



BROOKLYN_BORN

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April 6, 1917 A Day of Fear and Hope

Tuesday, April 06, 2021



The United States entered World War I. Americans were going “over there” to fight an enemy on behalf of people they had not even met. It was Good Friday and 2 families were preparing for Easter with hope.

TWO baby boys were born that day

One was the 7th of 9 children born to recent Lithuanian immigrants in the coal region of northeastern PA. The other was the 13th of 15 children born to a family whose ancestors had lived in rural VA for over 150 years.

The boys grew up in different environments, living very different lives although both weathered the depression and fought in WWII.

Both married, raised children and were blessed with grandchildren. Each saw their oldest grandchild go off to study at Virginia Tech where they met and married one year after graduation.

On April 6, 1997 these two men from diverse backgrounds celebrated their 80th birthday together. Besides a common birthdate, they now shared a new great-grandson.



My Dad (Papa Frank) is on the left. My SIL's grandfather (Grandpa Dee) is on the right. That was a happy day.

We discovered that the new baby's parents had a lot in common too. They were born exactly 9 months apart while their fathers were both stationed at Fort Eustis, Virginia before being shipped overseas. Neither was aware of the other.

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Both babies were given engraved silver cups, traditional gifts from the army units at Fort Eustis. Now this matched set is displayed in their kitchen.



My last blog was about the "Imaginary Friends" we meet and get to know online. We come from diverse backgrounds and are in very different places in our lives. "There are no strangers here only friends we haven't met yet" a former pastor reminds his congregation every week.

Happy 104th birthday, Papa Frank and Grandpa Dee. You never anticipated how your paths would cross. We miss you.

Each new life is the product of the love of previous generations

Edit: Seems I'm not the only one with deep thought this morning and drawing strength from the past "What Gives You Strength?"

www.sparkpeople.com/mypage_public_journal_individual.asp?blog_id=6749222

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TOMATOCAFEGAL

History of my family is sketchy, but my husbands leads many, many ages back.
57 days ago



DONNA_CPS2

Thanks for the history. PBS is doing a good series called My Grandfather's War!
60 days ago



MTN_KITTEN

63 days ago



MARKSMOM3

63 days ago



PAMBACH

Wow just finished reading your daughters great blog followed the link and found you. This is truly an incredible story! I don't believe in coincidence! The synchronicity is amazing!





63 days ago



RUFFIT

Awesome blog - thank you for sharing. Hugs,
64 days ago

Well Said!



SPARKUVU

cool story, enjoyed.
64 days ago



AZMOMXTWO

what a wonderful tribute this is so awesome thank you
64 days ago



KURTZIE1998

That is a beautiful story, thank you for sharing. Hugs
64 days ago



JUNETTA2002

64 days ago



RKOTTEK

Well Said! THANK YOU!

64 days ago



JEANKNEE

Nice to have such memories upon which to draw strength. Enjoyed both blogs.

Thank you!
65 days ago



KITTYHAWK1949

Very interesting. If we look for it, we all have things in common.

KEEP SPARKING!

65 days ago



MAMADEE016

WONDERFUL story! I really enjoyed reading this today!

AWESOME Well Said! KEEP IT UP!

KEEP SPARKING!

Andee
65 days ago



THOMS1

You write such interesting blogs Eileen! I always enjoy reading them. Thank You!
65 days ago

HUGS



WALKINTOFIT

Very interesting reading your blogs and your daughters too.. lovely family and the ties that bind... my grandparents were born in 1908, mom's side, dads was born in 1882. would like a glimpse of that time period.
65 days ago



RACHNACH

KEEP SPARKING!

