



**CARL HECKMAN
PFC – U.S. ARMY
WORLD WAR II**

Carl Heckman has lived his entire life of 92 years on his family's farm just north of Fredonia, PA with the exception of a period of time between August 31, 1943 when he drafted into the U.S. Army and his March 9, 1946 discharge. He and his late wife, Luverne raised their children in the quiet rural area and it is this same place that Carl Heckman intends to live the rest of his life.

Carl was nominated to represent his brothers and sisters in the armed forces by the American Legion in Fredonia, PA. They felt he had come from what is so often called the "greatest generation" and had seen so many young men and women come and go through the doors of that veterans' related organization and had listened to their stories and related with them from the viewpoint of his own experiences. When I interviewed Mr. Heckman he related that he felt there were so many more "deserving" men and women who had served in active combat. I explained that Honorees in the MMD500 Parade are not only men and women who had served in or been wounded in combat, but also men and women who served their fellow veterans through active participation in the causes surrounding the various armed force endeavors of

the United States of America. Everyone is assigned by the specific branch of service to serve where they are most needed.

Carl Heckman served his basic training at the U.S. Army Garrison – Miami and was then assigned to serve as a Machine Gun Operations Instructor at Tyndall Field Gunnery School, Panama City, Florida. During the years he trained young men in the operations of various munitions and machine guns, he was constantly expecting to be shipped out to serve in some foreign land during World War II. He received that call and in early 1945 and as he and his comrades were preparing to ship out the next day they received word to stay put. August 8 and 9th, 1945 the Atomic Bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On September 2, 1945 the Japanese signed the surrender documents aboard the USS Missouri.

Heckman and wife, Luverne, raised 4 sons – Edward (wife Theresa), Bruce (wife Becky) and Dale (wife Lisa). A fourth son, Richard is deceased. The family is rounded out with 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and another great grandchild expected in July.