

I'm Not There Yet. I'm Still Here.

By A. Edward Pierce, A/56

Honestly, I am still walking around, fit as a fiddle, able to thoroughly digest food and drink, and sleep like the renowned Rip Van Winkle despite the Veterans Administration having classified me among the dearly departed. Why do I make this seemingly asinine statement? Well, just permit me to enlighten you.

I suspect that at age 96, the Veterans Administration must rationalize that all veterans should be dead because on August 31, 2018, the V.A. issued a check drawn to my order for the full proceeds of my National Service Life Insurance policy that I retained since my days in the military. I erroneously believed that it would have been paid to the named beneficiary on my honest to goodness demise. I am absolutely 100% certain that the beneficiary believed the same.

Since I am now in possession of the proceeds, I plan to deposit the sizable balance in a Money Market Account held jointly with my daughter, so the funds will be available at my actual passing. In the meantime, the balance will be earning the meager interest that most financial institutions are currently paying.

Quite frankly, I am enjoying life to its fullest, and I take one fabulous day at a time. The Lord has been and continues to be more than good to and for me; far, far better than I ever deserve. I have a small, but wonderful family and some truly marvelous friends. The friends are not only in New Jersey, but they range as far away as Texas, California, and our great neighbor to the north, Canada. I am aware, too, that there are some who aren't in my corner, but I accept that with amazing grace.

So, unlike the Veterans Administration, look for me to be around for a while. That'll be a boon for some and disheartening to others, I am sure.

May God bless each of you who are reading this vignette. It's not plausible to bring this story to a conclusion by using the words "the end" or "finis" at this time because it really isn't the "Swan Song" for me, at least not yet.