



Never Forgotten Honor Flight

4-18-16



JAMES NOVAK

JAMES OSTER

TOM OSTER

GUARDIAN

NARRATIVE BY

HALEY NOVAK OUR

GRAND DAUGHTER

- 1) Family Friend - Dick Hendrick: Fighter pilot during WWII, flew in England, France, & Italy.
- 2) Emily's Uncle - Jim Frisch: Army, WWII.
- 3) Emily's Uncle - Laddie Frisch: Air Corps, WWII.
- 4) John Bradley: Did not want to discuss his involvement in Iwo Jima Battle, Navy corpsman with the Marine Corp.
- 5) Jim's first cousin - Don Bahr: Wisconsin National Guard; Army. Sargent in WWII, discharged in 1941 as he said no to shipping over: "I think I'll go home and help Pa on the Dairy Farm. Rejoined in Late 1941 (Army, sargent), shipped to Philippines - Captured when Japanese invaded - held as a prisoner on Corregidor Coal Mine Island. A close friend stated in the 2000s: "I knew Don from camp, no matter what the government says, he was tortured to death."
- 6) Jim's Brother - Joseph Novak: Marine Corp, Korean War 1951-53
- 7) Jim's Master (Violin maker) - Army, Air Corp, retired from Army to become a violin maker like Father & Grandfather, started in 1978 and continued until his death in 2013, as the number one maker in the world - CARL BECKER
- 8) > Jim and Tom Bradley holding these pictures below a
- 9) model of the Iwo Jima Memorial.

- 10) Jim Novak: Korean War, 1/54 - 11/57.
- 11) Family friend - Rich Greife: Navy, Vietnam, has several bad memories.
- 12) Family friend - Alan "Butch" Parfiet: WWII, Korea.
- 13) Neighbor - GENE Palok: Navy, Korea, since his death in 2004 his wife Mary is still a good friend.
- 14) John Bradley: Holding war torn flag raised at Iwo Jima, in the basement of the Presidential Palace. He and fellow flag raisers are pillars of their societies and represent all of the men & women who have served their country; some eternally.
- 15) Emily's Uncle - Army Air Corp, died after being assigned as a test pilot - FRANK FRISCH
- 16) Family friend - Leon Pederson: WWII, in command of an LST in Pacific Operation, also a violin maker.
- 17) > Unveiling of hand painted sign by Feil Brothers,
- 18) > Showing names of approx. 1000 Langlade County, Wisconsin men & women who served in WWII.

- A) Depicts tombstone of King Neptune "One Fabulous Pig" he helped raise \$19 million, his story is in enclosed packet of pictures.
- B) Half of pictures being displayed in front of Iwo Jima War memorial.
- C) Other half of pictures displayed in front of Iwo Jima War memorial.
- D) Boys raising the flag.
- E) Close up of pictures 1-9.
- F) Close up of pictures 10-18.
- G) Close up of pictures 1-9 with Jim's guardian Tom Oster and his father James Oster. Tom served as a guardian for both.
- H) Little bit of commotion when photographers noticed the pictures being displayed.
- I) WWII Memorial opened in 2010.
- J) Front of the memorial, US veterans together - 97 total, 19 WWII, 39 Korea, 39 Vietnam.
- K) Pacific Cupola of WWII memorial that shows 56 marble columns, 1 for each state/territory.

- L) Another view - Pacific War effort.
- M) Another view of (K)
- N) James Oster and Jim standing by Wisconsin Pillar, holding picture of Lyman Schafer, WWII, Artillery.
- O) Same place as (N), holding a picture of Jim's friend Carlos' Father, Leonardo R. Rivera, WWII, machine gunner.
- P) James & Jim looking at "Kilroy was here."
- Q)
- R)
- S)
- T)
- U) Pictures 1-9 in front of Korean War memorial.
Quite haunting at twilight.
- V) Pictures 10-18 in front of Korean War memorial
- W) Ditto.
- X) Opposite side of Korean War memorial.
- Y) Impressive etching - adds to eerie feeling - Also, 19 statues in memorial, representing countries in Korean war X2.
- Z) Jim holding Rich's picture in front of the Vietnam wall of Honor - #11

SOUTHEAST MISSOURIAN

King Neptune was 'one terrific pig'

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Born of humble lineage on a farm near West Frankfort, Ill., and raised in Anna, Ill., he ascended to royalty. Not bad for a pig.

