

Honor to Whom Due

For 60 years, Peggy Harris waited to hear what happened to her husband, Billie, during World War II.

Billie was a pilot in action over France. Due to various mistakes, Peggy was never told where his remains were or if he was considered missing in action or killed in action.

Finally, the family discovered there was really no mystery. He was buried with his comrades in Normandy, France.



What surprised Peggy most was to discover that for 60 years a small French town, Les Ventes, had honored the memory of Billie Harris. They named a street after him and had an annual ceremony honoring him.



Why? Because it was widely known in the French village that although he was badly wounded, Harris had directed his stricken plane away from the village and into the woods, saving many lives.

Peggy Harris, who had remained unmarried, now visits the town and the grave on occasion. The town has treated her as family.

Peggy has been able to become friends with a man who tried to rescue her husband. The mayor of Les Ventes said of Billie Harris, "We don't forget."

In our skilled nursing facilities, we serve many men and women who are veterans of the Armed Forces. They deserve to be honored for their sacrifices for us all.

But beyond the military, we have residents of all backgrounds who have made important contributions to their communities and our nation. Some have been teachers or leaders in business and industry. Others have advanced the cause of medicine. Many have served as preachers or missionaries. Most leave their families as their legacy – and what an important contribution that is.

By knowing our residents and their stories, we come to love and appreciate them even more.



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And by our words and our service, we can say – as did the mayor of Les Ventes – we don't forget.

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you (Exodus 20:12).

– Beecher Hunter