

SAVING CORPORAL RYAN:

LT CARR, PFC KANE, AND CPL RYAN



THE 717TH TANK BATTALION IN WWII

Erin Faith Allen

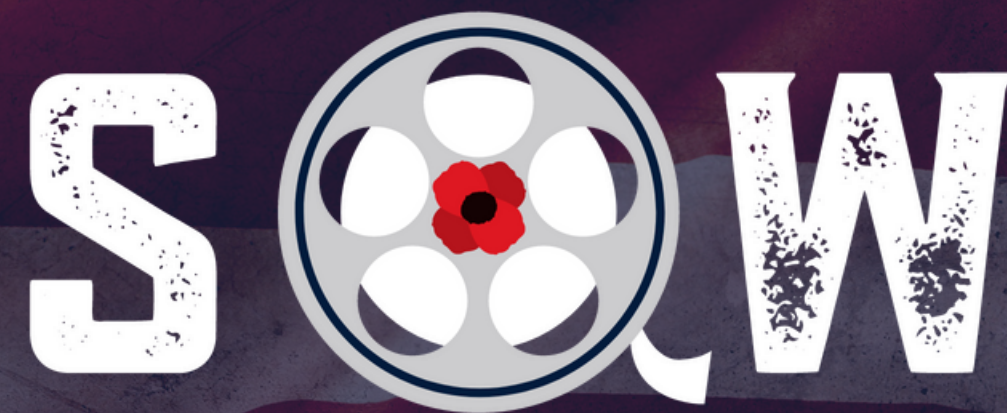


**PURPLE
HEARTS**

REUNITED



PATHFINDER
RESEARCH



STORIES OF WAR

the MISSION.



As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, PHR's mission is to return lost, stolen or misplaced military medals of valor to veterans or their families to honor their sacrifice to the nation.

about ERIN.

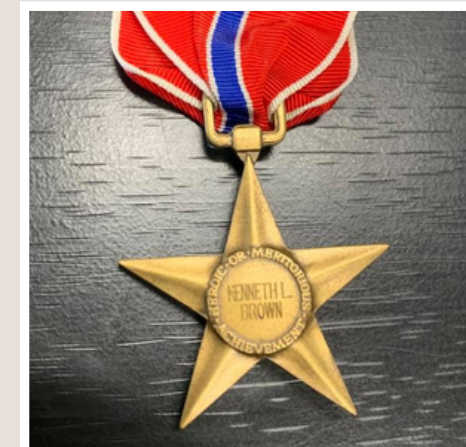


I am the proud daughter of a Vietnam veteran and granddaughter of two veterans of WWII, with multiple other ancestors having served during times of conflict.

I understand on a deeply personal level the profound hunger for information that exists in families who have been affected by war, the quest to find answers, and the inexplicable understanding that results from those answers.



*An artifact is not
just an artifact.*



A veteran's artifact is a doorway into a very human story of valor, sacrifice, and blood shed; and in most cases, a story lost to history. We don't just bring the artifact home - we bring our own meticulous research into the veteran's service, and we take pride in our dedication to educating our military families who are hungry for more information about their veteran's legacy of service to the nation.

When the item is returned, it resurrects memories, and provides the opportunity for closure and deep healing. Families often tell us it is like their veteran has walked through the door again.

the story **BEGINS** ...



with a phone call
from a man in
Minnesota who
found a Purple Heart
in an old tackle box.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER 1. NAME (Print) ORDER NUMBER
 N ~~258A~~ 295A Edward James Ryan 12105A
(First) (Middle) (Last)

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)
 Makinen St. Louis Minnesota
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS
 Makinen, Box 113, Minnesota
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If none insert word none)

4. TELEPHONE 5. AGE IN YEARS 6. PLACE OF BIRTH
 None 19 Ridgewood Addition
(Exchange) (Number) (Date of Birth) (Town or county)
 March 14, 1923 Virginia, Minnesota
(State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
 Mr. John L. Mattson, Makinen, Minnesota

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
 Mr. John L. Mattson, Makinen, Minnesota (Farm)

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
 Makinen, Minnesota
(Number and street or P.O. box) (Town) (County)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1
 (Revised 6-1-62)

(over)

016-21630-3

Edward J. Ryan
(Applicant's signature)