65 days ago





ETHELMERZ

Very interesting story. And you write it so well, wish the rest of us could write ours. Thanks!
65 days ago



THINCPL2004

What great memories of your grandparents! I too take a lot of inspiration from my grandparents simple folk who would teach me the value of hard work and family!
65 days ago



RHOOK20047

What nice memories of your Grandpa. Kids today sure don't know how good they have it. Thanks for sharing your family history with us.
65 days ago



DEE797

I love reading your blogs. You know so much of your family history and have a way of writing that you can imagine being there. Wish I knew more of my family history.
65 days ago



LIS193

Beautiful blog about a beautiful family



65 days ago



SHAKERATTLEROLL



for another exciting glimpse into your life whether it be family history or more recent thank you for sharing
65 days ago



GREYDOLPHIN

I have my aunt's baby cup. It is an elaborate, curve cup. She would be about 120 years old if she were still alive. Love your detailed history of the family. I'm envious, waited too long to get the details of my family's history.
65 days ago



ALIHIKES

Wonderful to hear the history of these two men from diverse backgrounds, who ended up with parallel experiences.
65 days ago



CD14476702



Wonderful blog!
65 days ago



WHILLSW

Very enjoyable to read....we never know.....



65 days ago



SCDALYNCH

My what a wonderful history. My family has many members with a place in history. I draw my strength from the memories of my parents. We are all connected in so many ways.



For your writings.
65 days ago



TERMITEMOM

Wow - what a wonderful story! Thank you so much for sharing.
65 days ago



RAZZOOZLE

Happy Birthday
65 days ago





DOVESEYES



65 days ago



JAMER123

It's neat to hear these types of stories. Love hearing how people meet and end up together. Thank you for sharing.



65 days ago



BKNOCK



65 days ago



1CRAZYDOG

What a fantastic story. Thanks for sharing.

65 days ago



SUSIEMT



Very interesting! I just finished reading Hayburner's blog!

65 days ago



WOOFERCOALBOY

Cool! I really like the shape of those mugs. My father's silver cup was stolen in a burglary (well after my childhood), but my mother didn't like the taste of milk from a silver cup when she was little & didn't use either hers nor Pop's for me.

65 days ago



WHYNOTTRY45



65 days ago



PHEBESS

What a lovely tribute to your father and your SIL's father! And how amazing that they had the exact same birthday!

66 days ago



PATRICIAAK

small world time!

66 days ago



ALEXSGIRL1

lovely family history HUGs

66 days ago



HARRIETT14

I find your blogs very interesting. You know so much about your family which as it should be. I know very little of mine. There were very little sharing of their past. I knew that my father was in WW1 in Hungary and how both parents came to America. there were one or two other things that the shared but that was it. Thanks for sharing.

66 days ago



WATERMELLEN

Love to think of these strong family patriarchs and the memories they created as a foundation for family!! You honour them beautifully.

66 days ago



KOHINOOR2



Very interesting family memories!! Thank you for sharing.

66 days ago



SUNNYBEACHGIRL

You have the most interesting coincidences in your family history

66 days ago



MARYJEANSL

Such an amazing family story. What a heritage for that child to grow up with! I have to add that my own father was born just ten days later, April 16, 1917. He too would grow up to fight in WWII, and afterwards marry and have a family. He wasn't as fortunate as these two men. He would get cancer and die at age 55. He didn't get to see his children grow up (we were 8, 13, 14, and 17 when he died), or meet his four grandchildren. But I'm sure he would have been proud.
66 days ago



HARROWJET

What a wonderful story. I love it.
66 days ago



MSMOSTIMPROVED

This is such a great picture and wonderful family memory. The stars were certainly aligned. It is great that the baby cups are still in the family too.
66 days ago



DARLENEK04

Awesomeisn't life amazing sometimes? They both had interesting stores to tell I bet.



I may be offline for a couple or 3 days. David is having issues and I have to take care of him.
66 days ago



SAMMILESSACH

How awesome! It amazes me how we all "meet". We are all humans on earth building a Kingdom to meet Jesus and live eternally. This family history story is mind-blowing how two young boys in two different towns have totally different upbringings and brought together...by love.. had amazing families! I hope each generation coming up understands their roots and how important they are.



Thank you for an awesome blog and looking forward to the next!
66 days ago

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