King Neptune, the U.S. Navy's "unofficial" mascot during World War II, brought home the bacon for the war effort, raising more than \$19 million by being repeatedly auctioned off on fund-raising tours.

King Neptune's contributions to the country are memorialized at the Interstate-57 rest stop just north of Anna. On a specially inscribed tombstone are the words: "Buried here - King Neptune, famous Navy mascot Pig auctioned for \$19,000,000.00 in war bonds during the era 1942-1946 to help make a free world."

A photo of the tombstone on a recent Faces & Places page of the Southeast Missourian reminded area residents of King Neptune and the celebrity status he attained.

"I have seen this memorial marker many times while traveling in Southern Illinois," said Tom Giles of Cape Girardeau. "From what I can remember, I believe King Neptune was used as a recruiting tool for the Navy during World War II." Giles also asked if King Neptune had an earlier memorial.

King Neptune Park

He did. For years, the memorial marker was just east of I-57 along Illinois 146. A plaque remains there in King Neptune Park.

Bill Jackson of Anna said he is also familiar with King Neptune's history.

"The pig will have a story in the new Union County history book, which is now being prepared," Jackson said.

How King Neptune was saved from being pork chops is an interesting story.

A number of years ago, I had an opportunity to talk with King Neptune's owner, a retired Navy man. The late Don C. Lingle had joined the Navy to see the world but ended up stationed in Anna as a Navy recruiter. And he was hungry for pork.

But in 1943, pork, like many other things, was rationed. A friend of Lingle's -- the farmer from West Frankfort -- told Lingle he would give him pork.

Expecting pork chops

Lingle expected pork chops. What he got was a squealing, squirming piglet who also happened to be the runt of the litter. Lingle named the pig King Neptune, an appropriate name for a Navy pig -- King Neptune is the mythical god of the sea. He told his friends he would sell the pig for money to help buy a destroyer.

Shortly after Lingle acquired King Neptune, he contacted L. Oard Sitter, an Anna auctioneer, to sell the pig. A war bond rally was scheduled at Marion, Ill., the following week, and as a gimmick, Lingle tossed a blue Navy blanket over the pig's back and put him on the auction block.

King Neptune -- all parts of him -- went fast. Bidders pledged a \$100 bond for a leg, \$500 in bonds for a ham, \$300 for a shoulder. When the figures were in, a total of \$11,200 in war bonds had been sold.

Although he had been sold, bidders returned King Neptune to Lingle. The pig was on his way to fame.

The next time King Neptune went on the block, he was dressed not only in his Navy blanket but wore a gold crown made by a local women's club and silver earrings. Even his toenails were painted.

At that sale, Neptune brought in more than \$50,000.

His third appearance brought in more than a half million dollars.

He was, as Charlotte of the children's book "Charlotte's Web" would say, "one terrific pig." Neptune was so terrific that he became a card-carrying member of the Harrisburg, Ill., Elks. He was the only animal ever to become a member of the Elks.

Better than Grable

By the time the war was winding down, King Neptune had "porked out" to a pleasantly plump 500 pounds and had raised more than \$19 million.

He surpassed Betty Grable in promoting the sale of war bonds.

Following the war, Neptune retired to a comfortable pig pen at Lingle's farm near Anna. He died in 1950 and was buried with full military honors on the Lingle farm at an area

designated as King Neptune Park, with a monument at the grave site.

In 1963, plans for I-57 were announced. Construction of the interstate forced the relocation of Neptune's grave to a spot of land Lingle donated on Highway 146 east of I-57. The marker is still there, but a new marker was installed at the I-57 rest stop, which is visited by hundreds of travelers every day.

The king won't be forgotten.

Santa Claus on fire truck

Cathy Blyze was surprised during a recent visit to Cape Girardeau from Columbus, Ohio.