7/21, 1964

WW I (WW II) KOREA		ORIGINAL
1. NAME OF DECEASED - LAST - FIRST - MIDDLE (Print or Type) RYAN, Edward James		14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Town of Colvin Cemetery, Makinen, Minnesota
2. SERVICE NUMBER 37 567 093	3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER XC 3 922 301	IMPORTANT - Item 18 on reverse side must be completed. See attached instructions and complete and submit both copies.
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year) 16 June 43	5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year) Killed in service	15. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement at the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government.
6. STATE Minnesota	7. MEDALS PH	NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) John L. Mattson
8. GRADE OR RANK Cpl.	9. A BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION 717 Tank Bn. Co. C	RELATIONSHIP Father
10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, day, year) 14 March 23	11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) 27 March 1945	LOCOPARENTIS Route 1, Box 140 Makinen, Minnesota
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS (Christian) <input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID (Jewish) <input type="checkbox"/> NO EMBLEM	13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/> UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT MARBLE MARKER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FLAT GRANITE MARKER <input type="checkbox"/> FLAT BRONZE MARKER	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>John L. Mattson</i>
DO NOT WRITE HERE		DATE 6-11-62
FOR VERIFICATION JUL 5 1962	ORDERED JUL 27 1962	16. FREIGHT STATION Biwabik, Minnesota
B/L B-3118950	CONTRACTOR CONTRACTO GRANITE CO. MILFORD, N. H.	17. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER John L. Mattson
Cpl. Co C 717 Tank Bn. PH		ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State) Rte. #1, Box 140, Makinen, Minnesota
		I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY.
		SIGNATURE OF CONSIGNEE <i>John L. Mattson</i>

initial research ...

CPL Edward J Ryan was Killed in Action in Dinslaken, Germany when a shell hit his tank. He served with the 3rd Platoon, C Company, 717th Tank Battalion.

According to the unit history found online:

“The third platoon lost Corporal Edward J Ryan when an 88 shell hit the tank, and although LT Tom Carr and PFC William Kane went back to get him - and won the Silver Star for doing so - Ryan’s wound was a mortal one. PFC Kane’s gallant action also cost him his life – he died of wounds received three months later”.

March 25th, 1945.

It was their second day in combat.



CPL Edward J. RYAN

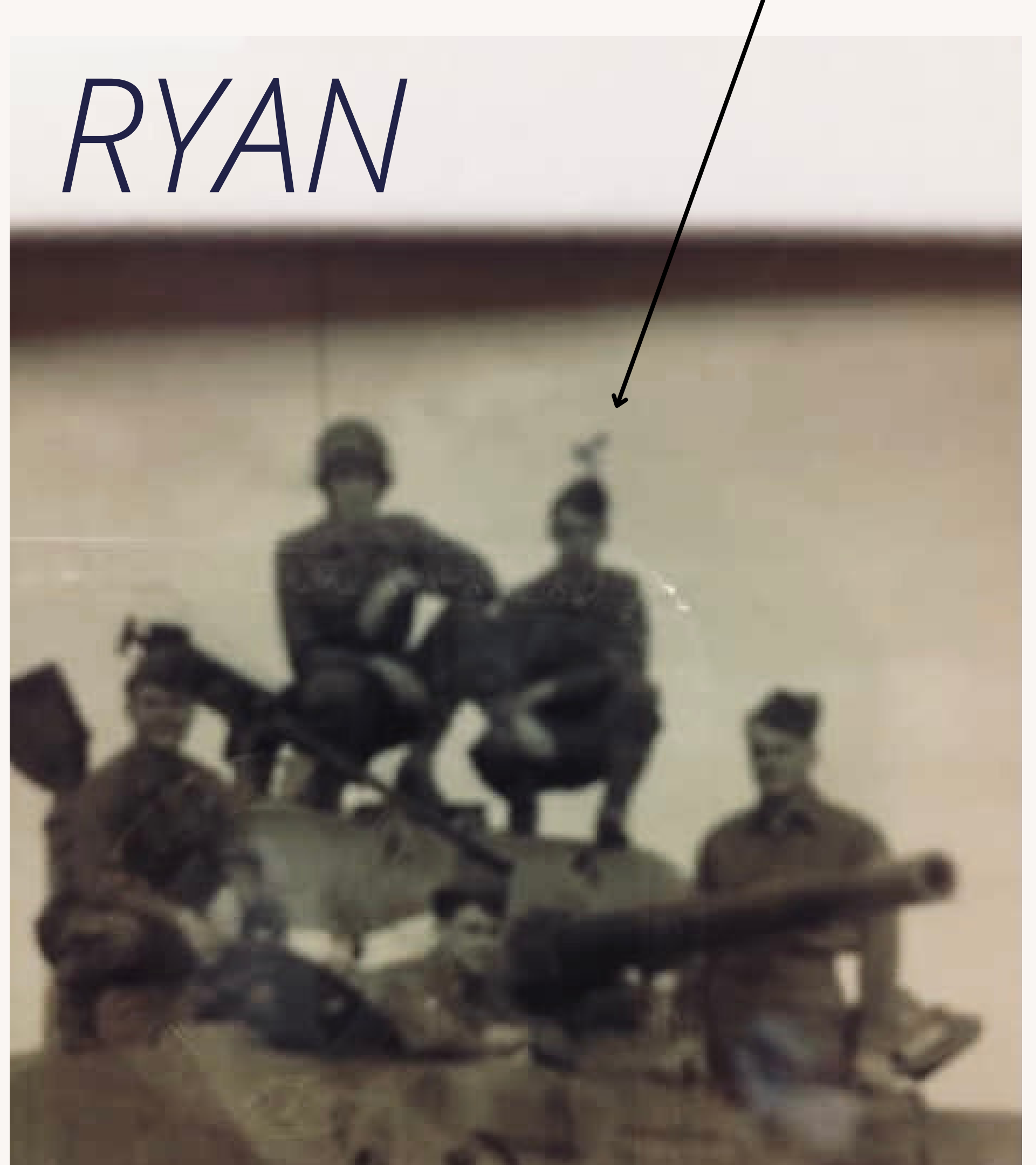
CPL Ryan's great-nephew Kirt shared:

