

Subject: Fwd: Farewell to 101 yr old WWII Hero Bob Pedigo

Date: November 6, 2024 at 10:06 PM

To:

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## Robert "Bob" E. Pedigo 10/20/1923 - 10/22/2024

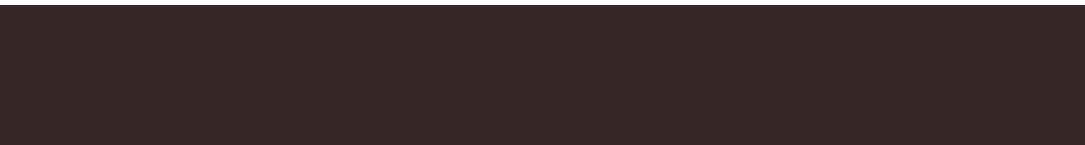
Robert "Bob" Edward Pedigo, age 101 of Indianapolis, Indiana passed away on Tuesday morning, October 22, 2024, two days after his 101st birthday. Bob was born on October 20, 1923, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Jerman Tilford and Mary Esther (Finn) Pedigo. He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Leland, sister, Lelah Faye, and granddaughter Natalie. Bob was married to Helen (Wood) Pedigo. She preceded him in death in 1998. Bob is survived by his two sons: John (wife Olanna) Pedigo of Indianapolis, Indiana and Timothy (wife Pam) Pedigo also of Indianapolis, Indiana. World War II Army Air Corps veteran, Robert "Bob" Pedigo, will be laid to rest by his wife, Helen, at Washington Park East Cemetery. Pedigo made a historic trip to return to Normandy, France, for the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6th. It was the very first time Bob Pedigo stepped foot in France. Bob was a nose gunner/chief armorer in a B-24 Liberator bomber called "Silent Yokum".

Bob and his crew were called out first for a mission to destroy a German encampment in St. Laurent, France, on that historic day. France's President Macron, with accolades and appreciation from President Biden, presented Bob with the French Legion of Honor, France's highest military award during the Normandy

French Legion of Honour, France's highest military award during the Normandy American Cemetery 80th Anniversary of D-Day Ceremony on June 6, 2024, televised worldwide. "The trip was very, very emotional for me. A once in a lifetime journey. I finally got to step foot in the country we bombed and liberated 80 years ago. I was finally be able to pay my respects to the 9,000 troops who never came home. We owe them everything and are a free country today because of their sacrifices. I was honored to be a part of this historic trip and ceremony. D-Day is seared in my memory," said Pedigo, who completed 30 air combat missions over France and Germany during WWII.

Pedigo was inducted into the Indiana Military Hall of Fame in 2023. Bob's unique story of service includes his technician work manufacturing the top secret Norden bombsights. Bob was the last living person who machined the bombsights. A plaque with his name is preserved in the Indiana built section, downstairs in the Indiana War Memorial, complete with an actual bombsight. Bob always highly encouraged everyone to visit.

Condolences can be left for the family here: [SEND CONDOLENCES HERE](#)



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More kids are providing care to family members without pay, support or recognition. **In Money**

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Jefferson's contract makes him highest-paid wide receiver in NFL history. **In Sports**

**Missy Elliott shares her 'pinch-me moment'**

Rapper describes what her thoughts were while getting inducted into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and how she's preparing to tour. **In Life**



EMMA MCINTYRE/GETTY IMAGES



82

**Tough job ahead for Mexico's president**

Newly elected leader has rift to heal with US

Lauren Villagran  
USA TODAY

When Mexicans elected a new president, they also chose the next negotiator-in-chief who will make tough choices with the United States on issues from immigration and trade to fentanyl trafficking.

Mexicans voted overwhelmingly for Claudia Sheinbaum, giving her more than 58% of the vote and a substantial mandate to govern the second-largest economy in Latin America and the No. 1 trading partner for the U.S.

