

Paul Green Foundation

NEWS – July 2014



Paul Green Trustee Mark Sumner Returns to Europe for 70th Anniversary of D-Day

Here, leaving RDU with **Mark Sumner** and **Ed Chappell**, are the four students who worked to raise money to send the WWII Soldiers to Europe for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. They had sold things and collected donations until they had the funds to send these local vets back to the place where they fought as young men. **Melissa Turner, Tyler Roush, Graham Austin** and **Sarah McMahan** had all been in **Robin McMahan's** 8th grade French Class at Smith Middle School. These students are now at Chapel Hill and East Chapel Hill Schools. They were accompanied by their former teacher. The signs Mark and Ed are holding say thanks to **Larry Stogner** at **WRAL** for support.



Mark was drafted at age 19 from his home in Asheville, and by 20 he was serving in the Infantry Ground Troops in Belgium, Holland, France and Germany mostly as a Scout as part of a team of from 2-10 men whose dangerous duty was to go through enemy lines to determine location, number of troops and equipment of the enemy then to come back to their 75th Division to report. Mark served as a Private – from time to time acting as Sergeant. He credits his survival to being an **Eagle Scout** and also being prepared in boot camp in the winter chill of Minnesota to come out of the Army without injury except for his frost bitten feet – which he's had to struggle with through his life.



At one point during the war, Mark's battalion was encamped in the French woods near **Reims Cathedral**.

Here he is with (l to r) Smith Middle School French teacher Robin McMahan, Ed, Glenn and Ed's daughter. Ed (from Durham) was in the first wave on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.

In Amefreville, France, this young Frenchman in a wheelchair made his journey across the crowds toward Mark to shake his hand. The people called out – **"Our liberators have returned!"**



A young military man thanks the old military men in front of the **American Cemetery** at the **D-Day Commemoration**. Glenn Sumner looks on.

We all salute you, Mark!

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