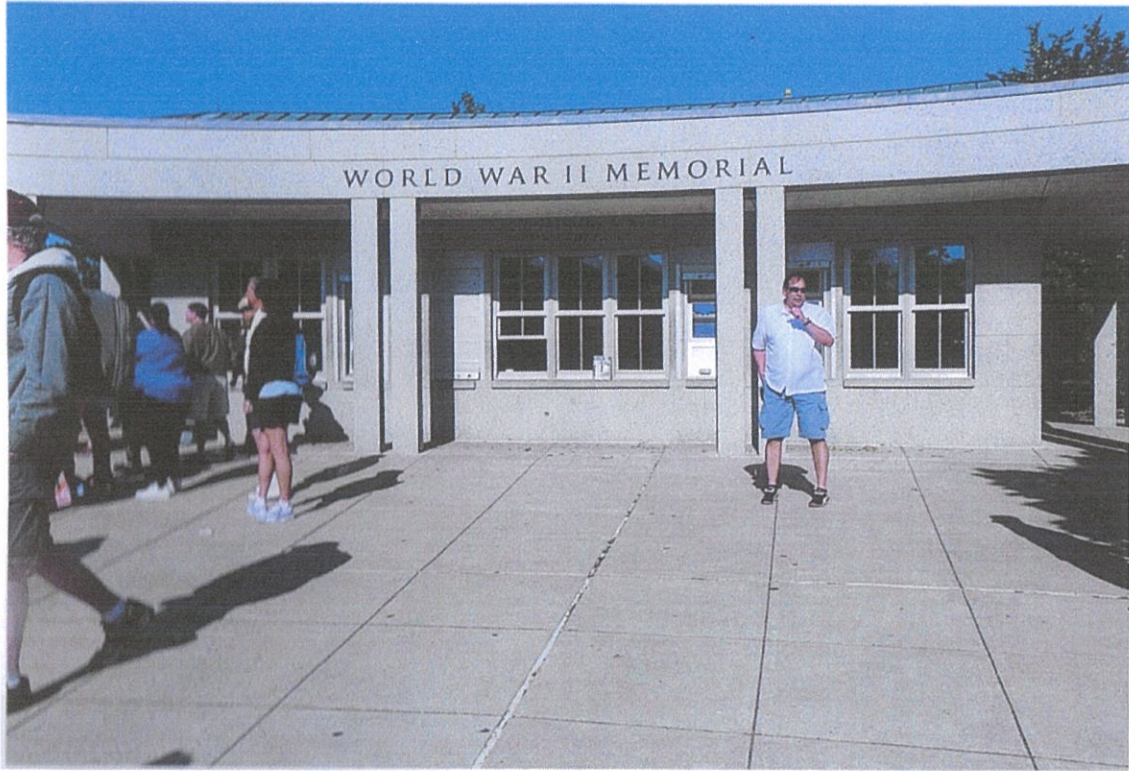
The memorial was funded primarily by private contributions. Former Senator Bob Dole and Federal Express Corporation founder and CEO Frederick W. smith led the fund raising campaign received more than \$197 million in cash and pledges, only 16 million of which was provided by the federal government.

The World War II design recognizes that the site itself pays special tribute to America's WWII generation. Fifty-six granite pillars celebrate the unprecedented unity of the nation during WWII. The pillars are connected by a bronze sculpted rope that symbolizes the bonding of a nation. Two 43-foot arched pavilions serve as entries on the north and south ends of the plaza. Four American eagles hold a suspended victory laurel between their beaks to memorialize the victory of the WWII generation. Inlaid on the floor of the pavilions is the WWII victory medal surrounded by the years "1941-1945" and the words "Victory on Land," "Victory at Sea," and "Victory in Air."

The Memorial honors the sixteen million who served in the U.S. Armed forces during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. The Memorial stands as a symbol of American national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and power of a free people united and bonded together in a common and just cause.

The dedication celebration was held Memorial Day weekend, from May 27 – 30, 2004. The official dedication ceremony was Saturday, May 30, 2004.

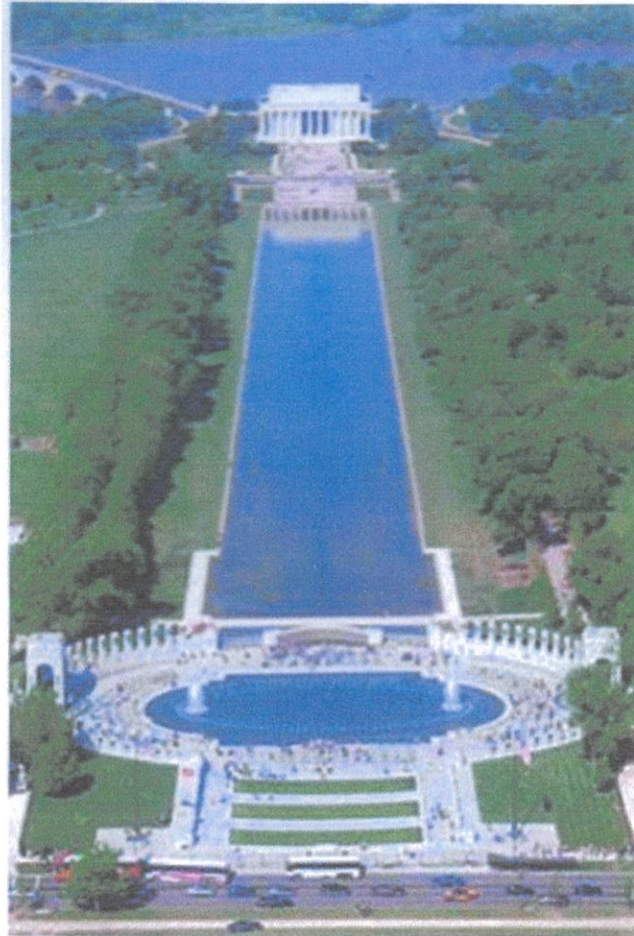
On the following pages will be pictures and comments of my thoughts and experiences while I went through the Memorial.



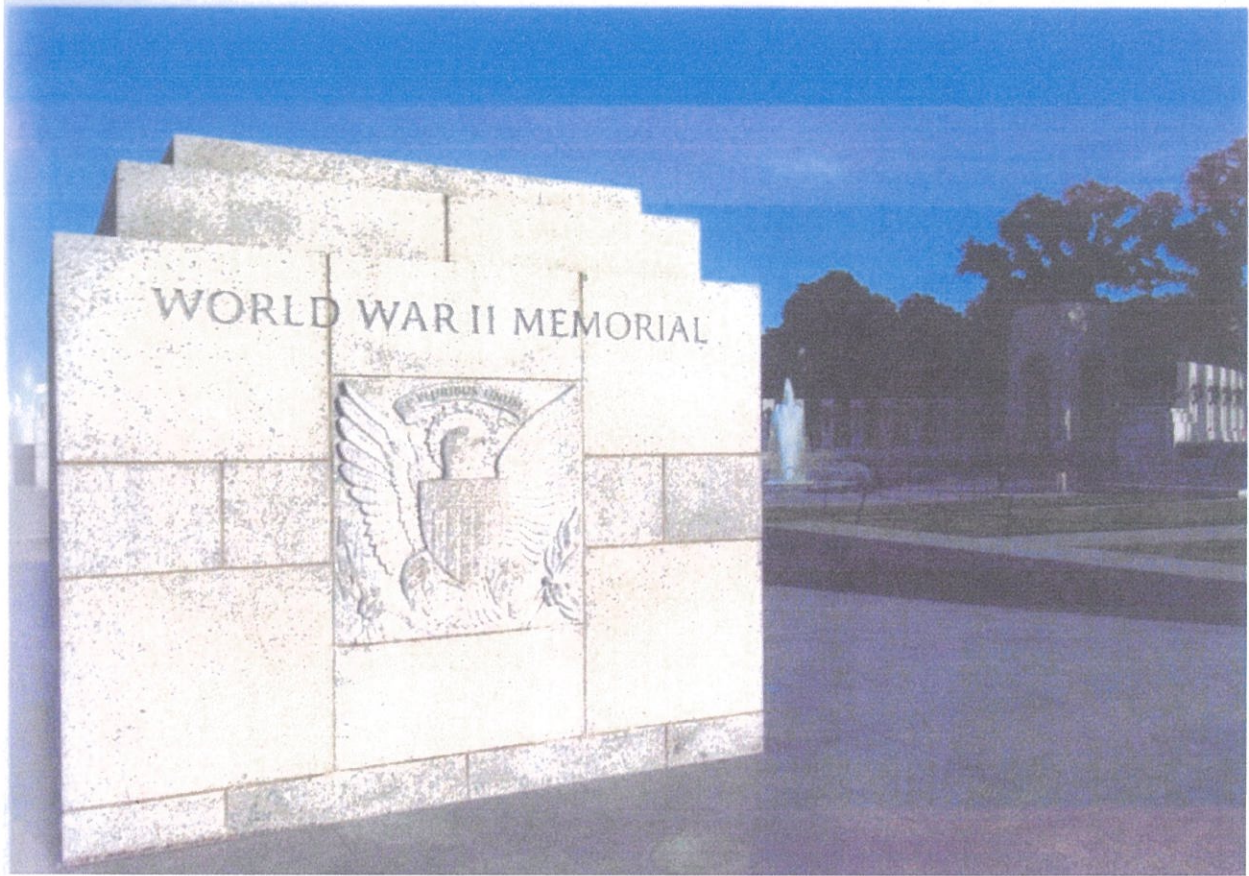
This is the location we were dropped off by the bus. The procedure for leaving the bus was well organized. The caretakers left first so they could unload the wheelchairs from the baggage area. When that was completed we got off, found our caretaker with the wheelchair, and were on our own to explore the memorial after we had our group picture and Team picture taken.



