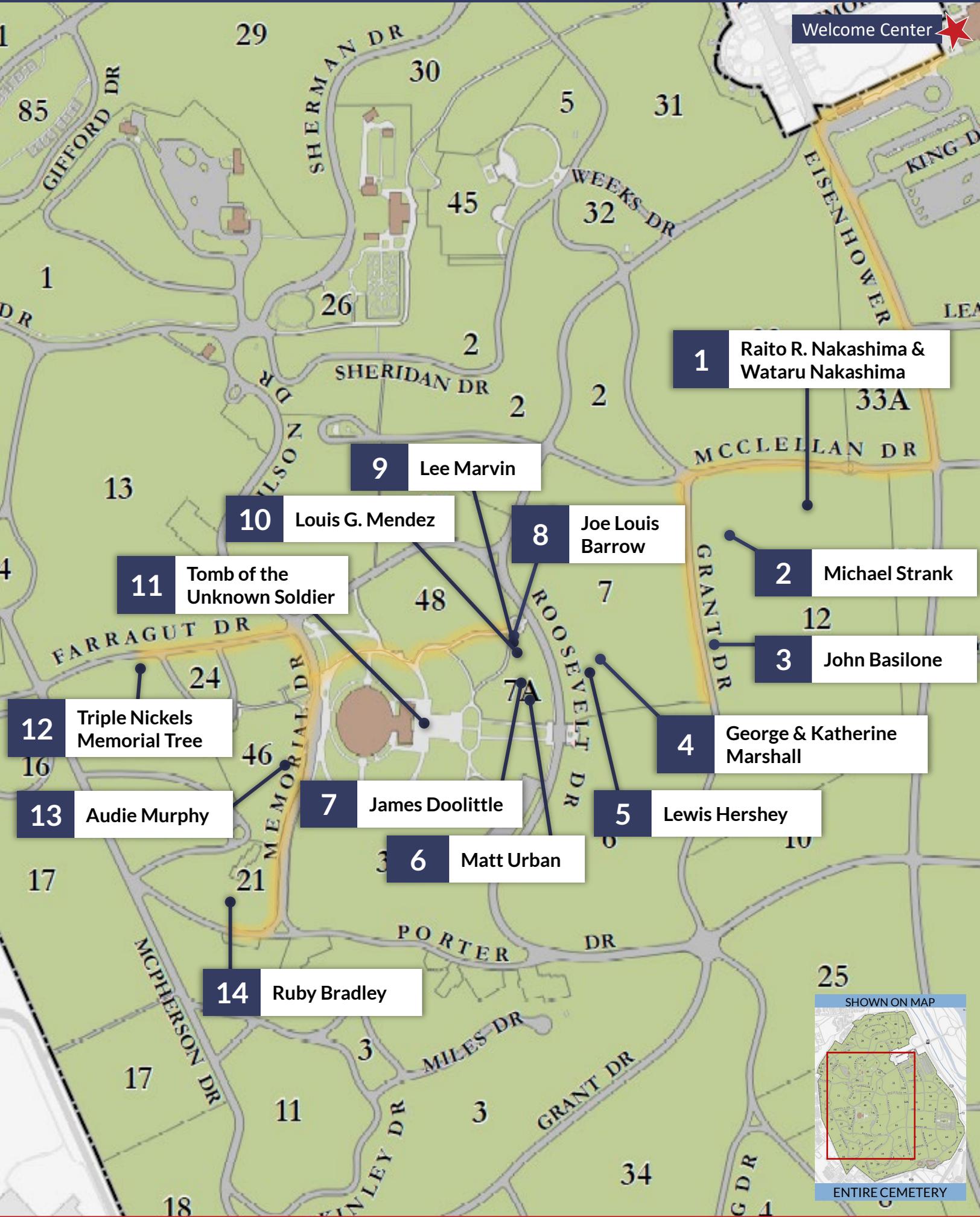


## WORLD WAR II

Tomb Cluster



We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



@ArlingtonNatl

#ANCEducation #WWIIatANC

# ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

## WORLD WAR II

Tomb Cluster

Length: ~1.5 miles

Starting Point: Section 12 (~0.5 miles from Welcome Center)

Exertion Level: Low

There are three types of stops on this walking tour:



**HONOR** stops mark the gravesites of specific individuals.



**REMEMBER** stops commemorate events, ideas or groups of people.



**EXPLORE** stops invite you to discover what this history means to you.

World War II was fought across four continents and thousands of miles of ocean. The lives of millions of military service members and civilians were affected by the events of this war. This walking tour shares some of the diverse experiences and individual stories of those who fought abroad or worked on the home front.

- |    |                                       |                                     |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | Raito R. Nakashima & Wataru Nakashima | Section 12,<br>Graves 5124 and 5125 |
| 2  | Michael Strank                        | Section 12,<br>Grave 7179           |
| 3  | John Basilone                         | Section 12,<br>Grave 384            |
| 4  | George & Katherine Marshall           | Section 7,<br>Grave 8198            |
| 5  | Lewis Hershey                         | Section 7,<br>Grave 8197-D          |
| 6  | Matt Urban                            | Section 7A,<br>Grave 40             |
| 7  | James Doolittle                       | Section 7A,<br>Grave 110            |
| 8  | Joe Louis Barrow                      | Section 7A,<br>Grave 177            |
| 9  | Lee Marvin                            | Section 7A,<br>Grave 176            |
| 10 | Louis G. Mendez                       | Section 7A,<br>Grave 145            |
| 11 | Tomb of the Unknown Soldier           | Tomb of the Unknown<br>Soldier      |
| 12 | Triple Nickels Memorial Tree          | Section 23                          |
| 13 | Audie Murphy                          | Section 46,<br>Grave 366-11         |
| 14 | Ruby Bradley                          | Section 21,<br>Grave 318            |



ENGAGE



Social Media  
Connection #1

As you complete this walking tour, we'd love to hear your thoughts about the people, historical events and ideas you encounter. At some stops, you'll see a "Social Media Connection" prompt that refers you to the end of the walking tour where you can see ways to share and join the conversation. We look forward to connecting with you!



# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



*Landing ships putting cargo ashore on one of the invasion beaches during the first days of the Normandy invasion in June 1944. The Allied invasion of Europe began in Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944. (NHHC)*

*A second atomic bomb is dropped on Japan, this one in Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. (LOC)*

World War II was a people’s war. Mobilization affected the lives of men, women and children. The individuals on this walking tour offer a small slice of the larger story of the United States’ experience in World War II. They include stories of love and loss, discrimination and perseverance, and horror and joy. They represent everyday Americans – both those who are well-known to the public and those who are not –all of whom risked everything in service to their country.

## WORLD WAR II

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. Two days later, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany, forming the Allied powers. During the first eight months of the European war, most Americans did not want to become involved in another war across the Atlantic Ocean. However, as the war progressed, and Germany continued its military advances, Americans increasingly supported entering the war.

Shortly before 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This event shocked the nation and pulled the United States into the war. Japan had been expanding in East Asia since its invasion of Manchuria in 1931, and in 1940, Japan, Germany and Italy formed the Axis powers. On December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan; the resolution passed almost unanimously. Declarations of war against Germany and Italy quickly followed.

*The USS West Virginia, USS Tennessee and USS Arizona after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 1941. (NARA)*



The United States sent troops to all global theaters of the war. Back home, the entire country mobilized to respond to the needs of this “total war.” Because victory on the battlefield depended on massive production of military equipment, supplies and resources, all types of Americans

were involved in the war effort. The expanded wartime economy ushered in new opportunities for women, African Americans, Hispanic Americans and members of other minority groups who were able to secure positions in the armed forces or as civilian workers in factories or shipyards. Government-sponsored campaigns urged civilians to do their part for the war effort, whether that was purchasing war bonds, rationing goods or volunteering for service.

Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945. War in the Pacific Theater continued for another three months. After considering an invasion of mainland Japan, President Harry S. Truman authorized the use of atomic bombs against Japan. The United States had been secretly developing the bomb throughout the war, and it became the only nation to use this weapon when a B-29 Superfortress, the “Enola Gay,” dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. This was followed by the atomic bombing of the city of Nagasaki on August 9. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945, effectively ending the war.

There has not been a conflict since World War II that has affected Americans so universally. We selected walking tour stops to highlight the diverse ways that the war impacted everyone in America, and the many ways individuals contributed to the war effort. On this tour, you’ll be introduced to individuals from all walks of life – service members and civilians, officers and enlistees, men and women, white Americans and people of color. Their stories represent the thousands of Americans during World War II who showed incredible courage in the face of hardship, who excelled despite facing prejudice, and who repeatedly demonstrated their love for their country through their service.

# PFC RAITO R. NAKASHIMA & STAFF SGT WATARU NAKASHIMA



## WALKING TOUR STOP 1 Section 12, Graves 5124 and 5125

### Wataru Nakashima

**BIRTH:** July 22, 1923, Shelley, ID

**DEATH:** January 9, 1946

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

### Raito R. Nakashima

**BIRTH:** May 16, 1925, Shelley, ID

**DEATH:** April 14, 1945, Castelpoggio, Italy

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

During World War II, Raito and his brother, Wataru, served with the famed 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Comprised of Japanese American soldiers, the 442<sup>nd</sup> is one of the most decorated infantry regiments in U.S. military history. On April 14, 1945, Raito Nakashima was killed in action while fighting in Italy. Despite grievous wounds, Raito fired until he collapsed at enemy troops attempting to infiltrate his company. He posthumously received a Silver Star. Wataru Nakashima also served with the 442<sup>nd</sup> and died one year later. He was laid to rest next to his brother.