CPL Ryan's mother died when he was 3. His father was arrested for grand larceny for selling a car that didn't belong to him in order to pay for her funeral.

Eventually, all of the Ryan children were taken away on an 'orphan train'.

CPL Ryan is the only one who remained in the state of Minnesota.

This was the only photo the family had.





Company C,
717th Tank Battalion



CPL Ryan's Heart returned ...






Family reunited with relative's Purple Heart



Share



Watch on  YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCP7BeSN30I>

Meanwhile back in Minnesota ...



a similar news story ran,
while a man named Bryce
was chopping carrots
for dinner ...











Ben (finder of the Heart), Erin, Renee from WDIO, and Kirt at CPL Ryan's grave.




THE ARMORED FORCE
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY

Fort Knox, Ky.
April 27, 44.

Dear Lady,

How are you honey. I don't feel
so good kinda in the dumps. I sure
wished I was home. I hope I see you
in a few months.

They called off our alert so I guess
we won't be going over for a while.
You know darling the next time
I come home we will get more time
together. Gee honey I miss you. Soon
as this is over I think I will ask you
to marry me that is if you don't
change your mind.

Well I am not on the Board
any more I am going to go to

the magic was undeniable

PFC William P. KANE



William P. Kane

HOME OF RECORD:

New York

AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION:

1 of 1

Silver Star

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING World War II

Service: Army

Battalion: 717th Tank Battalion

Division: 79th Infantry Division

GENERAL ORDERS:

Headquarters, 79th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 73 (May 10, 1945)

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Private First Class William P. Kane (ASN: 32978415), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with the 717th Tank Battalion, 79th Infantry Division, in action against the enemy on 25 March 1945, in Germany. While proceeding to its objective the lead tank, of which Private Kane was a crew member, was subjected to enemy fire and set ablaze. Private Kane and an officer re-entered the burning tank to help one of the crew members who was injured and unable to escape from the tank. Although wounded by another hit on the tank, Private Kane and the officer succeeded in helping the gunner to safety. The great courage and interest in the welfare of another soldier displayed by Private Kane reflect great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.



PFC William P. KANE



Conversation with his nephew
Danny: wounded in March, died in
July, in Pennsylvania after being
sent to a stateside hospital to
recover. His mother and sister
were rushing to his bedside in PA
from NYC, and didn't make it in
time. Both were haunted forever.

LT Thomas J. CARR



Thomas J. Carr

HOME OF RECORD:

Tennessee

AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION:

1 of 1

Silver Star

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS
DURING World War II

Service: Army

Battalion: 717th Tank Battalion

Division: 79th Infantry Division

GENERAL ORDERS:

Headquarters, 79th Infantry Division, General Orders No. 73 (May 10, 1945)

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Second Lieutenant Thomas J. Carr (ASN: 0-1018842), United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving in the 717th Tank Battalion, in action against the enemy on 25 March 1945 in Germany. While proceeding to its objective the lead tank commanded by Lieutenant Carr, was subjected to enemy fire and set ablaze. Although wounded about the face, Lieutenant Carr and another man reentered the burning tank to help one of the crew members who was injured and unable to escape from the tank. Despite another hit on the tank Lieutenant Carr and the other man succeeded in helping the gunner to safety. The great courage and interest in the welfare of another soldier displayed by Lieutenant Carr reflect high credit on himself and the armed forces of the United States.



