

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Tony DeVito

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Veterans Remember* Oral History project

Interview # VR2-V-L-2007-014

Anthony DeVito, a Marine veteran of the Iwo Jima battle where he was wounded, was interviewed on the above listed date as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project. This interview was part of a special video series on World War II co-hosted by WILL-TV (PBS affiliate in Champaign IL), to highlight the upcoming broadcast of Ken Burns' new documentary, *The War* in late September 2007.

Interview date & location:

Date: Wednesday, 1 August 2007    Location: Illinois Information Services Studio,  
Springfield, IL.

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko, IL Information Services

Transcription by: TechniType Transcripts, Pacifica, CA

Edited by: Mark DePue, Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Time: 1 hr 2 min            Total Pages: 23

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December  
24, 2007.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,  
Illinois.

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## Abstract

Tony DeVito, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-V-L-2007-014

**Biographical Information & Synopsis:** Tony DeVito was born on January 17, 1926 on the near south side of Chicago, and subsequently grew up there. He was a first generation American, as both parents emigrated from Italy. He was drafted into the U.S. Marines on June 13, 1944, went through basic training in San Diego, and was shipped to the Pacific and participated in the battle of Iwo Jima with the 9th Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division. He was shot in the left arm on March 17th during the clean-up stage of the battle, was sent to Guam for his initial recovery, then to Hawaii briefly and was evacuated to the states on the conscripted luxury liner *Luraline*. He spent 14 months in Bethesda Naval Hospital, then 6-7 months at the Great Lakes Naval Hospital located north of Chicago. Tony never recovered the use of his left arm, but did not let that stop him from living a full and productive life with his wife and three daughters.

**Topics Covered:** U.S. Marines during World War II; 9th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division; Iwo Jima; *Luraline*; Bethesda Naval Hospital; Great Lakes Naval Hospital; Recuperation; General Graves B. Erskine; General Holland M. (Howlin') Smith.

**Note to the Reader:** Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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