

Good Morning &
Thank you for being here

Tom Brokaw calls them “**The Greatest Generation**”

The men and women that grew up in this country during “The Great Depression”

They went on to fight for our freedom in World War II.

The fortunate ones returned home, started families, and lead this country into a long period of growth and prosperity.

We are here today as proof of their pride and courage.

Tom Brokaw didn't know my Dad.....

But Carmen Noto was the heart and soul, the essence of “**The Greatest Generation**”

Like his peers, He grew up during the “Depression”. The son of Italian immigrants.

At nineteen, he enlisted in what was then the Army Air Corp.

Along with his brother Joe, they flew 33 missions over enemy territory to deliver their payload to the intended target.

“All the Brave Young Men.” Historians tell us...They only had a one in three chance of coming back alive

Imagine that at Nineteen. Imagine what it must have been like in that airplane....

But they made it back ...Not always in the same condition as when they left...but they made it back.

When Pop returned to the states, like many other GI's He went to work in the private sector....But he stayed connected to his roots in the Military as an Air Force Reservist reaching the rank of Lt Colonel.

He reunited with the woman of his dreams...the woman who would become his wife.

Carm really loved Renee...And he really loved his family

In the truest sense,,Dad was a **"Family"** Man.

He was a wonderful provider.... He was a caring father and a grandfather...And he was a loyal and devoted husband.....I've said before...

He always put his family first....**Always**

We feel honored to have been his children.

We are grateful to have know such an **"Honorable Man"**

And a member of the **"Greatest Generation"**

Dec. 29, 1999

The enclosed photo, from left to right, shows me, 1ST LT. Carmen A. Noto and my brother, T/SGT. Joseph A. Noto as we returned to the United States in September, 1944, after completing 31 missions together over Europe in the same B-17 bomber crew. I was the bombardier and my brother was the radio operator.

We each completed our respective training in October of 1943, and coincidentally were ordered to report to Salt Lake City, Utah, Air Base where they were assembling B-17 crews. When I saw my brother there, I asked the tactical officer if he would put us together in the same crew, and he did. This was after the five Sullivan brothers went down with their ship in the Pacific theater of operations, after which brothers were not allowed together in the same combat zone.

We left Salt Lake City for Pyote, Texas for three months of combat training, picked up a new B-17 in Kearney, Nebraska and flew it over to Prestwick, Scotland with our new crew during the end of February, 1944. From there, we were assigned as a replacement crew in the 381ST Bomb Group stationed in Ridgewell, England, 8TH A.F. After a few practice missions, we flew our first combat mission on April 10, 1944 to Brussels, Belgium. By May 19TH we had flown 11 missions which included 4 raids on Berlin, Germany.

On the last week in May, our crew was transferred to the 2ND Bomb Group, 15TH A.F., stationed in Foggia, Italy. From that Air Base, we flew 20 more missions, including 3 to the Ploesti, Romania oil refineries. Our last mission was on August 14, 1944,

to the port of Toulon, France, in support of the invasion of southern France. With the completion of our required number of combat missions, we returned home on the USS General Squier in September, 1944.

After a leave at home, my brother and I were assigned as instructors until the end of the war.

I remained in the Air Force Reserve after the war and retired as a LT. Colonel.

Thank you for allowing me to share my WWII memories with you. In closing, I include my current home address + phone number for your convenience, if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen A. Noto

LT. COL. USAF, RET.

Carmen A. Noto
3716 Galloway Lane
Carrollton, Texas 75007

Phone # 972-306-1112

Encl. - 1 Photo

For compilation of wartime memories of veterans of WWII by ABC news, I am submitting my personal story.

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retired as a Lt. Colonel.

I currently reside in Carrollton, Texas with my wife of
52 years, Renee,

my brother still resides in our home town of
Phillipsburg, New Jersey with his wife of 56 years, Ann.

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Respectfully submitted,

Carmen A. Noto

Lt. Col. USAF, RET.

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