

**A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS**



**Veteran's Day**  
November 11th, 2015



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# Simply Put, 'War Is A Terrible Thing'

By **LAUREN BARRY**  
Journal & Topics Reporter

"You have to be your own man," said Angelo Gianopulos as he sat down for an interview with the Journal & Topics. The World War II veteran doesn't often talk about his experiences in the war, unless he is with other veterans. He prefers talking about his family or offering sage advice to his friends.



Gianopulos

"War is a terrible thing," he wrote in a speech delivered at Wheeling's Memorial Day parade this year, "and no one should ever experience it."

Gianopulos was drafted in 1942 when he was just 18, right before graduating from John Marshall High School on the west side of Chicago. He remembers receiving a postcard in the mail from President Roosevelt.

"Greetings," it read, before telling Gianopulos he had to report for duty in less than two weeks. Marshall gave him his diploma early along with six other students who were drafted.

"Every neighborhood had a store

where you reported," Gianopulos explained. After enlisting, future G.I.s were sent to the LaSalle Street station for what he humorously referred to as "a so-called exam," and then to Camp Grant in Rockford.

From Rockford he was sent to Camp Howze in Texas where he trained to fight in Europe, and the swamplands of Louisiana where soldiers were prepared for battle in the Pacific.

Training was a culture shock for Gianopulos, who encountered snakes and alligators for the first time and was thrown into a grueling schedule of maneuvers.

Training could be deadly, according to Gianopulos. He recalled one exercise where recruits jumped up after seeing snakes, only to get hit by live ammo and perish.

"That was quite a thing to see when you were a young kid," he said.

Before 1942 was over, he was sent to England on a liberty ship. These were

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# Gianopulos

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large, iron hulls packed with troops who often got seasick.

"I didn't like England at all," said Gianopulos. He explained that he and other recruits practiced maneuvers in "the roughest country," running up hills and cliffs in preparation for the invasion of Normandy.

In the days before the invasion, the landscape of England's streets was bizarre. "Every sidewalk, street, every alley was loaded with tanks," said Gianopulos, "it was just awesome."

He and the other G.I.s had no idea where they would attack until the day before the battle. Gianopulos was part of the amphibious landings at Omaha

beach, swimming yards to shore and climbing rocky cliffs.

"A lot of boys sunk with the weight of their gear," he recalled, "but I was lucky." Gianopulos had been a champion basketball player in high school and was used to hours of physical training, unlike some of the others.

He continued on to the battle of St. Lo, where he was injured while trying to break through the German stronghold. After spending about two weeks in the hospital he ended up under General Patton's command.

"There was a lot of chaos," Gianopulos explained, "they were replacing a lot of men."

He went on to fight in the Ardennes where he was injured once more. He then went on to participate in the liberation of Paris before the war ended.

Throughout his 18 months of combat duty, he earned many distinctions, including a Purple Heart and three bronze stars. Gianopulos is proud of his service and believes troops are necessary for the country's safety. But he is honest about the horrors of war.

"It should never happen, but this is life," he told the Journal. "Seeing your comrades die in front of you, it's petrifying." He described how G.I.s became like brothers after defending each other in foxholes, literally protecting each other's back.

"You don't think," he said, "you just try to save each other."

By the time the European Theater of the war finished in 1945, Gianopulos had earned 120 credits over nearly two years living in combat zones. He only needed 90 to be discharged and sent

home.

That year, he would depart from Marseilles and make his way back to Chicago's west side. "When I got out of Union Station at Jackson and Canal, I lost my bearings," he recalled, not quite believing he was actually home.

"I've had a charmed life," said Gianopulos of life after war. He attended DePaul University where he continued to play basketball, going on to work in the entertainment and hospitality industry and running hotels around the country.

Gianopulos had three children with his wife of 64 years. Today, he is a proud grandfather of nine as well as a great grandfather. Over the years he has contributed to many organizations for veterans and has been instrumental in fundraising.

# Carroll

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almost felt like prison.

After, Carroll went to Camp Pendleton for infantry training in January 2006. His first seven-month deployment took Carroll to Japan, the Philippines and Bangladesh. He served on a ship with a quick reaction task force assembled from many military units.

In the Philippines, Carroll trained Ma-

rines in small artillery. He also painted schools in poor areas. "Service makes you appreciate so much of what we have," said Carroll of the experience.

His ship patrolled waters around Bangladesh where they helped scout for Somali pirates. Ten months later in 2007, he was sent on his second seven-month deployment. Again, Carroll was stationed on a ship that would travel and perform a number of duties.

In Kuwait, the ship's task force helped protect the border with Iraq. In Africa,

the troops brought food and water to villages as well as other humanitarian work. During this time, Carroll decided to become a paramedic when he returned home. "I started right away," said Carroll, "and I worked really hard."

Carroll finished EMT, fire and paramedic training when he returned in 2009. At the fire department, he found himself at home. "I learned to value so much in the Marines," he said, including teamwork and putting others before yourself. "At the fire department, you

have that kind of life."

To Carroll, the most important thing he was left with after service was life-long friendships. "We were together every single day for four years, we became brothers," he said of his fellow Marines. "You never realize how close you were until you move back home."

Carroll lives in Fox River Grove with his wife and two children. Though he has a busy schedule in Buffalo Grove, he tries to see his buddies from the Marines as often as he can.


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(with a Sidecar of Miller Lite or Bud Light Draft)  
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\$10 Mix & Match Domestic Buckets (5 Bottles)

MONDAY

Food & Beverage Industry Day – 25% Off Entire Purchase  
(Excluding Features and Specials)  
\$7.99 Build-a-Burger (up to 3 toppings) served w/ chips  
Kids Eat Free off the kids menu  
(with each full price adult entrée purchase)  
\$3 Bacardi Mixers | \$3 Jameson Shots  
\$3 23oz Domestic Drafts | \$5 Beer Flights

TUESDAY

Happy Hour ½ Priced Appetizers 3-6 PM  
\$1 Beef Tacos (Hard Shell or Soft Shell)  
\$3 Steak or Chicken Tacos, with Corn or Flour Tortillas  
(minimum of 3 per order)  
\$2 Drafts – Craft, Import & Domestic  
(over 32 to choose from)  
\$3 Well Drinks, Shots & House Wine | \$4 House Margaritas

WEDNESDAY... WINE DOWN!

\$7.99 All-You-Can-Eat Build-a-Pasta  
Choose a pasta and a Homemade Sauce  
Pizzas ½ Priced 4-8 PM  
\$3.00 Fireside Ale  
½ Priced Bottles of Wine | \$3.50 Peroni Bottles

THROW-BACK THURSDAY

Happy Hour ½ Priced Appetizers 3-6 PM  
89¢ Chicken Tenders (minimum order of 3)  
\$1.50 Oysters (minimum order of 3)  
\$4 Any Call Drink or Shots | \$5 Any Bomb  
\$22 Craft Beer Bucket  
(Mix & Match any 5 Bottles of Craft Beer \$6 and under)

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\$9.99 All-You-Can-Eat  
Battered North Atlantic Cod & Fries  
Per person, No sharing please.  
\$5 Martinis (From Our Select Martini Menu)  
\$15 Mix & Match Import Buckets (5 bottles)

SATURDAY

50¢ Traditional or Breaded Boneless Jumbo Wings (minimum order of 5)  
\$5 Wine by the Glass: Caposaldo Pinot Grigio or Little Black Dress Pinot Noir  
\$5 Jack Daniel's Mixers | \$5 Baby Guinness Shots  
\$4 32oz Domestic Drafts