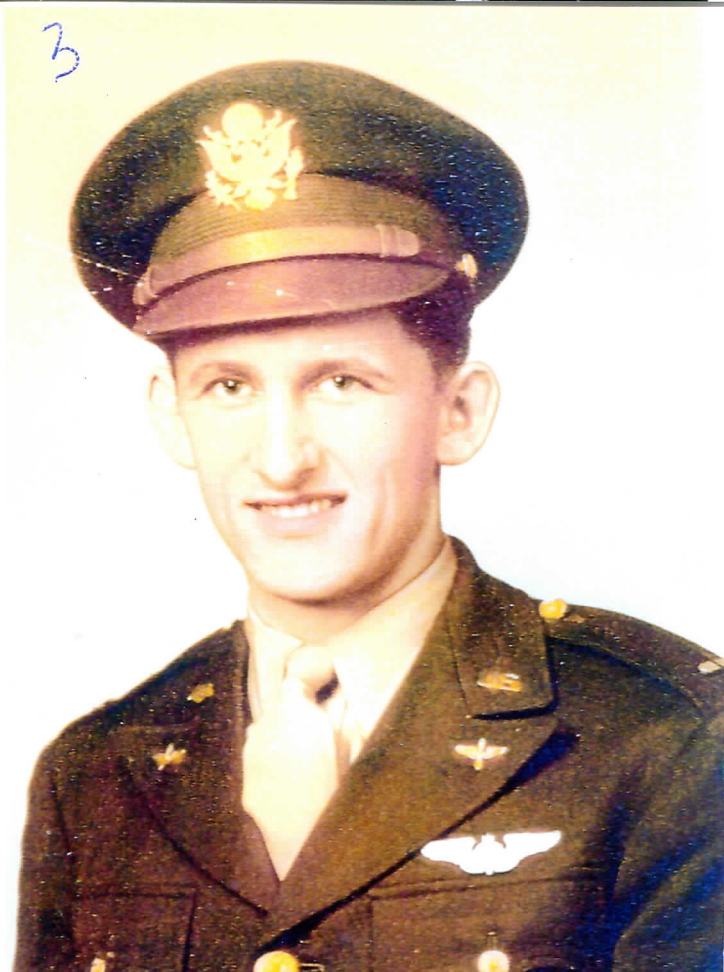
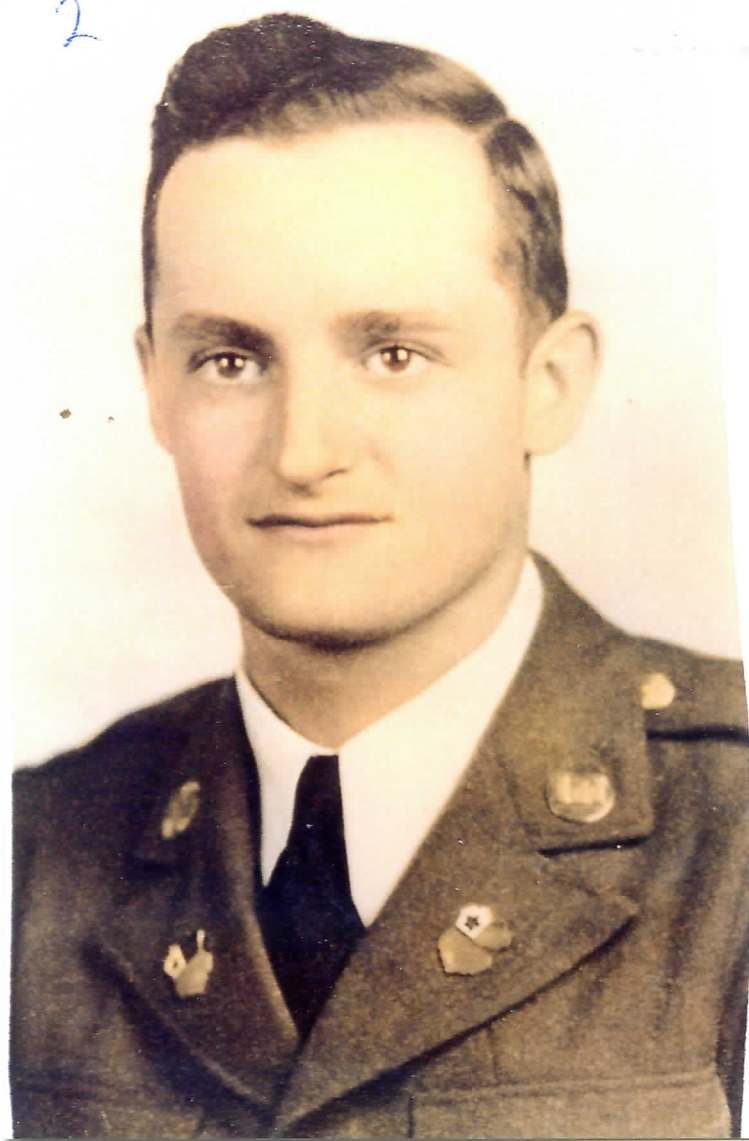
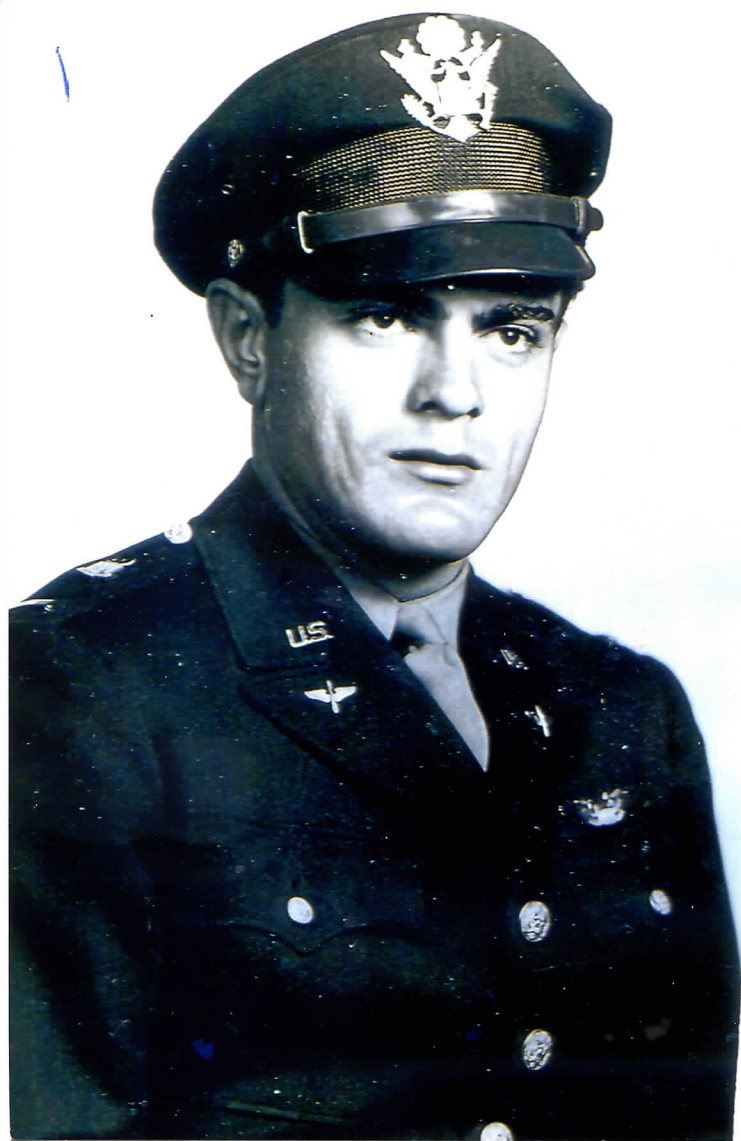
"I opened the Faces & Places page and there I was, along with several of my old classmates," said Blyze in reference to a photograph on the page.

