

SHARING THE GLORY

Douglas MacArthur, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, who graduated at the top of his class at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1903, was one of only five men ever to rise to the rank of General of the Army in the U.S. Army.

His military exploits are legend, and it was his leadership, in large part, that helped deliver victory for the Allied Powers during World War II.

The documents of surrender officially ending that war were signed by the Japanese and designated representatives of allied nations on Sept. 2, 1945. Gen. MacArthur, officiating the ceremony aboard the *USS Missouri*, was the last to sign on behalf of the United States.



MacArthur took his Parker fountain pen and simply signed his first name, *Douglas*. He then passed the pen to Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, commander of allied forces in the Philippines, who signed *Mac*.

MacArthur then handed the pen to Gen. Arthur Ernest Percival, who commanded the British forces, who signed *Arthur*.

This unusual procedure was MacArthur's way of honoring the two generals who had suffered severe persecution as prisoners of war. They had persevered, and now they were allowed to share in the glory of victory.

His action denotes a mark of a good leader – giving credit to team players who contribute to achievement of a goal.

And there is also a lesson in the spiritual sense. The Apostle Paul describes those who persevere in the spiritual battles fought this side of heaven.

In Romans 8:17, he calls them “co-heirs.” Those who share in the sufferings of Christ will also share in the glory.

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together (Romans 8:16-17 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter