

THOMAS E. STORY

Veteran of World War II

Tom Story was born in Blountstown, FL "The Panhandle" in 1925. He completed the 8th grade and dropped out to go to work and received his GED while in the Army. He worked as an ice man, a wood cutter and then in a sawmill until age 15.



He went to Mobile, AL. to live with an older brother and worked in the shipyard in Chickasaw, Al.

In late 1940 he went to basic training at Camp Wheeler, GA. After ammunition and pioneer school, he sailed for Naples, Italy July 1st, 1944 and arrived there July 15th. He went through the Repel Depot at Caserta, Italy and was assigned to CO. A 351st Regiment in early fall of 1944. He participated in the final three campaigns of Italy. He departed Italy in 1945 and arrived in Hampton Roads, VA. on August 26th 1945. Deciding to make the Army his career, he was assigned to the 5th Inf. Div. in Ft. Campbell, KY. until September 1946 when the 5th was deactivated. He was then sent to Ft. Myer, VA assigned to the 7011th ASU Service Detachment where he worked in the machine and blacksmith shops. He was later transferred to the U.S. Army Band in March of 1948 where he stayed until he retired on June 30th, 1973 as Sergeant Major (E-9) with 30 years of service to his country.

He met Beatrice Louise Moore in Oct. 1947 and they married in January 1948. Their first child was a son, Michael, followed by two daughters, Mary and Lelia. They lost Mary at age 41 to a seizure disorder she's had since age 13. Tom and Bea lived in Lynchburg, VA. (her hometown) from 1973 until 2001. They relocated with Lelia to Bluffton, SC. to be closer to their son and his family (and for the warmer weather). They now have 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

One of Tom's greatest thrills is teaching them his favorite hobby, how to fish. He keeps fishing rods for each of them in his garage. Tom and Bea enjoy riding their three-wheeled bikes with their dog Callie in tow. When he is not fishing he volunteers with the USO, American Legion Post 205 Red Cross Program, competes in the Senior Games (shot put, discus, and softball throw), and plays Santa Claus every year.



Tom is the current Sergeant-At-Arms for the American Legion Post 205.