





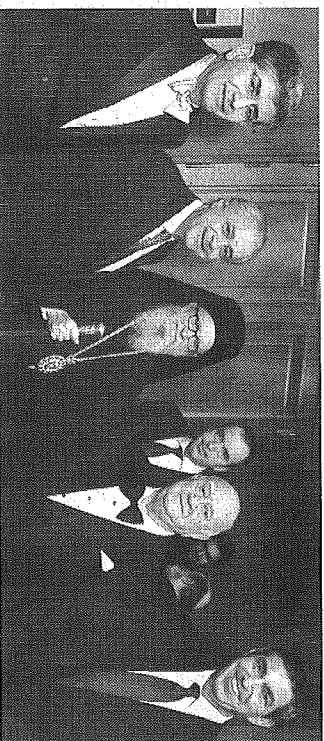
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# OXI DAY

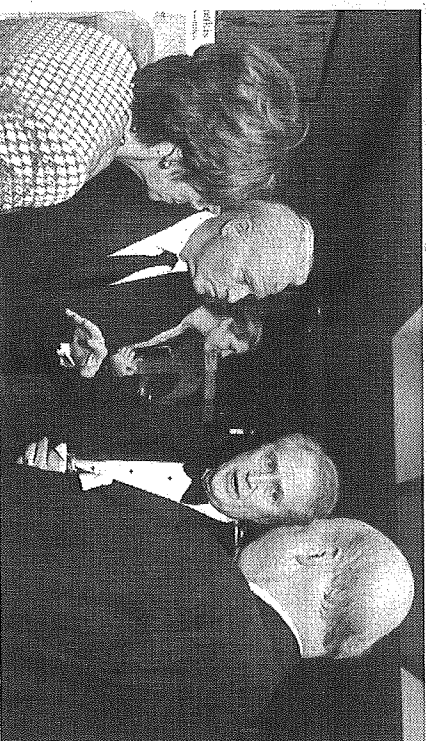
Suu Kyi of Burma, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Bob Dole, Former US Senate Majority Leader and Republican Presidential nominee; Carl Gershman, President, National Endowment for Democracy.

Dozens of Washington policy makers and opinion leaders participated in Foundation events including a National WWII Memorial ceremony, Four Seasons Hotel black tie dinner, American University lecture and Tomb of the Unknowns wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery. They included: Members of Congress and senior Congressional foreign policy staff; Numerous former US Ambassadors to Greece, the Deputy Chiefs of Mission at the US Embassies in Greece and Cyprus and other senior State Department and White House officials; Heads of several of America's top think tanks and human rights organizations; Ambassadors, Military Attaches and other senior representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Montenegro, Spain, South Africa, Thailand, and the United Kingdom, among others; Senior executives and reporters from CNN, Fox, MSNBC, NBC, Voice of America Asia and other media outlets.

Hundreds more opinion leaders learned the Oxi Day story as they nominated people for the cash prizes that accompanied the Foundation's Awards. Jewish



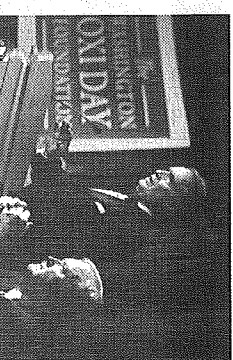
Cyprus Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades, Greek Ambassador Vassilis Alexandris, Archbishop Demetrios, Andrew A. Athens, Greek Foreign Minister Stavros Lambrinidis



House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Sponsor Dennis Mehiel, Founder Andrew Manatos and John Negroponte

community leaders learned of the unique courage of Greek Orthodox hierarchs during the Holocaust through their nominations for the Metropolitan Chrysostomos Award.

Foundation efforts featured Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Foreign Minister of Greece Stavros Lambrinidis as well as Greek Ambassador Vassilis Kaskarelis and Cyprus Ambassador Pavlos Anastasiades. History's highest ranking Greek-American officials also participated in these events, including: the first US Director of National Intelligence and former Deputy Secretary of State,



Andy Manatos and Chris Matthews

Leadership 100, AHEPA, AHI, SAE, the Pancretan, Pan-Macedonian, Pancypritan, Cyprus, Pan-Epirotic and Pan-Icarian Associations and Federations of America, PSEKA, American Hellenic Council of California, National Hellenic Society, Next Generation Initiative, Hellenic-American National Council, and Hellenic American Women's Council, among others.

