

# Maurice “Bud” Carrigan

**U.S. Army**  
**2nd Lieutenant –Transportation Corp**



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I was drafted into the U. S. Army in September 1942 at 21 years of age. I received my basic training at Camp Callan in California near San Diego. I spent six months in California and was then sent to Camp Davis, North Carolina for officer training. I was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in September 1943 as a anti-aircraft officer. For three months I was at a camp in Boston, Massachusetts and was then transferred back to Camp Davis, North Carolina to learn Morris Code. About that time they decided they had too many officers in Anti-Aircraft and I was transferred to the Transportation Corp. We were scheduled to depart overseas shortly after that. We left Newport News, Virginia in February 1943 with the

largest convoy to ever leave the United States. There were 100 ships with 500 men on each. The purpose of the convoy was to prepare for the invasion of France on June 6, 1943.

The troops were unloaded in North Africa not far from where one of the most memorable battles was about to take place “D-Day”.

We lost one ship and that ship was carrying a local man from Springfield, IL. We proceeded empty to Naples, Italy and then returned to North Africa and picked up 500 German prisoners to take back to the United States. One prisoner developed appendicitis on the way to the States and needed an operation.

All we had aboard were two Arab eye, ear, nose & throat specialists and a PFC (private first class) by the name of Patterson who had “some” medical training.



**Denver Plane**

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After one hour of watching through a peephole, I walked in and asked Patterson, “What is the problem?”. He said, “The doctors cannot find the appendix”. I took the scalpel from the doctors and gave it to Patterson. He removed the appendix. The German prisoner was hale and hearty by the time we reached the States in June.

I left again in August from New York heading back to Europe. When I got back I was transferred to the Red Ball Highway (Red Ball Express) taking



**Military Police Soldier and Sign  
Posted along the Red Ball Express  
Route**

(This route was used by huge convoys  
delivering much needed supplies to

supplies to the troops near the front lines. That ended in May of 1945 when Germany surrendered.

I was serving near St. Avold in France. St. Avold was close to Merlebach, France that is near



the German border, 15 miles from Saarbrucken, Germany.

It was at a café in Merlabach that I met Terri at a dance they had every Saturday night. We were married six months later. I came back to the States in August of 1946. Terri followed me in October. She was expecting our first child. I was discharged in December of the same year obtaining the rank of Captain.

Mary Elaine was born the following February. We had five more children after Mary and they have all turned out well.

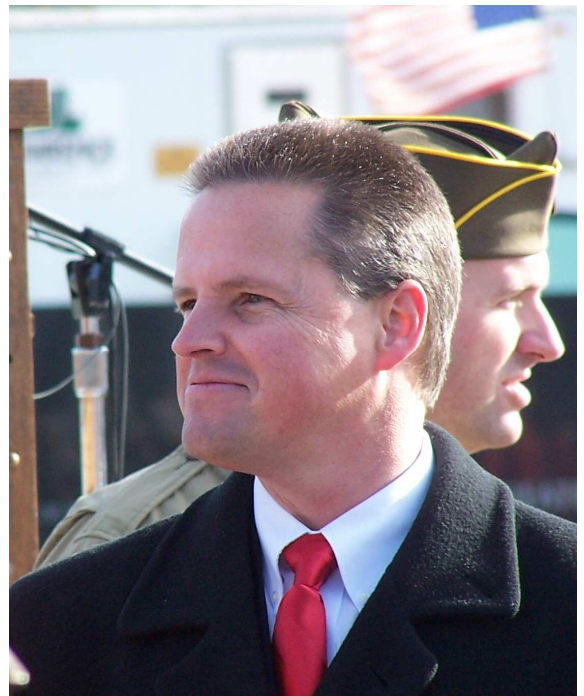
Our marriage ended after 54 years with the death of Terri in January 2001. She's very much missed by all of us.

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**Bud & Terri’s Wedding Picture**



**John Carrigan, President of the WWII  
Illinois Veterans Memorial Committee.**

Son of Maurice “Bud” Carrigan and the late  
Therese “Terri” Carrigan