LT Thomas J. CARR



Conversation with his daughter Barbara: he put his head out of the tank, got shot in the mouth, shot through side of his cheek, up through roof and out the other side.

He had 13 operations in 3 years and had a metal plate in the roof of his mouth.

Because of the research

and connections being made



Dorothy Bell



Margaret Kane



Dorothy Bell

CPL Ryan's girlfriend

Dorothy eventually moved to California, put herself through Berkeley, worked in advertising and became a social worker.

She remarried, but her husband passed very young. They had one daughter, Maria. Dorothy passed when Maria was 16.

PFC Kane's wife

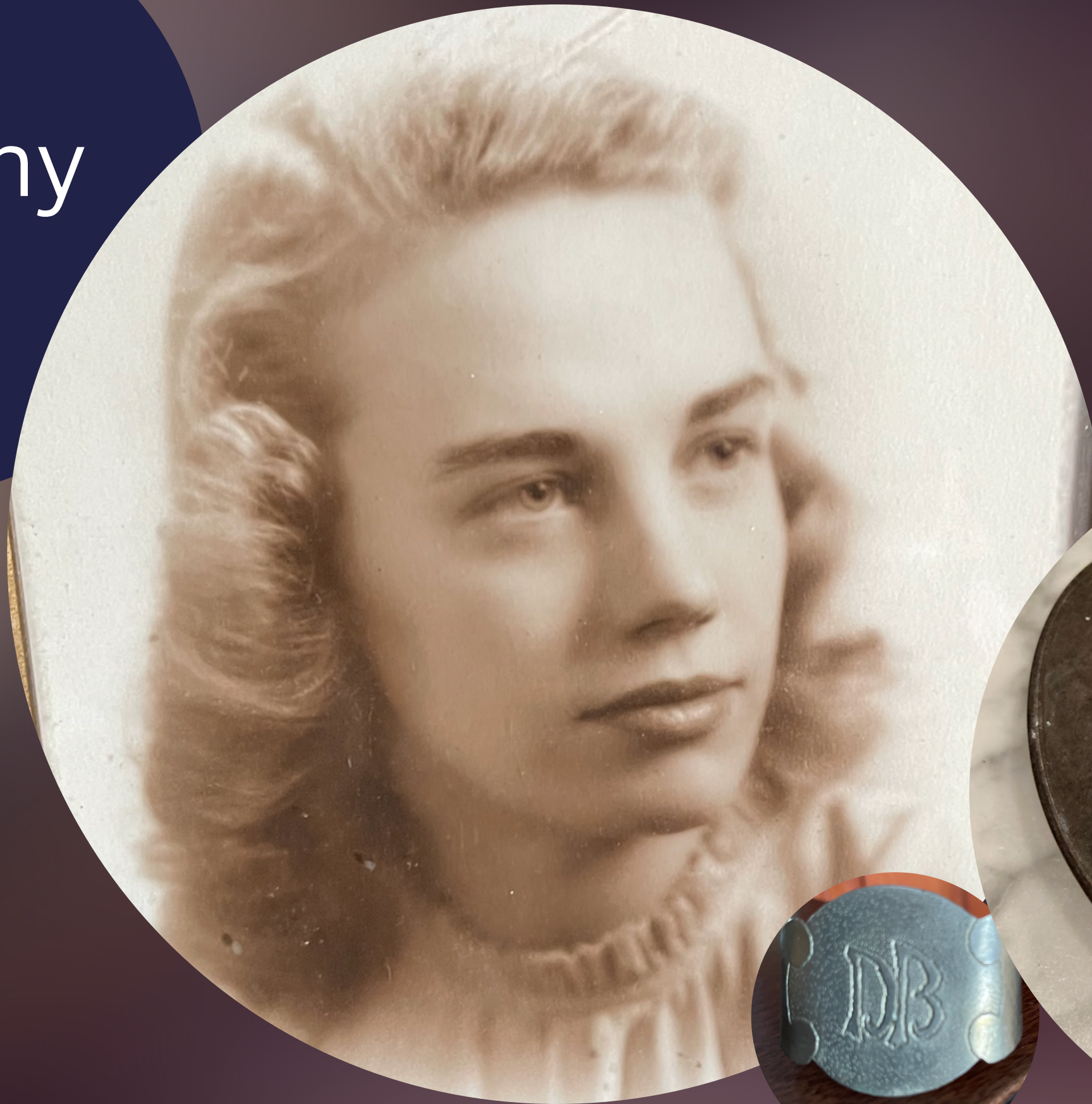
After his death Margaret remarried, became a police officer and detective, and rose to the rank of SGT.

