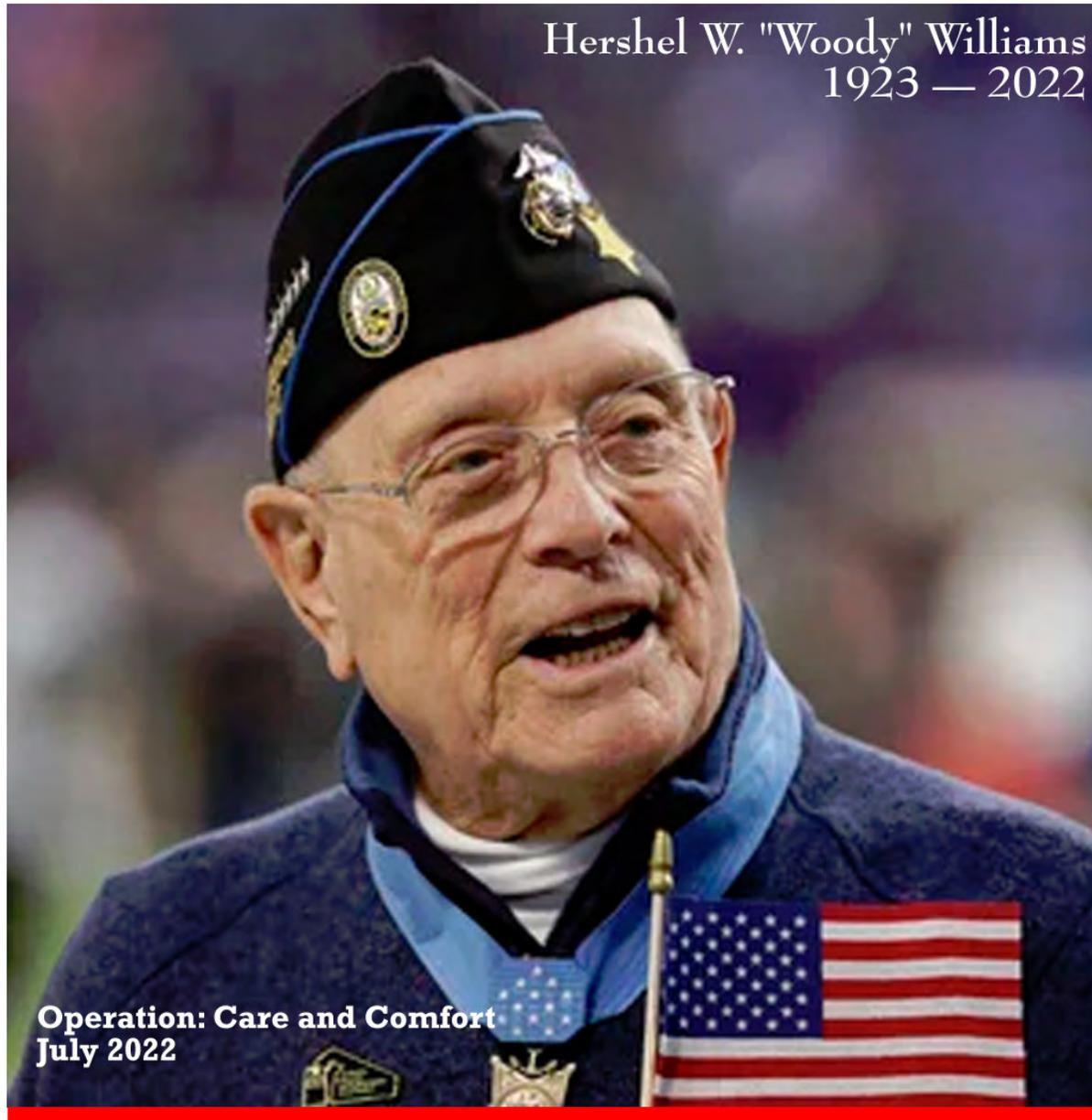


Hershel W. "Woody" Williams
1923 — 2022



**Operation: Care and Comfort
July 2022**

A Note From Operation: Care and Comfort

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Happy Independence Day! The year is half over and we at OCC continue all three of our support programs tirelessly, as always. Our all-volunteer organization is in its 19th year, and our support only grows!

We are dedicating this newsletter to a true American Hero, WWII Congressional Medal Honoree **Hershel Woody Williams**. RIP, sir.

Have a safe and sane July 4th. See you in August!

Julie DeMaria
President
Operation: Care and Comfort



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Last remaining WWII Medal of Honor recipient dies

June 29, 2022

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP - John Raby) — Hershel W. "Woody" Williams, the last remaining Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, died Wednesday. He was 98.

Williams' foundation announced on Twitter and Facebook that he died at the Veterans Affairs medical center bearing his name in Huntington.

As a young Marine corporal, Williams went ahead of his unit during the Battle of Iwo Jima in the Pacific Ocean in February 1945 and eliminated a series of Japanese machine gun positions.

Later that year, at age 22, Williams received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for military valor, from President Harry Truman at the White House.

"For me, receiving the Medal of Honor was actually the lifesaver because it forced me to talk about the experiences that I had, which was a therapy that I didn't even know I was doing," Williams said during a 2018 Boy Scouts recognition ceremony in Fairmont, according to the Times West Virginian.

Iwo Jima was where Marines planted the American flag on Mount Suribachi, a moment captured in one of the most iconic war photographs in history. Williams said he saw the flag from a distance after it went up as troops around him celebrated. Williams' actions in battle to clear the way for American tanks and infantry were detailed on the military's Medal of Honor website: He was "quick to volunteer his services when our tanks were maneuvering vainly to open a lane for the infantry through the network of reinforced concrete pillboxes, buried mines, and black volcanic sands. Williams daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine gun fire from the unyielding positions."