When President Andrés Manuel López Obrador leaves his post and Sheinbaum takes office on Oct. 1, she'll inherit a country that is reeling from slow economic growth and violence linked to organized crime. She'll also face a fractured relationship with the United States. Despite deep cross-border economic ties, the U.S.-Mexico relationship has been tested by the countries' shared problems with global migration and drug trafficking.

"The two countries have been suffering from an incredible fumbling of the ball in dealing with each other," said Tony Payan, director of the Center for the U.S. and Mexico at Rice University's Baker Institute. "I think the two countries need to come back to the table." Americans may love "taco Tuesday"

**80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY HONOR FLIGHT**



**HEROES' RETURN**

66 WWII vets make way back to site of D-Day invasion

Michael Collins USA TODAY

EN ROUTE TO FRANCE – Robert Pedigo had a hunch. ● He and his bomber crew, based in England, had been flying missions against the Nazis. Then, on a late spring evening in 1944, a commander took each squadron into a nearby wheat field to give them special instruction. ● "Men, go get a good night's rest," he said, "because we have an important mission tomorrow." ● The commander, he has always remembered, was Jimmy Stewart, the star who had left Hollywood to lead air attacks throughout World War II. Pedigo and the rest of the flight crew bedded down. The wake-up

and vacationing in Cancun, but the complexity of the U.S.-Mexico relationship is often lost amid marketing and political rhetoric. Mexico's stamp on the U.S. is everywhere.

It's in the Mexico-made car parts that keep U.S. autoworkers employed in Detroit, in the windmill blades exported to U.S. clean energy plants, in the pacemakers saving the lives of American patients with heart failure, and in the \$15 avocado toast on restaurant menus nationwide.

U.S. exports to Mexico include grains grown in the Midwest and natural gas pumped in Texas. Mexico sends fruits and vegetables north, keeping grocery costs lower amid volatile inflation in the U.S.

The country became the United States' largest trading partner last year, pushing China to the No. 2 spot,

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Claudia Sheinbaum, the first woman to be elected president in Mexico, inherits a relationship with its northern neighbor, the United States, that has been strained by illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/REUTERS



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call would come at 2:30 the next morning, June 6.

Pedigo, from Indianapolis, had sold scrap metal and worked other jobs during the Great Depression to help support his family before enlisting in the Army Air Corps. Now he was a nose gunner and air bomber on a crew of 10 in the 453rd Bombardment group. Their B-24J Liberator, nicknamed the Silent Yokum, took off into the morning sky.

As they crossed the English Channel, Pedigo looked down and couldn't believe his eyes. He had been right. It was something big.

Instead of just water, he saw ships, so many that he could have walked across the channel, using the boats as stepping stones.

Instead of just sky, he saw fighters, heavy bombers, every kind of plane imaginable.

It was June 6, 1944, the day the rest of the world would soon know as D-Day.

From his seat at the nose gun, Pedigo could see it happening. Above, below and all around him, every boat and plane was headed in the same direction he was. Toward Normandy.

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ABOVE: More than 60 World War II veterans gather Friday at the headquarters of American Airlines in Fort Worth, Texas.

TOP: Robert Pedigo, 100, sits Friday with dozens of other veterans as they prepare to fly to France ahead of ceremonies to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy on June 6. PHOTOS BY NITASHA JOHNSON FOR USA TODAY

"Your presence here reminds us that behind the monumental scale of D-Day are real people, individuals with their own stories."

Denise Campbell Bauer, U.S. ambassador to France

## Sky show is ready for Act II – and beyond

'Space weather' forecast: Bigger, brighter auroras

Trevor Hughes  
USA TODAY

BOULDER, Colo. – Skygazers eager for their next chance to see the northern lights have a powerful ally on their side: a small group of space weather forecasters monitoring the sun for the next big solar explosion.

Last month's thrilling display of the aurora, which was visible as far south as Florida was highly unusual. But experts say the next several years could see even bigger displays as the

sun enters the height of its typical 11-year sunspot cycle.

