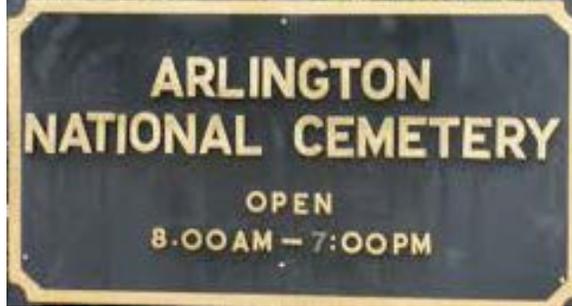


CHRISTMAS

25TH DECEMBER

2015



(Photos and Layout by Gerald F. Merna)



Section 59, Arlington National Cemetery



Flag (center) by grave of Dorothy M. Merna, Section 59



Dorothy May (Sedlack) Merna Feb. 26, 1930 – Sept. 16, 2010
Wife of Gerald F. Merna, Married Feb. 10, 1951
Mother of Linda Merna Figura and Gerald Thomas Merna



George Charles Merna - Signalman Second Class, USN - Nov. 28, 1926 – Feb. 11, 1945
Member Class of 1944, Tappan Zee High School, Piermont, NY, placed in St. Agnes Home for Boys, Sparkill, NY: March 21, 1942; Enlisted US Navy 1943, Killed in Action Feb. 11, 1945. Brother of Gerald F Merna; Robert P. Merna; James E. Merna, Richard G. Merna, Vivian Merna Rendes. Thomas Merna



Flag (2nd row from rt.) by grave of George Charles Merna Section I, Memorial Section



Friend of Jerry Merna (second from rt.), with her Parents and Boyfriend, accidentally met at Jerry's Brother George's grave. (Bulldog is named "Basilone" after USMC Medal of Honor recipient John Basilone)¹

¹ Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone voluntarily returned to the Pacific war on the sands of Iwo Jima, 19 February 1945. At the head of a machine gun squad, he would drive hundreds of frightened raw troops off the beaches toward their assigned objectives. Iwo would be his toughest fight. Barely on the island two hours, was killed leading his men, and was the only Marine in WWII to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross.



While visiting his wife Dot and brother George, Jerry stopped a few graves down from Dot's grave to visit and place a flag on the grave of a former colleague from the National Defense Industrial Assn. (NDIA), Major General William E. Eicher, U.S. Army Retired. Both Jerry and Gen. Eicher were Vice Presidents of NDIA and Jerry also attended Eicher's Funeral at Arlington



2 Retired Major General William E. Eicher was a highly decorated Army major general and combat veteran of three wars, serving more than 30 years before retiring in 1982 as the assistant deputy chief of staff for logistics. He specialized in ordnance, and joined the Army in 1950 after serving in the Army Air Forces at the end of World War II. He received the Silver Star in 1951 while serving as a lieutenant in Korea, and later commanded a battalion in Vietnam. He was inducted into the Ordnance Hall of Fame in 1986. After retiring from the Army, he spent 12 years as vice president of technical management at the renamed National Defense Industrial Association.