

Virgil Cox

U.S. Army

U.S. Army - 6th Infantry—Division in The Philippines



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Virgil Cox was called up for the draft in June 1941 at Taylorville, Illinois. He was sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for basic training and later received a rating of Sergeant Technician. In June 1943, he was assigned to the 706th Ordnance Company, a unit of the 6th Infantry Division stationed in the Philippines. His Company received a unit citation that said, *“Through untiring efforts of the officers and men, the 706th Ordnance Company is fully equipped and maintained in a high degree of combat readiness for the Luzon operation”*.

Virgil’s parents saved an article about him from the Taylorville Breeze Courier.

“Cox Awarded Soldier’s Medal”

“T/5 Virgil Cox has been awarded the Soldier’s Medal for Heroism. For heroism displayed in rescuing two enlisted men from drowning in the waters off Cape Sansapor, Dutch New Guinea on September 20, 1944. While riding with several other soldiers, the vehicle overturned about 100 yards offshore in rough seas. All personnel aboard were thrown into the sea. Without regard for his own safety, Virgil Cox searched for the other soldiers, and finding one unable to swim, carried him to shore. After reaching shore with the soldier, he noticed another soldier being buffeted against the stricken vehicle. Without stopping to remove his drenched clothing, he immediately went to the aid of this soldier. After a desperate struggle in the breakers, he was successful in completing the rescue of the enlisted man. The heroism displayed by T/5 Virgil Cox reflects great credit upon himself and his military service.”

Virgil served 23 months in the Pacific and was discharged from Jefferson Barracks, Missouri on November 15, 1945. He married Geneva Clark in 1946 and raised a family of seven children. Virgil worked in the coal mines in Illinois his entire life. Our father loved his country and his fellow soldiers. He died January 16, 1997. It is an honor for us to celebrate our father’s service to his country and have an engraved brick laid in his memory. God bless all those who made this Memorial possible.

The children of Virgil Cox
Taylorville, Illinois