She had one son, Terrence.



Margaret Kane

Dorothy



Margaret













Silver Star Returned 76 Years Later To Family Of Fallen Soldier From New York Who Tried To Save Othe



Share



STOCKS

Watch on YouTube

57° 5:35 PM

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHA_o6SS_YM&t=3s



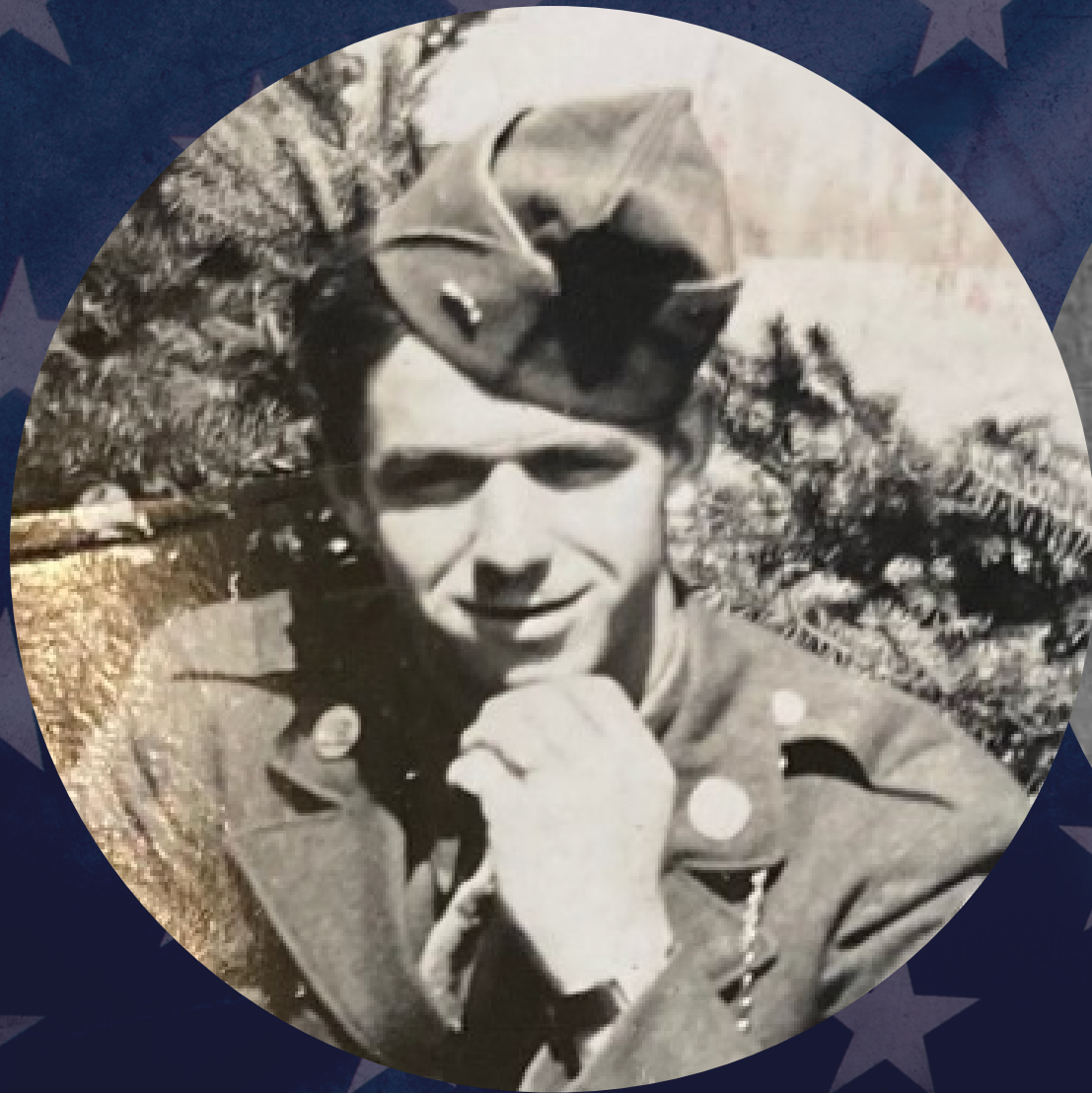
KANE

MY DEAREST HUSBAND
WILLIAM PATRICK
JULY 8, 1945

THY WILL BE DONE