A 442<sup>nd</sup> squad leader on the front lines in France in 1944. (NARA)



Members of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regiment scout for German movements near Saint-Dié, France, November 13, 1944. (NARA)



442<sup>nd</sup> Regiment aid station near Beaumont, France, October 29, 1944. (NARA)

## WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

From the Welcome Center, turn left on Eisenhower Driver. Continue south to McClellan Dr. Turning right on McClellan Dr you will pass through McClellan Gate. Turn left at the twelfth row from the gate and head toward the center of Section 12. The Nakashimas' headstones are 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in that row.





# JAPANESE AMERICANS & WORLD WAR II



Organized in March 1943, the 442nd was a segregated unit during World War II. Its members were almost entirely “Nisei,” or second-generation Japanese Americans born in the United States or in Hawaii (then a U.S. territory). As President Harry Truman said in a 1946 tribute, these soldiers fought on two fronts: against “the enemy abroad and prejudice at home.”<sup>1</sup>

*Baggage piled on the street in Oakland, CA before transfer to Tanforan Assembly Center 1942. (NARA/Dorothea Lange)*



*Mrs. Yaeko Nakamura and her two children, Joyce Yuki (right) and Louise Tami stand on the step at the entrance of a dwelling at the Manzanar Relocation Center, 1943. (LOC/Ansel Adams)*



Longstanding anti-Asian racism in the United States had resulted in laws, passed between the 1880s and 1920s, which excluded Asian Americans from citizenship rights and drastically restricted immigration from Asia. Those of Japanese ancestry faced the additional burden of being treated as “enemy aliens,” suspected of disloyalty to the U.S. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, paranoia spread about the loyalty of Japanese Americans.

On February 19, 1942, ten weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing Japanese internment. During the next six months, the government forcibly removed approximately 122,000 men, women and children of Japanese descent – nearly 70,000 of whom were U.S. citizens – from their homes and placed them in remote internment camps, where they remained confined for the duration of the war. These internees included many Nisei who went on to fight, and in some cases to die, for the United States in the military.

At first, the U.S. prohibited Japanese Americans from military service. Yet some prominent military leaders, including Assistant Secretary of War John McCloy and General George Marshall, believed that Japanese Americans could, and should, prove their loyalty by serving in segregated units under the command of white officers.

In May 1942, the Hawaiian Territorial Guard was reorganized into the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. The successful training of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion – as well as the nation’s need for additional military manpower – prompted General Marshall to approve, on January 1, 1943, the creation of an all-Nisei unit. This unit became the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Within one month, 2,686 volunteers from Hawaii and 1,500 from the U.S. mainland reported for basic training. By the end of the war, some 33,000 Japanese Americans had served in the U.S. armed forces.

During World War II, the 442<sup>nd</sup> fought in Italy and France. The 442<sup>nd</sup>’s notable combat actions included liberating French towns, participating in the liberation of the Dachau extermination camp and, in April 1945, breaking through the last German defensive line in northern Italy.



*442<sup>nd</sup> Infantrymen run for cover from a German artillery shell about to land in Italy, April 4, 1945. (NARA)*



*The store’s owner, an American of Japanese descent, placed the sign outside his store in Oakland, California. The store was closed after relocation orders were issued, 1943. (NARA/Dorothea Lange)*

# SERGEANT MICHAEL STRANK



## WALKING TOUR STOP 2

Section 12, Grave 7179

**BIRTH:** November 10, 1919, Oriabyna, Slovakia

**DEATH:** March 1, 1945, Iwo Jima, Japan

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Marine Corps

Strank was born in Slovakia and emigrated to Pennsylvania with his parents as a child. He enlisted in the Marines in 1939. He is one of six Marines depicted in AP photographer Joe Rosenthal's iconic photograph, "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima," which inspired the Marine Corps War Memorial. Taken on February 23, 1945, the image depicts Strank and others in his unit raising the American flag after capturing Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Strank was killed in action one week after the photograph was taken.



Strank, ca. 1941. (Public domain)



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

Return to McClellan Dr and turn left, towards Grant Dr. Turn left at the 15<sup>th</sup> row before Grant Dr. Strank's headstone is almost 40 graves in from McClellan Dr.

# GUNNERY SERGEANT JOHN BASILONE

Basilone wearing the Medal of Honor, ca. 1942. (NHHHC)



Sgt. Basilone and Lena Basilone on their wedding day, July 10, 1944. (St. Mary's Star of the Sea)



## WALKING TOUR STOP 3

Section 12, Grave 384

**BIRTH:** November 4, 1916, Buffalo, NY

**DEATH:** February 19, 1945, Iwo Jima, Japan

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Marine John Basilone (1916-1945) was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in combat at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, in October 1942. During brutal fighting with heavy casualties on both sides, he killed at least 38 Japanese soldiers.

In the summer of 1943, the Army recalled Basilone to the United States to assist the war bond effort. As a Medal of Honor recipient, he received a hero's welcome, including a parade featured in "Life" magazine. Yet despite being offered a commission to spend the rest of the war on the homefront, Basilone soon requested to return to combat. He stated that he was just "a plain soldier" who belonged with his unit.

On February 19, 1945, Basilone was killed in action leading an assault off the beaches of Iwo Jima. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross. Basilone was the only enlisted Marine honored with both the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

Walk to Grant Drive and turn left. As the road gently curves, rows of headstones on your left end. When the third row on your left ends, turn into Section 12. Basilone's headstone is two rows behind the last headstone in the third row.



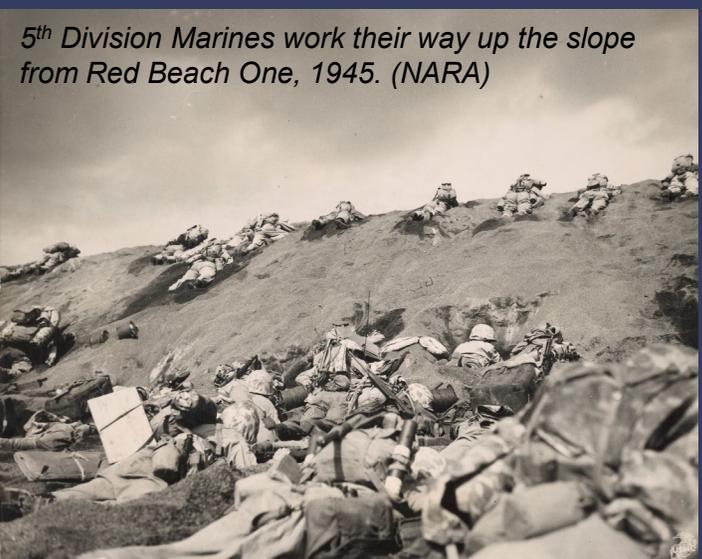
# BATTLE OF IWO JIMA



*Six Marines raise the American flag on Iwo Jima, February 23, 1945.  
(NARA/Joe Rosenthal)*



*4<sup>th</sup> Division Marines are briefly pinned down by enemy fire as they hit the beach at Iwo Jima, 1945. (NARA)*

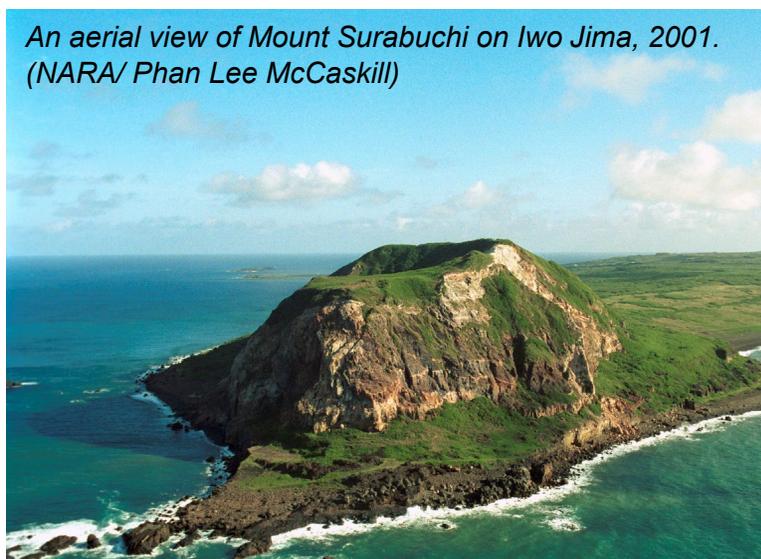


*5<sup>th</sup> Division Marines work their way up the slope from Red Beach One, 1945. (NARA)*

On February 19, 1945, the U.S. Marines invaded the Japanese island of Iwo Jima, initiating one of the bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history. One month after Strank and the five others (including Ira Hayes, Section 34, Grave 479-A) raised the American flag, the United States secured victory, but with heavy casualties on both sides.

Of the 70,000 U.S. Marines, almost 7,000 were killed and another 20,000 were wounded. Only 216 of an estimated 18,000 Japanese soldiers were captured alive; the remainder were killed in action. Victory at Iwo Jima set the stage for the final major land battle of World War II: the battle of Okinawa. For the remainder of the war, Iwo Jima served as an emergency landing site for the U.S. B-29 airmen.