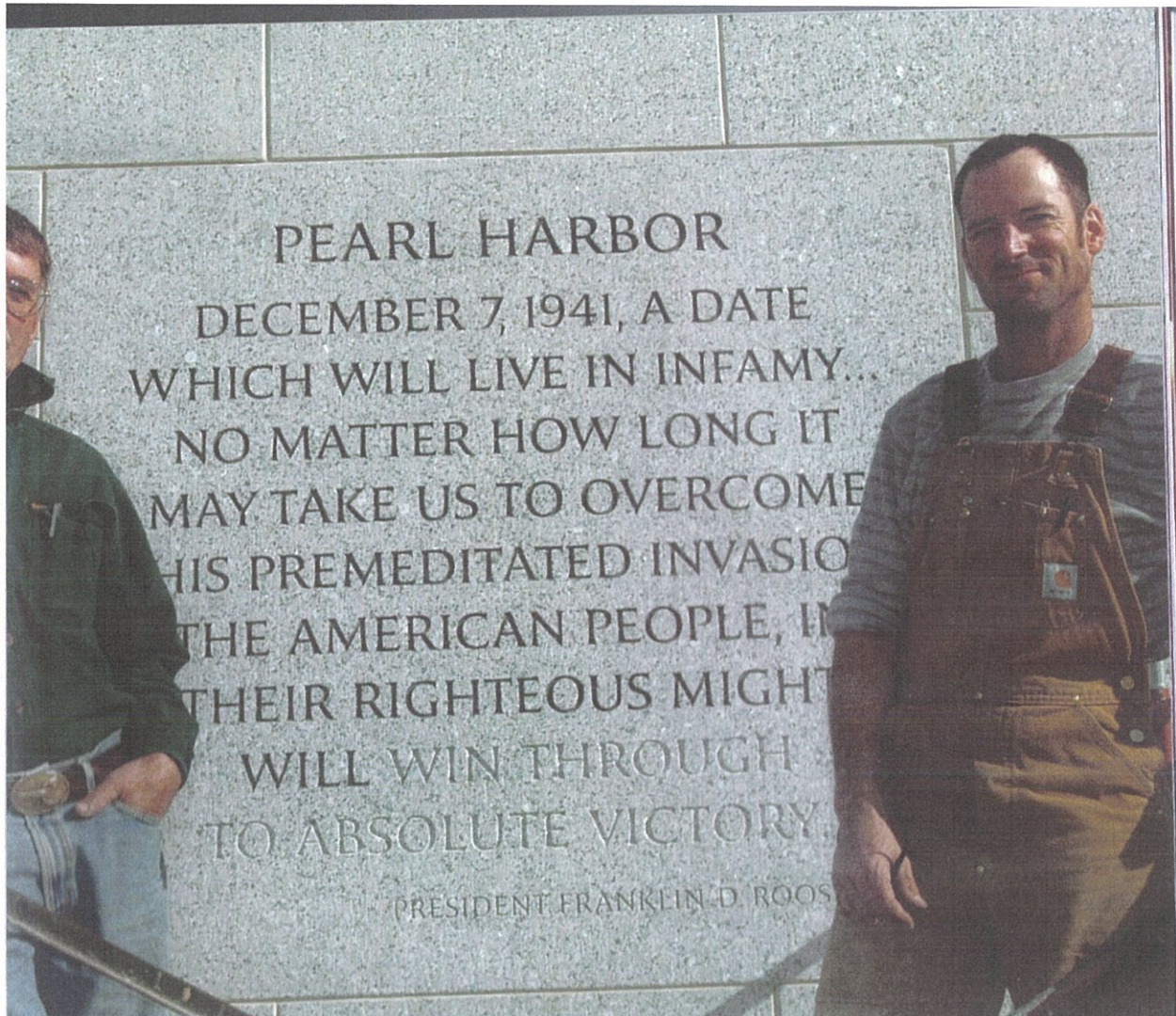
This is the entrance where we went in to explore the memorial. As you can see, the word Pacific was at the top of the entry. If you look through the doorway you will see another entry named Atlantic. This denotes the area of the memorial where you can find areas pertaining to the area noted.



**View of the World War II Memorial (bottom) to the
Lincoln Memorial (top)**



World War II Memorial



President Delano Roosevelt, in his statement to the American people informing them of Declaration of World War II.

On December 7, 1941 I was with my parents, brother and sistr visiting my Aunt Ella and Uncle Mac in Manitowoc, WI. While visiting with them in their living room Uncle Mac left the room for a short period and when he returned he told us the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. We left shortly thereafter for home and talked about how the war might affect us.



View as you walk into the Memorial



Wall of Stars

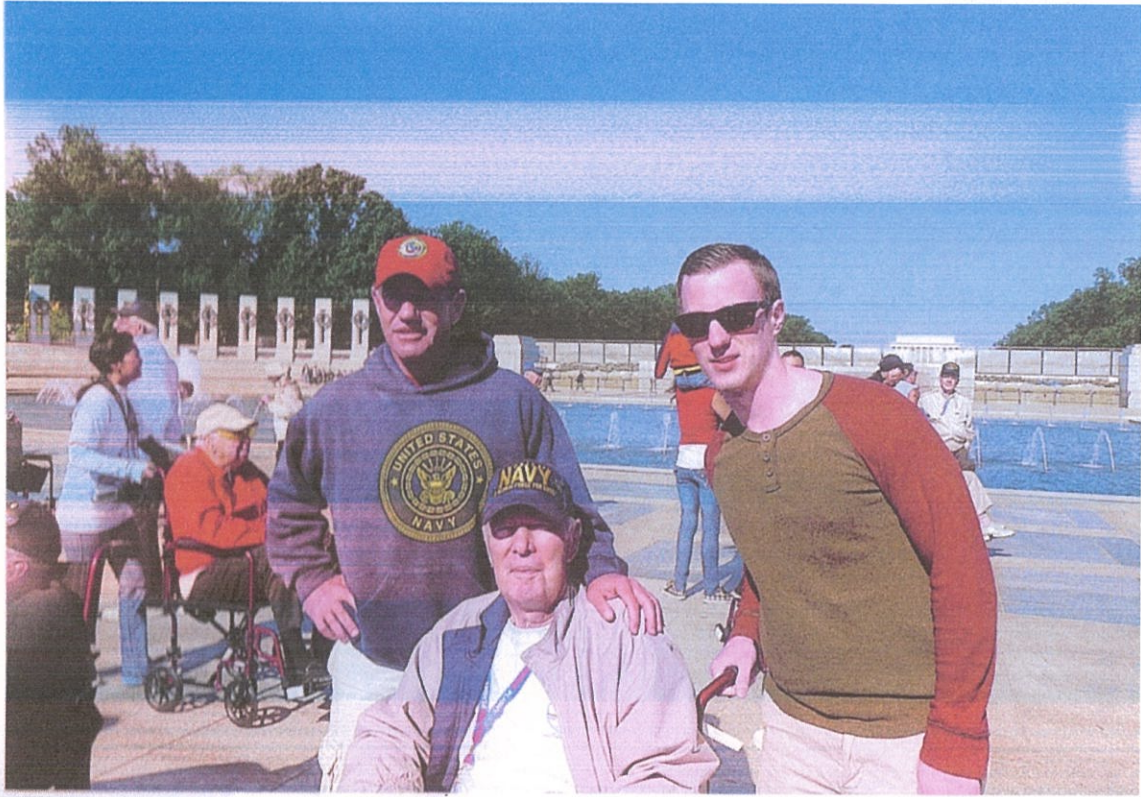
Each of the 4048 gold stars represents 100 Americans who died during World War II. My thoughts as I looked at this Wall took me right to Plymouth to think of those from my home town who had lost their life. I thought of Carl Loebe a neighbor of ours who was killed in Italy. He was 37 years old. Gus Roehr and Dario Rossini were bomber pilots who were shot down over Germany. Jerry Hoffman, who was in my high school class lost his life three months after entering the Navy in the Pacific. There were others but the last three attending high school at the same time I was did.



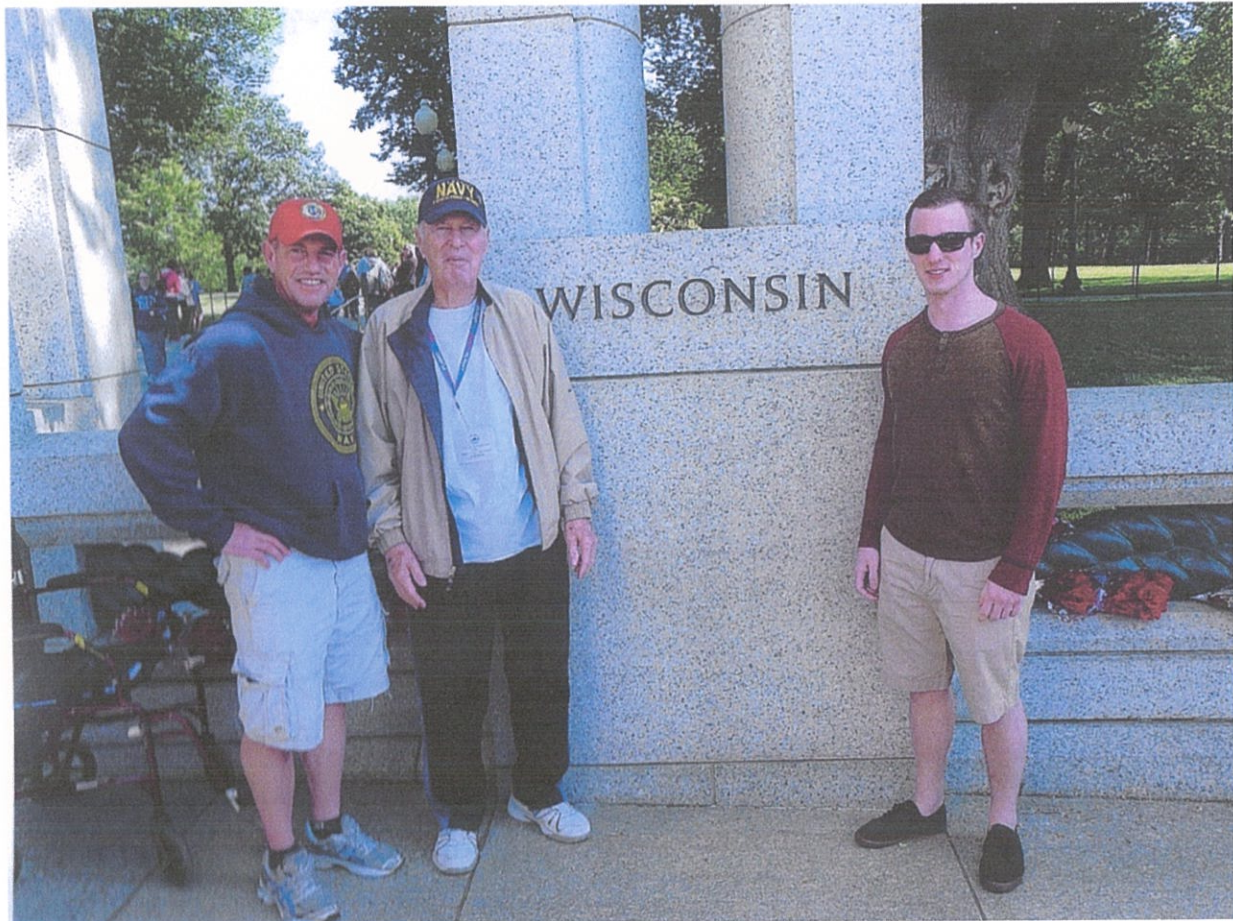
Honor Flight Group Picture – Look on the right side of the picture – I’m sitting in front of the person wearing the red jacket.