Facing small-arms fire, Williams fought for four hours, repeatedly returning to prepare demolition charges and obtain flamethrowers.

"His unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strong points encountered by his regiment and aided vitally in enabling his company to reach its objective," the website said.

A life of work for the military and its veterans

Williams remained in the Marines after the war, serving a total of 20 years, before working for the Veterans Administration for 33 years as a veterans service representative.

In 2018, the Huntington VA medical center was renamed in his honor, and the Navy commissioned a mobile base sea vessel in his name in 2020. In February 2018, Williams was joined by 14 other recipients of the Medal of Honor to be honored by the NFL and the nation during the coin toss before the Super Bowl in Minneapolis. Williams may not have gotten as much attention nationally as Air Force Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager, the flamboyant World War II fighter pilot ace and West Virginia native who became the first person to fly faster than sound in 1947. Yeager died in December 2020. Yet in his home state, Williams was a household name.

"Woody Williams will go down in history as one of the greatest West Virginians who ever lived, and we salute him for everything he gave to our state and our nation," Gov. Jim Justice said in a statement.

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin said Williams "was the embodiment of a true American hero. Americans like Woody answered the call to serve our great nation and their sacrifices allow us to enjoy the freedoms we hold dear."

A big farm family, then a 62-year marriage

Williams was born the youngest of a family of 11 on a dairy farm on Oct. 2, 1923, in the Harrison County community of Quiet Dell. Prior to joining the military, he served in the Civilian Conservation Corps and worked as a teenage taxi driver in Fairmont, sometimes delivering Western Union telegrams to the families of fallen soldiers. It was that passion that later led Williams and his Louisville, Kentucky-based nonprofit foundation to raise money and establish more than 100 Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in recognition of relatives of lost service members across the United States, according to his website.

When asked his motivation for the foundation, Williams adopted the motto: "The cause is greater than I."

"Woody's family would like to express their sincere gratitude for all of the love and support," the foundation said in a statement. "They would also like to share that Woody's wish is that people continue to carry on his mission."

Although his two older brothers were serving in the Army, Williams wanted to take a different path. He knew some Marines from his area and admired their blue uniforms whenever they returned home. But at 5-foot-6, Williams was rejected because of his height when he tried to join in 1942. A year later, the Marines allowed him in at age 19.

Williams relied on his fiancée, Ruby, to get him through the often anxious times during the war, saying he had to get back to the girl in Fairmont that he was going to marry. Their marriage lasted 62 years. Ruby Williams died in 2007 at age 83. The couple had two daughters and five grandsons.

Funeral arrangements were not immediately announced.

Woody Williams Foundation

Charity Poker - Excite Ballpark - June 12, 2022 — SUCCESS!

What an amazing day Sunday, June 12 at our 2nd annual Charity Poker Tournament for OCC at Excite Ballpark, home of the San Jose Giants! Let me tell you, if you weren't there, you missed out!

Congrats to our top 9 finishers:

- 1st — Rod S. (Won Xbox w/games)
- 2nd — Sam B. (BBQ+bbq kit)
- 3rd — George F. (SF 49er tickets pack)
- 4th — Mark P. (Apple AirPods)
- 5th — Jason B. (SF Giants ticket pack)
- 6th — Jazmin J. (Oakland A's ticket pack)
- 7th — Tony S. (Armitron watch+Rayban glasses)
- 8th — David C. (Boot Barn gift card pack)
- 9th — Jordan G. (SJ Earthquakes ticket pack)

Thank you to all our sponsors, participants, Blue Dog poker company and our volunteers!



Giuliani Construction & Restoration - Donation Drive



Operation: Care and Comfort
Giuliani Construction & Restoration

THANK YOU to Giuliani Construction and Restoration for holding a donation drive for OCC, for National Military Appreciation Month!

We can't wait to have them join us at a care package assembly on Monday June 27!

Earthquakes — Salute to the Military Match — Rescheduled For September 24 — Details

IMPORTANT UPDATE!
CALIFORNIA CLASICO WILL NOW TAKE PLACE ON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

While we're clearly disappointed – we were looking forward to hosting everyone at Stanford for the first time since 2019 – we are leaning into putting on an amazing Clasico on September 24th! If anyone knows how to adapt it's the military so we'll take our cue from you!

I know you weren't able to redeem tickets for the original date, however, we did want to let you know that we're excited to provide you with tickets for our rescheduled date on September 24! We will send out a link for the new date once we're closer to that match. You will then have the chance to simply redeem your tickets through that link.

Thank you all again and we look forward to hosting you all soon!

Respectfully,
Robert Davis
Vice President, Ticket Sales and Service



Veterans Canteen Service — Discounts and More



Did you know that the VA has their own retail store on-line and in various VA facilities?

Great Deals! Discounts for Veterans, VA Employees and their families!

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OCC's Tickets For Troops



This past month, our *Tickets for Troops* program distributed **(FREE)** tickets to events such as:

- *Detroit Tigers vs San Francisco Giants — June 28 and 29*
- *Cincinnati Reds vs San Francisco Giants — June 24, 25 and 26*
- *Kansas City Royals vs San Francisco Giants — June 13, 14 and 15*
- *Los Angeles Dodgers vs San Francisco Giants — June 10 and 12*
- *Colorado Rockies vs San Francisco Giants — June 8 and 9*

Follow our Facebook page for future events!



Just a friendly reminder:

If you are receiving this email, chances are you are already on our **Tickets For Troops** list. No need to sign-up again!



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CONTACT US

OCC's nationally recognized programs support troops, veterans and their families while serving in conflict regions, while serving on humanitarian missions, and when they return home.

