

The Ernie Pyle Legacy Foundation

Press Release, July 1, 2023

Captain Henry T. Waskow Day

Henry T. Waskow was born on September 24, 1918 in the Belton, Texas area. After graduating from Belton High School, Henry decided to pursue a military career. With the start of WWII, Henry eventually was shipped out to Italy with the 1st Battalion, 143rd Regiment, of the 36th Division. War was difficult in the hills of Italy in late 1943 and his Battalion was engaged in a fierce battle. Near San Pietro and on hillside 1205, Henry was killed on December 13, 1943.

At this time, Ernie Pyle was embedded with the Battalion and the battle paused to retrieve the dead and wounded. Ernie was at the base of the hill and observed the mules bringing down the dead. He noticed the soldiers taking unusual interest in an officer laying there. They each stopped, spoke and some bent over to arrange his uniform. This was Captain Henry T. Waskow. He was so highly regarded by his soldiers as they highly respected Henry for his leadership and courage.

Ernie Pyle later wrote the most famous article to come out of the war, called "The Death of Captain Waskow." This article has been repeated hundreds of times and most journalists regard it as a journalism icon.

The Ernie Pyle Legacy Foundation thought it was needed to honor Captain Waskow in a special way. The foundation has created Captain Henry T. Waskow Day on September 24th, his birthday. To complete this honor, an event and ceremony has been planned in Belton, Texas on September 22nd, 2023 at the Pittenger Fine Arts center. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. All city officials are involved in the program and local high school students will be attending as well as participating in the program.

To make Captain Henry T. Waskow Day official, a letter has been received from Governor Abbott announcing the day, a proclamation will be presented by the office of the Mayor. We were able to work with the Texas Senate which has adopted Resolution SR No. 505 as follows: Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Texas 88th Legislature, hereby recognize September 24th, 2023, as Captain Henry T. Waskow Day.

Please come and join everyone on this wonderful day honoring Captain Waskow.