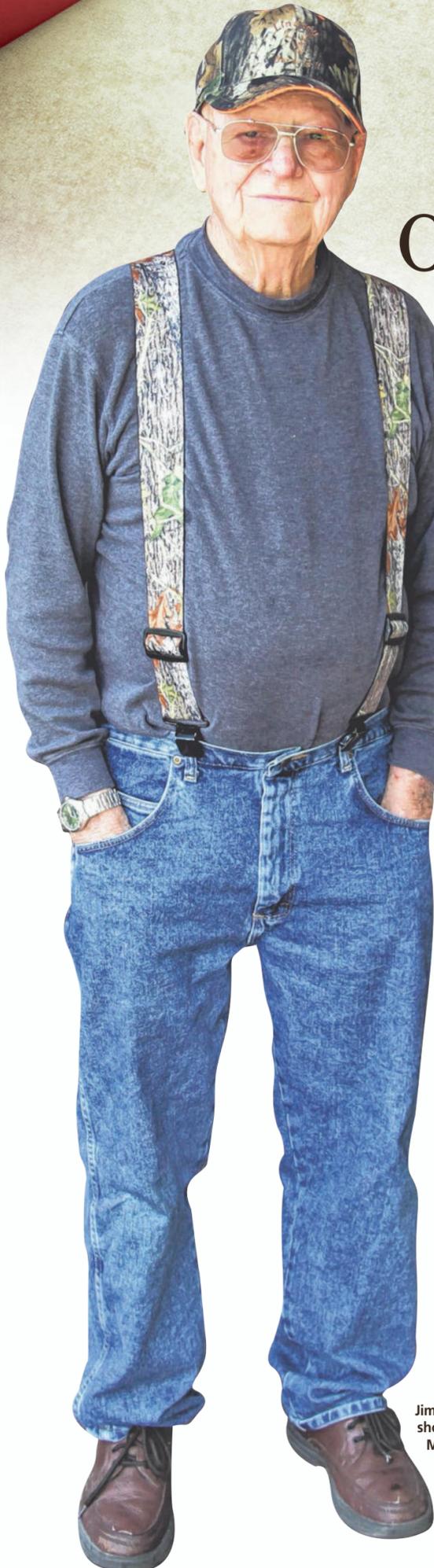




# 30 DAYS OF HONOR ★ *A Salute to Local Vets*



## ‘Could we hold off the Russians?’

Veteran Jim Schreiner talks about serving in Germany during height of Cold War

By Dan Richter  
For Gannett Central Wisconsin Media

Jim Schreiner was working on his family farm and pursuing his journeyman’s license in plumbing when he was drafted into the United States Army at the age of 23. Born and raised in the town of Bakerville just outside of Marshfield, Schreiner was stationed in Germany at the height of the Cold War.

Schreiner, 85, recently discussed his time in the military as well as the Never Forgotten Honor Flight he took just last month.

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

**A:** I did my basic training in Hawaii, on the island of Oahu, but then had to come back on leave before entering combat. Instead of going to Korea, they sent me to Europe where I spent 18 months in the 169th infantry regiment as a machine gunner outside of Nuremberg in a place called Fürth. Once they found out I could type, I ended up in supply in what was called the Love Company. I took care of men’s records and all their equipment and supplies, except for firearms.

**Q: What is your most enduring memory?**

**A:** I got a chance to go on leave while in Europe. Three other fellows from my unit and I went to Rome and took audience with the pope. We went to Lucca, where one of the men had relations, and we stayed for the day and had dinner. We saw the Leaning Tower of Pisa, went to Naples. ... We had quite the time.

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

**A:** Korea was on our minds, but we had to think about what we were doing. We were within 15 minutes of the Russian zone and didn’t know what was going to happen. The Cold War was on and we kept thinking, “Could we hold off the Russians if they attacked us? Or would we have to pull back?” We just felt fortunate that nothing ended up happening to us.

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

**A:** I got my journeyman’s plumbing license before I left for the service and when I got back, I got my master’s license in ‘56.

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

**A:** It was absolutely out of this world. It was so meaningful and I was so grateful that I got to go. I’ve got so many good memories of that day and all the memorials we saw. ... My son, Pat, was my guardian and my daughter-in-law — his wife — was the guardian for her dad, who was a paratrooper. It was quite the family affair.

**ABOUT JIM SCHREINER**

**Age:** 85  
**Residence:** Marshfield  
**Conflict involved in:** Korean War  
**Military branch:** United States Army  
**Years of service:** 1952 to 1954  
**Rank upon discharge:** Corporal



Jim Schreiner, far right, is shown while on leave in Italy.

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Jim Schreiner is shown at his Marshfield home, Thursday, May 7, 2015.

**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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