

My 94 year old father, Donald Schwarzkopf, was an army soldier with the 141st Infantry Division during WWII. He retired from the army, after also serving in the Korean Conflict, with 22 years of service. I began noticing symptoms of dementia in my father in his early 80's. He became fixated with the desire to leave behind a legacy of his life for his children and grandchildren. As my father's cognitive processing skills diminished his need to find a cause, for which to be remembered, intensified. In his search he became frustrated and contentious, sometimes alienating friends and family. The struggle with both his self knowledge and worth became more burdensome when my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2001. With this new responsibility my father's health eventually diminished, his demeanor mellowed, and after a lifetime of deliberate silence he began to share with us his war time experience. My father's legacy is the love story of a serviceman, committed to both his country and mankind. In August of 2009, my husband, astronaut John "Danny" Olivas proudly flew the patch of the 141st Infantry Division, aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery, to the International Space Station. For the 141st Division, we thank you for your honored service to our country.

Marie Schwarzkopf-Olivas