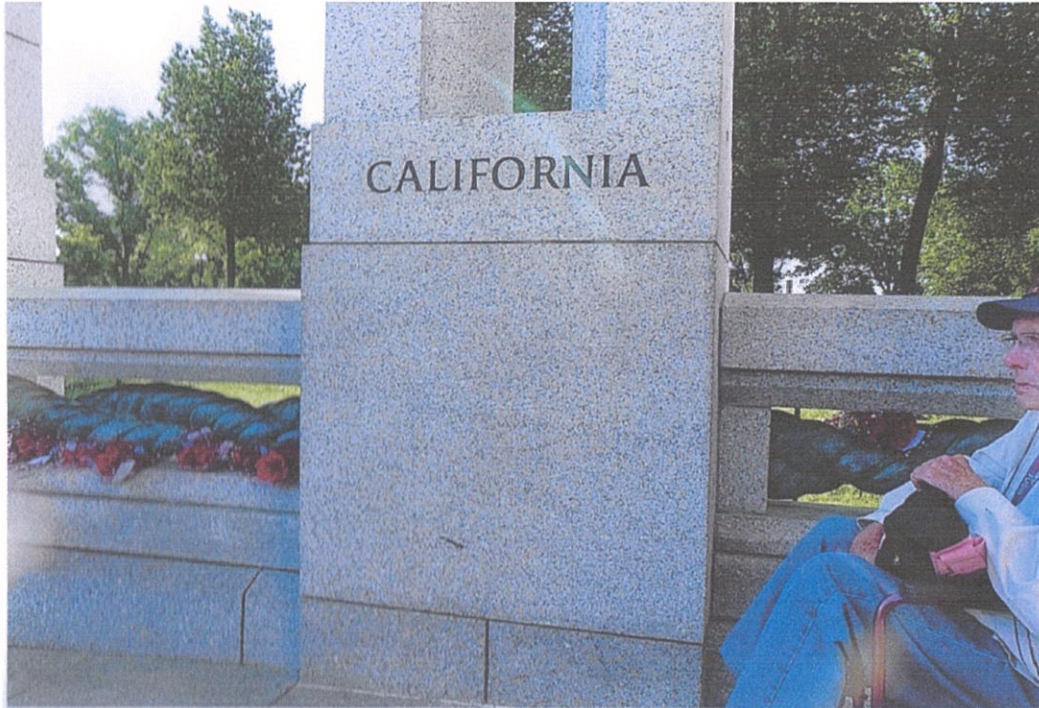
Honor Flight – Blue Team Picture – Scott pushed me in front



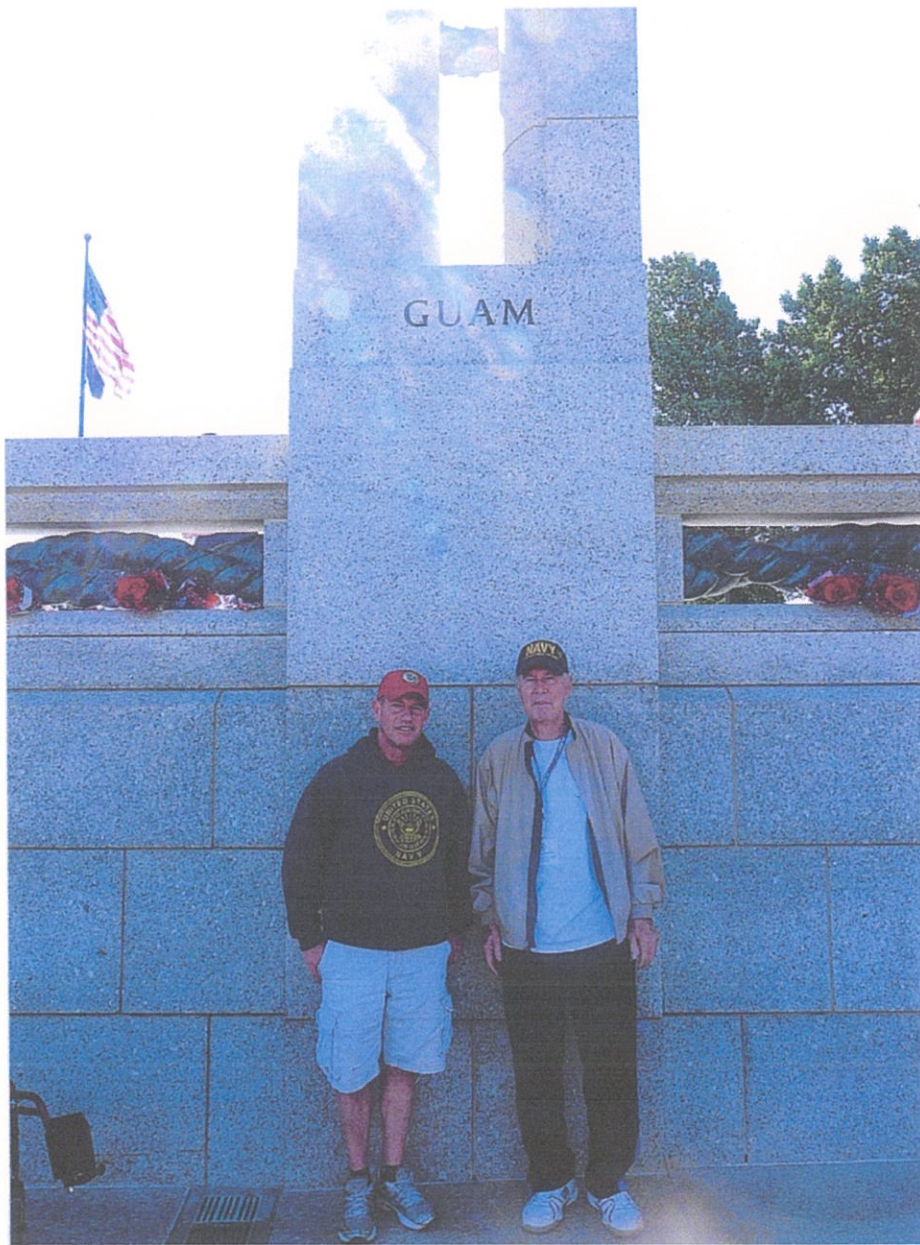
Scott and Jake met me at the Memorial and pushed me around with my wheelchair. I was very happy to have both of them around. They could share the good experience I was having looking over the memorial. Look at what was added to my wardrobe. Scott gave me a Navy cap. I was very proud to wear it.



Three Generations – Scott, Dad and Jake – We don't live in the state of Wisconsin anymore but are very proud to claim it as our state. I enlisted in the Navy on March 28, 1945 at the Recruiting office in Sheboygan, WI. I was told I would be called to active duty 45 – 60 days after my date of enlistment. On May 16, 1945 I left home to go to the Recruiting office in Milwaukee, WI. at 2:00 PM to be sworn into the U.S. Navy. There were 50 of us reporting for duty at that time. We also received our orders to go to Great Lakes, Ill. for boot camp. I was the 12th person in my high school class to be in service before graduation from high school.



California is my adopted state. It is also the state where I was trained to be a stevedore. (Loading and unloading cargo from a ship) After boot camp at Great Lakes our whole Company was sent to Port Hueneme in Oxnard, California. Can you Imagine the difficulty we had trying to pronounce the name (Y N E Me) Los Angeles was a short bus trip from our camp and most of us took advantage of the opportunity to explore the city. We spent 10 weeks training and left for Guam in early October to replace another stevedore unit. The trip took 15 days on a troop ship. This was an exciting experience for all of us aboard the ship. We spent most of our time on the deck of the ship.

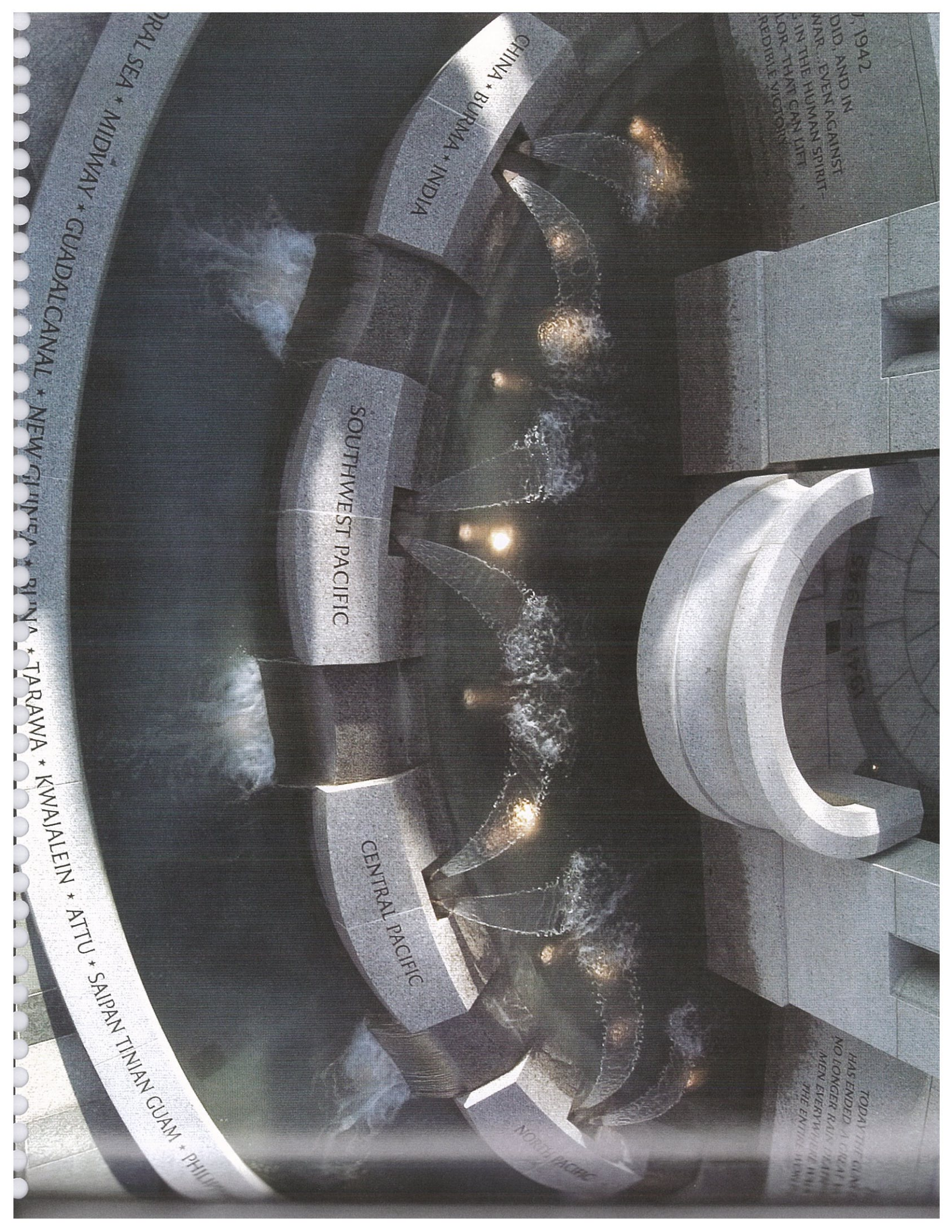


Scott and I standing under Guam

We arrived on Guam in the later part of October and were sent to Camp Carter. It was an abandoned camp with tents placed on top of a wooden slab, large enough to accommodate six persons sleeping on cots. The head was an outdoor building of good size a tent distance away from our tent. There were shower facilities a distance from our tent. Our shifts alternated weekly from day to night. We had a crew of ten persons plus our leader who was a coxswain. (3rd class petty officer) Our transportation to the dock was a 6 by 6 truck. The driver and the coxswain sat in front while the rest of us rode in the back of the truck. The distance to the dock was about 5 miles.

