



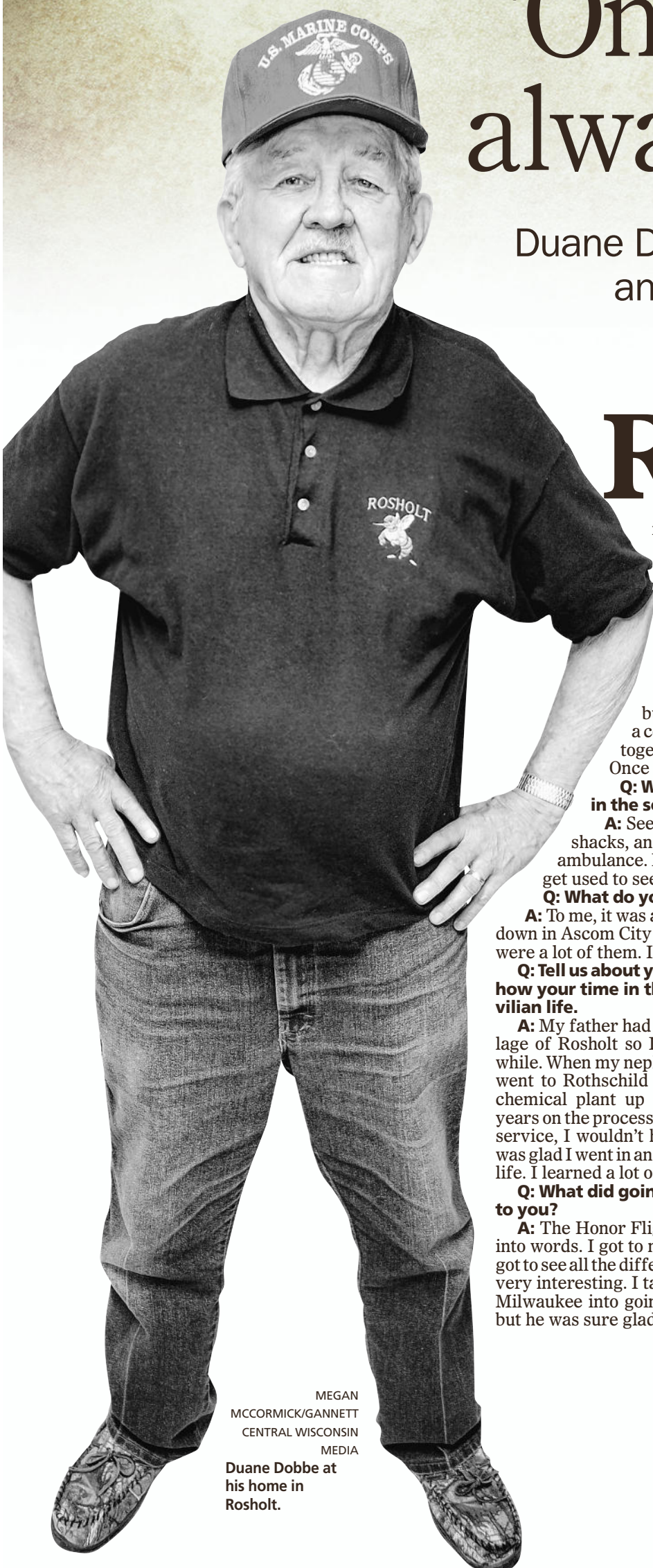
30 DAYS OF HONOR ★ *A Salute to Local Vets*



‘Once a jarhead, always a jarhead’

Duane Dobbe drove an ambulance in Korea and is still a Marine in his heart

By Dan Richter
For Gannett Central Wisconsin Media



MEGAN MCCORMICK/GANNETT CENTRAL WISCONSIN MEDIA
Duane Dobbe at his home in Rosholt.

ROSHOLT — Duane Dobbe was born and raised in Rosholt, where he attended high school and played basketball as a teen.

A few years later, when Dobbe was 22, he and one of his best friends joined the United States Marine Corps, though they almost joined another branch of the service first.

“We were going to join the Navy but there was a waiting list. With the Army and the Marines, you could be in in 15 minutes,” said Dobbe.

That fateful decision to join the Marines had implications for both his time in the service and his time afterward, particularly when he made his Never Forgotten Honor Flight trip last year and visited the Marine Corps memorial.

Question: What did you do in the service and where were you stationed?

Answer: I drove ambulance in Korea. Luckily, my buddy, Harry, was stationed nearby so I’d get to see him a couple times a week. We picked up our discharge papers together and still write back and forth every other week. Once a jarhead, always a jarhead.

Q: What is your most enduring memory from your time in the service?

A: Seeing the people who lived in Korea and how poor they were. They lived in paper shacks, and they would hold out their hands begging all the time when I went by with the ambulance. I also think about when I went to Seoul and saw it after it was all bombed out. You get used to seeing things like that after a while, but it still sticks out in my mind.

Q: What do you most want people to know about the conflict in which you served?

A: To me, it was a senseless war. It’s too bad how it turned out, but we still had to fight for it. I was down in Ascom City a few times and was loading the wounded on a ship going back to the U.S. There were a lot of them. I got to know a lot of guys, so that was nice.

Q: Tell us about your life after the service and how your time in the military affected your civilian life.

A: My father had a Chevy dealership in the village of Rosholt so I worked for him for quite a while. When my nephew took over that business, I went to Rothschild to work at American Can, a chemical plant up there, and worked there 20 years on the process floor. As far as my time in the service, I wouldn’t have traded it for anything. I was glad I went in and it was best three years of my life. I learned a lot of things.

Q: What did going on the Honor Flight mean to you?

A: The Honor Flight was terrific. I can’t put it into words. I got to meet a lot of service guys and got to see all the different monuments there. It was very interesting. I talked one of my buddies from Milwaukee into going. He didn’t want to at first, but he was sure glad we went.

ABOUT DUANE DOBBE

Age: 81
Residence: Rosholt
Conflict involved in: Korean War
Military branch: United States Marine Corps
Years of service: 1953 to 1956
Rank upon discharge: Corporal



MEGAN MCCORMICK/GANNETT CENTRAL WISCONSIN MEDIA
Duane Dobbe served three years in the Korean War.

A FLIGHT TO NEVER FORGET

The Central Wisconsin chapter of Never Forgotten Honor Flight celebrates its fifth anniversary this spring. Since April 2010, the Honor Flight program has taken more than 1,700 veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam from Central Wisconsin Airport to Washington, D.C., to view the memorials built in honor of their service.

30 Days of Honor is a project of Gannett Central Wisconsin Media to profile veterans who have taken an Honor Flight, or are scheduled, and to encourage more veterans to do so. Profiles will appear each day April 26 through Memorial Day.

Veterans may apply for a free Honor Flight (or loved ones may apply for them) by filling out an application. The only qualification for a veteran to take an Honor Flight is to have served in any branch of the U.S. military during the periods of World War II, the Korean War or Vietnam War. Veterans do not have to have been in combat. The applications and more information are available at <http://www.neverforgottenhonorflight.org>



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