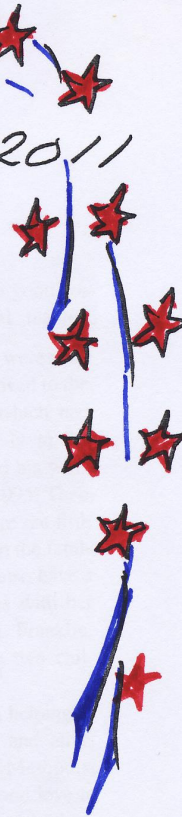


From the Lodi Enterprise
Aug 4-2011



Calvin Cramer

Professor Emeritus Calvin O. Cramer is a part of a series of fifty stories of WW II veterans from the Lodi/Sauk Prairie area accepted into the National WW II Museum in New Orleans.

Cramer grew up in a family of six children on a farm north of Prairie du Sac, just outside the village on Hwy. 12.

Cramer knew he would be drafted into the army after he graduated from high school. In 1944 he was sent to Camp Hood (now Fort Hood) for basic training. From there he was sent to Fort Meade, a port of debarkation, and traveled to Europe on the Troop Transport General Meigs, in a large convoy of ships. He landed at Cherbourg, France and traveled east on 40 & 8 French box cars that could carry eight horses or forty men.

Cramer joined the Fox Company 424th regiment of the 106th division. After the war ended in Europe his regiment was assigned to guard large German prisoner of war camps in Mainz. Over time, prisoners were interviewed. Those who had been drafted with no loyalty to the enemy were discharged.

Later in the summer of 1945, Cal was transferred to Antwerp, Belgium, for rotation through the United States to the Pacific War. While he was on the troop transport on route to New York, the two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and the war in the Pacific ended.

Following his discharge, Cramer enrolled in college under the GI bill. He studied pre-engineering for two years at North Central College and then transferred to the University of Wisconsin-Madison, receiving a degree in civil engineering and agriculture and a Ph.D. in civil engineering. He taught agricultural building design in the Department of Agricultural Engineering at U.W.-Madison for thirty years and retired in 1988 as Professor Emeritus of Agricultural Engineering.

Professor Cramer had the good fortune of meeting a special teacher, Patricia Herr of Lodi and they were married in 1952. The Cramers moved to the Herr family farm in 1955, which had been established in the family in the 1860s. Their son, Steven, and his wife Kay, purchased the farm in 1995. Their children and grandchildren are the fifth and sixth generation to live on the family farm. Cal and Patricia also have a daughter, Ramona, who lives with her husband, Larry Wesner, in Franklin, near Milwaukee. They have two children.

The Cramers are active in helping to keep Lodi up and running and alive. They are active in their Methodist Church, historical activities and love to spend time with their five grandchildren.

Cramer will be part of the Oct. 8, 2011 Badger Honor Flight that flies WW II veterans free of charge to Washington D.C. to visit the WW II Memorial and other historic sites.



Calvin
and
Patricia



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