I spent most of my free time playing basketball on our outdoor court. In late November the 1st Lt. of our camp wanted to form a basketball team to enter in the league that was forming on Guam. I tried out for the team and made it. This meant that the players selected for the team needed time to practice. We were taken from the stevedore crew and placed on the trash detail. There were two crews, four on each. I was the supervisor. We would pick up brig prisoners to throw the barrels of trash on the truck. When the truck was full it would be taken to the dump to be unloaded. We worked mornings on this job and practiced basketball in the afternoon. Our games were played at night. All were played outdoors except one where we played in a hanger at an air force base.

In late April a crew came to take our groups responsibility at the docks and we were transferred to a new camp. Camp Bright and now we were living in Quonset huts, had indoor plumbing and no responsibilities. We were waiting for a troop transport to take us home to be discharged. In early July we boarded a ship and came home.



1942
DID, AND IN
WAR, EVENT AGAINST
THE HUMAN SPIRIT
- THAT CAN LET
FOR - THAT CAN LET
REDIBLE AND FOR

CHINA * BURMA * INDIA

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

CENTRAL PACIFIC

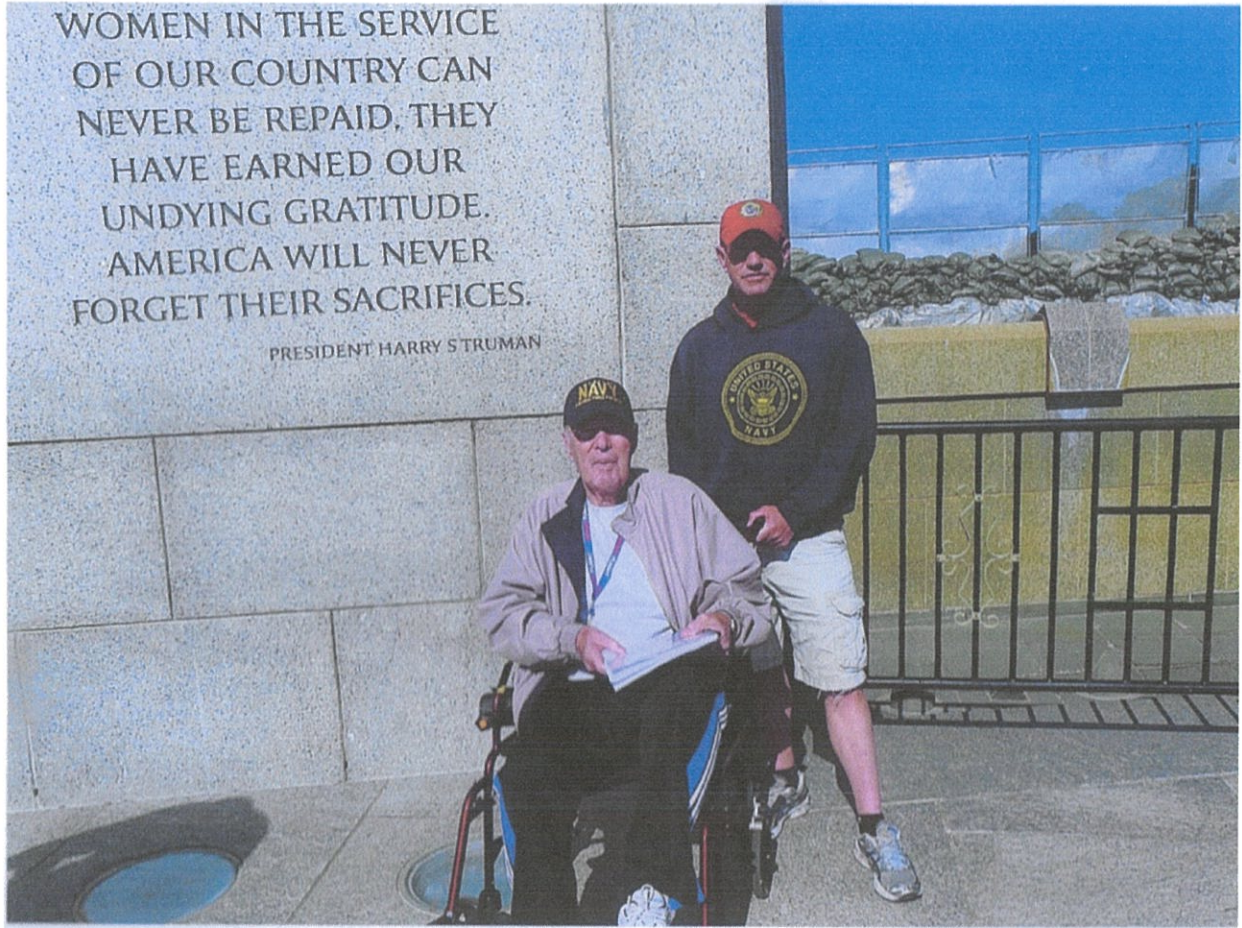
NORTH PACIFIC

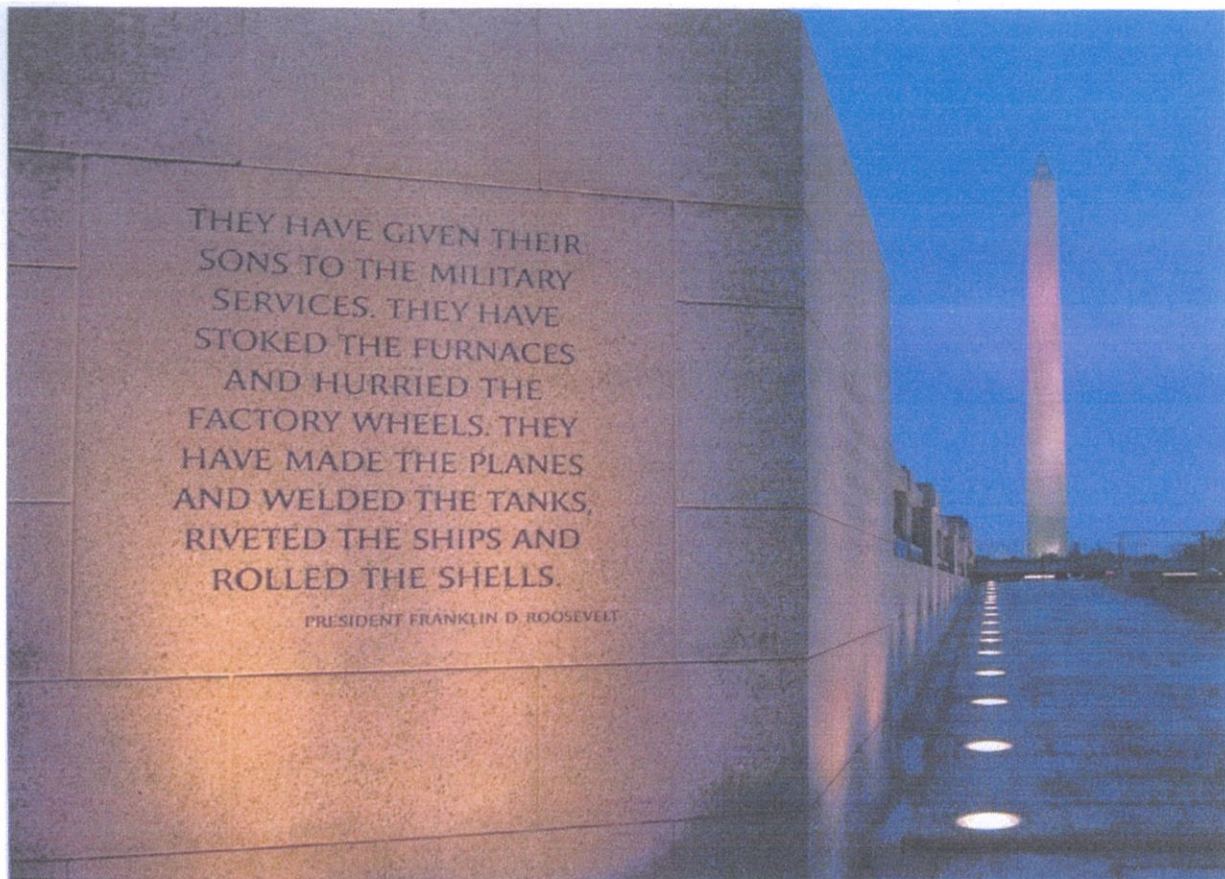
PHILIPPINE SEA * MIDWAY * GUADALCANAL * NEW GUINEA * BIRMA * TARAWA * KWAJALEIN * ATTU * SAIPAN TINIAN GUAM * PHILIPPINE

TODAY THE GUN
HAS ENDED. A GREAT
NO LONGER. RAIN. DEATH.
THE ENTIRE WORLD
HAS ENDED. A GREAT
NO LONGER. RAIN. DEATH.
THE ENTIRE WORLD