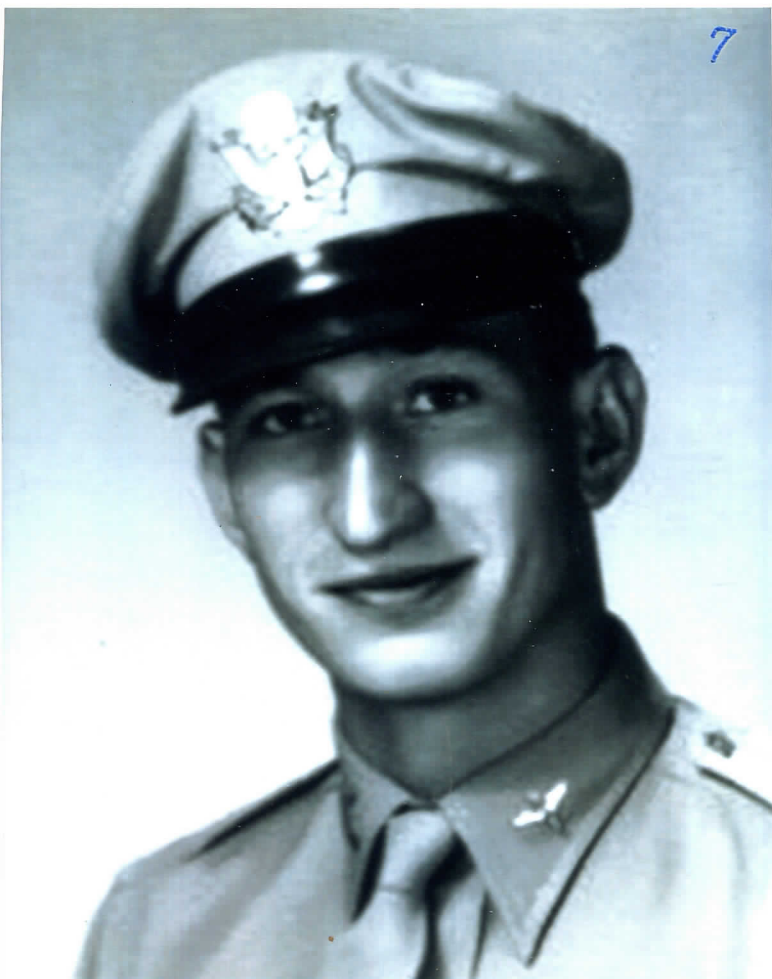
Many of the people were familiar with the photo, which was taken about 30 years ago.