### ABOUT OXI DAY

Oxi Day on October 28 commemorates the anniversary when former military general and Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas said, "No" to an ultimatum made by Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini to allow Italian forces to occupy strategic locations in Greece or otherwise face war back in 1940.

The motivation behind Mussolini's ultimatum was an attempt to impress his ally Adolf Hitler, by securing what was thought would be an easy victory and expanding his fascist regime. But when Italian Ambassador Emanuele Grazzi presented the demands at dawn after a party at the German embassy, it was clear that Greece was destined to enter WWII with Metaxas' unwavering refusal.

Though there is no documented proof that Metaxas responded with a simple "NO" or "OXI," the



Archbishop Demetrios with Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas & Congressman John Sarbanes

word perfectly encapsulates the longer reply said to be either "You shall not pass" or the French phrase "Alors, c'est la guerre" ("Then it is war"). Residents were reportedly shouting "oxi" as they ran through the streets to arm themselves and prepare for war. Less than 2 hours later, Italian troops stationed in Albania attacked the border.

Initial success by Italians was fiercely countered by Greeks, causing Mussolini to embarrass himself and call Hitler for help. Greek and British forces continued to fight and decimate German troops, which was considered to be the most powerful army in Europe, until Greece surrendered in Epirus to conclude the Greco-Italian War lasting six months. The extent of casualties caused Hitler to delay an attack on Russia, thus subjecting his troops to harsh winter conditions and contributing to the defeat of Germany.

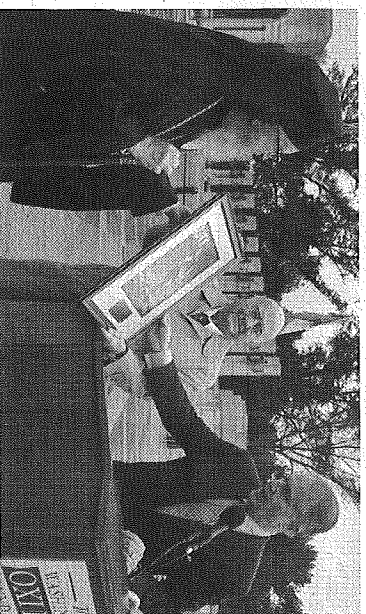
For many, Oxi Day is more than an anniversary commemorated with parades of schoolchildren, military grandstanding and flag waving. It is a day to remember Hellenic values, passion and 'flotimo,' and the courageous words and deeds of ancestors who fought for this land with flesh and blood.

# OXI Day Freedom And Democracy Honors Defenders Of

Washington, DC: On Veteran's Day, the Washington Oxi Day Foundation spread the word about the incredible sacrifices and brave actions of countless Greek and Greek-American soldiers who fought in WWII and sometimes died defending their countries, the freedom of their fellow citizens and democracy for the world.

These brave WWII veterans were honored throughout the First Annual Washington Oxi Day Celebration.

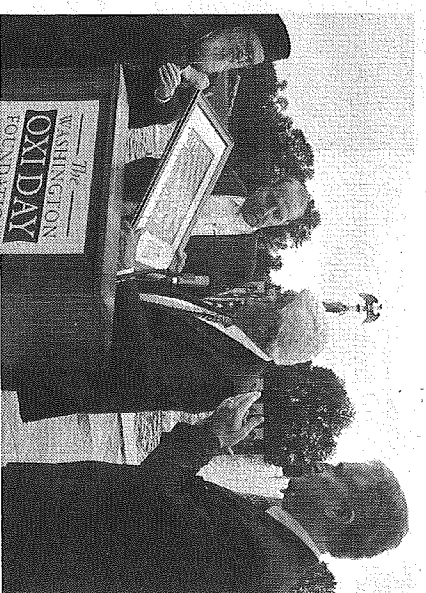
At a ceremony at the National World War II Memorial, the Foundation presented the first annual Greatest Generation Awards to former Senate Majority Leader and nominee for President of the United States, Bob Dole (on behalf of American WWII veterans), Panagiotis Sakellaris (on behalf of Greek WWII veterans), and Andrew A. Athens, (on behalf of Greek-American WWII veterans). Their courage and stalwart defense of freedom and democracy is a testament to their strength of character and is instructive to all free peoples. Those in attendance included: Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios; former Assistant Secretary of the Navy and Mistress of Ceremonies, Barbara Spyridon Pope; former US Ambassador to Belgium Tom Korologos, who introduced Senator Dole; Vice-Chairman of



