

Soldier

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tinel at the funeral home entrance. "I'm so honored we can in some small way be a part of it."

Pfc. Charpilloz was flown from Hawaii to Oregon with a Marine Corps escort, Staff Sgt. Anson Rynard of the 6th Engineer Support Battalion in Portland.

The Delta flight carrying Pfc. Charpilloz arrived at Portland International Airport at about 12:15 p.m. One of his nieces, Carol Houser, accompanied Tom Golden of the funeral home to meet the aircraft.

Plane-side honors were held on the tarmac by a Marine Corps Honor Guard, also from the 6th Engineer Support Battalion.

A private traffic-control company and five Patriot Guard Riders, representing a missing man formation, provided an escort for the funeral coach from the airport to Salem.

Awaiting his arrival was a small group of family members, including Galloway.

Galloway's DNA helped military officials finally identify Charpilloz's remains after nearly 75 years. He died Nov. 20, 1943, of gunshot wounds on the first day of the Battle of Tarawa in the Pacific.

A memorial service for Charpilloz, which included extended family members from Oregon, California and Washington, was held at 2 p.m. April 7 at Grace Baptist Church, followed by a graveside service at Belcrest Memorial Park.

Most of his extended family know only bits and pieces about the uncle who lied about his age to enlist in the Marines, was killed during World War II, and whose body was never identified — until now.

Some family members, such as Lyle Taylor of Dallas, have a few photographs and mementos to remember him by. The photos were handed down to Taylor, who was named after his uncle. His father, who died in 2001, was Lyle Charpilloz's brother and Marie's twin. The twins' last name was changed when they were young and their mother remarried.

All Marie, now 87, has to remember of her brother Lyle is a photograph, a set of duplicate military medals awarded posthumously to him, and faded childhood memories.

They grew up on a farm near Silverton, where they raised sheep, and they

attended a one-room school-house called Silver Cliff.

Marie was the youngest of eight children, born about 5 minutes after twin brother, Robert. Most of their siblings were grown and on their own before World War II started, including one brother in the Army Air Corps.

Kenneth Charpilloz was a pilot who flew cargo transports during the war. He was in the air, on a supply mission in North Africa, the day his brother died, according to his flight log book.

Marie adored Lyle. He was four years older, but they were close.

"We did a lot of things together," she said from the living room of her Southeast Salem home.

She still remembers the time they were working on a job for the local power company, making utility poles out of trees from their farm. Lyle would trim the limbs off the trees, and the twins would stack the limbs.

"He cut the end of his finger off one time," she said with a chuckle, "and we were hunting all over for it."

She can't remember if it was his middle or index finger, but she's pretty sure it was on his left hand, and they eventually did find it.

When Marie talks about Lyle, there's a reverence in her tone. It sounds as if he was called upon to fill in as the man of the house at a young age. When their father was around, he didn't treat their mother well.

"Lyle would go to school and then come back to protect my mom," Marie said. "You looked at him as being a lot older than he was."

He was just 15 when he joined the Marines.

"Everybody knew he was doing it," said Marie, who was 11 at the time.

Lyle lied about his age, like a lot of young men back then, and was assigned to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division.

His namesake nephew has a photograph of his platoon, the 111th. While all the young Marines look alike in their uniforms and stern poses, Lyle is believed to be the third one in from the left in the third row from the top.

His personnel records describe him as blond with blue eyes and a ruddy complexion. At the time he enlisted, he was 5 feet, 8 inches tall, weighed 139 pounds, and had a tattoo on his left forearm. Marie said he didn't have one when he left home.

Lyle likely would have been a seasoned veteran by the time he landed on the beach at Tarawa. His division fought in the Battle of Guadalcanal, the first

major offensive and a decisive victory for the U.S. in the Pacific theater. That campaign raged on for six months, from late 1942 to early 1943, and the Americans suffered major casualties.

The Battle of Tarawa was over in a blink of an eye in comparison, lasting just 76 hours, yet it's still considered one of the fiercest and bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history.

Tarawa is an atoll in what was then known as the Gilbert Islands, and its strategic location was of great military importance in the Pacific. The 2nd Marine Division was tasked with capturing the airfield on Betio, a small island reported to be less than 2 miles long and a half-mile wide at its widest, and heavily defended by a Japanese force of more than 4,800.