*An aerial view of Mount Surabuchi on Iwo Jima, 2001. (NARA/ Phan Lee McCaskill)*



# GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL



## WALKING TOUR STOP 4 Section 7, Grave 8198

**BIRTH:** December 31, 1880, Uniontown, PA

**DEATH:** October 16, 1959, Washington, D.C.

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** George Marshall graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1901. He joined the U.S. Army in 1902 as a second lieutenant. During World War I, Marshall served as an aide-de-camp to General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. He was married to Elizabeth Carter Coles from 1902 until her death in 1927. In 1930, he married Katherine Tupper, a widow with three teenage children.

**CAREER:** One of the most distinguished military and diplomatic leaders of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, General Marshall served as chief of staff of the U.S. Army during World War II. He directed the largest expansion of the Army in U.S. history, from fewer than 200,000 men before the war to more than eight million men. He also shaped American military strategy, advocating an invasion of Nazi-occupied France via the English Channel. On December 16, 1944, Marshall was promoted to the five-star rank of general of the Army, the Army's highest rank.

After the war, George Marshall served as secretary of state (1947-1949) and then as secretary of defense (1950-1951). He is the only person to have held both of those important positions. Marshall's diplomatic career was as historically significant as his military one. Most notably, he conceived an ambitious, highly successful program for the postwar economic recovery of Western Europe – known as the "Marshall Plan" – for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953.

**LEGACY:** British Prime Minister Winston Churchill named George C. Marshall the "Organizer of Victory." His leadership during and after World War II was crucial both to Allied victory and to the postwar recovery of Western Europe.

*The Marshalls drink coffee behind their quarters at Fort Myer, Virginia in 1941. (Together: Annals of an Army Wife)*



# KATHERINE TUPPER BROWN MARSHALL

**BIRTH:** October 8, 1882, Harrodsburg, KY

**DEATH:** December 18, 1978, Leesburg, VA

In 1946, Katherine wrote "Together: Annals of An Army Wife," a memoir about her marriage to General George C. Marshall. In it, she described the challenges and joys she faced as an Army officer's wife and, eventually, as the wife of one of the most powerful men in America. While many of her stories are lighthearted, she also wrote touchingly of her and George's grief when, in 1944, their son Allen Tupper Brown was killed by German sniper fire outside Rome, Italy:

"I turned to see my husband in the doorway. He came in, closing the door behind him, and told me Allen was dead. He had given his life that morning in a tank battle on the road to Rome. A blessed numbness comes to one at a time like this. I could not comprehend George's words...I kept repeating Allen is dead, Allen is dead – but no realization of what this meant came to me until later." <sup>2</sup>

Over the course of the war, this kind of grief visited the families of the more than 400,000 service members who gave their lives for the United States. That number represented about three percent of the United States' population at that time, meaning that nearly every American knew someone who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

## WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR



*Return to Grant Dr and turn left. A little ahead on your right, there is a dirt path cutting through Section 7. Turn onto the path and continue to Roosevelt Dr. Turn right on Roosevelt. On your right, you will see a section of headstones that face the road. The Marshalls' grave is six rows back.*

# GENERAL LEWIS HERSHEY



## WALKING TOUR STOP 5 Section 7, Grave 8197-D

**BIRTH:** September 12, 1893, Steuben County, IN

**DEATH:** May 20, 1977, Angola, IN

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Hershey grew up in rural Indiana. At a time when most of his peers quit school after eighth grade, Hershey graduated high school in 1910. He then enrolled at what is now Trine University to pursue a career in education. He graduated in 1914 and accepted a job at a local high school. In 1918, he married Ellen Dygert. They had four children.

**CAREER:** As director of the Selective Service System, or the draft, through World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, Hershey deeply believed in a national draft and military service for all men during both peacetime and war. While he never faced combat, he believed that an all-volunteer force was not feasible for modern warfare and incapable of adequately training recruits.

Hershey enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in 1911. In 1916, his unit was sent to the U.S.-Mexico border. Conditions at the border led him to conclude that “there is one way to take care of the defense question and that is by universal military service of some kind.”<sup>3</sup>

With the United States on the verge of entering World War I in early 1917, Hershey dedicated himself to recruitment efforts. The lack of interest he encountered only reinforced his belief in mandatory service.

After the war, Hershey continued to advocate for a peacetime draft. He received a commission in the regular army in 1920. In 1936, Hershey was assigned to the personnel branch of the War Department. Over the next four years, he toured the country to prepare state and local boards to administer an eventual draft. Hershey was a proponent of a decentralized draft with local control. Throughout his career, he believed local boards should choose who served and who was deferred.

After Congress passed the Selective Service and Training Act in 1940, Hershey served as deputy director of the Selective Service, as he and others believed the program should be led by a civilian. However, in 1941, President Roosevelt appointed Hershey as director.

After the war, the draft was disbanded despite Hershey’s arguments for on-going conscription. Within one year, Congress enacted new draft legislation in response to growing Cold War tensions. Hershey acted as director of the Selective Service System until President Richard Nixon forced him out in 1969 in response to the Vietnam War draft protests.

**LEGACY:** Lewis B. Hershey retired from the Army in 1973 as the only four-star general to never see combat. He planned and oversaw the national draft through three wars, conscripting more than 20 million men. Throughout his career, he fought for both the decentralization of the draft and its existence during both peace and war. There has been no national draft since Hershey’s retirement in 1973.



*The first meeting of the War Manpower Commission on May 6, 1942. Hershey is standing, third from left. (LOC)*



*Hershey in 1973. (Public Domain)*

“I am a strong believer in the ultimate good that shall arise from the war, no matter how long it may be prolonged.”<sup>4</sup>

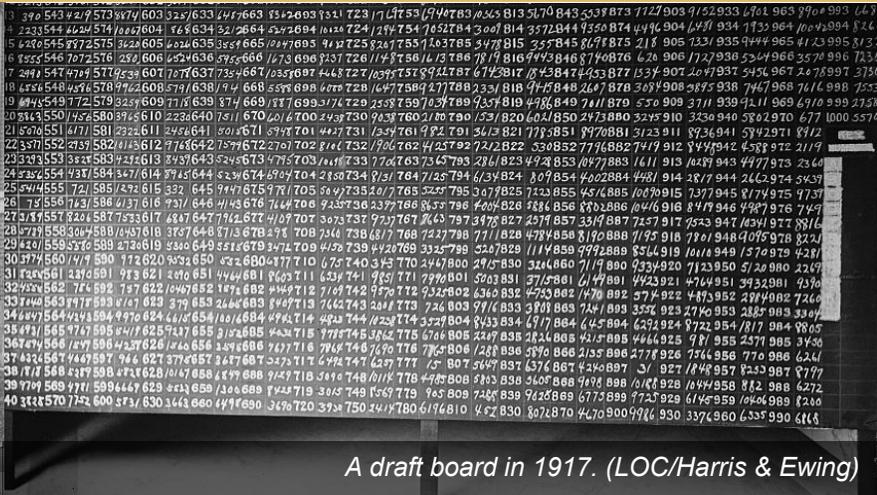
– Lewis B. Hershey, diary entry, September 1918



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Hershey’s headstone is two rows in front of the Mashalls’.*

# THE HISTORY OF THE DRAFT: THE CIVIL WAR TO WORLD WAR II



Men line up for draft registration, ca. 1918-1920. (LOC)

A draft board in 1917. (LOC/Harris & Ewing)

During World War II, over sixty percent of all U.S. military service members were drafted. The draft pulled in everyone — rich and poor, married and single men. Even conscientious objectors and those turned away for medical reasons served in non-combat roles on the homefront. By the end of the war, nearly 50 million men registered for the draft and over 10 million were drafted.

## CIVIL WAR

Congress passed the first national draft law during the Civil War, one year after the Confederacy established a draft. Initially the Union tried to rely on volunteer service, but by 1863, the Army needed more men. The national draft law faced heavy criticism and resulted in widespread draft riots, including a four-day riot in New York City. The main criticism of the law was that it allowed people to buy their way out of military service by either paying \$300 or hiring a substitute.

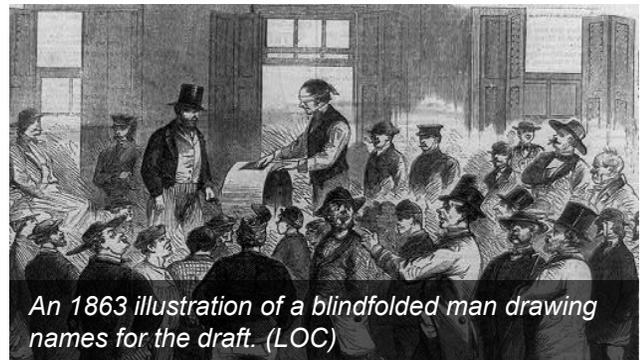
## WORLD WAR I

After the United States declared war on Germany on April 2, 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act of 1917. This act created the Selective Service System and required all men aged 21 to 30 (later increased to 45) to register for service. It also had three major changes from the Civil War-era draft:

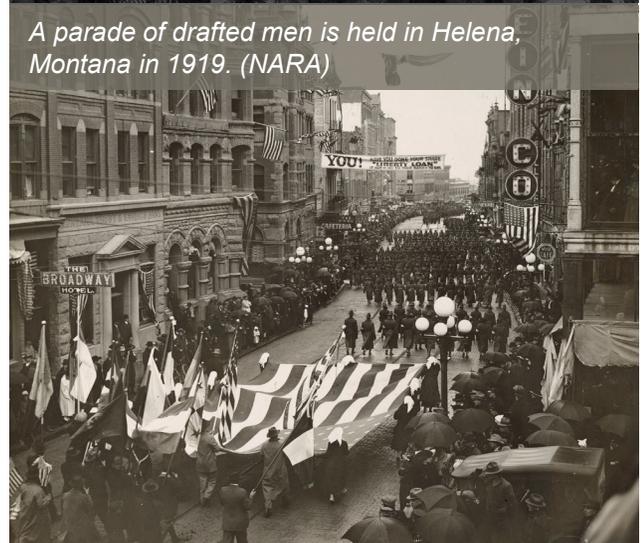
1. No one could buy their way out of service or provide a substitute.
2. Local draft boards oversaw the draft instead of the federal government.
3. Because the draft was established at the start of the war, there was no stigma attached to being drafted versus choosing to volunteer.

