



WILLIAM 'BILL' A. WYNNE

William "Bill" A. Wynne is an American author, decorated World War II veteran, dog trainer, photographer, award winning photojournalist, and community advocate. Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania to Martin A. and Beatrice Caffrey Wynne, Bill grew up in Cleveland Ohio. He was married to Margaret Roberts Wynne on September 28, 1946 and they remained married for over 57 years until the time of her death, in 2004. Together they had and raised nine children. So far, they have twenty-seven grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren.

Bill graduated from West Technical High School in Cleveland, Ohio specializing in horticulture and photography. Bill graduated from the USAAF in Lowry Field, Colorado as a photo lab technician.

Bill a World War II decorated veteran served 24 months collectively in New Guinea, Biak Island, Luzon, Okinawa, and Korea with the 26th Photo Recon Squadron and the 6th Photo Recon Group. His service began on January 12, 1943 and ended with an honorable discharge on November 27, 1945. Bill was awarded two U.S. Presidential Unit Citations and eight Battle Stars.

As aerial photographer, he flew 13 combat missions with the 3rd Emergency Rescue Squadron from Biak Island to Ceram, Halmahera, Celebes, Borneo, and Mindanao between September and December 1944. With the 26th Photo Recon Squadron he also worked as a lab technician and as a camera installer on F-5 Lightning reconnaissance planes.

While stationed on the Island of New Guinea, Mr. Wynne bought a Yorkshire Terrier, which he later named Smoky, off of a fellow soldier for 2 Australian pounds, equal to approximately US\$6.44 at that time.

Their adventures together ranged from flying in PBY Catalina to assisting engineers with getting the communications operational at an airbase at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, where Wynne had Smoky drag a telegraph wire, tied to her collar, under a runway, through a 70-foot-long (21 m) culvert only 8 inches (200 mm) high. Wynne and Smoky also entertained troops and wounded soldiers with the more than 200 tricks Wynne taught her. After the war, Mr. Wynne brought Smoky back to the United States carrying her in a modified oxygen mask case. After a brief stint in Hollywood, and becoming famous back home in Cleveland, they starred on their own shows on all three television channels Cleveland had at the time. Smoky was famous for her tricks, her spirit and her size. The four pound Yorkshire terrier emerged from a jungle in the South Pacific and became a war hero.

"Corporal" Smoky, died at the age of 14, on February 20, 1957 and has seven memorials honoring her service and heroism, including the All Veterans Memorial War Dog Memorial. .