

This is a copy of a short autobiography that Capt. Guy wrote several years ago.

This Is My Life

Guy Rowe

I was born on November 10th, 1924, in Gemell, Minnesota. I am of mostly Norwegian descent. You can always tell a Norwegian, but you can't tell him much! My mother, Harriet Koller, was born in Leaf Lake Township, Minnesota. She was a homemaker and school teacher. My father, George, was born in Spokane, Washington. He was a teacher, principal and eventually school superintendent in northern Minnesota, before becoming the director state high school aid in St. Paul.

I am the oldest of my two sisters, Ruth and Beverly, and my brother Herbert. Growing up I remember one of the neighborhood boys asking me to put a piece of paper into a push mower to see how it would be cut. When I did, he pushed the mower forward and cut my hand. That was the last time I trusted him! I was graduated from Murray High School in St. Paul in 1942. My favorite subjects were math, chemistry, and physics. I was involved with the Boy Scouts, helping form and lead new Cub Scouts packs.

When my father had a heart attack while I was in high school, I drove a grocery delivery truck to help with the family finances. Mom passed away. I continued to support the family by working at the U.S. Weather Bureau at Holman field in St. Paul. Then I received my "Greetings!" from Uncle Sam and joined the Marines during World War II. I fought 2 years in the war. I saw both flags raised on Iwo Jima and received a combat ribbon from that battle. It was a great moment to come off Iwo Jima alive! I was out of the Marines for over 10 years after the war when I drove a semi, rehabbed GI barracks and worked on a California pipeline. But then I reenlisted in the Corps and served in the Marines another 20 years. I retired as a captain.

Meeting Evelyn at Al's Breakfast Diner in Dinkytown was a highlight of my life. We were married on April 25th, 1958. Together we had 2 children, George and Harriet. George was born 2 months premature and weighed only 3 pounds, 6 ounces. After 42 days he came home and we thanked God he survived! Harriet weighed 5 pounds, 6 ounces at her birth and came home after 3 days.

I continued my involvement with the Cub Scouts. I trained their leadership and was responsible for 6 Cub packs. I have taught the AARP driver safety program. I've also been very active in the Community United Methodist Church in Monticello. I helped them select their present site. I'm proud of being the runner-up for Wright County's senior citizen of the year in 2000.

Evelyn and I have enjoyed vacationing in our RV for many years. Sometimes we'd take the kids and go for the weekend. We've traveled to all 50 states and all the provinces of Canada. We spent a few days in Hawaii when we tried to go to the 50th anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima. We also went to Japan on that trip.

Through the years I've worshipped with Lutheran churches (Missouri Synod), Presbyterians and Methodists. When I was young we'd go to Sunday School at many different churches. My favorite Scripture passage is the "Gospel in a nutshell," John 3:16. My favorite hymns are "On Eagles' Wings" and the Marine Corps Hymn.

A lesson I want to pass on to others is don't be in a hurry. It's important to learn patience. And it's very important to be honest and be yourself. I'd like people to think of me as a person who is always helping others, one who practices Jesus' Golden Rule.