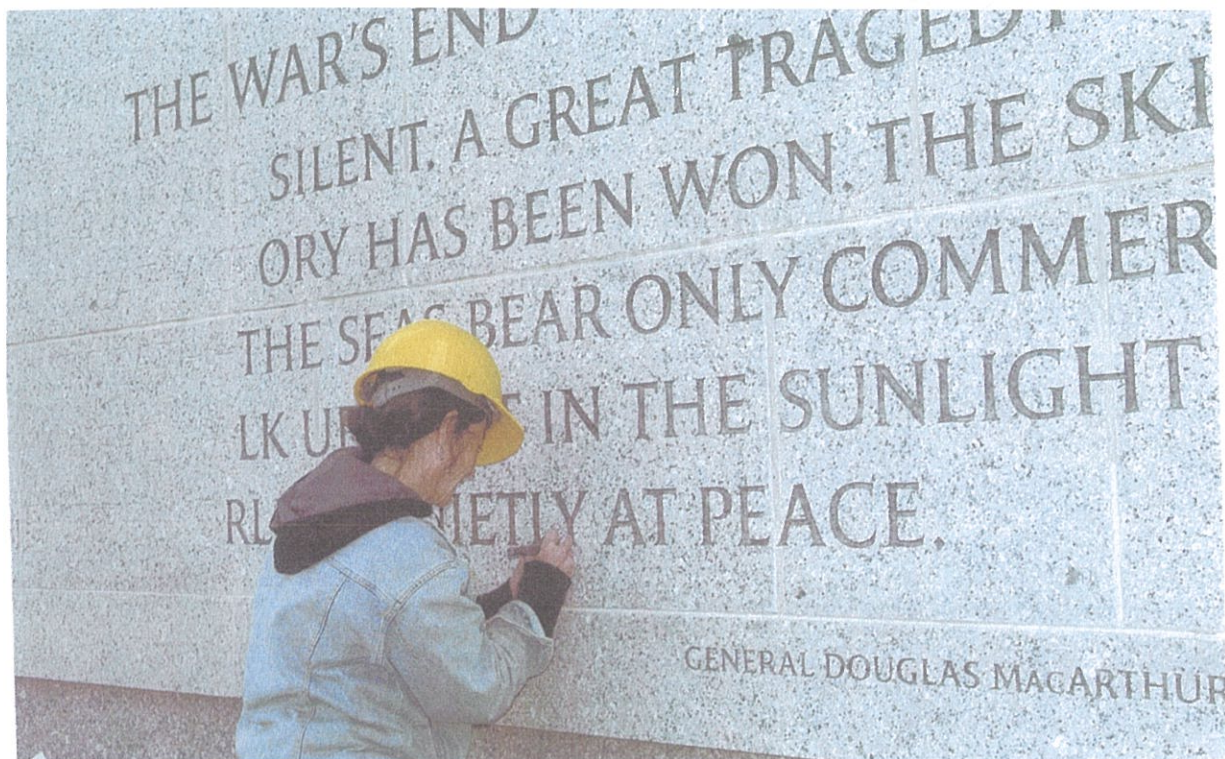
WOMEN IN THE SERVICE
OF OUR COUNTRY CAN
NEVER BE REPAID. THEY
HAVE EARNED OUR
UNDYING GRATITUDE.
AMERICA WILL NEVER
FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES.

PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN

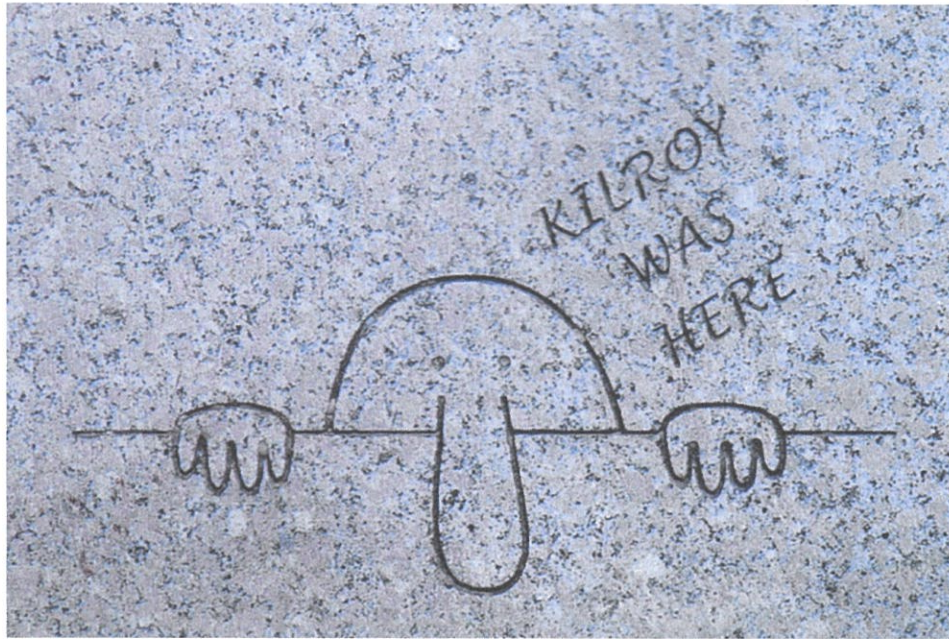




This particular statement by President Roosevelt caused me to think about many experiences I had during World War II. First of all most available men were in the military and women became the replacement for them in the factories. In addition it brought forth many songs that were sung during World War II. For example I immediately thought of “Rosie the Riveter.” In addition, “Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer.” And another – When I was coming home on a troopship after the war we were headed for Treasurer Island in San Francisco. The ship’s captain told us the night before we would be going under the Golden Gate at 7:00 AM so be up to see it. We were all up, went under the Golden gate followed by a favorite song during World War II. “Gonna take a Sentimental Journey, Sentimental Journey home.” There were very few dry eyes on the ship.



The War is over. I can remember exactly where I heard that the Japanese had surrendered. I was standing guard duty in the desert near Port Hueneme. The time was slightly after mid-night. I noticed vehicle lights a distance away coming toward where I was standing. This was my first experience on guard duty and did not know how I was to behave when the vehicle arrived. The vehicle was a jeep and was the officer in charge. As soon as he stopped he leaned over toward me and said he was informing all on guard duty that the Japanese had surrendered. For all of us this was good news. All I did was thank him for the information and he drove on to the next station.



Kilroy was here was an American experience during World War II. It is typically seen in graffiti. Its origins are debated, but the phrase and accompanying doodles – a bald headed man – nose peeking over a wall with each hand clutching the wall – became associated with GI's in the 1940s.

They told all of us to look for Kilroy. When we went back to the bus we were asked if we had found Kilroy. Most of us had not and at that point we were told where he was located. We went back and found Kilroy in a storage area behind the pillars.

Hi, Charles and Mu...

SENT CONTACTS CALENDAR honor flight

Trending Now on Yahoo! [Missing girl under bed](#)

- Compose
- Inbox (37)
- Drafts (20)
- Sent
- Spam (8)
- Trash
- FOLDERS
- Notes
- Synced Messages
- MESSENGER
- APPLICATIONS

Delete Move Actions

honor flight Sun, Jun 2, 2013 at 10:57 AM

From: Charles and Muriel Splitgerber
 To: scott.split@gmail.com

Dear Scott,

This letter is written to thank you for your support last Saturday visiting the various memorials.

I felt very comfortable with you and Jake there to participate and share in a very eventful day in my life.

The picture taken of the three generations in front of the Wisconsin pillar was a real bonding event in our lives.

When we returned to San Diego our group was greatly surprized when we entered the baggage area to be greeted by 200 - 300 people cheering along with music playing various service songs. This was a very exciting and emotional experience for all of us.

Tom, Judy, Tracy and your mother were there to share all of the excitement with me.

I love you,

Dad



Do you have Rheumatoid Arthritis?

Learn the signs of RA and ways to relieve the pain.

[CLICK TO PLAY](#)





Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial is an American National Monument built to honor the 16th President of the United States, Abram Lincoln.

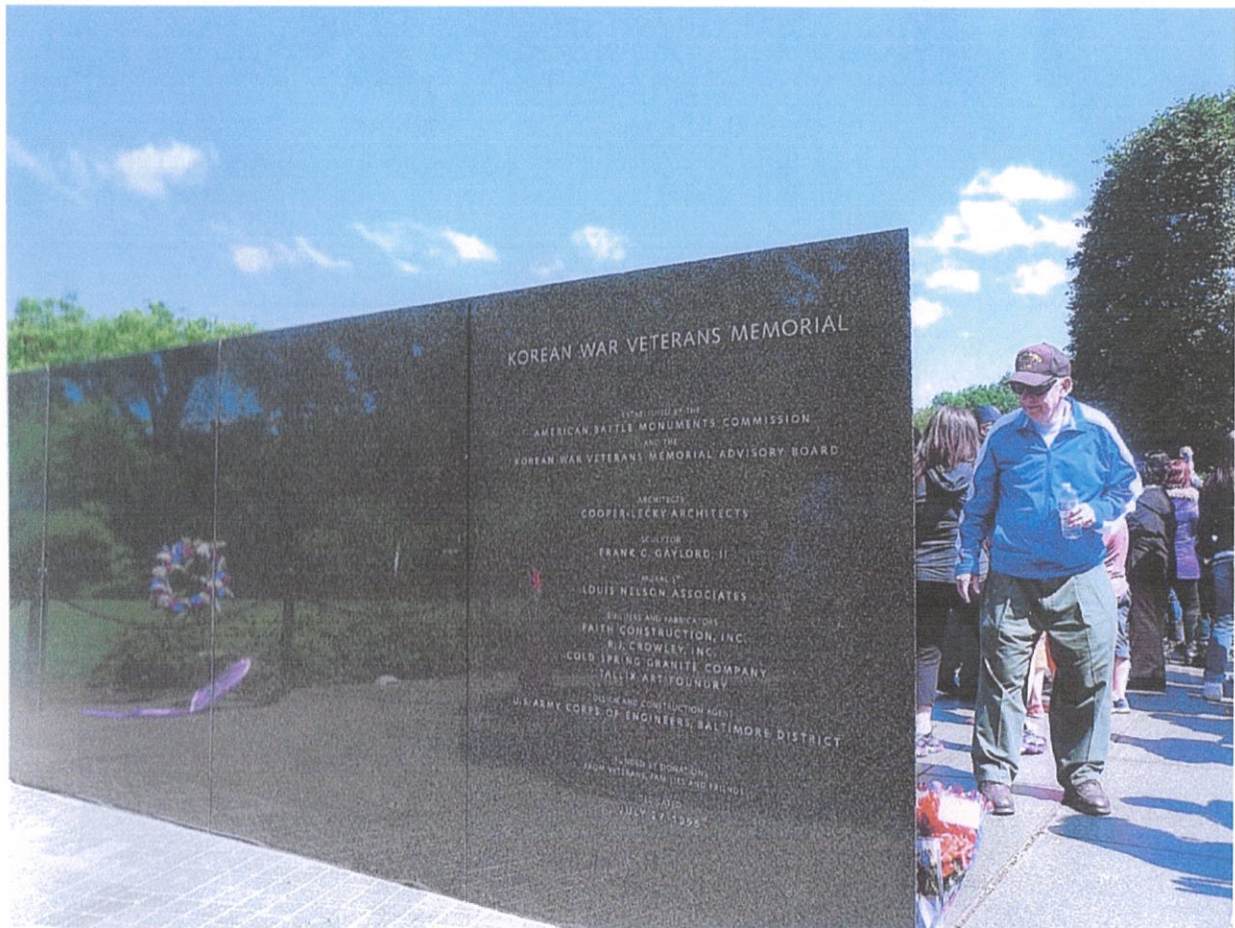
It was dedicated on May 30, 1922 and presented to President Warren G. Harding, who accepted it on behalf of the American people.