## WORLD WAR II

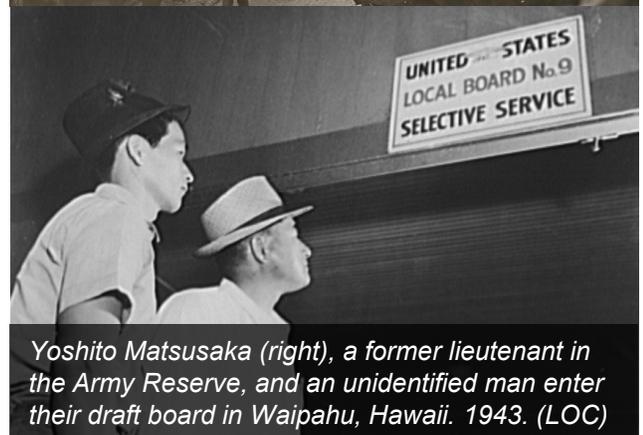
The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 established the United States' first peacetime draft. It authorized the conscription of 900,000 men aged 21-35 for one year. Six days after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Congress amended the Selective Service Act. This change increased the length of service to the duration of the war and expanded the eligibility age to 18-64.



An 1863 illustration of a blindfolded man drawing names for the draft. (LOC)



A parade of drafted men is held in Helena, Montana in 1919. (NARA)



Yoshito Matsusaka (right), a former lieutenant in the Army Reserve, and an unidentified man enter their draft board in Waipahu, Hawaii. 1943. (LOC)

## REFLECTION:

While the draft no longer exists, the Selective Service System (SSS) does. All men aged 18-25 are required to register with the SSS for the possibility of a future draft.

- Do you think the Selective Service System should exist?
- What do you think is the best way to conduct a draft? Who should have to register?
- How would you feel about being drafted? Does that change what you think about whether a draft should exist?



# LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATT URBAN



## WALKING TOUR STOP 6 Section 7A, Grave 40

**BIRTH:** August 25, 1919, Buffalo, NY

**DEATH:** March 4, 1995, Holland, MI

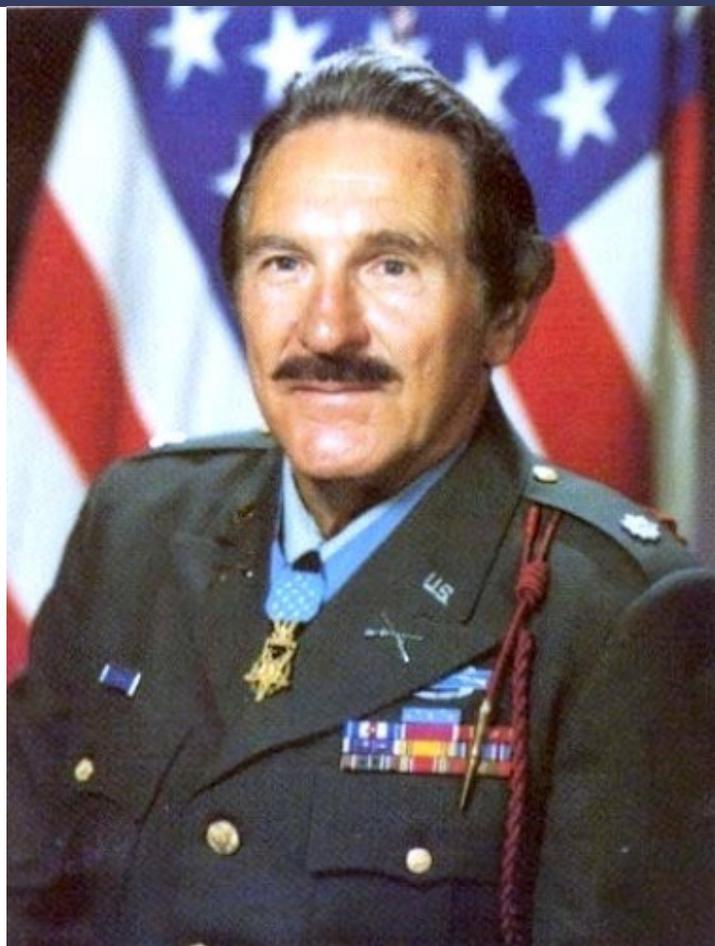
**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

World War II Medal of Honor recipient Matt Urban was an exceptional combat leader and highly esteemed by his men. During World War II, he served with the 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during six campaigns in the Mediterranean and European theaters of operation.

On June 14, 1944, Urban received a serious leg wound during combat in France. In mid-July, he was recuperating in a hospital in England when he learned that his unit had suffered significant casualties. He left the hospital and hitchhiked back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion command post near St. Lo, France. Under heavy enemy fire, he was wounded three more times in August and early September 1944, each time refusing evacuation until his battalion was secure.

Although Urban had received two Silver Stars for actions in Africa, his valorous actions in France in 1944 had not previously been recognized with a military decoration for heroism, except for a Bronze Star for his actions on June 14, 1944. While one of his men recommended him for the Medal of Honor in 1945, it was not awarded until 1980.

On July 10, 1980, the White House notified Lt. Col. Urban that he had finally received the Medal of Honor. President Jimmy Carter presented Urban with the medal on July 19, 1980, in a ceremony attended by several hundred guests, including 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry veterans who had served with Urban in combat. According to the citation: "Captain Urban's personal leadership, limitless bravery, and repeated extraordinary exposure to enemy fire served as an inspiration to his entire battalion. His valorous and intrepid actions reflect the utmost credit on him and uphold the noble traditions of the United States Army."



*Urban in 1980 after receiving the Medal of Honor.  
(U.S. Army)*



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Section 7A is directly across Roosevelt Drive. Urban's headstone is four rows back, the second headstone in from your left.*

# GENERAL JAMES "JIMMY" DOOLITTLE



## WALKING TOUR STOP 7 Section 7A, Grave 110

**BIRTH:** December 14, 1896, Alameda, CA

**DEATH:** September 27, 1993, Pebble Beach, CA

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** James Harold Doolittle was an aviation pioneer and renowned World War II air commander. He enlisted as a flying cadet in the Army Signal Corps Reserve in 1917. The same year, he married his high school sweetheart, Josephine E. Daniels. They had two sons who both went on to become Air Force pilots.

**CAREER:** During the 1920s and 1930s, Doolittle set many aviation speed records and, on September 4, 1922, made the first cross-country flight within a single day. He also pioneered techniques of instrument flying that proved critical to the development of both military and civil aviation.

Prior to the United States' entrance into World War II, Doolittle advised the Army on aviation development and oversaw the production and testing of military aircraft. In January 1942, only a few weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and assigned to plan a retaliatory attack on Japan. This daring attack came to be known as "The Doolittle Raid."

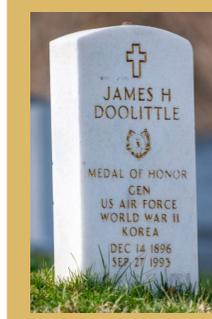
The joint Army/Navy plan was to bomb Japanese industrial centers – Tokyo, Kobe, Osaka and Nagoya. Concerned that Japan had learned of the planned attack, the Army decided to launch 16 bombers earlier and further from Japan than initially planned. On April 18, 1942, the all-volunteer squadron, led by Doolittle, launched from an aircraft carrier in the Pacific. The B-25s bombed Japanese factories and military installations, and then made their way toward China. Because they had launched early, however, 15 of the 16 planes crash-landed in a Japanese-occupied part of China; the final plane landed in the Soviet Union. During the raid, three crew members were killed while landing; eight became prisoners of war, subjected to starvation and torture, and the Japanese executed three of them. With the assistance of the Chinese government, Doolittle and the other surviving Doolittle Raiders were eventually freed and allowed to return to the United States. Although the bombing inflicted minimal damage, this daring attack on the Japanese mainland greatly boosted American morale. Still, the loss of so many planes and crew members weighed heavily on Doolittle, and he thought he would be disciplined upon his return. Instead, he was awarded the Medal of Honor and promoted directly to brigadier general, skipping the rank of colonel.

For the remainder of World War II, Doolittle commanded air forces in the North African, Mediterranean, European and Pacific theaters of the war. Although he retired from active duty in the Air Force in 1959, Doolittle continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve and advised the military on aviation and space technology.

