

## Honoring our World War II Veterans

December 7, 1941- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor and the United States is drawn into war. December 7, 2014, Doylestown's Albert R. Atkinson, Jr., American Legion Post 210 honors its veterans, members of the "Greatest Generation" on the 73<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the start of what was to become World War II.

Post Commander Jack Strollo narrated a slide presentation depicting events that began with Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, followed by the Phillipines, Midway, Guam and other Pacific Islands. As part of the presentation, Commander Strollo played President Roosevelt's radio broadcast to the American people announcing the "dastardly" attack and announced that the United States would prevail. A chart showed the size of the United States military at the beginning of the war and the escalation of the size of our military at the conclusion of the war.

An exhibit of military memorabilia from the era was displayed by Legion member Bill Luckenbill who came to the observance dressed in World War II Army uniform.

At the conclusion of the presentation by Commander Strollo, a Certificate of Appreciation was given to each WWII attendee, thanking them for their service. Each veteran was given an opportunity to tell of their wartime experience. [http://www.theintell.com/news/local/video-local-wwii-veterans-reflect-on-pearl-harbor/html\\_c7818668-e0ec-5585-89a7-2d1ff400b5d2.html](http://www.theintell.com/news/local/video-local-wwii-veterans-reflect-on-pearl-harbor/html_c7818668-e0ec-5585-89a7-2d1ff400b5d2.html)

Most veterans who returned home from the war were not greeted with celebratory parades. Those who returned knew that they had done what was expected of them. This past September, 160 World War II and some Korea veterans received the recognition they had not received previously. They were participants in Honor Flight; a convoy of six buses from Bucks County to Washington, DC to visit Arlington National Cemetery, various Memorials and culminating with a visit to the World War II Memorial where they were greeted by reenactors. Each Veteran was accompanied by a "Guardian." When they returned to PARX Casino, they were "Welcomed Home" by Honor Guards from the various Veteran organizations, active military personnel, high school bands and members of the community.

Post 210 member Jerry Fox invited the veterans to become a participant in Honor Flight 2015 which will occur in the Fall. This Honor Flight, as was the September one, is being coordinated by Bucks County Recorder of Deeds, Joe Szafran and his staff, I concert with Honor Flight Philadelphia and PARX Casino. Four (4) Post 210 members served as "Guardians" on the September Honor Flight.