"It was a fire drill," said Margaret Strack. "My husband was on the fire truck." Warren H. Strack, a firefighter for 10 years and a fire inspector for 15 years with the city of Cape Girardeau, portrayed Santa Claus for more than 40 years. "He was Santa Claus to many people," said Margaret Strack.

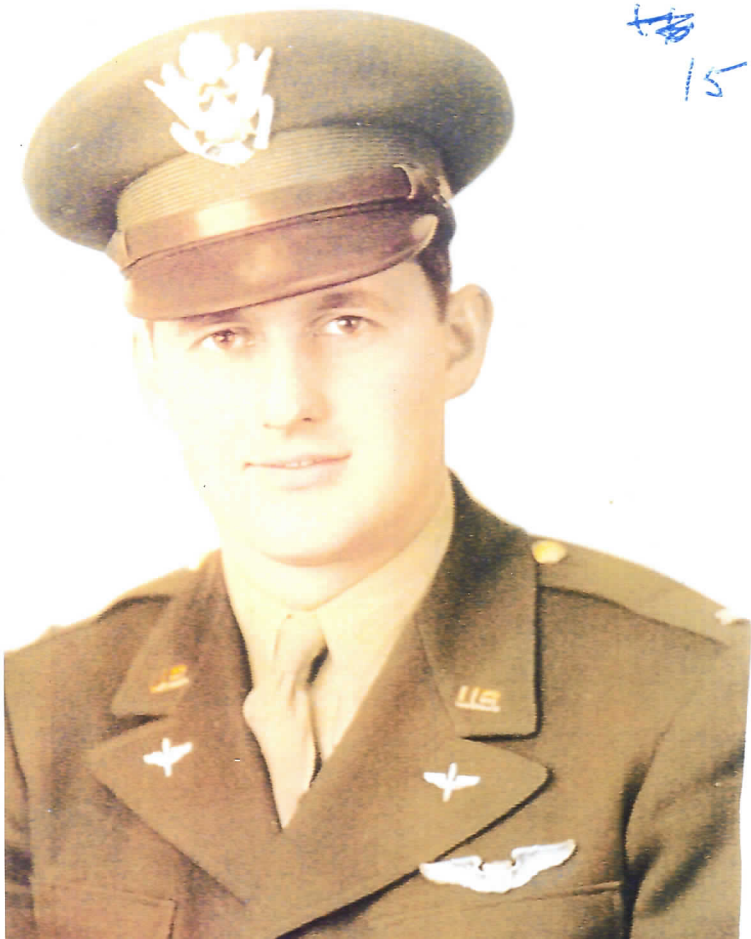
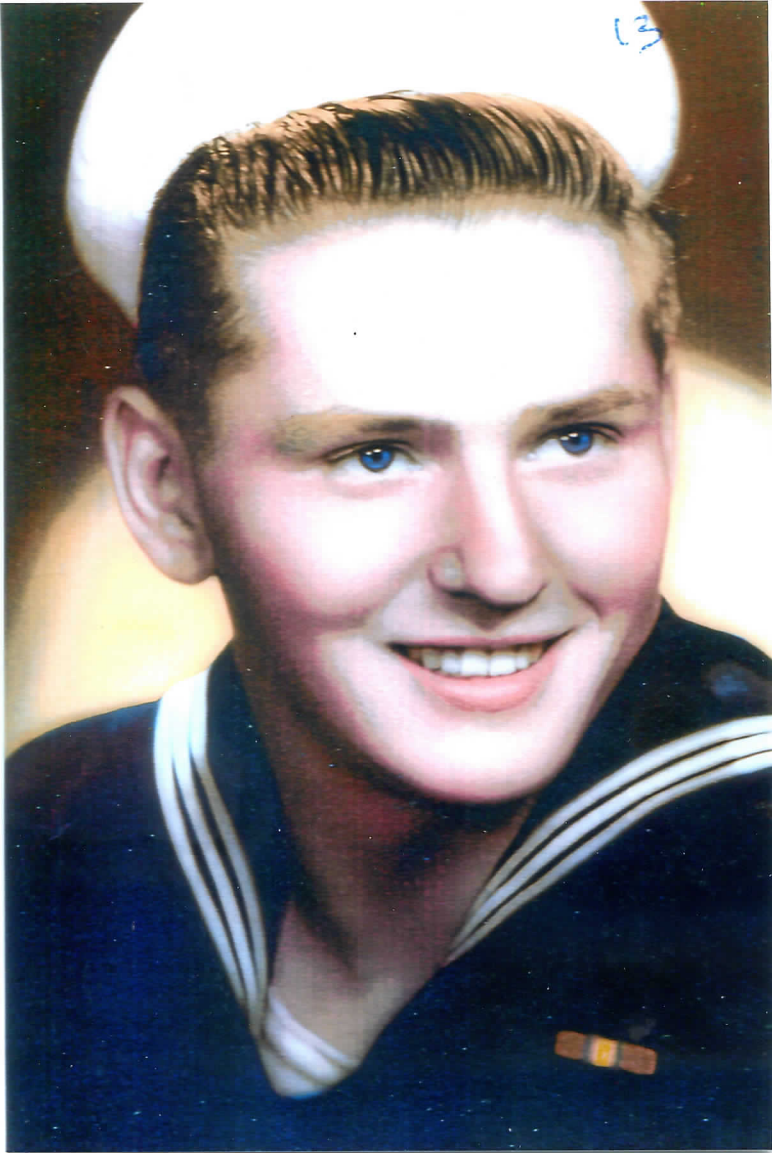
