

PFC Elroy LeJeune



**Killed in Action
Battle of the Bulge
January 16, 1945**

Elroy LeJeune Bio



Age 17/18

Elroy LeJeune was born at home with the help of a midwife on May 28, 1919 in Jeff Davis Parish near Hathaway. He was the eleventh child of Adam LeJeune and Olive (Miller) LeJeune, tenant farmers who migrated with their growing family from Acadia Parish to the prairies of Ward 6 in Jeff Davis Parish.

Elroy was the great, great, great grandson of Acadian exile and early pioneer Bláise LeJeune who fought in The American Revolution with the Opelousas Militia under General Bernardo de Gálvez. These ancestors arrived in Spanish colonial Louisiana in 1769 after their forced 14 year exile at Port Tobacco in the English colony of Maryland.

Elroy, at the impressionable age of 10, witnessed the dawn of the Great Depression in October of 1929. This period greatly affected the struggling LeJeune family's existence. Three years into the depression, a period marked by continuous hardship and stress, he and his family were dealt another blow with the death of his father at age 58. Elroy, now the oldest son at home, was just 13. He was far too young to handle the family's obligations as tenant farmers. The Great Depression was to last another seven years, ending when he was 20. Its effect made its mark on Elroy and his generation.

As a young man of 17 he met and fell in love with a local girl who became the "love of his life". They courted for eight years until his death in World War II. In 1937 he went into the Civilian Conservation Corps which provided some economic relief to his mother and younger brother Levi.



Age 19/20



Age 21/22

After his two-year stint in the CCC's he worked on the farm of Harry and Sarah Patridge of Hathaway, then worked in Lake Charles while staying with the family of his older sister Olive Gillette. In May of 1942, he received his country's call to arms along with thousands of other Louisianians.

Elroy trained at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and was then assigned to the 118th Infantry Regiment for security duty in Iceland, which was to last 11 months. From Iceland the 118th shipped out to Britain in preparation for the coming invasion of Europe. PFC Elroy LeJeune, along with 90 other men from the 118th, was sent to France to replenish combat losses of infantry units on the front lines. He was assigned to G Company, 2nd Battalion of the storied 12th Infantry Regiment. The regiment was part of the 4th Division in General George S. Patton's famous Third Army. Elroy LeJeune was killed in action in the epic Battle of the Bulge near Berdorf, Luxembourg, close to the Sûre River bordering Germany.

Elroy is described as a quiet, gentle and kind young man who loved music. He was much loved by those close to him, especially his nieces and nephews. The epitaph on his monument reads, "He was the sunshine of our family."

On this Memorial Day we remember our uncle "who gave up all his tomorrows" so that we can live in the sunshine of freedom. He was..... one of our *Greatest Generation!*



Age 23/24

Memorial Ceremony for PFC Elroy LeJeune



12th Inf Reg

May 28, 2012



4th Inf Div

2:00 PM

St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Cemetery

Iota, Louisiana

Final Memorial Flag Raising Ceremony

(Signifies the ending of his journey and return home)

Laying of the wreath

Raising & lowering of the flag
by his godchildren

Taps

LeJeune Colorguard

Helen (Gillette) Richard

James B. LeJeune

Carolyn Jo (LeJeune) Haydel

Elaine (Ardoin) Stockton

Church Bell Tower

Cameron Benoit

Kaiser LeJeune

Kooper LeJeune

Jonathan A. LeJeune

Will Monic

Jude Monic

Jacob Moore

Collin Semmes

Ceremony in the Church

Welcome

Invocation

National Anthem

Speakers

Master of Ceremonies —
David Elroy LeJeune

Rev. Clifton LeJeune

Kaitlyn Moore

J. David Bailey -


We Saved the World

Mike LeJeune -

Life of Elroy

Presentation of American flag lapel pin
worn by President George W. Bush

Marty Semmes
to Joe LeJeune



Presentation of Gold Star Pins

BG Glenn Curtis / John Semmes

Closing

David Elroy LeJeune

Flag Procession to gravesite

Led by:

LeJeune color guard
Nieces carrying poppies
Memorial Bell – Matt Monic
VBOB & distinguished guests
WW II veterans
Senior LeJeunes

Graveside Ceremony

Moment of silence during
Farewell to Warrior ceremony

Performed by honor guard
& Amay LeJeune's sons

Laying of the wreath

Ada (LeJeune) Lee

Poem "Flanders Field"

Alexis Moore

21 Gun Salute

VFW Honor Guard

Taps

Charlene Lacombe

Presentation of memorial flag
to Ada (LeJeune) Lee

Bob Welsh
BOB Veteran

Closing prayer

Father Mikel Polson

Laying of poppies on the grave



4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)
Office of the Commanding General
Fort Carson, Colorado 80913

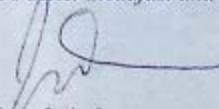
November 23, 2011

Dear LeJeune/Miller family:

On behalf of the 4th Infantry Division, I would like to personally extend my deepest gratitude and respect in honor of the sacrifice and service of your uncle, PFC Elroy LeJeune, during his tour of duty in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. Your Uncle Elroy's actions while assigned to "G" Company, 12th Infantry Regiment have significantly contributed to the success, heritage and history of the 4th Infantry Division, the United States Army and our great nation.

Thank you for taking the time to honor PFC Elroy LeJeune this upcoming Memorial Day in 2012 as we pause to honor all the fallen heroes who have sacrificed their lives for their families and the citizens of the United States. I am eternally grateful and humbled to have had the opportunity to read Elroy LeJeune's story and pay my respects. Thank you for all you have done and please accept my best wishes for a beautiful Memorial Day service.

HOOAH! Steadfast and Loyal!



Joseph Anderson
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

Please let us
know if there is
anything that we
can do!

LeJeune/Miller Family
John R. Semmes
1955 Merrimac Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28304



We walked among the crosses where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle as taps began to play.
The Chaplin led a prayer we stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades I had known so long ago.
They came from every city across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.
I felt a little guilty My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time, but these men lost their all.
Now the services are over for this Memorial Day.
To the names upon these crosses I just want to say,
Thanks for what you've given no one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven from now through evermore.

Author unknown

