

REMOVAL FROM ARLINGTON

Early in 1996, the body of the former United States ambassador to Switzerland was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, America's graveyard of war heroes.

His granite tombstone read, "S1C (Seaman First Class) U.S. Merchant Marine."

But according to Don Van Natta Jr. and Elaine Sciolino in the *New York Times*, on Dec. 11, 1997, cemetery workers hauled the tombstone away, and they exhumed the casket. The reason: the man had lied.



For years, he told others he had served on the Coast Guard ship *Horace Bushnell* during World War II. He said the Germans torpedoed the ship, and he had been thrown overboard, sustaining a head injury. In fact, records showed that at the time he said he was serving in the Merchant Marine, he was actually attending Wilbur Wright College in Chicago. The Coast Guard had no record of his serving in the Merchant Marine, and, of course, he had never earned the rank of seaman first class.

Somehow, his lie was not discovered when the State Department investigated his background, and he was approved as an ambassador. Somehow, his body was permitted to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery with a tombstone engraved with a lie.

But to no surprise, the truth eventually came out.

The truth always will.

Truth and integrity are twin pillars upon which our reputations – personal and professional – are built. They have been foundational in the development and growth of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home.

As associates, we must always guard against speech and behavior that cast aside these qualities, for there are inevitable consequences.

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He (Jesus) began to say to His disciples first of all, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops (Luke 12:1-3).

– Beecher Hunter