

FESSIN' UP

By A. Edward Pierce, A/56

It has been said many times that confession is good for the soul. I subscribe to that philosophy. It has also been said that the truth will set you free. I subscribe to that philosophy as well. In view of the foregoing statements, I want to let you in on a little known set of facts as they relate to me.

While I am currently a motivated proponent of our Memorial Museum situated in Abilene, such was not always the case. It wasn't a matter of being opposed to a 12th Armored Division Museum; it was the area and location that was chosen by its founders. I felt that since the division's birthplace and activation was at Camp Campbell in Kentucky, the logical and ideal place for the Museum would have been in that vicinity.

As time passed rapidly by, I came to realize that many of the men who saw combat with the division in Europe had never seen Camp Campbell, but were rather familiar with Camp Barkeley and the city of Abilene. Taking this into consideration plus having met Dale Cartee and Bill Lenches in 2011 at the Reunion in Arlington, VA provided the impetus for my being a whole-hearted, all-out supporter of the Museum in Abilene Dale and Bill or Bill and Dale, if you prefer, in my opinion moved the Museum from mediocrity to a first-class entity.

Credit in large measure for having the foresight to envision a Divisional Museum and to spark plug its becoming a reality, in large measure, goes to Robert Hoeweler and the late John Critzas and George Hatt among a small number of others.

At the time of this writing, the "Hellcat News" shows that there are only 85 veterans of our once prestigious division. I urge the 85, if humanly possible, to give the Museum your fullest moral and financial support. The Museum is your honest-to-goodness legacy.

Getting very close to my 98th birthday, I believe this epistle will be my final one. I want it to accomplish a modicum of good. Seeking your support of the Museum is just that.

God bless each one of the 85 of you veterans and the members of the leadership and support staff that keep the Museum running and operating so efficiently and effectively.

It's great to be a Hellcat; likewise, it is great to have a first-rate Hellcat Memorial Museum.