

Don Revert
Villa Maria in Mulvane, KS

In July 2012 Don finally headed to see the national World War II memorial in Washington, D.C. At 99, Don is believed to be the oldest veteran to fly out of Kansas as part of the WWII Honor Flight, but he still has a keen sense of humor, "if I was younger, I'd enjoy it a lot more", he joked.

Don had been scheduled to participate in two earlier flights that had to be cancelled due to a shortage of financing. "Disappointed? Sure." He said. "I'm not getting any younger." He looked forward to seeing the nation's capital for the first time.

Mr. Revert is also one of the oldest living WWII vets. Don was born and raised in Medicine Lodge, Kansas but left the farm and oil fields in early 1941 to join a brother working at Wichita's Beech Aircraft. A couple of years later, in 1943, he was drafted at the age of thirty-one.

"I got three draft deferments because I was at Beech," Don said, "but the fourth time the draft board said I had to go. I didn't know if I'd come back alive or not."

He served in the Army as a vehicle mechanic and with an engineering group building bridges. "We'd build a bridge (for U.S. troops), then blow it up so the Germans couldn't use it. Bullets were flying all around us".



When the war ended in Europe, Don was sent to the Philippines to help prepare for the invasion of Japan. "That never happened," Don said, "so, therefore, I'm still around; otherwise I might not be."



He was handed divorce papers from his first wife when he returned after the war, but soon found Emelyn Woodard, a girl he knew from his youth. They were married in Wichita and with the help from the GI Bill they bought a home and started making payments of \$35 a month. He returned to working for Beech Aircraft for a while before opening a car repair business across from East High School.

Don has been a widower for about 10 years and currently lives at Villa Maria in Mulvane, Kansas where he is close to his lady, Evalyn Southwick. "It's been a good life" Don says. He turned 100 on August 26th; one of the last members of "the Greatest Generation."