And in a secure facility in Boulder, Colorado, forecasters with the federal Space Weather Prediction Center are eagerly awaiting its next move. Inside the center, which is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, giant screens display images of the sun through various filters, from visible light to its powerful magnetic field and the solar flares constantly boiling off its surface.

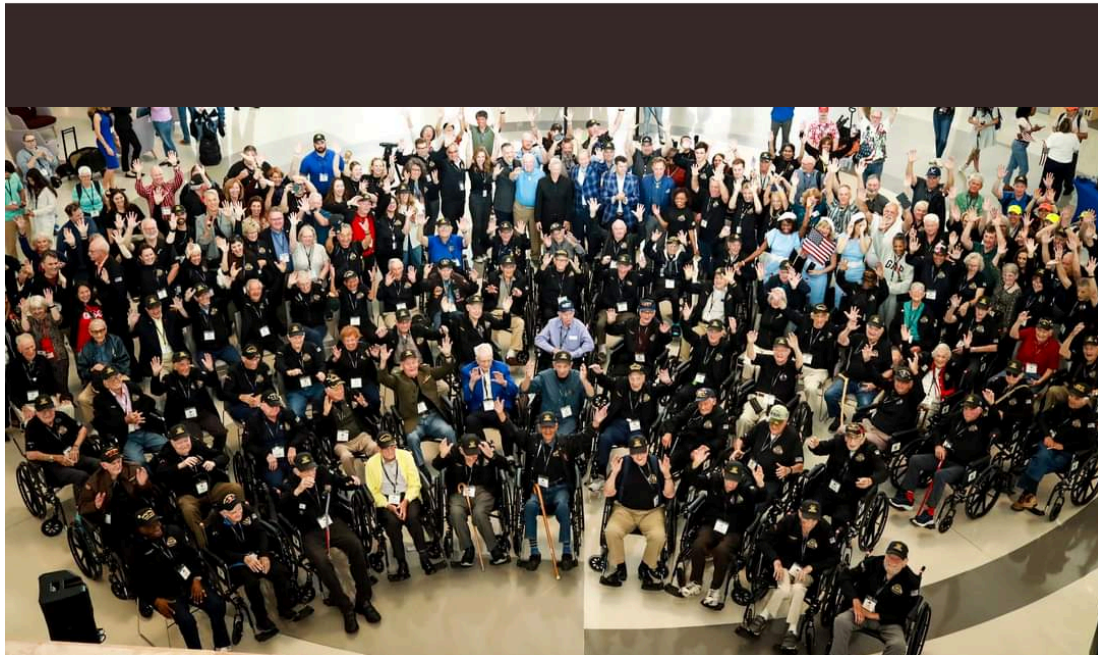
"We're always just trying to figure out what's going to hit our little blue marble," senior forecaster Shawn Dahl said.

See AURORAS, Page 4A



"We still haven't reached the peak," says senior forecaster Shawn Dahl at the Space Weather Prediction Center, which monitors solar disturbances.

TREVOR HUGHES/USA TODAY





Good Morning America's Lara Spencer interviewed Bob at the Caen Museum and on Omaha Beach.





D-Day veteran Bob Pedigo attends a ceremony on Omaha Beach, Tuesday, June 4, 2024 in Normandy. World War II veterans from across the United States as well as Britain and Canada are in Normandy this week to mark 80 years since the D-Day landings that helped lead to Hitler's defeat. (AP Photo/Jeremias Gonzalez) AP



The President of France, Emmanuel Macron, awards the French Legion of Honor to Mr. Robert Pedigo at the 80th Anniversary Ceremony at the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy.









