



SIGMA NU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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For immediate release:

BATAAN DEATH MARCH SURVIVOR COLONEL GLENN FRAZIER

TO SPEAK IN LEXINGTON JUNE 29, 2011, 7pm

Pogue Auditorium, George C. Marshall Museum

Only the soldier really lives the war. The journalist does not - war happens inside a man - and that is why, in a certain sense, you and your sons from the war will be forever strangers. If, by the miracles of art and genius, in later years two or three among them can open their hearts and the right words come, then perhaps we shall all know a little of what it was like - and we shall know then that all the present speakers and writers hardly touched the story.

Eric Sevareid, 1945

Ken Burns and Lynn Novick produced the PBS 7-part miniseries *The War*, but they were only the journalists, not the men and women whose lives were forever changed by WWII. Burns realized they needed to find the most compelling veterans who could open their hearts and find the words to convey their unique experiences - to let us know *a little of what war was like*.

Colonel Glenn Frazier from Mobile, AL, survived some of the most horrific conditions endured by anyone during WWII. Burns and Novick knew he was to be one of the 40 veterans chosen to be featured in the miniseries. Enlisting in September 1941 at age 16 – after his girl dumped him, Frazier was too angry and hurt to stay in Port Deposit, AL. He was more afraid to face his parents than he was to join the Army. He knew of the war in Europe, so he chose to volunteer for safer duty in the Philippines.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Corporal Frazier found himself in the middle of the very war he had tried to avoid. He retreated with General Douglas MacArthur to the Bataan Peninsula and on 9 April 1942, was part of the largest surrender of US Army soldiers. More than 78,000 American and Filipino troops were moved in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Through horrific conditions Frazier survived the trek and then months at the notorious Camp McDonnell. Hundreds of the prisoners there died daily from starvation, overwork, abuse, and disease. In October 1942, he was aboard a Death Ship to Japan – a hellish journey of fantastic starvation and thirst. Somehow, he managed to hold on and survive until August 1945 when he witnessed the bombings of Japan. The man who had cheated death for so long was then forced to dig his own grave after the first atomic blast at Hiroshima. But, when the second atomic bomb was dropped at Nagasaki, his captors just walked away from the camps. Frazier then walked out himself and returned home to the family who had been told months before that he had died at Camp McDonnell.

Years later, after marrying, having two children and founding a trucking service, Colonel Frazier found the strength to open his heart and choose the right words to pen his bestselling book *Hell's Guest - 3½ Years as the Emperor's Guest in Japan's P.O.W. Camps*. Through all he endured in his struggle to survive, he realized that *liberty is our most precious possession*. He realized that *it is worth the price we must pay to enjoy this liberty*. That brave young soldier, so very far away from America, decided he had to pay that price – no matter what it cost him. His service was the least he could give.

VISION STATEMENT

Supporting the development of ethical leaders and cultivating a lifelong commitment to the educational and charitable missions of Sigma Nu.

Today Colonel Frazier and his wife tour the United States, personally conveying his epic war story. Each day we lose more and more WWII veterans – they become distant names on memorials. It is a rare opportunity to hear one of those veterans share their part of the war. Rarer still are those who gave so much.

Colonel Frazier’s lecture and book signing is sponsored by the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation, Inc. in correlation with the George C. Marshall Foundation and the VMI Museum. This event is free to the public.

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