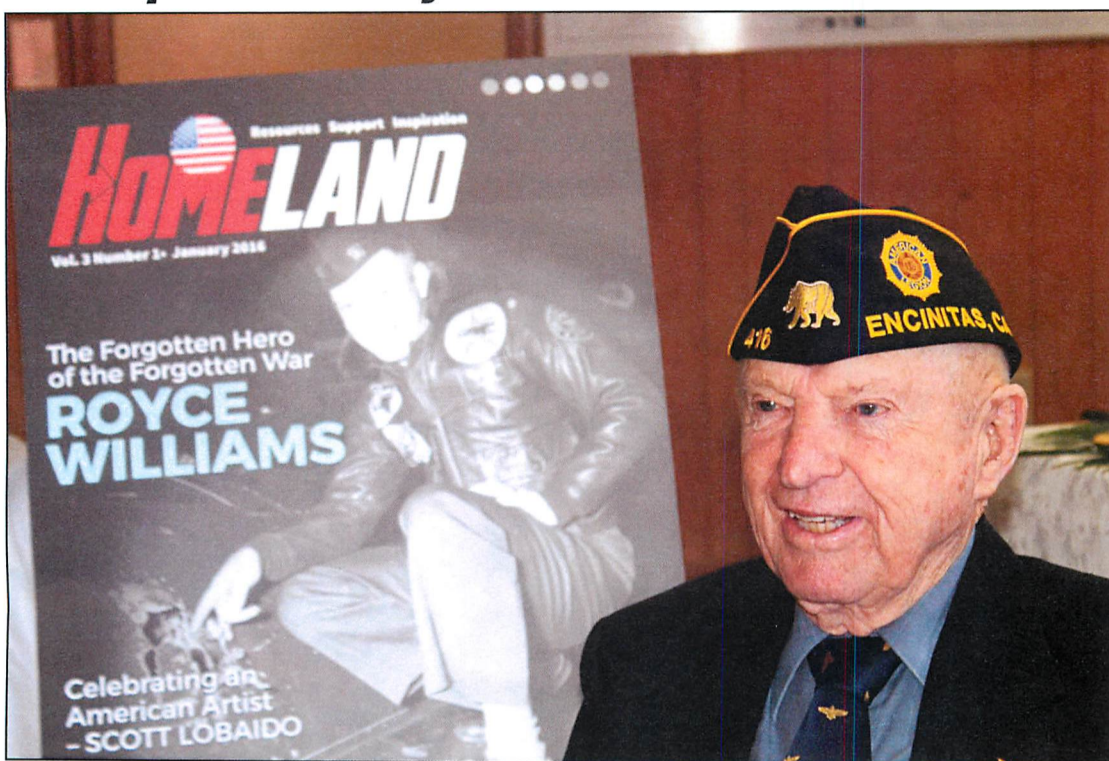


Volunteers Seek Medal of Valor for His Military Service

Support Needed to Recognize Capt. E. Royce Williams, Retired



THE MEDAL OF VALOR is being sought for Captain E. Royce Williams, Retired, a native of Clinton, Minnesota. An online petition, which needs 100,000 signatures, will be available in September. Information will be shared as it becomes known. Williams was featured in the Homeland Magazine earlier this year, as pictured above. A native of Clinton, MN, he is a 1943 graduate of Clinton High School and served in the U.S. Navy.



By Lois Torgerson

Captain E. Royce Williams, USN, Retired, is truly a "Forgotten Hero", and the Homeland Magazine, in a recent issue, features Clinton native E. Royce Williams in a great story, in their "Heroes In History" section.

Homeland Magazine features articles on topics of interest to today's military members and retirees as well as community outreach, and many issues, published in San Diego, CA,

The Northern Star became aware of the story through a classmate of Williams, Florence Adolphson Larson Nelson of Clinton. She stated that the four remaining members of her class (Clinton High School Class of 1943) keep in contact, and she learned about the story through Williams.

The Homeland Magazine story is about the retired Navy Veteran, now a resident of California, who was never recognized for this accomplishment during the Korean War - and their quest to have his military service re-reviewed for recognition for his "heroic acts that were above and beyond the call of duty on November 16, 1952".

Williams, who is now 91 years of age, had his heroic actions "kept classified for nearly fifty years". His story is told in detail in the publication, as well as on-line (Google - Homeland Magazine - Capt. E. Royce Williams). It is a great story to read and I would encourage anyone interested to take the time to read about this Clinton native, who spent his adult life in the military.