A number of people recalled the fire drill in the photo, taken at Trinity Lutheran School. "I was a student at the school then," said Donna McClard.

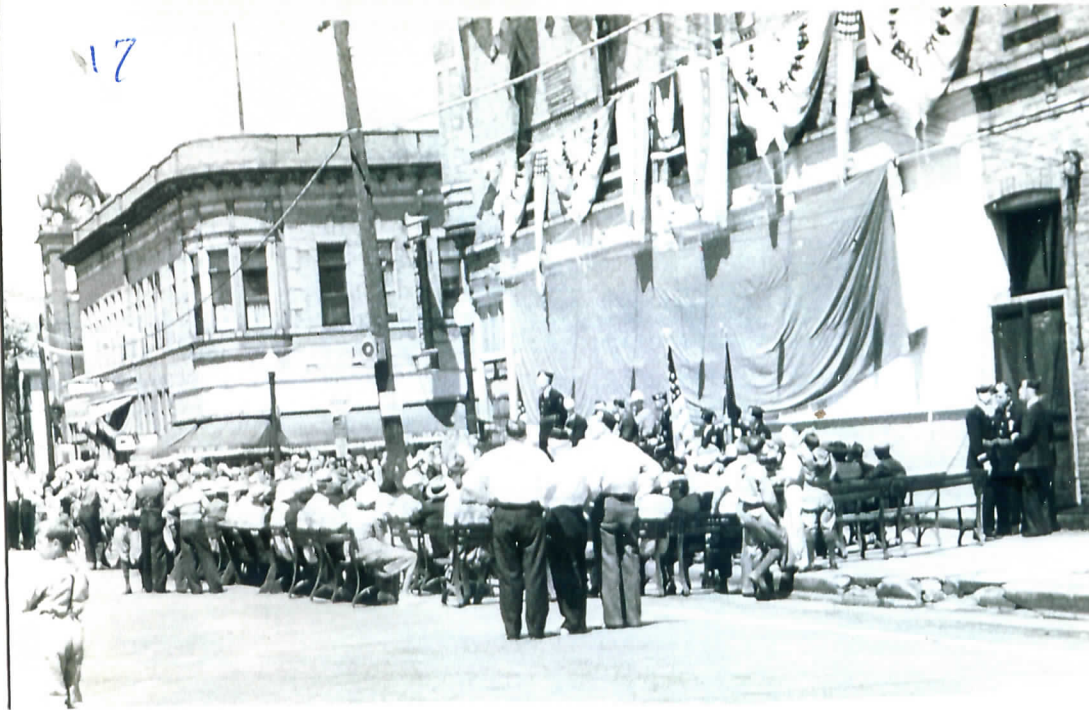
Debbie Hinkebein said her daughter was a kindergarten student at Trinity when the photo was taken. Keith Huckstep spotted his brother in the crowd. Wanda Steffens said she was a teacher at Trinity at the time. Dave Hente said he remembered the annual fire drill events as well.