Andrew A. Athens receiving his Oxi Day Greatest Generation Award from Archbishop Demetrios and Andy Manatos.

the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Congressman Gus Bilirakis; Greek Defense and Military Attaché Colonel Taxiarchis Sardellis, who introduced Panagiotis Sakellaris; defense attaches representing the countries of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Spain, among others; other Greek-American World War II veterans including Jimmy Moshovitis, Steve Yeonas, John Halachis and Dimitri Staikos; former Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman John Sarbanes, among others.

As part of these festivities, the Foundation created a Hall of Heroes - period portraits of veterans who bravely defended democracy during its



Senator Dole receiving the Oxi Day Greatest Generation Award from Archbishop Demetrios, Tom Korologos and Andy Manatos

darkest hour - exhibited during the Foundation's Black Tie Dinner. A virtual version of this gallery is now online and available for viewing on the foundation's website and on Facebook.

If you or someone you know stood up to fight for freedom and democracy during World War II, send a period photo and a brief description of their service to [marissas@oxidayfoundation.org](mailto:marissas@oxidayfoundation.org). These photos and descriptions will then be showcased alongside the pictures of those veterans honored during the Foundation's Oxi Day ceremonies last month.

The Annual Washington Celebration also



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included a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery to remember those who lost their lives in World War II. The delegation was led by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the Ambassador of Greece to the US, Vassilis Kaskarelis, the Ambassador of Cyprus to the US Pavlos Anastasiades, Washington Oxi Day Foundation President and Founder, Andy Manatos; former Senator Paul Sarbanes; and the heads of many of the top national Greek-American organizations including: the Order of St. Andrew, Leadership 100, AHEPA, AHI, SAE, the Pancretan, Pan-Macedonian, Pan-Cyprian, Cyprus, Pan-Epirotic and Pan-Icarian Associations and Federations of America, PSEKA, American Hellenic Council of California, National Hellenic Society, Next Generation Initiative, Hellenic-American National Council, and Hellenic American Women's Council.

The Washington Oxi Day Foundation also contributed a portion of the proceeds from its First Annual Washington Oxi Day Celebration to two of America's top veterans organizations. They are: TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program), "a tragedy assistance resource for anyone who has suffered the loss of a military loved one, regardless of the relationship to the deceased or the circumstance of the death;" (for more information, visit: <http://www.taps.org/>); Honor Flight Network, "a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. We transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans - World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill." (for more information, visit: <http://www.honorflight.org/>)

## HALL OF HEROES

### ANDREW A. ATHENS



Following the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor, 20 year-old Andrew A. Athens immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army in January of 1942. Just 42 days after his enlist-



(R-L) Sponsors George & Cathy Sakellaris, Sponsors Jimmy & Zoe Moshovitis, Sponsors John & Dathel Georges

ment, he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Rising to the rank of Captain, he fought with Allied Forces in Europe and at the famous Battle of El-Alamein in Egypt with the British Eighth Army. In 1945, he was honored with the Bronze Star and the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for his outstanding military service. He received the highest awards from the countries of Belgium, Hungary and Greece for his leadership in the reconstruction of war torn cities, including the rebuilding of the transportation system in Hungary. Mr. Athens met his wife Louise DeCoster, while stationed in Belgium. They were married November 12, 1945. 66 years ago, at the only Greek Orthodox Church in Brussels at that time.

