

Grade 3
2nd Place Tie
2020

Avery Tucker

~~Mrs. Roberta Pynn~~

~~Oak Elementary, 3rd Grade~~

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U.S. Army Corporal Thomas A. Duffey, MIA A Peek Into My Past

My great grandfather's name was Thomas Duffey. He is my dad's grandfather and my grandma, Lynn's father. But none of us have ever met him. He died before Lynn was born. The first time I saw his picture, I was so surprised about how much my dad looked like him.

Thomas was born in Bensenville, Illinois on July 19, 1928. He was an only child to Cleo and Irene Duffey. He liked being outside, hunting and trapping squirrels, and riding his motorcycle. He became a soldier in World War II then started a family when he came back, with his wife Shirley, and he worked as a telephone linesman.

A few years later, Thomas was called in to serve in North Korea. He left behind his wife who was pregnant with Lynn, and his toddler son, Pat. One month after he arrived, his troop went missing. The last place he was seen was in Huksuri, North Korea on December 3, 1950. He was 22 years old. When the war was over, our government awarded him the Purple Heart and 7 other medals for his bravery.

We still wonder what happened to my great grandfather! The photo of Thomas is special to our family because it was one of the last ones taken of him. The photo helps us remember him. When I hear my grandma tell stories about him, that she heard from her mom, I can tell that we are both brave, but in different ways. I am brave because I like to go on adventures and explore. He is brave because he went to war and sacrificed his life for his country. Without my great grandfather, my grandma wouldn't be alive, my dad wouldn't be alive and I wouldn't be alive. He is a hero to our family.