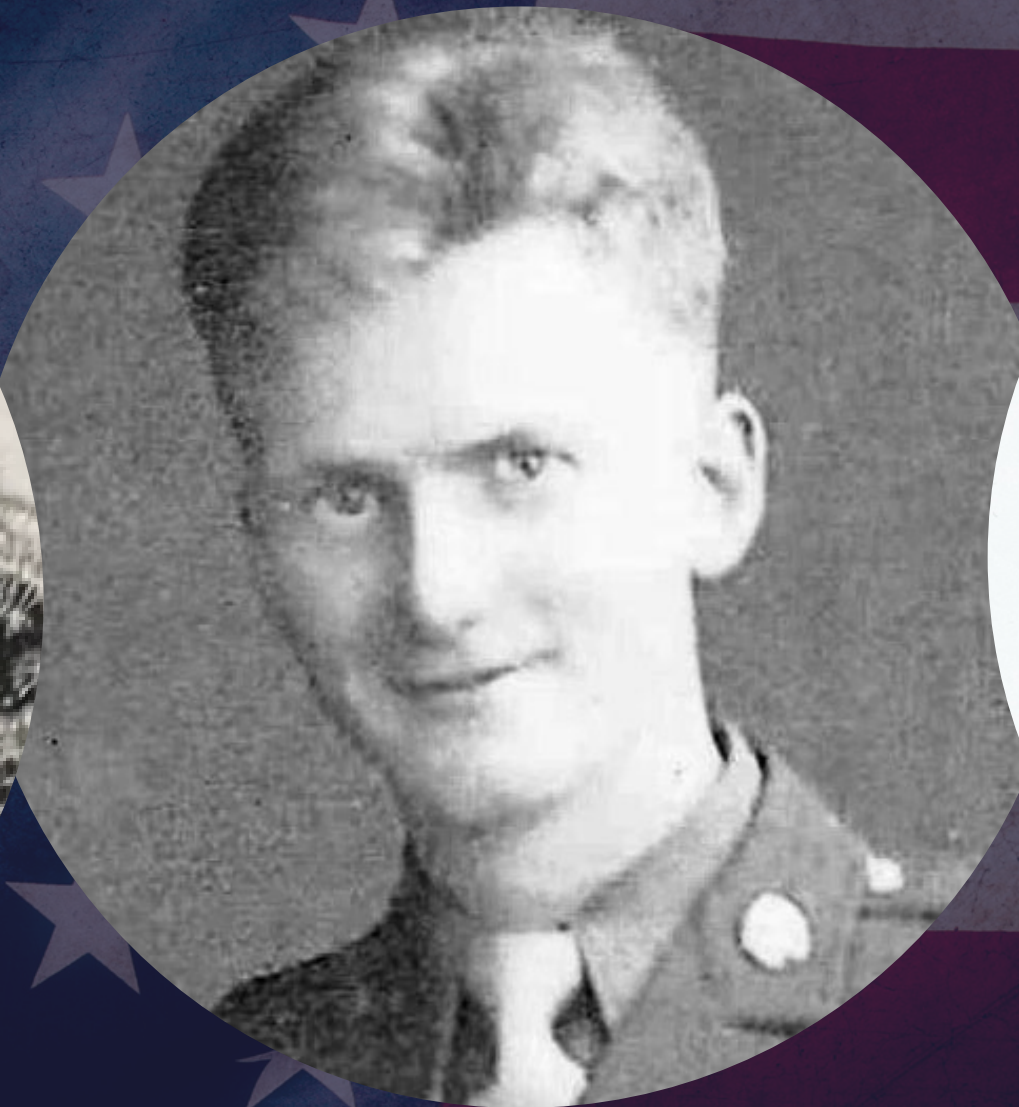
LAUKANT

1874 MARY 1945
1873 FRED 1958



CPL Edward
James Ryan

3/14/23-3/27/45



PFC William
Patrick Kane

3/21/24-7/8/45



LT Thomas
Jefferson Carr

8/8/14-1/2/98






A soldier's Purple Heart opens up amazing connections



Share



Watch on  YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EDxS-GARA0>

THANK
YOU!

CONTACT:

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