The new information regarding his "Significant Career Events" that has been released for which the Award is sought occurred in 1952. "1952 - Attacked by 7 Soviet MIG-15's. Ordered to Top Secret meeting with VADM Brisco at which he stated the NSA Team aboard the USS Toledo on a special intelligence mission off the coast

ian MIG-15's in a 35-minute mid-air battle during a 7 on 1 encounter that has been considered top secret for more than half a century.

At the ceremony held April 30, 2016, at the San Dieguito American Legion Post, Captain Williams stated, "I had the opportunity to meet with President Eisenhower after the fierce engagement and didn't even mention the topic to him."

His wife, Camilla, of more than 40 years; and his brother, also a naval aviator, were never told about this encounter, said Williams.

Williams is the recipient of 21 Combat awards. He served in Korea from 1952-53 - 70 missions; and Vietnam 1965-67 - 110 missions.

The story tells about Williams' (known as Royce to Clintonites) career: "Captain E. Royce Williams, USN, Retired, flew over 220 missions mainly in Korea and Vietnam".

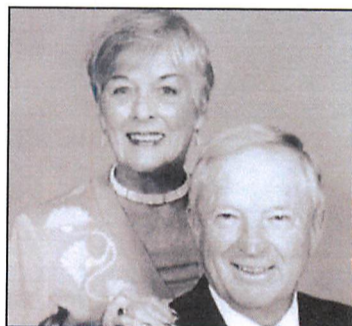
He served our country for over 30 years and retired in 1980. Williams has not yet received the full recognition for his acts of valor that he gave in defense of our great nation over 63 years ago. We encourage all readers to reach out to our local politicians for support and join our plea for Captain Williams to be re-reviewed for recognition for his heroic acts".

Currently there is an activity in progress, headed by a California woman, C. J. Machado, hoping to secure enough signatures (100,000!!) through petitions and support to have Williams further recognized with the Medal of Valor.

As of September 2016, the group trying to make this happen, will have only 30 days to obtain the 100,000 signatures. The information regarding Captain Williams will be distributed at the Tailhook Association reunion set for September 9-10-11 at Reno, NV. In San Diego, CA, Starbucks' military stores have committed to hand out cards with petition information. It is hoped that the Starbuck program will go nationwide. Active publicity includes Admiral Shelton securing the Naval Aviators and Flight Journalists - as well as hometown support and American Legion and VFW involvement to assist in this huge undertaking.

As soon as the information and copy of the petition is received locally, announcements will be made regarding how to sign the petition, which will be online only.

E. Royce Williams and Camilla Forde, classmates as graduates of the 1943 Clinton High School class, were married June 1, 1947 at St. Pauli Lutheran Church, rural Clinton. Rev. M.B. Thompson officiated at the ceremony, according to the account of their wedding in The Clinton Advocate.



CAPTAIN E. ROYCE WILLIAMS and his late wife, Camilla (Forde) Williams, are pictured. Both are graduates of Clinton High School Class of 1943, and he served his entire military career in the Navy, serving in World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

In a message from Royce earlier this summer, he stated that he was born in Wilmot, SD in 1925 and his father, purchased a grocery store in Clinton, using his WWI bonus. The family (one brother and four sisters) lived in living quarters at the rear of the building, which they moved into in 1936.

Royce and his brother, Lynn, both pursued military careers, and both received their wings and commissions. Lynn was in the Marine Corps and Royce, the Navy. Both made a full career and served in WWII, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

In the summer of 1995 Dave Torgerson put together a display for the county fair about the Heroes of World War I and World War II. He went through the issues of the Clinton Advocate, starting in Dec. 1943 - and printed a special section of remembrance.

An item from a November 1945 issue, noted that "Royce Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Williams, has been commissioned as an ensign in the Naval Air Corps at the training station at Pensacola, FL. He has not yet received his assignment."

In a book published by The Clinton Advocate following World War II, Elmer Royce Williams was pictured, with the following information: "Entered Service: August 10, 1943; Branch of Service: Navy Air Corps, Trained at Corpus Christi, TX; Murray, KY; Conway, ARK, Athens, GA, Memphis, TN, Pensacola, FL; Miami, FL, Jacksonville, FL and Norfolk, VA., Theater of Operation: Pacific. Rank: Ensign. At the time of the publication of this book, Williams was still in the military service.

Machado stated in a recent email to Dave "... with your help gathering hometown support and the American