This memorial replaced the first public memorial in Washington D.C., a public statue erected in front of the District of Columbia city hall in 1868, three years after his assassination.



Lincoln Memorial – inside

**In this temple
As in the heart of people
For whom he saved the Union
The memory of Abram Lincoln
Is enshrined forever**



Korean War Veterans War Memorial

The Memorial was confirmed by the U.S. Congress on October 26, 1986.

President George H.W. Bush conducted the ground breaking for the Memorial on June 14, 1992, Flag Day..

The Memorial was dedicated on July 27, 1995, the 42nd anniversary of the armistice that ended the war by President Bill oClinton and Kim Young Sam, President of the Republic of Korea, to the men and women who served during the conflict.



Statues

The 19 stainless steel statues are approximately 7 feet tall and represent an ethnic cross section of America. The advance party has 14 Army, three Marines, one Navy and one Air Force member.

The statues stand in patches of juniper bushes and are separated by polished granite strips, which gives semblance of order and symbolize the rice paddies of Korea. The troops wear ponchos covering their weapons and equipment. The ponchos seem to blow in the cold winds of Korea.



Korean War – Pool of Remembrance

This is a shallow pool 30 feet in diameter lined with black granite and surrounded by a grove of linden trees with benches. The trees are shaped to create a barrel effect, which allows the sun to reflect on the pool. Inscriptions list the numbers killed, wounded, missing in action, and held as prisoners of war, and a nearby plaque is inscribed:

“ Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met.”



Vietnam Wall

On April 30, 1975 Saigon fell. On April 27, 1979 The Vietnam Memorial Fund, Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit organization to establish a memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War. Much of the impetus behind the formation came from a wounded Vietnam veteran. Eventually 8.4 million was raised by private donations.

On July 1 1980 Congress authorizes 3 acres near the Lincoln Memorial for the site.



Three Soldiers

On January 2, 1982 The Three Soldiers was added to the design as a result of controversy to the design of the wall.

The statues which was unveiled in 1984, depicts three soldiers, purposely identifiable as White American, African American and Hispanic American. In their final arrangement, the statue and Wall appear to interact with each other, with the soldiers looking on in solemn tribute at the names of their fallen comrades.



Vietnam veterans visiting the Wall

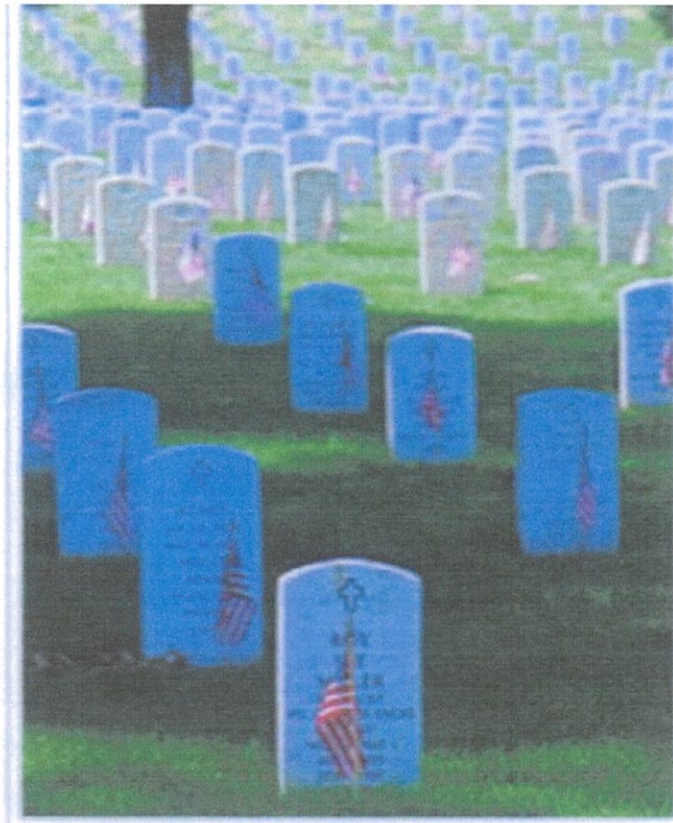
Inscribed on the wall with the Optima typeface are the names of servicemen who were either confirmed to be KIA (Killed in Action) or remained classified a MIA (Missing in Action) when the walls were constructed in 1982. As of 2011 there are 58,272 names, including 8 women.

The Vietnam War was one of the longest and most controversial wars in United States history. A stated goal of the memorial fund was to avoid commentary on the war itself, serving solely as a memorial to those who served. Nevertheless, a number of controversies appeared,



Arlington National Cemetery

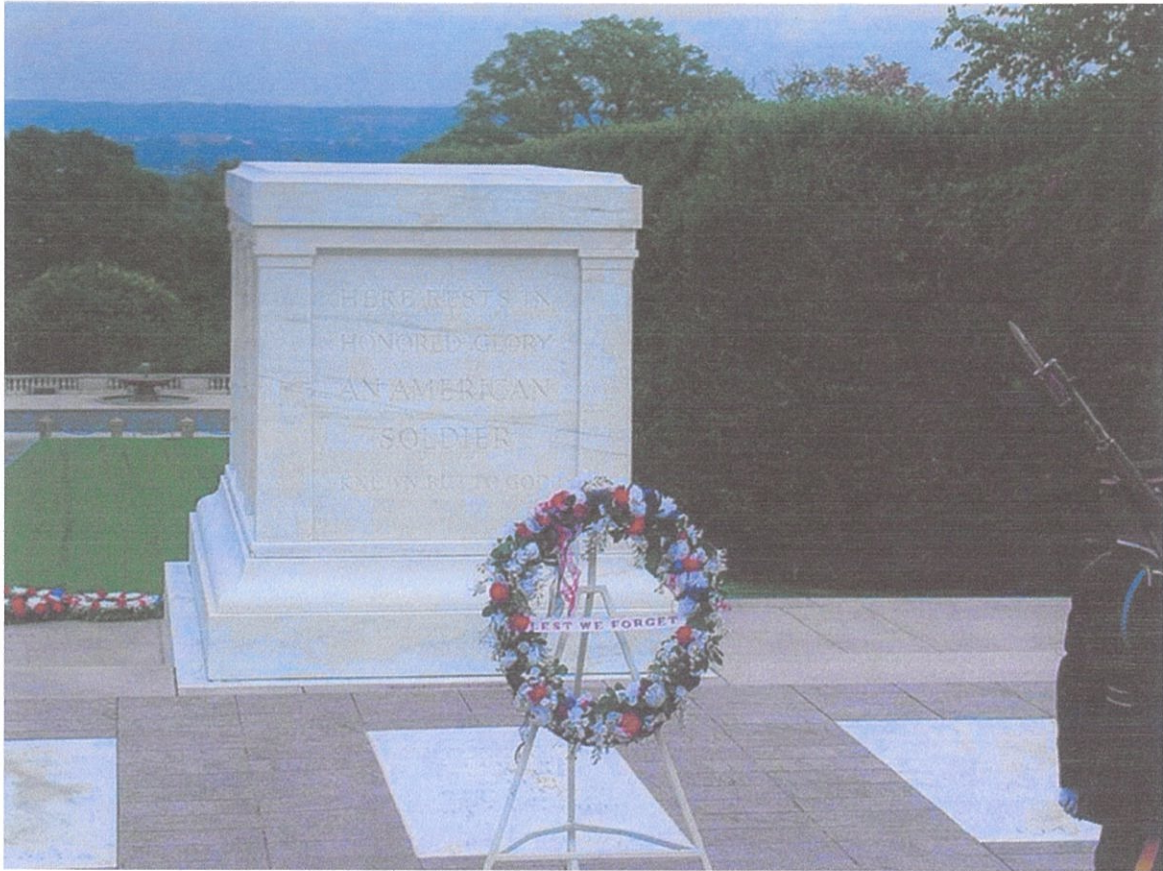
Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington County, Virginia directly across the Potomac River from the Lincoln Memorial, is a United States military cemetery beneath whose 624 acres has laid casualties, and deceased veterans, of the nation's conflicts beginning with the Civil War.



Flags

Gravestones at Arlington Cemetery are marked by U. S flags each Memorial Day.

Hundreds of soldiers are sent on a special mission at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day weekend since 1948. The Army's official ceremonial unit dubbed the Old Guard deploys at Arlington Nation Cemetery. Nearly 900 soldiers weighed down with flags for our fallen heroes place at each of the cemeteries 220,000 graves an act of honor and respect touching everyone who visits here. The flags will remain throughout the cemetery through Memorial Day.



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

**Here rests in
Honored Glory
An America
Soldier
Known but to God**

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

On August 3 1956 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill to select and pay tribute to the Unknown of World War II and the Korean War.

The selection ceremony and internment of the unknowns took place in 1958.

The World War II Unknown was selected from remains exhumed from cemeteries in Europe, Africa, Hawaii and the Philippines. Two caskets of the unknowns, one from the European and one from the Pacific theater were taken aboard a cruiser and one was selected. The remaining casket received a burial at sea.

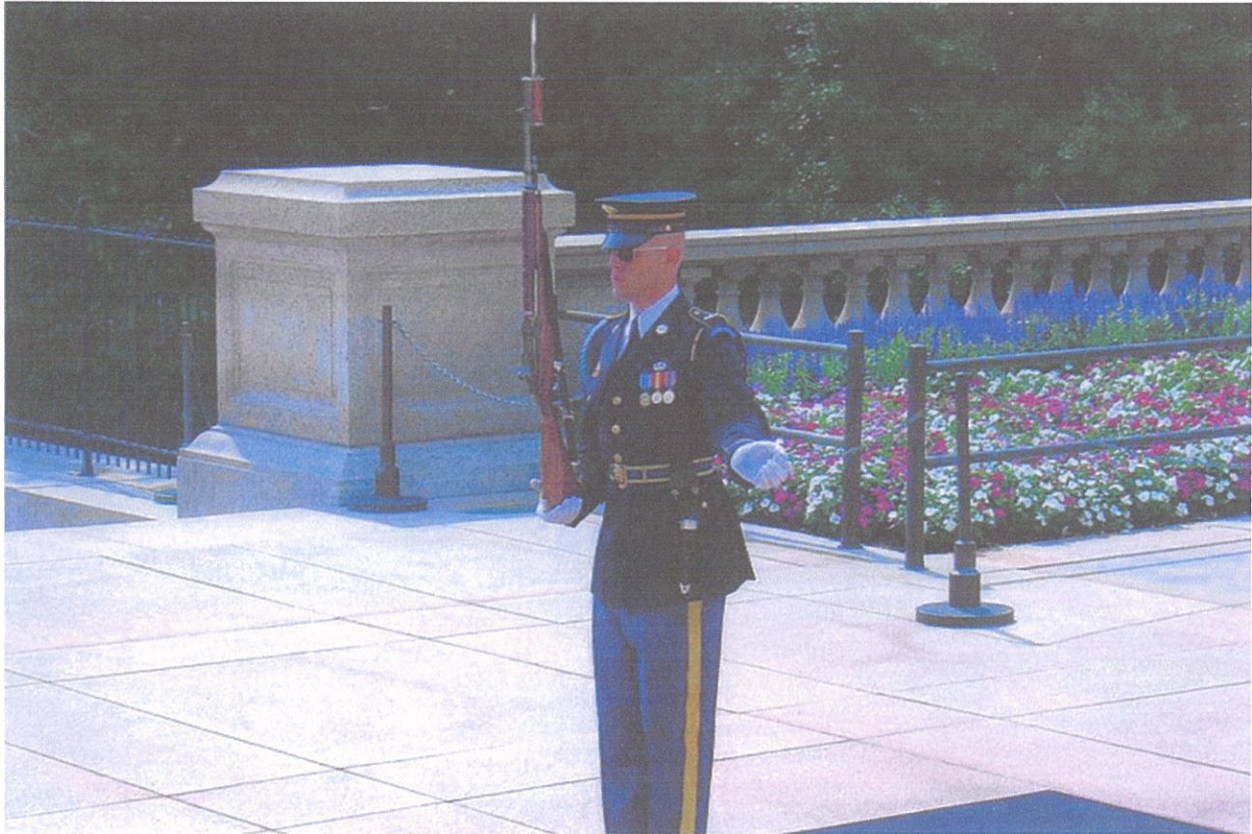
If you go back to the picture on the previous page the burial of the unknowns is as follows –

World War I - under the marble sarcophagus

World War II – Beneath the right slab

Korean War - beneath the left slab

Sarcophagus – monument displayed as a memorial



Changing of the Guard

This person is called a Tomb Guard. On the lower right corner of the picture you will see the end of a mat placed behind the tomb. The Tomb Guard marches 21 steps down the black mat, faces east for 21 seconds, turns and faces north for 21 seconds, then takes 21 steps down the mat and repeats the process. After the turn he executes a “sharp shoulder” movement to place the weapon closest to the visitors to signify that he stands between the tomb and any possible threat.



Changing of the Guard – three guards

The guard is changed every hour on the hour Oct. 1 to March 31 in an elaborate ritual. From April 1 through September 30 the change is added on the half hour.

Look at the guards. The three of them are the same size. They are on duty four days with three days of during the week. Duty time when not “walking” is spent in the Tomb Guard quarters where they study, clean their weapons and help their relief for Changing of the Guard.



Iwo Jima Memorial – U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial

The Iwo Jima Memorial, also known as the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, honors the Marines who have died defending the United States since 1775. It is located near Arlington National Cemetery, just across the Potomac River from Washington D. C..

The statue depicts the scene of the flag raising by five marines and a Navy corpsman that signaled the successful takeover of the island.



Air Force Memorial

The United States Force Memorial honors the service and sacrifices of the men and women of the U.S. Air Force. The Memorial also honors the more than 54,000 Airmen who have died in Combat.

The Memorial design, intended to evoke flight and the flying spirit, is bold and graceful – truly representative of the Air force design are three stainless spires, which soar skyward with the highest reaching 270 feet above the ground. These spires express the strength of the Air Force, which rests on the contributions of Airmen in many specialist functional areas who come together to create aerospace power.



Honor Guard

Othe key elements of the Memorial include an ever present bronze Honor Guard, an Air Force Heritage/ Core Value inscription wall/ a Courage/Sacrifice/ Valor inscription wall, and the Missing Man Formation contemplation wall, all landscaping to create a memorial lawn and parade ground overlooking the nation's capital.



Washington Navy Yard

The Washington Navy Yard, the former shipyard for the United States Navy, serves as the home to the Chief of Naval Operation and is also headquarters for the Naval Historical Center in Washington D.C.. Visitors can explore the Navy Museum and the Navy Art Gallery to learn about the Navy's history from the Revolutionary War to the present day.



We are at the U.S. Airways gate waiting to board the plane to go home. I took this picture sitting across from the veterans you see.

We will board the plane through the doors in back right. They have just completed the drawing of 12 names from our entire group to sit in the first class area. Luckily my name was drawn so I will be sitting in first class going home.



The person in the white uniform is an intelligence officer located in Washington D.C. He was with our entire group each of the three days we were there, speaking to us after our dinner on Saturday.

He came on the plane to wish us a good trip home. As it turned out he played a game with us. One of seats in first class was not occupied. Thus he proposed a seat to the first person who could give him the first name of General George Marshall's wife. (a World War II General) It took a few minutes for an answer and longer to verify it on the internet. A former history teacher is the only person that knew the answer.



This picture was taken on the plane on the way home. The woman is Carmen Wilson, our leader. The person on the left was my roommate in the hotel.

You can see the seats in first class provide more leg room and comfort than in the coach. We were very lucky.



The woman on the picture was my caretaker pushing my wheelchair when Scott and Aline were not there.

Both she and her husband were caretakers. They lived in Escondido where they owned a wholesale wine distribution company.



When we got off the plane in San Diego the passengers on our plane that were not in need of a wheelchair were led to the escalator leading to the baggage area. Can you imagine our surprise when we stepped onto the escalator looking down at a large crowd of people greeting our group.

Look at the picture, on the top right hand side. Our group can be seen going down the escalator. We came down and were directed to walk through the crowd of people. The people, as we walked through, were shaking our hands and thanking us for our service to our country, singing and generally behaving as a crowd usually does.

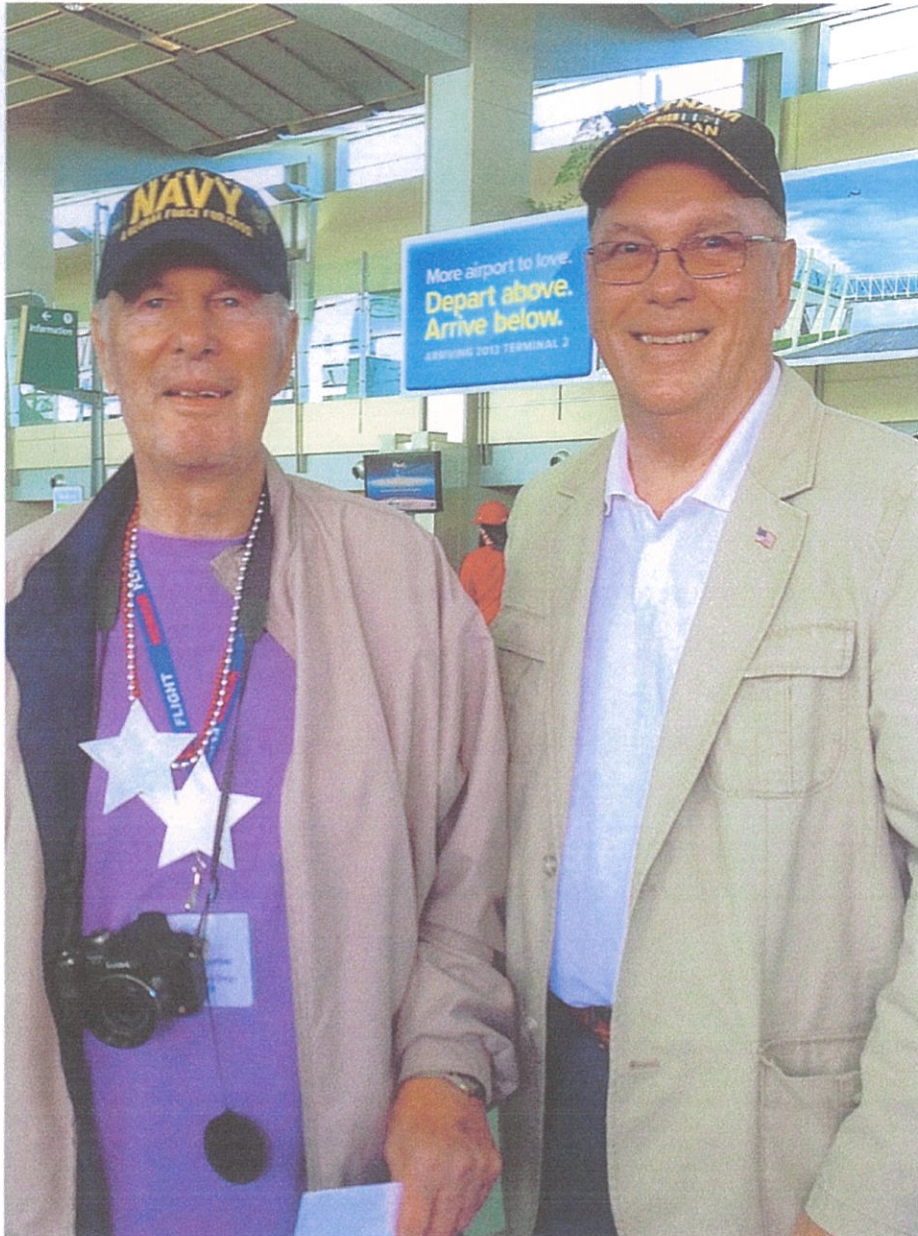


The person with the red shirt on is Mike Powers. I sat with him and his wife in the back row in our flight to Baltimore.

In the information sent to us by the Honor Flight they suggested things we should take with us. One of suggestions was a scrapbook or other information on our service experiences.

