

ALL GAVE SOME; SOME GAVE ALL

This week's veteran is Lyle Eversole.

Lyle graduated from Moweaqua High School in 1944. After graduation, he went to work for Caterpillar Military Engine Company in Decatur building D-7's for World War II. Upon turning 18, he enlisted in the Navy on February 26, 1945. He received his training at Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago and Farragut, Idaho. Lyle was transferred to Treasure Island, CA, where he boarded the *USS Rixey*, a casualty evacuation transport, destined for Pearl Harbor. The *Rixey* was fitted with weapons for her defense which allowed her to operate close to the beaches giving wounded troops more expedient access to medical care. After leaving Pearl Harbor, the *Rixey* made stops at Eniwetok; Marshall Islands; Caroline Islands; Samar, Corregidor, Bataan, Manila, and Leyte, Philippines; and Okinawa.

At Okinawa, Lyle was transferred to the destroyer, *USS Wadsworth*, and proceeded to Sasebo, Japan. Along the way, they encountered a typhoon and went into Nagasaki Bay for shelter. Apparently, not realizing the site would be highly radioactive, the crew was taken on a tour of the devastation from the atomic bomb that had been dropped about a month earlier. The *Wadsworth* was in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese surrendered on September 2, 1945.

After the Japanese surrender, Lyle was transferred to the light cruiser, *USS Terror*, a converted mine sweeper. They swept for mines left from the war. Upon returning to the States, he was given a 15 day leave to return home.

While on leave, he married Mary Ann Hertel Eversole on April 25, 1946. Lyle returned to his ship at Treasure Island. He was discharged on July 1, 1946. Lyle and Mary Ann have one son, Craig. Lyle has been a grain and livestock farmer for 66 years.

Thank you, Seaman First Class Lyle E. Eversole, for what you gave for us.