



315TH NEWSLETTER

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WORLD WAR II 315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASS'N.

OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

Message from the President

September 6, 2016

From the Cockpit

Hello 315th Trooper Carrier pilots, families, and friends,

From Headquarters somewhere around the world, we say a huge whatya say, whatya know. This second gener greets you all from the cockpit of our loved ones C-47.

This issue is a long over due one paying tribute to Evelyn "Chappy" Kowalchuk and those that have slipped the surly bonds of space and have taken their last flights. To those families that have lost a hero, please accept our sincerest condolences. As our ranks have shrunk over the years, we are reminded of their selfless acts of devotion to this great republic and that we truly can't afford to let their memories fade away into oblivion.

As most of you know, we have joined forces with the National WWII Glider Pilots Association. They have reunions every year which I have attended several. They are very fun and educational, especially for the second geners and third geners. The next reunion will be hosted by the Mt. Pleasant Flight Museum in Mt. Pleasant, Texas during the dates of October 13th through the 15th, 2016. Scott Glover, who has been a huge part of their reunions by bringing WWII vintage flying aircraft and giving free rides, has offered to actually host the reunion at his museum and provide free lodging and meals to all of the veterans attending the 46th Reunion. Please go to ww2gp.org for more details.

Thank you for being patient with us as we have been ironing out the details to keep our association alive and to continue to send out newsletters. I truly believe that we are responsible to keep alive the memories of the brave and selfless heroes for eternity. Thank you for your service and that of your husband, father, uncle, grandfather, brother, and great Grandfather. We will never forget.....

Marc Sandall
President, 315th Troop Carrier Association



In Memoriam

Evelyn (Chaychuk) Kowalchuk, 93, of Huddleston, left this world to join her son Ivan and husband, Andrew in the Forever After on April 7, 2013. Born on March 29, 1920 in Jersey City, she was the youngest of three sisters to parents born in the Ukraine. She was fondly known to many as "Chappy."



Starting at 15 Evelyn worked at the RCA Radio Factory in Harrison, NJ as a solder but her main interest since age of five was to be a "Mother and Nurse." After Graduating in 1941 from the Newark Memorial Hospital in Belleville (now Clara Maass Nursing School), Evelyn, against her mother's wishes, joined the United States Army Air Corps. She trained for the Flight Nurses Training and Air Evacuation at Bowman Air Field in Kentucky. Only eight weeks later, in April of 1944 along with 24 other flight nurses, Evelyn was sent to England as part of the United States Army Air Corps 818th Medical Evacuation Transport Squadron providing comfort and much needed medical assistance. Evelyn flew to Normandy on D-Day +3 to provide assistance returning with wounded soldiers from Omaha Beach often under fire from enemy forces.

After the war and being honorably discharged from the Army in 1946, Evelyn continued her nursing career, first as a school nurse in the Newark Board of Education and Health, then becoming the first female school nurse at Newark Academy, Livingston, finishing her nursing career in the Irvington Board of Education. In between she received a Master's Degree plus 32 credits in School Health and Guidance from Kean College. Was an Alumnus of Seton Hall and Jersey City State. After her move to Livingston Evelyn married builder Andrew Kowalchuk on January 10, 1948, having two sons, Peter Andrew and Ivan James. Her son Ivan followed in his parent's footsteps and joined the military with the United States Marines.

Finally retiring with 14 years of service in 1988 Evelyn moved to Huddleston, Virginia at the age of 68. In Virginia, Evelyn stayed very active. Each week she worked with a student learning program at Huddleston Elementary School as a book buddy, sewed children's sweaters and pre-natal caps for a relief organization, and also volunteered at Carilion Bedford Memorial Hospital. Evelyn was also known for her volunteer work at the National D-Day Memorial Foundation. Then on June 6, 2001 Evelyn had the privilege of escorting President George W. Bush to the National D-Day Memorial dedication ceremony. Evelyn then went on to receive the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, on April 3, 2002 in recognition of all the nurses who gallantly served the wounded soldiers in France. She also received the Air Medal, ETO Ribbon, and American Theatre Ribbon and was also recognized for her campaigns in Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, Central Europe and especially Normandy. A member of the 1st Ukrainian Presbyterian Church in Irvington since 1932 and later becoming a member of Patmos Methodist Church in Huddleston. A life member of the VFW and the American Legion post # 54 of Bedford. A life member of the Flight Nurses Association, Order of the Eastern Star of New Jersey MIZPAH chapter # 33, Charter member of the Women in Military Service in Washington, first female veteran to be elected on the Board of Directors of the World War II 315th Troop Carrier Group Association, Federated Women's Club. She will be missed by many especially her beloved son Peter.

A message to friends of the 315th from Chappy's son, Peter Kowalchuk, October 2015

I hope everyone is doing well along with your families.

Recently, while driving north from Virginia to New Jersey I visited my Mom in Arlington National Cemetery just outside Washington D.C. It was my first visit since interring Mom there on April 4, 2014.

Having visited the cemetery as a child I never fully appreciated the feelings or emotions I felt this time entering Arlington's hallowed grounds. Now, having a parent buried there, I can fully understand and respect all those who share with my mother and I, this great memorial to those who served their country. The feelings are that intense.

Before choosing to be buried at Arlington, my mother's intent was to be buried with her mother in New Jersey. However after moving to Virginia in 1989 circumstances dramatically changed her life's destiny. In what began as a simple interest in telling about her involvement in World War II eventually lead to recalling events before during and after that historic Tuesday, June 6th 1944, to finally, being asked to lecture about the importance of those pioneer flight nurses and how today they are an important part of the military's overall medical preparedness. As I see it, my Mother's life had come full circle. It was with that aspiration to the love of country and an unwavering commitment to the military, Mom chose to be in a place with others similarly devoted.

Mom is forever now with her mother, husband, and son.

May you forever rest in peace Mom, you've earned your wings.

My wish is that everyone, young and old, in the military or not, share the experience of Arlington Cemetery like I have.

Peter Kowalchuk

**Donations to support the WWII 315th
Troop Carrier Group Newsletter effort are
appreciated.**

**Donations or annual dues of \$20.00 can
be sent to:**

Richard T. Ford, Treasurer
WWII 315th Troop Carrier Group Assoc.
1125 McGee Ct. NE, Unit 128
Salem, OR 97303-9460

Thank You!

WWII 315th Treasury Report

**Bank Balance
June 30, 2016**

\$1,605.43

National World War II Glider Pilots Association Inc. Contact and Reunion Information

REUNION: October 13, 14 & 15, 2016
LOCATION: Mt. Pleasant, Texas
WEBSITE: www.ww2gp.org
EMAIL: ww2gp@aol.com

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our Veterans*

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May 30, 2016