**LEGACY:** On April 4, 1985, Congress advanced Doolittle to general, and he became the first Air Force reservist to wear four stars. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush awarded Doolittle the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States' highest civilian award. His contributions to the fields of aviation and space continue to influence Air Force operations today.



*Doolittle wires a Japanese medal to a bomb before the raid, 1942. (NHHC)*



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Doolittle's grave is three rows back from Urban's, near the center of the row.*

### Other Doolittle Raiders Buried at ANC:

- Col. Charles R. Greening, Section 6, Grave 9161-D-RH
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William Farrow, Section 12, Grave 157
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Dean Hallmark, Section 12, Grave 158
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Robert Meder, Section 12, Grave 159
- Lt. Col. Jacob Manch, Section 30, Grave 59-RH
- Col. William Bower, Section 54, Grave 2650-1
- Maj. Jacob Eierman, Section 64, Grave 588
- Maj. Gen. David M. Jones, Court 3, Section FF, Column 27, Niche 4
- Brig. Gen. Everett W. Holstrom, Court 6, Section T, Column 9, Niche 3

# SERGEANT JOE LOUIS (BARROW)



## WALKING TOUR STOP 8

Section 7A, Grave 177

**BIRTH:** May 13, 1914, Lexington, AL

**DEATH:** April 12, 1981, Las Vegas, NV

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Joe Louis Barrow was born in Alabama to sharecropping parents. In 1926, his family moved to Detroit in search of greater freedom and economic opportunities. The Barrows were part of the “great migration” of African Americans who moved from the rural South to the urban North during the early 20th century.

**CAREER:** Barrow started boxing after his family moved to Detroit. He made his boxing debut in 1932, at the age of 17, at which point he dropped the name “Barrow” and went by Joe Louis. Just two years later, Louis won the U.S. Amateur Athletic Union crown and turned professional.

Joe Louis suffered only one defeat in his first 69 fights. That defeat occurred on June 19, 1936, at the hands of Germany’s Max Schmeling, the reigning heavyweight world champion. One year later, Louis became the world champion after defeating James J. Braddock on June 22, 1937. He held the title of heavyweight champion of the world for 12 straight years.

In 1938, in one of the most famous boxing matches of all time, Louis faced Schmeling for a rematch. This time, Louis was the champion and Schmeling was the challenger. The match, which drew a crowd of 70,000 and earned the title “the fight of the century,” quickly became a symbol of the political and soon-to-be military conflict between the United States and Nazi Germany. Louis, knowing he needed to win this match, defeated Schmeling in the first round and immediately became a national hero.

When the United States went to war against Germany in 1941, Louis enlisted in the Army, serving in the same segregated unit as Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play major league baseball. During the war, Louis fought 96 exhibition matches before more than two million troops. He also donated more than \$100,000 to Army and Navy relief efforts. When he left the Army, he had reached the rank of sergeant.

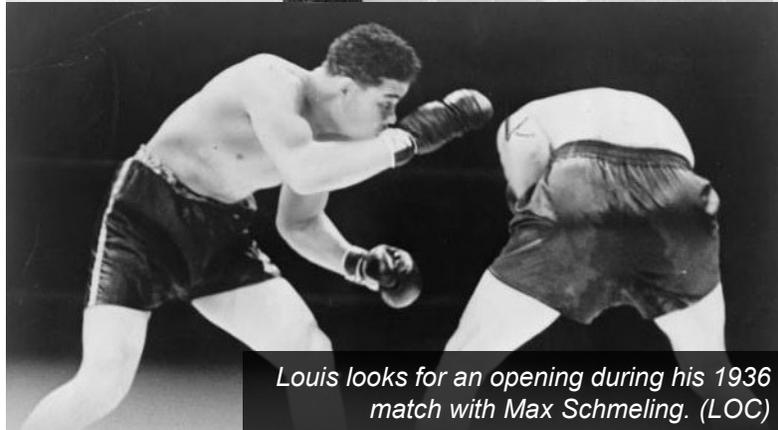
Louis retired in 1949 as the undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, but financial troubles led him to return to the ring a year later. Louis challenged the reigning heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles, who beat him in the fifteenth round. In 1951, he next challenged future champion Rocky Marciano but was knocked out in the eighth round. Joe Louis never boxed again.

**LEGACY:** Joe Louis held the title “Heavyweight Champion of the World” longer and defended it more times than any other boxer in history. He was known as the “Brown Bomber” and ended his 17-year career with 68 wins, 54 knockouts and only three losses.



UNCROWNED  
CHAMPION

Joe Louis in 1936. (LOC)



Louis looks for an opening during his 1936 match with Max Schmeling. (LOC)



Sgt. Joe Louis addressing troops in 1943. (NARA)



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

Barrow's grave is two rows back from Doolittle's on the far right.



# PRIVATE LEE MARVIN



## WALKING TOUR STOP 9

Section 7A, Grave 176

**BIRTH:** February 19, 1924, New York City, NY

**DEATH:** August 29, 1987, Tucson, AZ

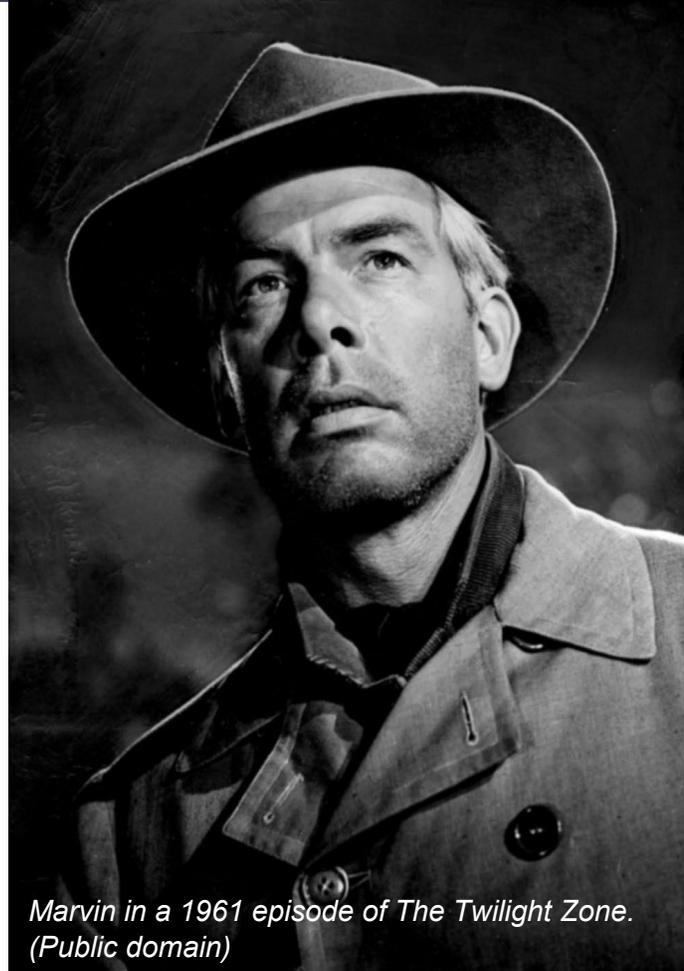
**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Marine Corps

Marvin did not come from a military family: his father was a New York advertising executive, and his mother was a fashion editor. He joined the Marines at age 18 and served during World War II as a scout sniper in the Pacific. During the battle for Saipan, Pvt. Marvin was hit in the spine by machine gun fire. He spent a year in rehabilitation and received a Purple Heart, among other decorations.

Marvin went on to act in 56 films, most memorably as a villain or "tough guy" in westerns and action movies.

Marvin's notable films included *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (1962), *The Killers* (1964), *The Dirty Dozen* (1967) and *Cat Ballou* (1965), for which he received an Academy Award.

In a 1985 interview, he said, "I applied a lot of what I learned in the Marines to my films. I was a Pfc. in the Marine Corps, so when I started playing officers, I had a good opinion as to how they should be played — from the bias of an enlisted man's viewpoint."<sup>5</sup> In another interview he quipped that he learned how to act in the Marine Corps, explaining, "I acted every day in the service. If they asked me if I was anxious to get out there and kill the enemy, I answered that I was."<sup>6</sup>



*Marvin in a 1961 episode of The Twilight Zone.  
(Public domain)*



WORLD WAR II  
WALKING TOUR

*Marvin's grave is next to Louis's.*

# COLONEL LOUIS GONZAGA MENDEZ JR



## WALKING TOUR STOP 10 Section 7A, Grave 145

**BIRTH:** July 14, 1915, Trinidad, CO

**DEATH:** September 19, 2001, Falls Church, VA

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** A decorated airborne combat veteran of World War II, Colonel Louis Gonzaga Mendez was of Mexican, Spanish and Navajo descent. He graduated from West Point in 1940. Mendez and his wife, Jean, had 12 children.

**CAREER:** On June 5, 1944, the day before the D-Day invasion, Mendez dropped behind enemy lines in Normandy, France. Leading the 3rd Battalion, 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, Mendez fought his way through Nazi-occupied France. On June 20, he and his battalion liberated the town of Pretot from German control. Mendez received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions.

Mendez led his battalion during Operation Market Garden, an Allied attempt to take the Netherlands in September 1944. Recalling how scattered his paratroopers were during their jump into Normandy, Mendez told his pilots before the battle, "Put us down in Holland or put us down in hell, but put us all down together in one place."<sup>7</sup>

After the war, Mendez held a variety of military posts in the United States and abroad, rising to the rank of colonel. After retiring from the military in 1970, Mendez held leadership positions in the Department of Education.