### NICHOLAS J. BOURAS

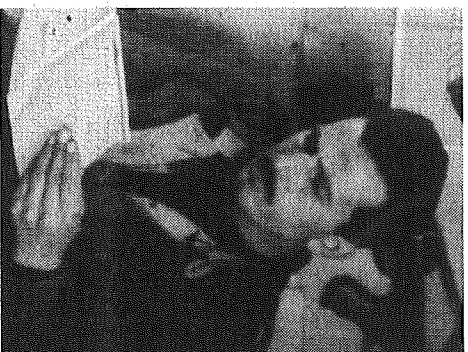


Nicholas J. Bouras enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. By the end of 1945, he had attained the rank of Major, had flown forty-four combat missions in the European theater as the lead bombardier/navigator in B-26 and A-26 bombers, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, eight Air Medals and five Battle Stars. After his discharge from the service, he returned to his work in the steel industry. He has received numerous awards for his philanthropic and humanitarian work.



4th Division. He is the father of Nick Chimides.

### DENNIS GEORGES



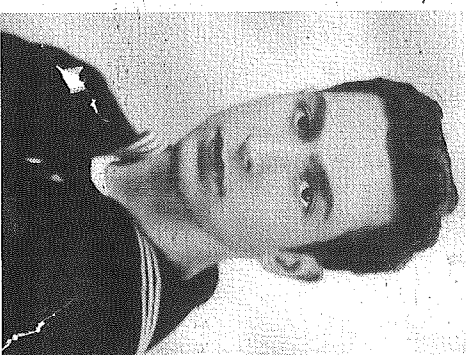
Dennis Georges, a member of the Greek Resistance Army, was chosen at the age of 19 to lead a guerilla movement against the Germans and Italians during WWII in the Kalamata and southern Peloponnese areas of Greece. Dennis ran his guerrilla bands with a cool dexterity and continued to "abuse" the Italians and Germans with many close calls, all the while hiding out in the ruins of a ghost village located in the mountains above the village of Arfara. He eventually joined the Royal Greek Air Force and served after the war, eventually fighting in Korea. He is the father of John D. Georges.

### LT. COL. JOHN HALACHIS

John Halachis retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel where his career was divided between flying as a weapons officer/navigator in F4s and in the field of human intelligence gathering assignments. In the span of his career, he was assigned to Germany, Vietnam and Greece on three occasions, mostly in the capacity of Air Attache. But before all this began, he had a



Panagiotis Sakellaris receiving the Oxi Day Greatest Generation Award from (L-R), His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Greek Embassy Defense Attache Colonel Taxiarchis Sardellis, Andy Manatos



four-year tour in the U.S. Navy where he was assigned to the Joint Military Advisory Group in Greece at the outset of the Marshall Plan.

### JOHN KAISAROS

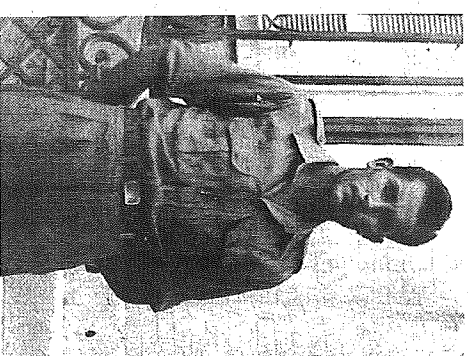


John Kaisaros was a U.S. Army Air Force Sergeant and served as an aerial engineer, gunner and photographer on B-17 bombers in the 8th Air Force. In March 1944, Kaisaros' plane was shot down over Frankfurt, Germany. He suffered severe wounds and was pursued and captured by the Gestapo. He later escaped with the assistance of the French Resistance. Kaisaros chronicled his exploits in a book, Code Burgundy-The Long Escape.

