

Mike Porter, 826 Sq Receives a DFC at age 80



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Retired Air Force Reserve Lt/ Col Myron "Mike" Porter, Pampa, TX, was given the Distinguished Flying Cross last February 12 at the age of 80; the medal was for a courageous action performed almost 57 years ago in World War II. Porter was born in Granville Summit, PA and graduated from Troy High School.

Porter said after the ceremony in which he received the medal that he remembered his commander telling him while he was in Europe that he should be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his aerial flight in 1944, but he went home and forgot about it, only making minimal efforts to remedy the situation.

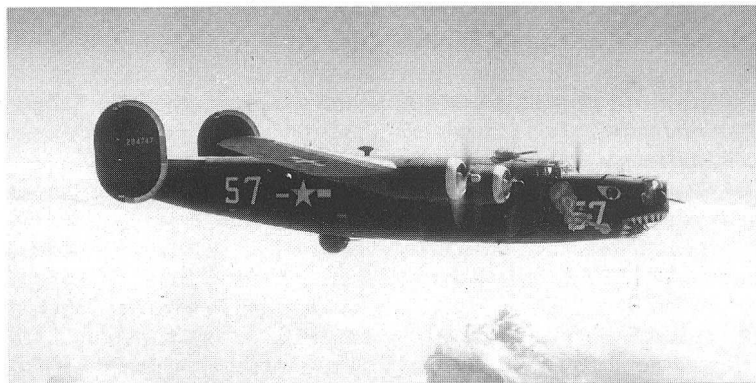
But much later, a family member didn't forget and persisted. About eight months ago, one of his twin daughters, Jeanna decided that this was a very important award for her dad so she set about acquiring it for him. You can just imagine the amount of red tape involved. And in the end, it was much more significant than if he had received it right after he earned it because his family could be there. Present at the ceremony were his wife, Dorothy, five of their six children and their spouses, five



The Mike Porter Crew, Photo taken in USA, note concrete pavement, before overseas deployment

of their 14 grandchildren and two of their four great grandchildren.

The citation that accompanied Porter's medal gave the following account of his heroic action in World War II: On August 18, 1944, Porter, who was then 23 years old and a first lieutenant, was part of a formation of B-24s on a mission over Friedrichshafen, Germany to bomb a ball bearing factory. The target was bombed successfully but, as they were coming off the bomb run, the airplane was struck by flak that shattered the windshield of the plane.



The Plane that the Porter crew is most identified with

Porter received injuries to the head and left eye that rendered him unconscious. The navigator administered first aid to Porter who recovered enough to be able to take over the controls from the inexperienced copilot and bring the plane back into formation.

Although the plane was again hit by flak that damaged the No. 2 engine so that the prop had to be feathered, Porter was able to pilot the airplane back to his home base in Torretta, Italy, and land with the help of his navigator and radio operator.

He is currently the curator of The Freedom Museum, USA in Pampa, Texas, and lots of you readers will be anxious to read about the museum and his memories of the Troy area.