

“For God and Country”... the Stories

As a tribute to individuals who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, the Forerunners Ministry of Green Acres Baptist Church (GABC) in Tyler has produced “For God and Country”—an anthology of stories recalled by local veterans about their military service and the power of their faith. Paula S. Yost of Heirloom Memoirs is editing for publication these compelling accounts of military service during World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and peacetime. Her comments describing the project follow.

As a journalist and personal historian, I recognize the power of these stories and the need to preserve this vital part of American history. These men and women have shared their unique experiences, good and bad, as well as their personal thoughts about faith and patriotism. Every American, particularly the citizens of Tyler, should be extremely proud of these men and grateful for their service to our country. Every Christian will be moved by the faith of these soldiers that saw them through the most challenging moments of their lives.

Included within the 200 plus narratives are tales by a World War II prisoner of war, a glider pilot, Pearl Harbor survivors, sailors who were in Japan when the atomic bomb was dropped, soldiers who stormed the Leyte Gulf beaches in the Philippines, D-Day participants and veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. The courage of these men and the seemingly insurmountable challenges they faced come to life once again in their retelling of those events.

I am proud to have been selected to transcribe the recorded interviews and develop them into narrative stories. Through my work at Heirloom Memoirs, I often am privileged to work with others to preserve the fascinating stories of their lives. Rarely, however, am I privileged to hear such poignant accounts as these. The voices of these brave men and the memory of their courageous service will stay with me forever.

Paula S. Yost

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