### ANTONIOS M. KOUNALAKIS



Antonios Markos Kounalakis,



During the war, Dimitrios Kouvaris volunteered in the Greek Army despite being an American citizen. From August 1942 to 1944, he fought many battles against the Axis forces. He survived a German firing squad when a bullet hit him in the shoulder and he was left for dead. An excellent swimmer, Kouvaris led British commandos in the operation that was depicted in the movie The Guns of Navarone. A generous man, he donated his official compensation from the Greek government, keeping only his certificate of service for his contribution to the liberation of Europe. He is the father-in-law of Philip Christopher.

### PETER N. KYROS

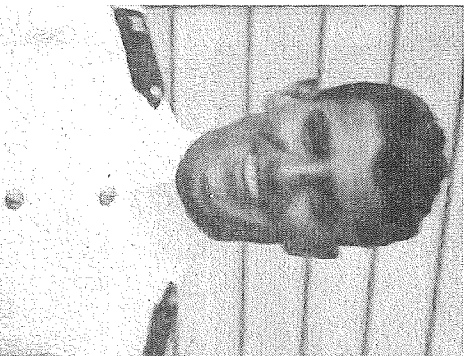
Peter N. Kyros served in the U.S. Navy from December 1943 to June 1954. He was

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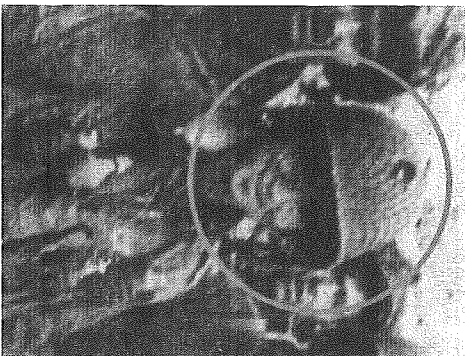
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# Hall of Heroes



discharged with the rank of lieutenant. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. During his service, he was stationed on a destroyer in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. He later served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the 1st Congressional District of Maine.

**EDDIE LAMBROS**



Eddie Lambros was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. He participated in the invasion of Normandy. The picture he appears in was taken on June 8, 1944 and was published in the New York Times. Lambros was killed in battle the day after the photo was taken. He received two Purple Hearts and the Medal of Valor for his service. Lambros was the uncle of Maria Allwin.

**GEORGIOS P. LOGOTHEITIS**



Georgios P. Logothetis served in the Greek Army as an artillery man between 1938 and 1940, and he was called to serve upon the general mobilization in October 1940. His artillery unit backed the Greek fighters in

the mountains of Pindos, driving back the Italian Army into the Albanian countryside. He lost his hearing in one ear when a bomb exploded next to him. He was buried until his Greek soldier friends were able to remove the ground and free him. Logothetis immigrated to the United States in 1966 with his family and became a proud American citizen in 1975. He is the father of Jim Logothetis.

**CHRISTOPHER MEHIEL**



Christopher Mehiel, at the age of 19, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force prior to the entry into WWII and was trained as a pilot. When the U.S. entered the war, he transferred to the Army Air Corps and was deployed to the Far East where he flew C-47 aircraft over "The Hump" between China and Burma. Discharged after the war, he rejoined the Army and had a long career in military intelligence, serving in posts all over the world. He retired in 1972 as a Colonel. He is the father of Dennis Mehiel.

**JAMES H. MOSHOVITIS**



James H. Moshovitis was born and raised in Washington, DC. He served in the U.S. Navy as a radioman from 1943 to 1946. He was involved in action at Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima, Saipan, Okinawa, Guam, Tulagi and Manila Bay. Moshovitis was also on the first ship that arrived in Tokyo Bay on V-J Day. Today he is involved in the restaurant and real estate business in Washington, DC. He supports many philanthropic causes for the Greek Orthodox Church, and is the only member of FAITH in the Metropolitan Washington area.