**LEGACY:** In 2002, on the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, the town of Pretot, France honored Mendez for liberating it during World War II by naming its main square after him. Despite his military career, however, Mendez never idealized war. His wife recalled him telling her, "War isn't glorious, and it's not heroic. It's a dirty, rotten, filthy business that nobody should have to take part in."<sup>8</sup>



Col. Mendez, undated. (U.S. Army)

*Paratroopers parachute into the Netherlands in September 1944 during Operation Market Garden. (NARA)*



## WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Facing Roosevelt Drive, Mendez's grave is one row back from Marvin's and seven headstones to the right.*



# TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER



## WALKING TOUR STOP 11 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Although the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was built to honor an unknown soldier from World War I, it eventually became a national place to honor military service and sacrifice more broadly. Today, it holds the remains of unknown soldiers from both world wars and the Korean War, as well as an empty crypt to honor missing service members from the Vietnam War.

### WORLD WAR II UNKNOWN SOLDIER

The Korean War (1950-1953) delayed the selection and interment of a World War II Unknown. In August 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved plans to select and inter an unknown from both conflicts. The ceremonies took place on Memorial Day 1958.

World War II was fought on four continents, which complicated the selection of an Unknown. The Army chose 18 bodies from North Africa, Europe, the Philippines and Hawaii as candidates to become the Unknown Soldier. From those 18, two were chosen for final selection – one from the Pacific theater and one from the European. Their remains were put in identical caskets and placed aboard the USS Canberra, where Navy Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William R. Charette, then the Navy's only living active-duty Medal of Honor recipient, selected the Unknown by placing a wreath of carnations on one of the caskets. The remaining unknown received a solemn burial at sea.

*Top right: Hospital Corpsman 1st Class William R. Charette selects the WWII Unknown Soldier (right). In the center is the Korean War Unknown Soldier; on the left, the second unknown WWII serviceman. May 26, 1958. (NHHC).*

*Middle right: One of the two World War II unknown service members is transferred to USS Canberra for the selection ceremony, May 26, 1958. (NHHC)*



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*You may observe the Tomb of Unknown Soldier from the steps on the back of Memorial Amphitheater. Maintain an attitude of silence and respect and do not attempt to cross the railings or barriers around the Tomb. During the changing of the guard, you will be asked to stand, but otherwise you may sit.*

*World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldiers lying in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, May 28-30, 1958. (Architect of the Capitol)*



*Funeral ceremony for the World War II and Korean War Unknown Soldiers, May 30, 1958. (NARA)*



# HONOR FLIGHTS



EXPLORE



ENGAGE



Social Media Connection #2



From left, WAC veteran Marion Clift, Army veteran Betty Downs, Army veteran Sue Williams, and veteran Army nurse Beverly Reno walk away from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier after participating in a wreath-laying ceremony in September 2015. (ANC/Rachel Larue)



Honor Flight Cleveland visits Arlington to view the changing of the guard and lay a wreath at the Tomb in November 2012. (ANC)

Every March to December since 2005, Arlington National Cemetery welcomes veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War as part of the Honor Flight program. The Honor Flight Network was founded in 2005 after the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. was completed. The organization brings veterans from around the country to see the memorials dedicated to them. During their tour of Washington, D.C., veterans visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to watch the changing of the guard and honor the sacrifice of all unknown soldiers. Since 2005, the Honor Flight Network has flown more than 245,000 veterans. Currently, the program prioritizes the most senior veterans: those from World War II.

## Reflection Questions:

- How does your community recognize or honor veterans?
- Why are war memorials built? How do they help communities and individuals to remember the past?
- Is it important for veterans to visit the memorials that honor their service and the service of their comrades who died? Why?



Veterans and their assistants visit the President John F. Kennedy gravesite in May 2015. (ANC/Rachel Larue)



75 female veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War participated in the first all-female honor flight in September 2015. (ANC/Rachel Larue)



# TRIPLE NICKELS MEMORIAL TREE



## WALKING TOUR STOP 12 Section 23 along Farragut

Five paratroopers jump from a plane  
in Oregon, 1945. (NARA)



The 555<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Battalion, nicknamed the “Triple Nickels,” was the first African American parachute regiment. Activated in December 1943, this all-Black unit never had the opportunity to serve overseas in World War II. However, in May 1945, they were sent to the west coast to combat forest fires started by Japanese bombs.

These bombs floated from Japan to the North American Pacific coast on lightweight paper balloons. From November 1944 to May 1945, the Japanese military launched up to 9,000 balloons. About 350 were discovered across North America – from Alaska down to northern Mexico, and as far east as Michigan.

With few Japanese balloon bombs actually landing along the Pacific coast, the Triple Nickels also helped the Forest Service fight naturally-caused forest fires. During the summer and fall of 1945, the 555<sup>th</sup> conducted 36 firefighting missions and made 1,200 jumps, earning a second nickname, the “Smoke Jumpers.” The 555<sup>th</sup> was disbanded in December 1947.



A C-47 carries the paratroopers of the 555<sup>th</sup> to the scene of a remote fire in Oregon, 1945. (NARA)



Triple Nickels prepare a clearing to keep the forest fire from spreading, 1945. (NARA)

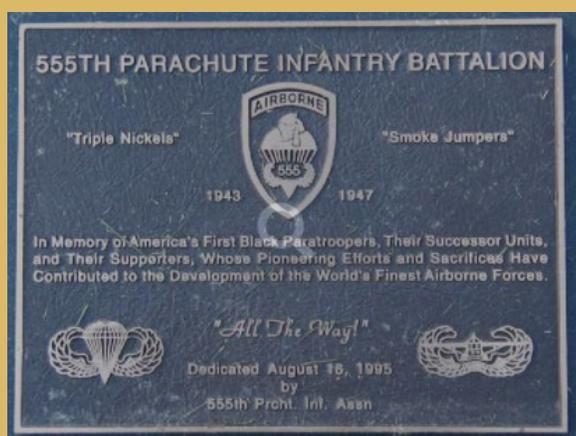
### Triple Nickels Buried at ANC

- Lt. Col Roger S. Walden, Section 52, Grave 519
- Maj. James C. Queen, Section 23, Grave 22549



Lt. Clifford Allen of Chicago prepares for a jump, 1945. (NARA)

### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR



Make your way behind Memorial Amphitheater. Turn right on Memorial Drive and then left on Farragut Dr. The eastern hemlock Memorial Tree and plaque will be on your left in Section 23 after you pass Sigsbee Dr.

### Nearby Memorial Trees

Along Farragut Drive, west of the Triple Nickels Memorial, are Memorial Trees that honor the first Black Marines – the Montford Point Marines – and the Buffalo Soldiers of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry who served in World War I and World War II.

# THE “DOUBLE V” CAMPAIGN & SEGREGATED SERVICE



Over one million African Americans served in World War II. While fighting for democracy abroad, they faced racism and segregation at home. In January 1942, shortly after the United States declared war, 26-year-old James G. Thompson wrote to the *Pittsburgh Courier*, an African American newspaper, asking, “Should I sacrifice my life to live half American? Would it be demanding too much to demand full citizenship rights in exchange for the sacrificing of my life? Is the kind of America I know worth defending?”<sup>9</sup> Thompson’s letter sparked what became known as the “Double V” campaign: African Americans mobilized for a “double victory” over racism and fascism, linking the fight for racial equality in the United States to the fight to win the war. Ultimately, however, there was no double victory. African American veterans returned home from victory in Europe and the Pacific to much the same inequality and segregation that they had faced at the start of the war.

Yet the wartime military service of African Americans and other racial minorities did make a difference. On July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ending racial segregation in the United States military. Additionally, veterans of color evoked their wartime service as evidence that they deserved equal rights as U.S. citizens. In this way, World War II laid crucial groundwork for the postwar civil rights movement and the important legislative gains of the 1950s and 1960s.



*Courier coverage of the Double V Campaign, 1942.*

## Celebrated Segregated Units

Prior to the desegregation order, and for a few years afterward, each branch of the armed forces segregated its units by race. Often, African American units were assigned to non-combat jobs, as the military considered Black men and women less capable than white men and women. The exemplary service of the Triple Nickels and the segregated units featured below forced U.S. military leadership to recognize that African Americans were capable of making outstanding contributions in the military. These units paved the way for a diverse and integrated United States armed forces.



*Tuskegee Airmen in Ramitelli, Italy in March 1945.  
(LOC/Toni Frissell)*

### Tuskegee Airmen

Prior to World War II, the United States military perpetuated the belief that African Americans lacked the necessary skills to serve as military aviators. However, intense scrutiny from prominent African American newspapers and civil rights leaders resulted in the formation of a “Negro pursuit squadron.” In June 1941, the U.S. Army Air Corps officially designated Tuskegee Institute, a historically Black college in Alabama, as the site for training African American military aviators. Between 1941 and 1946, 966 African American men completed their military aviator training at Tuskegee. The Tuskegee Airmen completed more than 1,800 missions, which included 351 bomber escort missions and 112 aerial victories.

### 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion

During World War II, the 6888<sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion, popularly known as the “Six Triple Eight,” was an African American unit of the Women’s Army Corps (WAC). The 6888<sup>th</sup> was charged with sorting the two- to three-year backlog of undelivered mail for U.S. service members in England and France. The WAC was initially restricted to white women, but in November 1944, African American women were permitted to join. The 6888<sup>th</sup> was the only non-medical African American women’s unit to serve overseas during World War II. It was disbanded after the war.