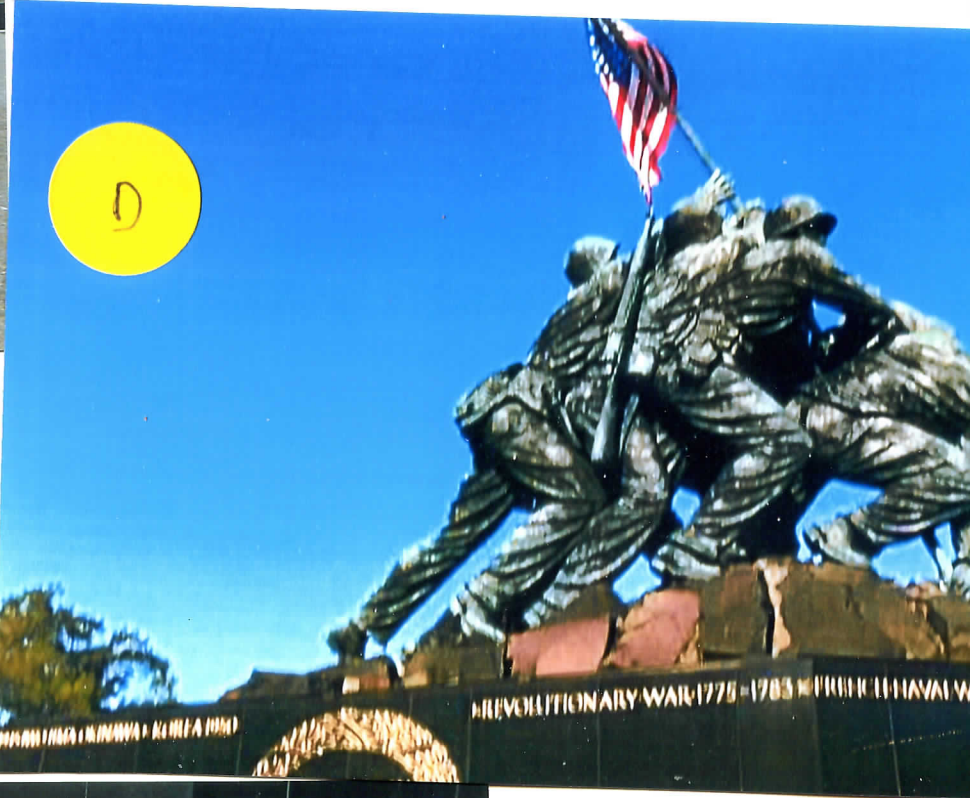










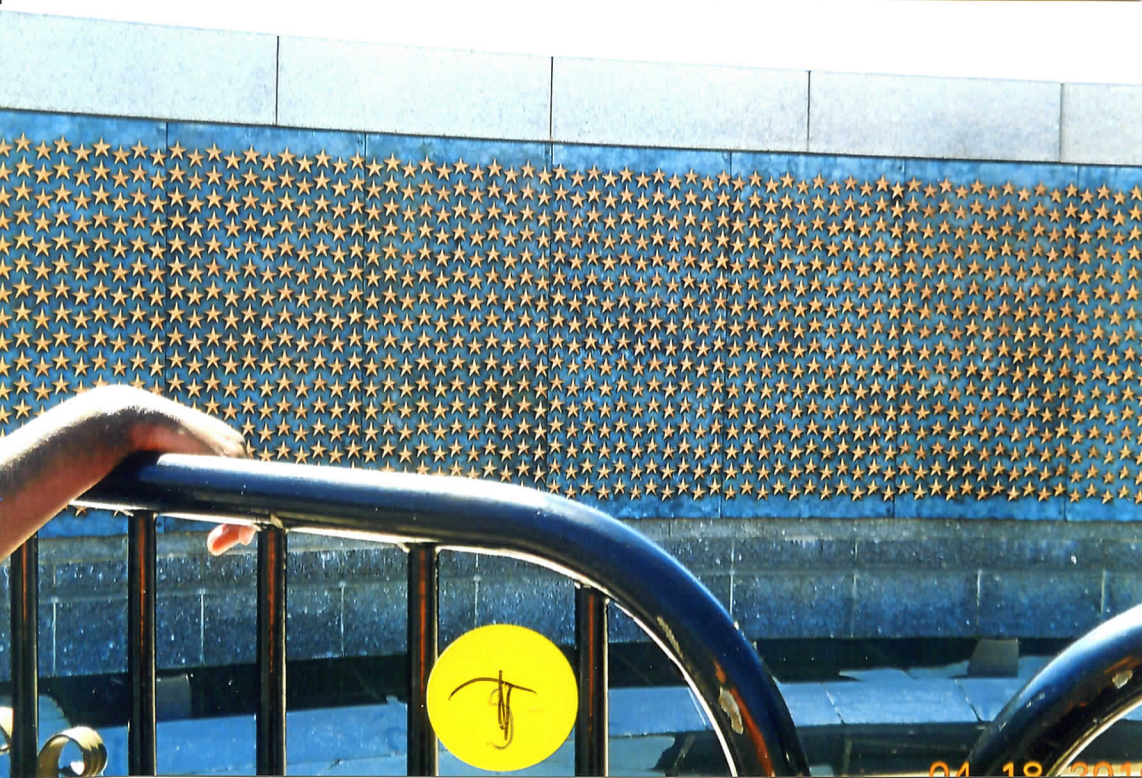




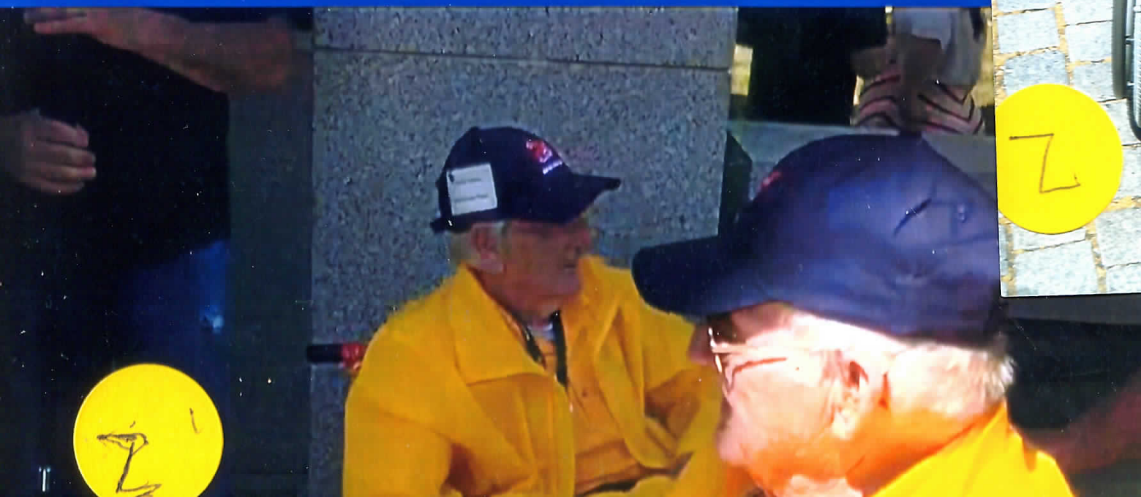












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