



VA Boston Healthcare System OEF/OIF Bulletin

"Your interest and participation is the strength of this bulletin."

August 2010



*****Welcome Home and Thank You for Your Service*****

Courage, Compassion, and tremendous Will Power continues to compel former WWII POW



Arthur Gage and VA Nurses (left to right) Denise Daly and Erica Wilbur.

A fellow Employee shared with me a remarkable story about a WWII Veteran. The Veteran's story is available on the web at: http://carol_fus.tripod.com/army_hero_arthur_gage.html. After hearing the story, I had the opportunity to meet the Veteran. The Veteran, Arthur Gage, endured 29 months as a POW. During our conversation, his humble demeanor and presence was powerful. Arthur spoke about joining the Army with his friends, fighting in North Africa, his capture by the Germans, and finally his liberation by advancing Russian soldiers. As a POW, Arthur did not allow this tragedy to weaken his spirit. He befriended Allied soldiers from Great Britain, Poland, Serbia, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia. These friendships strengthened through the years. He continued with his incredible will power: (From his story featured on the web) "At age 50, Arthur turned to **Tae Kwon Do** as a catharsis for the emotional and physical trauma suffered during WWII." In 1984, he became a Tae Kwon Do Instructor. Arthur is truly inspirational and amazing. Featured is one of many **poems** that he has written:

The Rose



As summer ends the sky grows dark and winds begin to blow
A giant hand across the land has covered me with snow
My lovely stem and big red rose have died and fell away
Yet I am strong for neath the soil a spark of life will stay
And this I know with melting snow the sun and rain proclaim
For God has touched me with His love and I will live again
As morning breaks, new life awakes and roses breathe a prayer
All praise to Him for He is love, that love is everywhere
The promise kept for my return will give me strength and power
And make my rose a blessed sight, a big red crimson flower



How was your 4th of July for 2010?
Here are some interesting facts
about our Nation's
Independence:

- The 4th of July was not declared a national holiday until **1941**.
- The national anthem is actually set to the tune of an old English drinking song called **To Anacreon in Heaven**
- The stars on the original American flag were arranged in a circle to ensure that all colonies were equal.

Photo of the Month:

I welcome what you believe is a great photo. There will be a vote on the best photo from the past year. I look forward to receiving your photo.



Before sending a photo:
Please contact me for photo requirements and specifications.

This month's photo was submitted by Sergeant James C. Lally of the MA Army National Guard.

Sgt. Lally describes his photo: "A Soldier climbs a rope during the **Air Assault Course** at Camp Edwards, MA. During the Course, Soldiers are required to perform calisthenics, finish a 2 mile run, and complete an obstacle course."