

INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION INC.

PO Box 60244 ~ Worcester, Massachusetts 01606

PRESS RELEASE

7 October 2015

Worcester, MA ~ The Indian Lake Watershed Association announces the passing of longtime board member, Herbert H. Adams.

Herbert H. Adams was born in Waterville, Maine. He tried many times to enlist in the service while working at Bath Iron Works. He eventually learned he wasn't being accepted because of his job as a shipbuilder. He eventually told a small fib about his employment and enlisted in Norridgewalk, ME. He was first sent to the Coastal Artillery Barrage Balloon Battalion, at Camp Tyson near Paris, Tennessee.

All through his time at Camp Tyson, Mr. Adams requested a transfer to the Airborne Division, yet repeatedly his request was not accepted. After many attempts, he finally got his wish to be transferred to the Airborne Division in Fort Benning, Georgia in 1942.

He was sent for Airborne Training with an assignment to the "D" Company, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. He spent 23 months overseas where he participated in all the actions of the 82nd Airborne Division including campaigns in Italy, Holland, Battle of the Bulge, Belgium.

During his time on the front lines, Mr. Adams and many in his unit nearly lost their feet to frostbite. In fact, they were at the hospital expecting surgery to amputate their frostbitten feet when a new round of injured shifted them to another hospital. Though excruciatingly painful, a new doctor worked to save their feet and did. While he endured many, many years of pain from the nerve damage in his feet, Mr. Adams was ever so grateful to this doctor.

His remaining time in the military included more frostbite, reported missing in action on three occasions and a shrapnel injury in his thigh. Mr. Adams was discharged at Fort Devens in 1945. He ended his military career to be thankful for his life and the opportunity to serve his country.

Mr. Adams' awards include the Battle Stars for Rome Arno, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe, Good Conduct, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Victory Medal WWII, French and Belgian Fouragerre, Presidential Unit Citation with Cluster, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachute wings with 1 Combat Star, American Campaign Medal and Occupation Medal (Germany). His ribbons are European African Eastern Campaign and the American Theater Campaign. In March of 2013, Hans Gieskes, the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, bestowed the prestigious military decoration called Militaire Willems Orde on Mr. Adams, in recognition of his participation in Operation Market Garden on September 17, 1944, over Nijmegen.

From 1946-1990 he worked as a self-employed master carpenter in homes throughout Worcester, a skill he would continue to use in his volunteer life.

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In 2012, Mr. Adams received a City Council Resolution and his 3rd key to the City initiated by District 1 City Councilor Tony Economou; a Citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives presented by State Representative John Mahoney; and a Resolution from the Worcester Parks and Recreation Commission presented by Parks Commissioner Rob Antonelli.

Mr. Adams has also been recognized by Congressman James McGovern for his bravery and service to our country which is noted in the Congressional Record.

Mr. Adams received the Leo Z. Gordon Award from the Kiwanis Club of Worcester and the Red Cross 20 Gallon Award.

Upon discharge from the service, Mr. Adams became involved with the Mohegan Council, Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Adams volunteered with Troop 54 from 1955 until his death, serving as Scoutmaster for 26 years, as Chartered Organization Representative for 20 years and as Committee Member for many years. He also served as a Merit Badge counselor and mentor to hundreds of scouts. He has been active in construction and finish carpentry work at Treasure Valley Scout Reservation, the local Scout camp. He received the Scouter's Training Award, Scouter's Key, 3 District Statuettes, the James E. West Award, the Whitney Young Award, the Vigil Order of the Arrow, the Scoutmaster's Award of Merit, Wood Badge (4 beads) Scoutmaster and the Philmont Award (nine times). He also was presented the Silver Beaver Award, which is the highest award a local council can bestow on a nonprofessional. Mr. Adams was especially happy to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Troop 54 on September 20th at his beloved Treasure Valley Scout Reservation.

He was a self-appointed volunteer who undertook the responsibility for the repair and maintenance of endless public spaces in the area of Indian Lake and North Worcester. Mr. Adams mowed Morgan Park on Grove Street and the 'Eagle' statue on West Boylston Street for many years. He maintained the area along Holden Street that abuts the Bancroft School fields. He stopped one day to cut a few things down and learned that an elderly lady across the street loved watching the students play on the athletic fields. She couldn't see from her window when it was overgrown so Mr. Adams promptly added that to his list of things to maintain.

Mr. Adams maintained both the Frosthalm Memorial across from Strand's Ski Shop and the Hapgood-Brooks Memorial at the intersection of Holden and Grove Streets for over 40 years, planting and tending to flowers, mowing, trimming, picking up trash and placing the flags in honor of his fellow Veterans.

His service to the community served as a tribute to his friends and fellow soldiers who did not return from World War II. He was heard more than once saying, "There must be a reason I'm still here".

He was a life member and Commander of Greendale Post American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Purple Heart Association. He served as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Worcester Veterans Council and the Central Massachusetts Chapter Battle of the Bulge. He was a longtime charter member of the 82nd Airborne Association, 504th Infantry Association, Lt. General Gavin Chapter 82nd Airborne Association and the Indian Lake Watershed Association Board of Directors.

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Whether helping at Veteran's Service organizations, putting a roof on the neighbor's house, hand carving tables and trinkets, speaking to school children about his experiences or attending ceremonies that honor the commitments of himself and other soldiers, he gave of himself in every aspect of his being.

Mr. Adams leaves behind the love of his life, Beverly, whom he just celebrated his 73rd anniversary with. Also his son Mearl and wife Paulette of North Brookfield, MA, son Mark and wife Kyle of Dover, NH, son-in-law Scott Longvall of Worcester, grandchildren Matthew Sr., Chris, Ben, Hillary, and Emily as well as great-grandchildren Matthew Jr, Julianna, Piper and Brendan. He is predeceased by his daughter Ellen (Adams) Longvall whom he missed dearly since her passing just two years ago.

Herb Adams was a true American hero, giving endlessly and unselfishly to his country and his community. He will be greatly missed.