



We Be People

EPISODE FOUR: COMMON DEFENSE

DID YOU KNOW?

- Joseph Pierce received his first name “Joe” from the ship’s crew on his journey to America from China and he received his last name in honor of President Franklin Pierce, who held office from 1853 to 1857.
- You can see monuments honoring the brave service of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry at Gettysburg National Military Park. The land surrounding the monuments as well as an area near the Bliss Farm is maintained twice a year by members of the 14th Connecticut, who make the trip to Gettysburg in honor of those who fought and died at the battle.
- Members of the 14th Connecticut have appeared in feature films including *Glory*, *Gettysburg*, and *Gods and Generals*.
- Joseph Pierce and wife, Martha, are buried in the Walnut Grove Cemetery in Meriden, Connecticut. Living history presenters of the 14th Connecticut held a rededication ceremony of Pierce’s gravesite in 2006 and purchased and dedicated a marker for Martha Morgan Pierce’s grave in 2007.
- The Chinese Exclusion Act was finally repealed in 1943 by the Magnuson Act, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act.
- A statue commemorating Alvin York resides on the lawn of the Tennessee state capitol in Nashville.
- Actor Gary Cooper won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his portrayal of York in the movie *Sergeant York*.
- Alvin C. York was awarded several major military decorations of the American and Allied forces including the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Croca di Guerra of Italy, and the War Medal of Montenegro.
- Alvin York named several of his children after famous American historical figures including Andrew Jackson, Betsy Ross, Thomas Jefferson, and Woodrow Wilson.

- FDR's famous prayer broadcast by radio on D-Day, June 6, 1944, was originally titled, "Let our Hearts be Stout."
- World War II hero Rodger Young is buried in the McPherson Cemetery in Clyde, Ohio.
- Rodger Young's parents received the Medal of Honor in recognition of their son's sacrifice on January 17, 1944.
- Storyteller Rick Sowash's closing line in the segment on Rodger Young, "Greater love than this hath no man, that he will lay down his life for another," is taken from the Gospel of John, chapter 15, verse 13.
- Humbert Roque Versace's mother, Marie Teresa Rios, was an author who wrote *The Fifteenth Pelican*, on which the television show *The Flying Nun* was based.
- Humbert Roque Versace had planned to become a Catholic priest and a missionary to Vietnam after his military service ended.
- Captain Versace did many things to help the village of Camau in Vietnam where he was stationed. He built new tin roofs to replace the worn, thatched roofs covering most of the huts and he wrote letters to schools back in America, asking them to send soccer balls and other equipment for the village playground.
- There have been many tributes to Versace including the dedication of Rocky Versace Plaza in Alexandria, Virginia, an induction into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, and Versace's place on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. His name can be found on Panel 01E, row 033.
- First Lieutenant James Nicholas Rowe, whose firsthand accounts of Versace and his captivity were portrayed in the film, escaped from the Vietnamese prison camp on December 31, 1968. He wrote about his POW experiences in a book titled *Five Years to Freedom*. Rowe eventually rose to the rank of Colonel and was chief of the ground forces responsible for coordinating security with the Philippine military when he was killed by an assassin's bullet in 1989.
- Humbert Roque Versace was of Puerto Rican descent and is honored in San Juan on a monument of remembrance in front of the capitol building.
- Versace's father, Colonel Humbert Joseph Versace, and mother are also buried at Arlington National Cemetery.