I copied from my autobiography the chapter on my Navy experiences, bound it, and took it with me. He was the only person that read it and was interested in discussing it with me.

Mike and his wife worked as my caretaker when Scott and Alena were not around. I appreciated the interest.



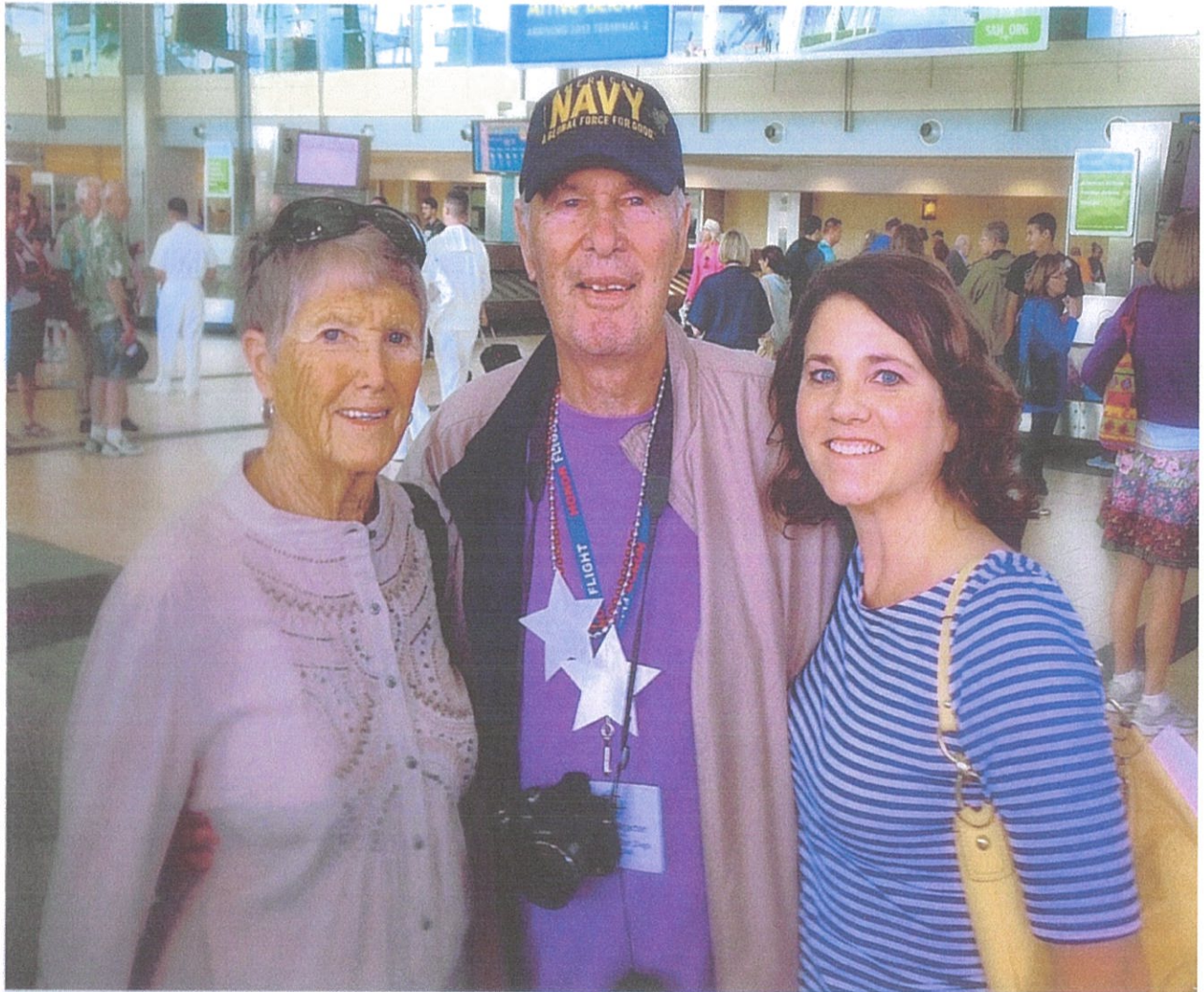
Here is a picture of my brother Tom and I in the baggage area. Tom and his wife Judy had come to the airport to greet us as we came home from visiting the World War II Memorial. Tom was the person who told me about the Honor Flight.

Shortly after this picture was taken I was interviewed by the Channel 10 television station.



After the interview with the Television station Tom and I went looking for Muriel and Tracy who also were at the Airport to greet me. Judy stayed behind to watch my bag. They were lost in the crowd, but finally we found them. Here is Muriel, who helped celebrate my arrival.

ublic



Here we are – Muriel, Tracy and I along with Tom and Judy were there to celebrate my visit to the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.. Tracy is my Public Relations Director and shortly after my arrival filed her press release for publication. You can read it on the next page. Notice that Scott and Tom were stated as her publicists.

My Thoughts on my visit to the World War II Memorial

There were 78 World War II veterans on the Honor Flight on May 24 – 26, 2013. Each of us brought with us differing experiences during the War and probably had differing thoughts about much of what we saw moving around the Memorial.

For example, on the Wall of Stars, which represented all of the men that lost their life during World War II, each of the veterans will be thinking of those they knew who had lost their life.

During my visit at the Memorial many of the pillars brought me right back to the events I had experienced at the time the event happened. The granite stones with engraved statements by leaders at the time caused me to think about myself at that period of time and how I fit in with the statement.

All in all the entire visit to the World War II Memorial at this time in my life caused me to think back to another period in my life, and left me very satisfied with the experiences I had during that period.

My thoughts while visiting the WWII Memorial

The Memorial honors the sixteen million who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died and the millions who supported the war effort from home.

I was 14 years old and a freshman in high school when the war began on December 7, 1941. From that day on my life as well as my classmates lives was considerably different for the duration of the war.

There were 88 members of our Senior Class, 44 girls and 44 boys. Twelve of the members including myself were in the service and couldn't attend graduation. When we were Seniors, the Draft Board rule, was you register for the draft on your 18th birthday. If you were 18 before the end of the first semester you would be drafted the next month. If 18 after the 1st semester you will be allowed to complete the semester and be drafted into the Army in June. Most of us enlisted to avoid the Army.

In 1941 the automobile industry stopped producing cars and switched to making tanks, trucks, airplanes and vehicles for the Armed forces.

In addition gasoline was rationed thus my use of the family car was limited.

There were many other limitations – meat, clothing, rubber for tires and shoes, etc.

The draft board drafted men into the Army each month. In a town of 4,000 people, men needed for work became very short which meant women and high school students filled the void working summers and evenings. I worked two hour shifts at Cleveland Container my soph. and junior years. In the summer of each year I worked at the Canning Factory with German prisoners of war and at Kraft my senior year. In my senior year the railroads in Milwaukee were in need of workers to load boxcars on Saturday and Sunday. I worked on Sundays with a group of my classmates.

The federal government started a War Bond campaign to get money to pay for the cost of the war starting early in the war. Our family including myself purchased the War Bonds for \$18.75 and after 10 years we could take them to the bank and get \$25 for them. Over the course of the war 85 million Americans purchased bonds totaling \$185.7 billion. A good portion of this came from corporations.

I had thought my time in service, along with the work I did in the service didn't mean too much. As I went through the World War II Memorial I came to the realization that along with my work during the war qualified me to be a veteran of World War II.

All persons competing in athletic activities want to compete against the best in the state. I was on our high school track team for four years. My best event was the high jump. In my soph. year I qualified for the state track meet at the sectional meet but there was not a state meet. Results of the sectional meets (8 of them) were sent to the WIAA to determine places. I placed in a tie for 2nd place. The state meet was not held because of gas rationing. The same was true in my Jr. year and in my Senior year I was in the Navy when the state meet was held. I would have qualified each of those years as well. Calling off state meets did not happen in non-war years.

Lasting Impressions of My Trip

The first thing that happened to all of us as we entered the World War II Memorial was the hand shaking. People visiting the Memorial would walk up to us, shake our hand and say "Thank you for your service." This continued for the entire day. For me this was unexpected. But, I have to say I totally enjoyed it and felt real good about the gesture.

Secondly, having Scott and Jake there pushing me around was very exciting. A father usually goes to his children's activity, but on this day they were there to observe an exciting day for me, looking back with me sixty-seven years at an event I was in.

Thirdly. Our arrival in San Diego. You can't imagine the excitement in the baggage area at the airport. There must have been 200 people waiting to greet us home from our Honor Flight trip. In addition, there was dancing, singing and music playing service songs and World War II songs. In addition, Muriel, Tracy, Tom and his wife Judy were there to greet us when we arrived.

This was something I will never forget.



Certificate of Recognition

This Certificate is presented to

Charles Splitgerber

In appreciation for your **Service to our Country** and as a **Honored Veteran** on the May 25, 2013
Honor Flight San Diego flight to **Washington D.C.** to visit the **World War II Memorial**

David Arthur Smith
Chairman and Co-Founder
Honor Flight San Diego

Jeffery Wayne Hall
Vice Chairman
Honor Flight San Diego

Veterans

Written May 27, 2013 8:11pm

Dear All,

"It makes you tear up a bit." That's what Chuck said to the reporter upon his return to San Diego on the Honor Flight. And what an understatement! If you've never been to an airport that is all geared up to welcome home the WWII veterans after their Honor Flight, it's an incredibly moving experience. The Navy is there in their navy whites, various service organizations in uniform, people with relatives on the flight, people who simply want to thank the vets for their freedom. All were there. The veterans all filed off the plane, one by one, in all states of physical ability, and followed along in a procession, with everyone cheering, clapping, and singing. It was an amazing experience for me. And we all know how Chuck felt about the experience.

The vets had a very busy schedule: they saw the WWII Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, the Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery, and more. Scott and Jake accompanied Chuck for his visit to the WWII Memorial, and took a great "3 Generations" picture next to Wisconsin. They were also with him at Arlington Cemetery. Based on all reports, the experience was as meaningful for Scott as it was for Chuck.

Chuck says: "This is one of the pinnacles of my life. It was a good experience and I enjoyed every minute of it." Except, I hear, the meals. "My publicists were working overtime, as Scott and Tom arranged for me to speak to reporters on each coast!"

Anyway, I'm sure he'll enjoy writing this chapter of his life.

Although he was required to use a wheelchair as he transferred from monument to monument, his health is actually quite good. He saw his cardiologist just before he went on this trip and got a good report card. He doesn't need to see him for another six months. In fact, he's going to play tennis tomorrow.

Thanks to everyone for following Chuck on this leg of his journey.

-Tracy Public Relations Director