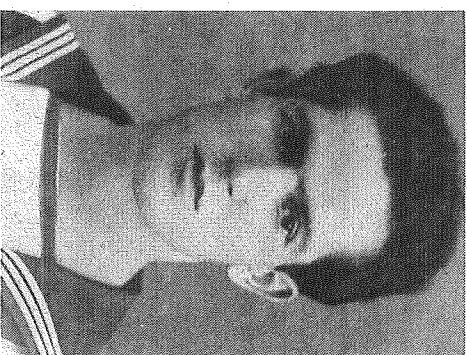
**JOHN P. NIONAKIS**

John P. Nionakis joined the



U.S. Army in 1943 and served in the 75th Infantry Division. His tour of duty included the Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe, and he fought in the Battle of the Bulge. In 1946, he was honorably discharged with the rank of corporal. He is the father of Dimitri Nionakis.

**GEORGE DIMITRIOS ORFANOUDIS**



In 1942 at the age of 16, George Dimitrios Orfanoudis secretly left his family and hometown of Flatista in Chios, Greece to fight for his country. George and a few of his friends took a small boat across the four-mile distance to Turkey, and eventually ended up in Egypt which was then part of the British-controlled Middle East. There, George joined the Hellenic Royal Navy which had been placed under the Royal Government in Exile. George served on a destroyer in the Hellenic Royal Navy for the duration of World War II on convoy escort missions throughout the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. He achieved the rank of chief petty officer. Following the war, George completed 15 years of service in the Greek Merchant Marine.

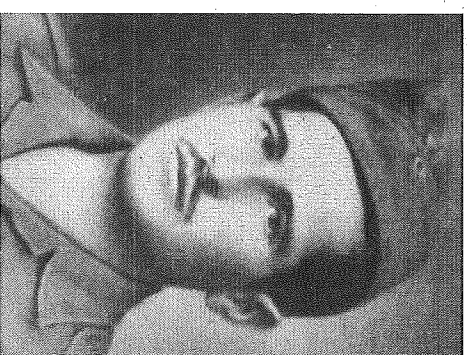
**GEORGE T. PANICHAS**



A decorated U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War

II, George T. Panichas served as a tail gunner in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II, completing 50 missions over enemy occupied Europe. He received the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, three Battle Stars for service in the European theatre, the Presidential Unit Citation with oak leaf cluster, and a personal citation from the commanding general of the 15th Air Force. In 2000, Panichas received the 'Special Diploma', awarded by the French government to soldiers of the Allied Forces for their contribution in the fight to liberate France in World War II. In October 2008, the State of Rhode Island dedicated the Veterans Memorial Cemetery administration building in his honor. Panichas was the first Greek-American elected to state office in Rhode Island.

**PANAGIOTIS M. SAKELLARIS**



Panagiotis M. Sakellaris joined the Greek military at the age of 21. Following the Axis invasion of Greece in 1940, Sakellaris was called to active duty and deployed to the Albanian front, where he played a key role in the successful counter offensive against the invading forces. During the war, Sakellaris, nicknamed "The Last Horseman," served as a highly trained forward observer on horseback. His assignment was to conduct reconnaissance in advance of troop movements to be sure that the rest of the troops could move forward in safety. In this role, he was in constant danger of being discovered by Axis troops and his small reconnaissance group was often left largely defenseless. He is the father of George Sakellaris.

**DIMITRI N. STAIKOS**



Dimitri N. Staikos was a student in the Chemistry Department at the University of Athens when he was called to serve his country. After a short training, he was sent to a hospital to work in its laboratory. Following the German invasion, he continued his work at the hospital as a civilian until the Germans took over the facility and dismissed him and the other staff members. After receiving his diploma, he joined the Greek Navy as a Warrant Officer and researcher.

**LOUIS C. STAMATAKOS**



Louis C. Stamatakos was a Staff Sergeant in the 8th Air Force 94th Bomb group during WWII. He served as a tail gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. On February 28, 1945, he saved the lives of the entire crew (10 men) of his B-17 bomber in a mission flown over Germany. He received multiple awards and citations for his service including the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Silver Star for gallantry in action and the Presidential Citation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. Mr. Stamatakos passed away on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

**STEPHEN G. YEONAS, SR.**



Stephen G. Yeonas, Sr. served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946. His service started at the age of 18 when he entered as a Private, a Radar Specialist in an anti-aircraft unit, serving in the Philippines, New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands. He was discharged at age 21 as a Sergeant.

The  
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