Lyle's company was among the first assault wave. Marines were delivered to the beach in amphibious tractors, and the landings weren't always on target. Some of the men were let out far from shore, forced to wade through waist-deep water and over what has been described as razor-sharp coral. Many were cut down by enemy fire.

Lyle was killed sometime on the first day of battle, Nov. 20, 1943. When it was all over, the U.S. military had notched a great victory, but the cost was just as great. Approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 wounded.

The dead were moved to unit collection points for burial. Both identified and unknown remains were buried in one of six temporary cemeteries on Betio. When the war ended, a military graves registration company returned to conduct recovery operations. In 1949, a military review board declared Lyle's remains unrecoverable.

Many of the Tarawa remains were disinterred, then buried on the island in what was called the Lone Palm Cemetery while awaiting movement to the U.S. They were disinterred again and after ID efforts failed, buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, also known as the Punchbowl.

The case file on Lyle Charpilloz indicates now that some of his remains were interred in the Punchbowl at that time under the label Tarawa Unknown X-5.

In May 2014, History Flight headed for Betio to continue recovery operations, in partnership with the DPAA. More remains were recovered, including from a site where Charpilloz was believed to have been buried, although there is confusion as to whether he was buried in Cemetery 26 or Cemetery 33.



Lyle Charpilloz lied about his age to enlist in the Marine Corps on July 29, 1941. He was just 15.
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The newly discovered remains were sent to the DPAA lab for analysis.

In October 2016, the DPAA began exhuming 94 sets of unknown Tarawa remains buried at the Punchbowl, including Unknown X-5. Based on recovery context and shared DNA, the remains were consolidated with what was recovered by History Flight.

About a year later, a DNA reference sample arrived from Salem, Oregon.

The mitochondrial DNA collected from a swab of Marie's cheek matched the mitochondrial DNA sequences of samples taken from the right tibia, right collarbone, right shoulder blade, both upper arm bones, and tooth No. 8 of Tarawa Unknown X-5.

Lyle Charpilloz's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with others killed or lost during World War II. A rosette will be placed next to it to indicate he has been accounted for.

Marie was 13 when the telegrams arrived in 1943, the first one saying her brother had been wounded and the second one saying he had been killed in action.

The family had no funeral or burial for Lyle, no closure, not until now, nearly 75 years later, and for only Marie.

His journey home has been a long one. Belcrest is his fourth resting place, and this one should be final.

"Forward This" appears Wednesdays and Sundays and highlights the people, places and organizations of the Mid-Willamette Valley. Contact Capi Lynn at clynn@StatesmanJournal.com or 503-399-6710, or follow her the rest of the week on Twitter @CapiLynn and Facebook @CapiLynnSJ.

Birthday

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significant income for the city of Mt. Angel was a \$100 quarterly license for operating a saloon.

Despite the heavy levy, soon after the city was founded there were three saloons on Main Street.

The town got its current name when father Adelhelm Odermatt petitioned the post office in 1883 to change the name from Roy to Mt. Angel, an anglicized form of Engelberg, the town in Switzerland from which the first Benedictine monks came.

Religion has been synonymous with Mt. Angel since its existed.

"What other town in Oregon would have a public school named St. Mary's?" Predeek said.

Beer was only a topic of discussion during the birthday party – the town's residents were served sausage courtesy of Mt. Angel Sausage Company and birthday cake.

The town of 3,700 puts on the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest in September of each year and Mt. Angel's population during the celebration will swell to hundreds of thousands.

Mt. Angel time capsules

As part of the 125th birthday party of Mt. Angel, many of the city's residents brought items for a time capsule that will be opened at the city's 150th birthday on April 3, 2043.

Mt. Angel had a time capsule that was opened around 10 years ago, but the items inside were damaged due to it not being sealed correctly.

When the Mt. Angel Festhalle was constructed in 2011, a time capsule was installed and is scheduled to be opened on its 50th anniversary in 2061.

But the Oktoberfest is a relatively new phenomenon, being established in 1966.

"I think there's a symbiotic relationship between the monks, who like to brew beer, and the townspeople, who like to drink beer," mayor Andrew Otte said.

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