

# Veteran Gives A Lasting Gift

## GAIL “BUD” FREEMAN

Gail “Bud” Freeman was born in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1919. His friends suggested that he join the Minnesota National Guard in 1939 to earn an extra \$4.00 a month while he went to college. His unit, the 125th Field Artillery Battalion, was federalized in early 1941 and became part of the 34th Red Bull Division. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Bud’s unit was mobilized and trained with broomsticks instead of real weapons. He went to Northern Ireland for additional training in 1942 and saw combat in North Africa and Italy in 1943.

Bud was attached to the infantry as a forward observer for the artillery, so he was usually close to action. He was wounded in the leg during a battle in Africa. When he went to an infantry aide station for treatment, for some reason “it was never recorded that I was wounded,” he said. However, Bud knows he was because he still has the piece of shrapnel. Later, during the assault on Monte Cassino, he was knocked in the air by a shell blast. The last sight he remembers from the back of an ambulance was the bombing of the Abbey. When he recovered and returned stateside, he was assigned by the Army to work at German POW camps in the Midwest until the end of the war. One of his responsibilities was to show movies to some of the same men he fought against in North Africa and Italy.

On April 24, 2010, Senator Al Franken (D-Minnesota) presented Mr. Freeman with eight service medals that he earned during World War II. It was a great event with family, friends and an honor guard in attendance to recognize the service of Bud Freeman.

Mr. Freeman believes strongly in preserving the history of World War II. He is a generous supporter of the local historical society and The National World War II Museum. The Museum is a beneficiary of a bequest in his will. Through his planned gift he will provide needed funding for our Endowment. A strong endowment allows the Museum to continue with research and education programs, as well as maintaining the collections and creating new and innovative exhibits.

*To learn how a bequest or other planned gifts work, please contact Craig Bardell at 504-528-1944 x 401 or [craig.bardell@nationalww2museum.org](mailto:craig.bardell@nationalww2museum.org) or visit [www.nationalww2museum.org/plannedgiving](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/plannedgiving).*



Left: Patch for the 34th Red Bull Division.;  
Below: Gail “Bud” Freeman in uniform;  
Below left: The North Africa exhibit in the upcoming Campaigns Pavilion will tell the story of units like the one Bud Freeman served in.

