



September 7, 2008

Bouchard: Veteran was 'American hero'

Walter Scott (Scotty) Maconochie of Clawson, described by Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard as an American hero, died Aug. 27 at his home. He was 87.

Mr. Maconochie was a World War II veteran who took part in seven campaigns. His stories of serving in Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe as a soldier with the Army's 1st Infantry Division, also known as The Big Red One, were an inspiration to the trainees at the sheriff's Boot Camp, Bouchard said.

"He is one of the long lines of quiet American heroes," he said. "His life of service to this nation went right to his final 87th year on earth."

Scott Maconochie of Clawson, the oldest of Maconochie's five grandchildren, said his grandfather turned down the Purple Heart twice after being injured in combat.

"He was always humble and said he did what he had to," Maconochie said. "He said he had friends who were killed."

Mr. Maconochie had more than 400 days in combat, which include many of the more notable battles of the war. He fought at Kasserine Pass, North Africa, the invasion of Sicily, the invasion of France (D-Day, Omaha Beach) and the Battle of the Bulge.

Mr. Maconochie was born March 9, 1921, in Detroit. After the war, he worked for Macon Manufacturing for 35 years as a lathe operator. He enjoyed coaching basketball and playing sports in general. He was a member of First United Methodist Church in Troy for 20 years.

He is survived by a son, Martin (Mary) Maconochie; and five grandchildren, Scott, Marla, John, Craig and Rhea. He was preceded in death by his wife Isabell; brothers, Stuart Maconochie and George Maconochie; and sister, Anna Maconochie.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salvation Army.