*Maj. Charity E. Adams inspects the 6888<sup>th</sup>. (NARA)*

# FIRST LIEUTENANT AUDIE MURPHY



## WALKING TOUR STOP 13 Section 46, Grave 366-11

**BIRTH:** June 20, 1925, Kingston, TX

**DEATH:** May 28, 1971, near Catawba, VA

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Murphy grew up on a sharecropper's farm in Hunt County, Texas. After his father deserted the family, he helped raise his 11 brothers and sisters, dropping out of school in the fifth grade to earn money picking cotton. He was 16 years old when his mother died, and he watched as his siblings were doled out to an orphanage or to relatives. Seeking an escape from this difficult life, Murphy enlisted in the Army in 1942 – altering his birth certificate so that he appeared to be 18, one year older than he actually was.

**CAREER:** Following basic training, Murphy joined the 15th Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division in North Africa. First entering combat in July 1943, during the invasion of Sicily, he proved himself to be a proficient marksman and a highly skilled soldier overall. He consistently demonstrated how well he understood the techniques of small-unit action. Murphy landed at Salerno, Italy to fight in the Voltuno River campaign, and then at Anzio to be part of the Allied force that fought its way to Rome. Throughout these campaigns, Murphy's skills earned him advancements in rank. He earned his first decoration for gallantry after the capture of Rome in June 1944.

Shortly thereafter, the Army withdrew his unit from Italy to train it for Operation Anvil-Dragoon, the invasion of southern France that began on August 15, 1944. During seven weeks of fighting in that successful campaign, Murphy's division suffered 4,500 casualties, and he became one of the most decorated men in his company. But his biggest test was still to come.

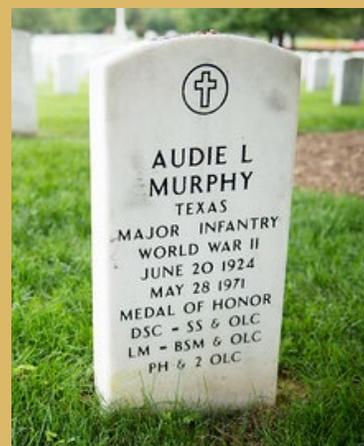
On January 26, 1945, near the village of Holtzwihr in eastern France, Lt. Murphy's forward positions came under fierce attack by the Germans. Against the onslaught of six tanks and 250 infantrymen, Murphy ordered his men to fall back to better their defenses. Alone, he mounted an abandoned, burning tank destroyer and, with a single machine gun, contested the enemy's advance. Wounded in the leg during the heavy fire, Murphy remained there for nearly an hour; he repelled attacking German soldiers on three sides and single-handedly killed 50 of them. He earned the Medal of Honor for these courageous actions, which stalled the German advance and allowed him to lead his men in their successful counterattack.

**LEGACY** By the end of World War II, Murphy had become one of the nation's most-decorated soldiers, earning an unparalleled 28 medals (including three from France and one from Belgium). Murphy had been wounded three times during the war. In May 1945, when victory was declared in Europe, he had still not reached his 21st birthday. Murphy returned home to a hero's welcome, and actor James Cagney convinced him to pursue a career in Hollywood. Murphy acted in more than 40 films, including *The Red Badge of Courage* (1951), *Gunsmoke* (1953) and *To Hell and Back* (1955, where Murphy played himself in a depiction of his war experiences). He died in a plane crash in 1971.



Murphy in 1948. (U.S. Army)

### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR



*Return to Memorial Dr. Just past Memorial Amphitheater, there is a small walkway on the right. Murphy's grave is at the end of the walkway.*

# LIEUTENANT COLONEL RUBY BRADLEY



## WALKING TOUR STOP 14 Section 21, Grave 318

**BIRTH:** December 19, 1907, Spencer, WV

**DEATH:** May 28, 2002, Hazard, KY

**MILITARY BRANCH:** U.S. Army Nurse Corps

**EARLY & PERSONAL LIFE:** Ruby Bradley was the fifth of six children. After graduating high school, she earned a teaching certificate at Biddle State College in Glenville, West Virginia. As a teacher, Bradley grew concerned over the health care of her students and decided to pursue nursing. In 1933, she graduated from the Philadelphia General Hospital of Nursing.

**CAREER:** Entering the nursing field during the Great Depression, Bradley's first job was with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as a nurse at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. After almost a year with the CCC, Bradley joined the Army Nurse Corps. In 1940, the Army assigned Bradley her first overseas post: the Philippines.

Less than 12 hours after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, they invaded the Philippines and attacked Camp John Hay, where Bradley was stationed. According to Bradley, the Japanese "dropped 128 bombs [on the camp], many of which did not explode. Had each one been 'live,' the results would have been even more disastrous."<sup>10</sup>

Bradley fled Camp John Hay for Manila with fellow nurse Major Beatrice Chamberson on December 23, but six days later they were captured and taken prisoner by the Japanese. During her imprisonment, Bradley established a hospital for her fellow civilian internees and acted as a head nurse, providing surgical care and medical treatment. She even delivered 13 babies. Bradley also worked to maintain sanitary conditions and to educate other internees on the importance of washing hands, clothing and utensils. She and her fellow nurses earned the nickname "Angels in Fatigues" by those they cared for while imprisoned.

The U.S. Army liberated Bradley and her fellow prisoners on February 3, 1945. Upon her release, she was promoted to 1st lieutenant and then captain later that year. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Bradley was once again on the frontlines of a war, serving as a chief nurse in Korea. On March 4, 1958, Bradley became the third woman to achieve the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army. She retired in 1963.

**LEGACY:** Despite being imprisoned for four years as a POW, Bradley never stopped serving her country and working for a better future. On the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, Bradley said, "It was my pleasure to take care of the best patients in the world: the American soldier."<sup>11</sup>

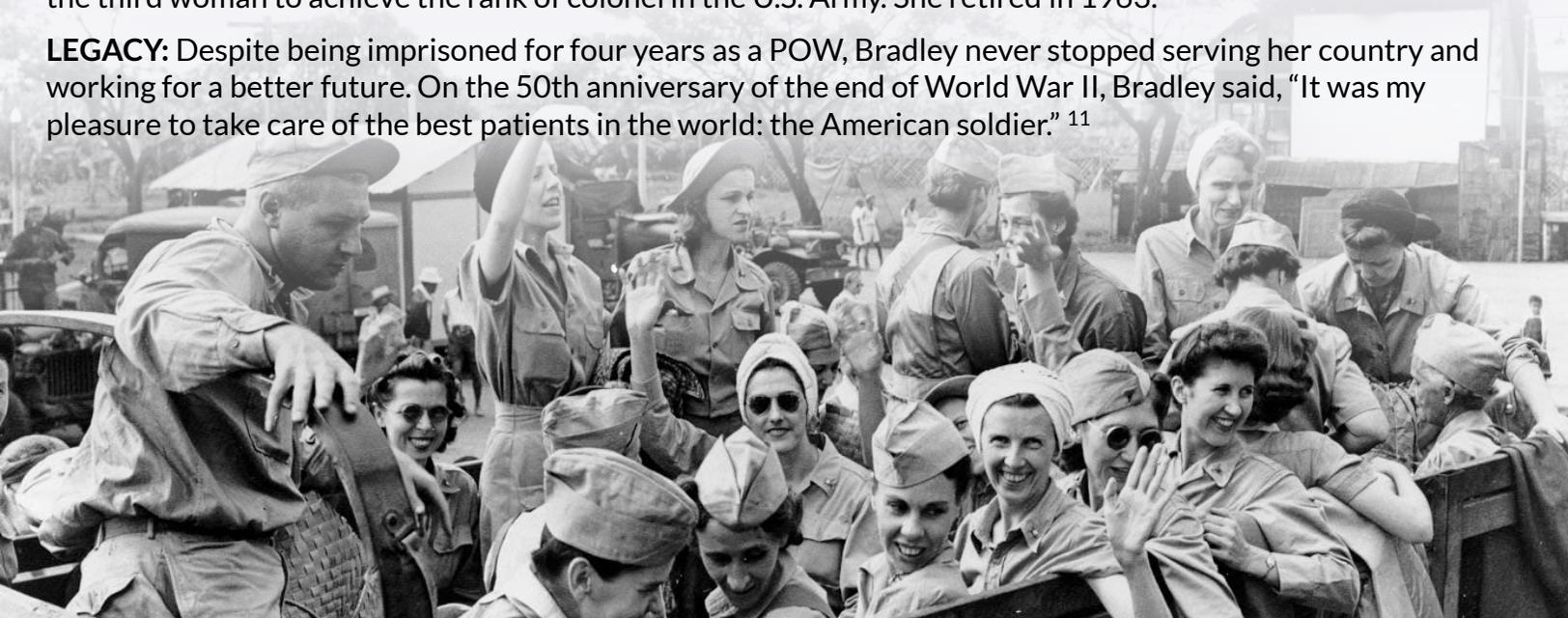


Bradley, undated. (U.S. Army)



### WORLD WAR II WALKING TOUR

*Facing the Tomb, turn right on Memorial Drive and then right on Porter Avenue. Section 21 is on your right. Facing the Nurses Memorial, Bradley's headstone is in the third full length row on your right, near a tree.*



U.S. Army Nurses from Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines leave Manila after their three-year imprisonment. In the center front, Bradley waves at the camera, February 12, 1945. (U.S. Army)

# WOMEN'S SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II



*Rosie the Riveter ca. 1942. (NARA)*

The image of Rosie the Riveter is iconic. With men off fighting the war, the United States faced a labor shortage that only women could fill. For years, white women had been taught to believe that the workplace was not meant for them. After the United States entered World War II, however, the U.S. government launched a large-scale advertising campaign to recruit women for the war effort. They promoted images of “Rosies” who could weld and rivet as well as a man. Around six million women, many with children at home, served in the American defense industry during the war. But industrial jobs were not the only jobs women filled. Beyond combat, women filled almost every other wartime role available.



