

bombers with the 15th Air Force and my Grandpa Frank Ward was an Infantryman with Patton's 3rd Army. Grandpa Frank passed away in 1991 and Grandpa Mario passed away in February of this year.

As I got ready to write this essay, I thought about the many stories my grandfathers told me about the war. As a little boy, I always enjoyed these stories. Now, at the age of fifteen, I wanted to remember everything they had told me. More importantly, I want to apply the lessons they taught to what I do in my own lifetime.

Both my grandpas volunteered for the war at the age of 17. Grandpa Frank grew up in Brooklyn and volunteered for the Air Force but was sent to the Infantry because he was color blind. My Grandpa Mario grew up in Queens. He started out in the Infantry where he became an instructor at the Officer Candidate School but he wanted to see combat. He tried to transfer to the Rangers and Paratroopers but O.C.S. wouldn't let him go. His persistence finally paid off. He went to the Air Force when he found out that O.C.S. could not block that transfer.

My Grandpa Frank entered combat during the Battle of the Bulge. He was assigned to carry the Browning Automatic Rifle but was later given a regular rifle and a satchel charge when his unit went through the Siegfried Line. Finally, towards the very end of the war, when attacks were expected by German tanks, my Grandpa was made part of a Bazooka team. I remember my father joking that his sergeant must not have liked him very much because he kept giving my grandpa the heaviest weapons and the most dangerous jobs. Grandpa Frank said his sergeant gave him those responsibilities because he trusted him.

My Grandpa Mario began flying combat missions over Austria, Poland and Germany in January of 1945. He flew 23 missions and had to crash land several times when his B-24 was badly damaged by flack. His commanding officer was a future U.S. Senator and vice-presidential Candidate named Lloyd Bensten!

My grandfathers won a lot of medals and ribbons. My Grandpa Frank even won the Purple Heart, but neither one ever bragged or told stories about how brave they were. Sometimes they would even say how scared they were and then they would usually make a joke.

I think my favorite story concerned my Grandpa Mario returning from a mission in a badly damaged plane. German fighters began to attack his helpless B-24. My grandpa called into his radio, "Angels, Angels we need you!"

His call to American escort fighters was answered by a P-38 "Lightning" and a P-51 "Mustang". The two American fighters chased off the Germans and the "Mustang" pilot escorted the limping bomber all the way home.

My Grandpa was impressed by the courage of those two American fighter pilots. He always said that he admired the sense of duty that they displayed in attacking a larger German force in defense of one B-24. I remember him saying that he was amazed at the way the P-51 pilot flew with his wing tip "almost touching the waist gun" of the wounded bomber as he escorted the B-24 to a safe landing. My Grandpa would end the story the same way every time. He'd tell how the Mustang flew so close that he could see the pilot's black face and that it was an African-American who saved him from being shot down that day!

In later years we learned that one of those brave fighter pilots was a "Tuskegee Airman"! If not for that individual American's character and determination to overcome prejudice, my Grandfather might not have survived the war.

After the War, both my grandfathers continued their service to their country. My Grandpa Frank became a New York City Fireman and Grandpa Mario became a New York City Motorcycle Policeman. Later Grandpa Mario became a School Board Member.

I have learned a lot of lessons from the stories my grandfathers have told me about WWII. I will never judge anyone by their color or religion. We are all Americans and we must all help to keep our country great. Another lesson is that it is important to take responsibility seriously. If somebody is depending on you, you have to do your best.

I think the biggest lesson I have learned, what can be called my Grandpas' legacy, is that as an American I have a duty to my country and my community and that when there are really big problems, doing that duty is more important than anything else.

My grandfathers emphasized the importance of setting goals. This past year, their example inspired me to dedicate myself to two major goals.

My first goal is to attend the United States Naval Academy and to play Football at Annapolis. The second goal is to become an officer with the United States Navy S.E.A.L.s.

Many people have said that I will never be able to achieve these goals but I am convinced that by following my grandfathers' example of perseverance, courage and responsibility I will be able to carry on their legacy of service to my country.

I am privileged to live in a country that was made great by the sacrifices of countless Americans who, like my grandfathers and that anonymous "Tuskegee Airman", chose to do their duty.

When I visited West Point two years ago I learned that the motto of the cadets is "Duty Honor, Country". That made me think of my grandpas and I felt proud!

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. NEWT GINGRICH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Chairman, I want to urge my colleagues to support the U.S. Army's School of the Americas located at Fort Benning, GA. For over 50 years the School of the Americas has been a powerful force for supporting and expanding democracy in Latin America. I believe that it is very useful for Latin American military officers to come to the United States to learn how to soldier in a democracy, to understand why America has been strong and free, and to study an experience which is totally different than the Latin American tradition of military dictatorship. Cuba, which does not participate in the School of the Americas, is the only remaining authoritarian or totalitarian regime in Latin America.

Since the U.S. military presence in Latin America has steadily been reduced during the

past several years, it is critical that we rely on exchange programs, such as the School of the Americas, to establish and maintain our military and civilian relationships as neighbors and friends with common interests. Like other exchange programs we have with Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union, the School of the Americas promotes American foreign policy and regional stability in Latin America. Moreover, the School of the Americas provides more Spanish language instruction in how to conduct counterdrug activities than any other institution available in Latin America.

Both foreign policy and military experts agree that the School of the Americas plays a crucial role in supporting U.S. interests in the region. As the former Commander in Chief of U.S. Southern Command, responsible for Latin America, and in his current role as Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Barry McCaffrey called the School of the Americas the "preeminent military educational institution" for promoting and protecting human rights and democratic governance as well as fighting the illegal drug trade. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikashvili calls the School of the Americas a critical asset in supporting democracy and combating narcotrafficking in Latin America.

I join the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the President's drug control advisor in supporting the School of the Americas.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. JIM KOLBE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 1997*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Fox amendment. In a misguided attempt to save the African elephant, the Fox amendment would cut funding for the Communal Areas Management Program for Indigenous Resources [CAMPFIRE]. Such a move would be disastrous.

I recently returned from a fact-finding mission to Zimbabwe, where myself and several of my colleagues witnessed the CAMPFIRE Program first hand. What we found was a program based on sound economic, scientific, and environmental principles. We found a program which works.

The CAMPFIRE Program uses free market principles to promote the conservation of Africa's valuable and irreplaceable natural resources. By providing economic incentives for the conservation of wildlife, CAMPFIRE has instilled a sense of national ownership over their natural resources into the people of Zimbabwe. Rather than viewing the African elephant as a menace, the people of Zimbabwe we now see the elephant as a natural treasure to be preserved. As a result, the