

USAHEC Salutes a True Soldier--retired Army Maj. Dick Winters

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Jan. 10, 2011--Retired Army Maj. Richard 'Dick' Winters, a member of E Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Infantry Division during WWII, epitomized the humanity of being a Soldier in the U.S. Army, said Lt. Col. Mark Viney, director of the Army Heritage and Education Center.

The Lebanon Daily News reported on Monday, Jan. 10, that Winters died following a lengthy illness.

Winters' unit's service during WWII was portrayed in the "Band of Brothers" books and miniseries.

"He was an outstanding combat leader who tenaciously strove to accomplish every mission and was also an extremely humble man who was dedicated to his unit and his men," said Viney.

"Dick Winter's passing reminds us of the terrible human cost of WWII, which was a tragedy of a scale that we cannot fathom today. Worldwide, an estimated 70 million people lost their lives, half of whom were civilians. Over 16 million Americans served in uniform during WWII of which 418,000 lost their lives. The Department of Veterans Affairs says only 1 out of 15 of our WWII veterans are still with us," Viney said.

Viney expressed gratitude that Winters donated a collection of personal papers to the Military History Institute at its grand opening in Sep. 2004.

The papers are preserved for eternity and are available for researchers to use, as part of a collection of over 15 million photographs, diaries, letters, and other personal documents, plus more than 50,000 artifacts.

"The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, Pa. exists to keep the memory of Army veterans like Dick Winters alive," said Lt. Col. Mark Viney. "We preserve Army heritage, honor our veterans, and educate the Army and the nation on the role of the Soldier in the development and protection of our nation."

"The U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center salutes retired Maj. Dick Winters and all the veterans of WWII," said Viney.

"The memory of their patriotism and dedicated service will never fade," said Viney.