

One thing I recall of all the WWII vets I knew or worked with, I never hear or even the suggestion of the word hero. They just did the best they could do and all were great citizens and very successful individuals. I learned many stories over the years from individuals who never spoke of their service. One friend I asked where had he been, and his answer was one of many trips to a VA hospital to have his "insides" put back where they belong. Well what was that about, he said he was tossing sackal charges into caves in the Philippines and a machine gun opened up his stomach and other important anatomical features. He wrapped his arms across the wound and ran about a 100 yard to his rear lines. And yes he lived a productive life with many missing or abbreviated parts. After that I always had time for that man!

Subject: GREAT EMAIL I HAVE TO SHARE

**Think of the
media circus,
flags at half staff,
and all the things
that were said of
Whitney Houston
when she died.
Also, all this BS
about Ali who
was a draft
dodger (a federal
offense, no
prosecution).
Think about how
it was when
Prince died
(from an
overdose no
less). I don't
know about you,
but it seems we
are turning this**

**country over to
the likes of
people like Ali
and Prince.
This hero died
with barely
anyone's notice.**

**No Comment
required.**

**"Shifty" By
Chuck Yeager**

**Shifty
volunteered for
the airborne in
WWII and
served with **Easy
Company** of the
506th Parachute
Infantry
Regiment, part of
the 101st
Airborne
Infantry. If
you've seen **Band
of Brothers** on
HBO or the
History Channel,
you know Shifty.**

**His character
appears in all 10
episodes, and
Shifty himself is
interviewed in
several of them.**

**I met Shifty in
the Philadelphia
airport several
years ago. I
didn't
know who he was
at the time. I just
saw an elderly
gentleman
having
trouble reading
his ticket. I
offered to help,
assured him that
he was
at the right gate,
and noticed the
"Screaming
Eagle," the
symbol of
the 101st
Airborne, on his
hat.**

**Making
conversation, I
asked him if he'd**

been in the 101st
Airborne
or if his son was
serving. He said
quietly that he
had been in the
101st. I thanked
him for his
service, then
asked him when
he served,
and how many
jumps he made.

Quietly and
humbly, he said
"Well, I guess I
signed up in 1941
or so,
and was in until
sometime in 1945
..." at which
point my heart
skipped.

At that point,
again, very
humbly, he said
"I made the 5
training
jumps at Toccoa,
and then jumped
into Normandy . .
. do you know

**where Normandy
is?" At this point
my heart
stopped.**

**I told him "yes, I
know exactly
where Normandy
is, and I know
what
D-Day was." At
that point he said
"I also made a
second jump into
Holland , into
Arnhem ." I was
standing with a
genuine war hero**

...

**and then I
realized that it
was June, just
after the
anniversary of
D-Day.**

**I asked Shifty if
he was on his
way back from
France , and he
said
"Yes... And it 's
real sad because,
these days, so few
of the guys are**

**left, and those
that are, lots of
them can't make
the trip." My
heart
was in my throat
and I didn't
know what to
say.**

**I helped Shifty
get onto the
plane and then
realized he was
back in
coach while I was
in First Class. I
sent the flight
attendant back to
get him and said
that I wanted to
switch seats.
When Shifty
came
forward, I got up
out of the seat
and told him I
wanted him to
have
it, that I'd take
his in coach.**

**He said "No, son,
you enjoy that
seat. Just**

**knowing that
there are
still some who
remember what
we did and who
still care is
enough to
make an old man
very happy." His
eyes were filling
up as he said it.
And mine are
brimming up
now as I write
this.**

**Shifty died on
Jan. 17, 2012
after fighting
cancer.**

**There was no
parade.**

**No big event in
Staples Center ..**

**No wall-to-wall,
back-to-back
24x7 news
coverage.**

**No weeping fans
on television.**

**And that's not
right!**

**Let's give Shifty
his own
memorial
service, on line,
in our own quiet
way.**

**Please forward
this email to
everyone you
know. Especially
to the veterans.**

**Rest in peace,
Shifty.**

**Chuck Yeager,
Maj. General
[ret.]**

**P.S. I think that
it is amazing how
the "media"
chooses our
"heroes" these
days...
Elvis, Michael
Jackson,
Whitney Houston
& the like.**



**"SHIFTY" - an
incredible
American hero.**

**Please do me a
favor and pass
this on so that
untold thousands
can read it.
We owe no less to
our REAL
heroes.**

<http://www.christianmarine.com/>