*Marine Corps Women's Reserve members (L-R): Minnie Spotted Wolf (Blackfeet tribe), Celia Mix (Potawatomi), and Violet Eastman (Chippewa), ca. 1942-1945. (NARA)*

## Women in Uniform

Soon after the United States entered the war, every military branch created all-female non-combat units so that men could be available to fight. More than 350,000 women served, both at home and abroad. They performed traditional “women’s” work as secretaries and nurses, but they also flew and repaired planes, served as radio operators, rigged parachutes and much more. While Congress militarized some of these units, others remained civilian for the entirety of the war. 432 women were killed during the war, and another 88 were taken as prisoners of war. Women served in the following units:

- Women’s Army Corps (WAC, originally the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps)
- Navy Women’s Reserve (WAVES)
- Marine Corps Women’s Reserve
- Coast Guard Women’s Reserve (SPAR)
- Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)
- Army Nurse Corps (established 1901)
- Navy Nurse Corps (established 1908)

## Women at Home

Not all women took up jobs with the military or in wartime production plants. Some, like the “government girls,” took up civil service work; others worked on farms producing the nation’s food supply. More remained at home, helping the war effort through grassroot campaigns. They grew victory gardens, organized scrap drives, sold war bonds and volunteered wherever they could.

Some women also served with the United Service Organizations (USO). USO women provided entertainment and comfort to service members, both offering a distraction from the horrors of war and reminding them of what they were fighting for – home and the women they left behind.

After the war, most men and employers expected women to return to domestic life. But many women did not want to return home; they liked their jobs. Still, employers forced women out of their jobs to make room for men returning from war.

In 1948, Congress passed the Women’s Armed Services Integration Act, guaranteeing women a permanent place in the military. However, the act restricted women from commanding men, serving in combat and comprising more than two percent of all service members. Women in the private sector did not make any major labor strides until 1963, when Congress passed the Equal Pay Act. The

following year, Congress barred sex discrimination in employment (along with race, color, religion and national origin) when it passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As you explore the cemetery, consider why the majority of military gravesites belong to men and what stories we miss because of that.

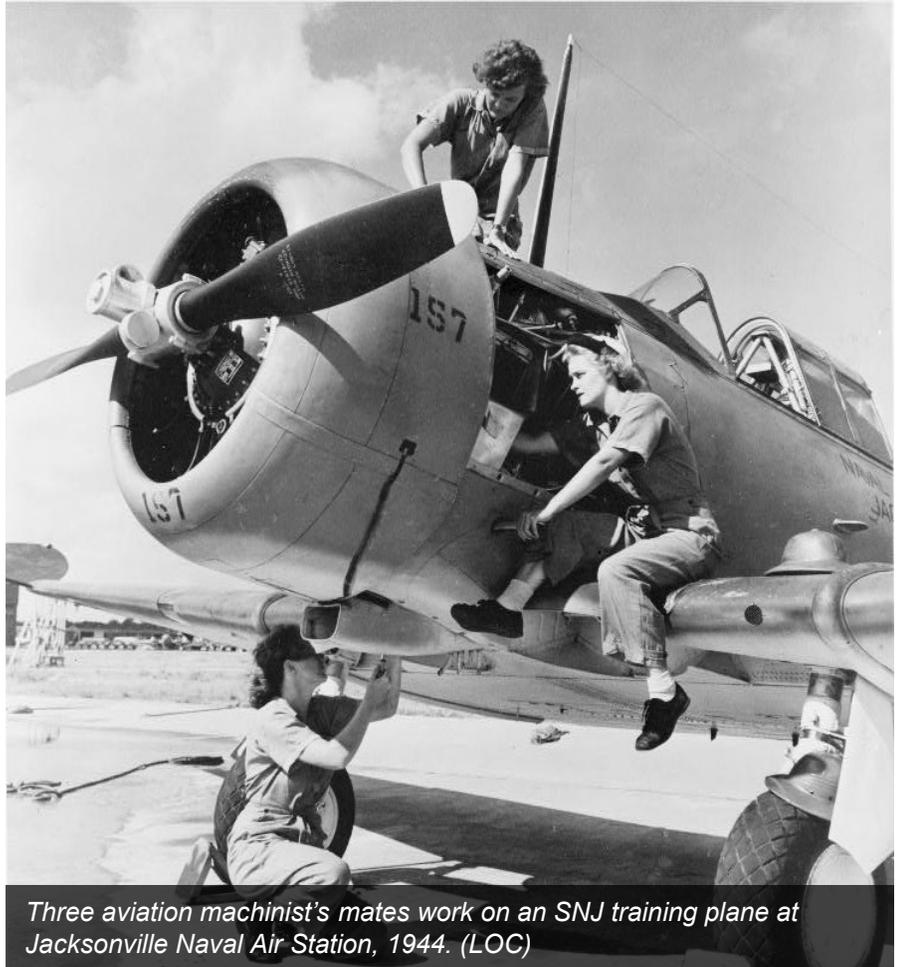


*The McLelland family tend their victory garden at Escambia Farms, Florida, 1942. (LOC/John Collier)*

# WOMEN'S SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II, continued



*Below: WAC recruitment poster 1943. (LOC/Bradshaw Crandell)  
WAVES recruitment poster, 1944. (LOC/John Falter)*



*Three aviation machinist's mates work on an SNJ training plane at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, 1944. (LOC)*



*11 Navy Nurses shortly after their liberation in 1945. The women had spent three years in a Japanese internment camp in the Philippines. (NHHC)*



*Private Margaret Fukuoka, WAC, 1943. (LOC/Ansel Adams)*



*Olivia Hooker and Aileen Anita Cooks aboard the USS Neversail during their SPAR training, ca. 1941-1945. (NARA)*





# SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS



We love hearing about your visit! Share your pictures, questions, and favorite parts of the tour on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Tag Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatI and hashtags #ANCEducation and #WWIIatANC.

## #1 THE HISTORY OF THE DRAFT



Lewis Hershey believed that “there is one way to take care of the defense question and that is by universal military service of some kind.”

While most countries do not require universal military service, some do, such as Israel and Switzerland. What are some of the benefits to universal military service? What are some of the drawbacks?

## #2 HONOR FLIGHTS

Ira Hayes said, “How could I feel like a hero when only five men in my platoon of 45 survived; when only 27 men in my company of 250 managed to escape death or injury?”

While combat veterans are often thanked for their service and honored as heroes, many have complicated feelings about public recognition and the friends and comrades they lost during their service. How can public memorials honor living veterans as well as those who have died?

## #3 WOMEN’S SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

Women have always played important roles in history, but the historical record has not always included their stories. Oral histories and other records have made it easier for their stories to be recorded and shared today. Using the [Veterans History Project](#) from the Library of Congress, choose an oral history to listen to or read the transcript. How can you share that person’s story?

Share your thoughts with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by tagging Arlington National Cemetery using @ArlingtonNatI and the hashtags #ANCEducation and #WWIIatANC.

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## NOTES

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3. Quoted in George Q. Flynn, *Lewis B. Hershey, Mr. Selective Service* (Chapel Hill, NC: North Carolina Press, 1985), 17, f48.
4. Quoted in Flynn, *Lewis B. Hershey*, 28, f23.
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6. "Oscar-Winning Actor Lee Marvin Dies at 63," *Associated Press*, August 30, 1987.
7. Staff Writer, "A Little Town Says 'Merci': Tiny Pretot, France, Honors its D-Day Hero from N.Va.," *The Washington Post*, June 06, 2002, B4.
8. Staff Writer, "A Little Town Says 'Merci'," B4.
9. James G. Thompson, "Should I Sacrifice to Live 'Half-American?'" *Pittsburgh Courier*, January 31, 1942, 3.
10. Ruby Bradley, "Prisoners of War in the Far East," U.S. Army Medical Department, <https://history.amedd.army.mil/ancwebsite/bradley/bradley.html>.
11. Ruby Bradley, "V-J Day 50th Anniversary," August 11, 1995, video, 43:00, Washington, D.C., C-SPAN.

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**Page 8:** Spring 1941 – General and Mrs. Marshall – Coffee beneath the apple tree back of Quarters Number One, Fort Myer, Va., 1941, Together: Annals of an Army Wife by Katherine Tupper Marshall, p. 314.

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**Page 23:** "Two Negro SPARS pause on the ladder of the dry-land ship `U.S.S. Neversail' during their `boot' training at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Station, Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, NY. They are recent enlistees and have the ratings of apprentice seamen. In front is SPAR Olivia Hooker and behind her is SPAR Aileen Anita Cooks," ca. 1941-1945, National Archives, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/535869>.