

Biography

Proud to be a member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Edward Cushway worked hard and played hard as a young man. He was a truck driver before enlisting in the United States Army.

Beginning his tour of duty on November 18, 1941 Edward F. Cushway was inducted into the United States Army from Fort Custer Michigan.

He was an outstanding and highly decorated Veteran of WWII serving in the Central Pacific Philippine Islands of New Guinea.

Assigned to the transportation department, one of his jobs was to pick up the wounded from the battlefield during the actual fighting.

We can only imagine the nightmarish scenes that was then a part of his daily life. He himself was wounded during that tour of duty.

Corporal Edward F. Cushway was discharged from the United States Army on November 30, 1945. He was given \$6.55 for travel expenses from Fort Sheridan in Illinois to Fort Custer in Michigan.

Like most young men returning home after the war, he wouldn't talk much about what happened. And like many men returning home from the war, he often drank too much to forget.

Though he never married, there were many woman who enjoyed his company. He was generous and supportive to all. He developed an Alzheimer's type disease late in life and had to go into a VA Home.

He later went to live with his niece and nephew where they cared for him in their Foster Home. He remained in that Foster Home after they moved out of State and it is from there that he went missing in April 2004.

Decorations and Citations

- *Victory Medal*
- *American Defense Service Ribbon*
- *American Theater Ribbon*
- *Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon*
- *W/3 Bronze Battle Stars*
- *Philippine Liberation Ribbon*
- *W/1 Bronze Battle Star*
- *5 Overseas service Stars & Stripes*
- *Good Conduct Medal*
- *Meritorious Unit Award*



 USA Veteran
WWII from 1941-1945



Memorial Service
August 26, 2012
Dowagiac, Michigan

Fond Memories

Uncle Ed talked my dad (Bud) and me into picking Huckleberries to make some extra money. I (Jim) was 8 yrs old. Instead of picking one berry at a time, Uncle Ed had a big basket tied around his neck and would put the basket under the bush and beat it like crazy. It worked great until we started beating a bush that was housing a hornets nest. Uncle Ed said "run, run fast." We made it out away from the bees while still salvaging most of the berries which were sold to Mrs. Hinkley. We celebrated that night with pop and chips.



Uncle Ed was in a major auto accident and was severely injured. He was left paralyzed on one side of his face with impaired memory capabilities which worsened with age. Because of this, he spent several years in a VA home. His family would bring him home often for visits and holidays. Once when he was visiting, Bud got up in the morning to check on him and he was all tucked into the covers with just his eyes out and he said, "Geeze Bud, I didn't know you were here too!" Then they had a good laugh when my dad explained it to him.



Here is one of our many stories from the time we cared for Uncle Ed in our foster home:

As you know he suffered from short term memory loss which presented many daily challenges. One morning when he came out to breakfast, I asked him where his dentures were. He couldn't remember of course so we went to his room to look for them. After a lengthy search we FINALLY found them under his mattress. He said, "Why did I put them there? I must be crazy!" We both laughed so hard.

One thing we all remember about Uncle Ed is that he could laugh at himself when he did something silly, which made him fun to be around.

So ironic how he survived WWII, injuries & illnesses, a major auto accident, and then came up missing in 2004.



Bud and Ed shared that special "brother bond" throughout their lives. They worked on cars together, painted houses together, partied together, and laughed together—A LOT!

Bud worked for North American Van Lines and needed a helper to make a haul to Arizona. Knowing Ed was a good truck driver, he found him, sobered him up, and they made the trip safely together and Bud was happy to have his help and expertise.

It Is Heartbreaking To Know That Most Likely We Will Never See Uncle Ed Again This Side Of Heaven, But We All Have Our Special Memories To Keep Him Close In Our Hearts and Thoughts...We Love and Miss You Uncle Ed!

Charles & Mary Elizabeth Cushway



A Tribute To Our Grandmother Mary Elizabeth Alexis/Cushway/Gibson

After Uncle Ed's dad, Charles, passed away, Mary Elizabeth married Paul Gibson Sr. and did a fine job of blending the Cushway and Gibson families together.

A survivor of much loss, our grandmother lovingly cared for her family through some very tough times. She must have been proud but heartbroken to watch both of her elder sons go off to war. Thankfully they both returned home safely.

Her sons often referred to her as Wedase Kwe, meaning she was a brave woman. She encouraged all of her children to be close and neither side of the family ever referred to each other as "half or step" brothers and sisters.

As all of her children did, Uncle Ed loved and adored his mother very much. In fact, one of the first things he did when he got home from the army was to buy her a brand new cooking stove.

Uncle Ed was a good son and as most of us can attest, he was a very generous and thoughtful man.