**Emmanuel Macron**  @Emmanuel... · 10h ...  
You've set us free.



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**RETURN TO NORMANDY**

*Honor Flight*

1944  
**80 YEARS**  
2024

**D-Day Anniversary  
June 6, 2024**

SSG Robert Edward Pedigo  
U.S. Army Air Corps  
WWII B-24 Nose Gunner

**View Bob Pedigo's Story of Service**

**SILENT YOKUM**







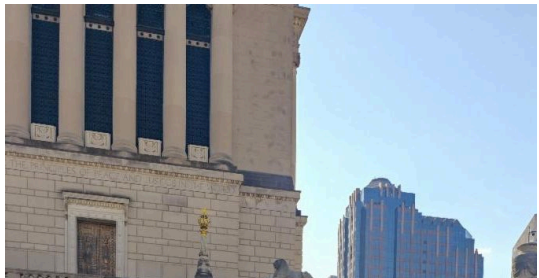
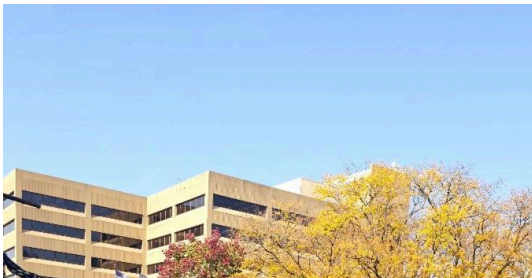
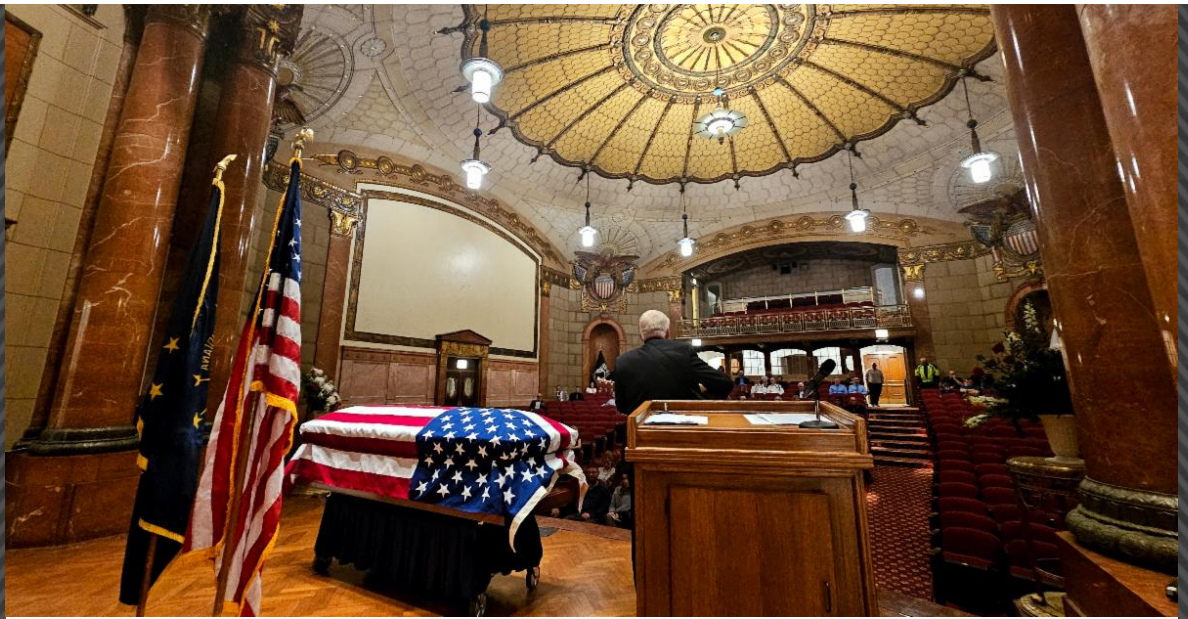


GJ. Stewart Goodwin USAF (Ret.) receives Bob Pedigo's personal challenge coin. Goodwin and Pedigo have been friends for many years.

### FAREWELL FUNERAL AT THE INDIANA WAR MEMORIAL ON 10-30-2024



Funeral honors and posting of the colors by Commander Ron Montague and the Indy Metro Military Honor Guard.











Flag presented to John Pedigo by the Indiana National Guard. Seated next to John is Bob's youngest son Timothy.

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