

1LT Ray Klinkenborg

1917 – 2014

EARLY LIFE



Ray was known as an “Iowa boy” having been born near George, Iowa, to parents Enno and Grace (Kruse) Klinkenborg. After completing his public-school education, including graduating from George High School in 1935, Ray attended Iowa Teachers College in Cedar Falls, Iowa, until he joined the Army in 1940, enlisting on October 16, 1940.

MILITARY SERVICE

Marching in the footsteps of thousands before and after him, LT Klinkenborg proceeded through the channels of military deportation the East Coast of the United States and boarded a troop ship on September 2, 1943; its destination: across the Atlantic Ocean to Italy where he participated in the Italian Campaign.

The following official document recounts LT Klinkenborg’s heroic actions while in country.

Ray J. Klinkenborg

AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION:

Silver Star

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING World War II

Service: Army

Battalion: 2d Battalion

Division: 3d Infantry Division

GENERAL ORDERS:

Headquarters, 3d Infantry Division, General Orders No. 175 (1944)

CITATION:

SYNOPSIS: The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Ray J. Klinkenborg, United States Army, for gallantry in action while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, in action against the enemy in Italy, on 29 February 1944. His gallant actions and dedicated devotion to duty, without regard for his own life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

Source: <http://valor.militarytimes.com>

FURTHER MILITARY ACTION

LT. Klinkenborg's next engagement with the enemy occurred in France where he was captured on 5 September 1944 by the Germans with arrival at Oflag 64 in Poland on 29 September 1944.

Forced to evacuate the camp with other Americans on January 21, 1945, Ray had survived many months of hardships before departing from Odessa, arriving at the U.S. on 9 April 1945.

LIFE AFTER THE ARMY

Ray Klinkenborg and Eleanor Jammer were married on 6 December 1946, a marriage which lasted until her death in 1975. His professional life was spent working as the Lyon County Veterans Affairs Officer and then in the ACS office where he worked as director until he retired in 1979.

In 1981, he married Nancy Broesder, sharing their lives with an extended family. After enjoying his retirement years of fishing, golfing, travel and gardening, Ray died on 17 August 2014.

TAPS

Ray John Klinkenborg was buried with military honors at Riverview Cemetery in Rock Rapids, Iowa.



MEMORIAL COMMENTS

Joel and Mary Klinkenborg of Hartley Delaware
August 17, 2014

Uncle Ray has touched so many lives; he will be missed by many. He gave a lot for this country. Our prayers are with all the family and his friends who will miss him each day that he is gone. We know that he will be watching over each and every person who he ever met.

Bob and Judy Locker of Bozeman Montana
August 18, 2014

Nancy and family. Ray was a special part of our Klinkenborg relatives and we are in awe of his courage through all the adversities during the war. We were very proud of him. We remember the close relationship he had with Everon...helped him make his days enjoyable and worthwhile. We will also remember the wonderful friendship he had with my late Mom and Dad, Rich and Evelyn Swalve. We will be thinking of you and wishing you comfort and peace. Ray was a special, wonderful man and will be greatly missed.

The Oflag 64 Family
August 21, 2014

Dear Nancy and family. We were saddened to hear of the passing of your dear Ray. He was loved by the Oflag 64 family and we will miss him greatly. He was such a kind man and had a wonderful smile. He was a true patriot and hero. Our thoughts, prayers, and sincere sympathies go to you. May wonderful memories sustain and strengthen you as time goes by. With love, the Oflag 64 Family

Judy Knight of Naperville, Illinois
August 22, 2014

Nancy and family. We were sorry to hear of the loss of Ray but know that he had a tremendous wonderful life! He was always fun to be around at the Oflag 64 meetings. He will be missed but appreciated for who he was and what he has done! Prayers to all who loved and cared for Ray.

Lynn and Jimmie Kanaya of Gig Harbor Washington
August 22, 2014

Jimmie and I are so sad to hear of Ray's passing. We shared reunions of Oflag 64 and shared much good times and friendship. Be strong Nancy. Ray would want you to be! We love you and wish you solace in the remembrance of all the good times. L&J Kanaya

SOURCES

<https://www.jurrenfuneralhome.com/obituary>
<http://findagrave.com/memorial/134531062/ray-john-kinkenborg>

Biography written by Kriegy Research Group writer Ann C. Rogers