

Blazing a Trail

By Rosemary Murray

I first saw the light of day on September 25, 1924 in New York City. My name was Rosemary Westlake. During WWII, I along with friends wrote letters to the men who had gone to fight for Uncle Sam. I married a Soldier Boy, changed my name to Murray, and became the Mother of eight. In 1965, after losing our business to an arsonist, we relocated to Riverside, CA. George went first, stayed with my Aunt, found a job, and a house and in June we were on our way. My girlfriend and I, with the kids in the back of a Station Wagon, ventured 3000 miles with only a road map to guide us.

I went to work at the Riverside County Farm Bureau eventually becoming the Office Manager. My boss helped form the Retired Officers Assn. (TROA) and got me involved. I am on the Board of Directors of TROA now known as MOAA, Military Officers Association of America.

During my three decades with the farming community my family became part of Farm Bureau, When I retired I was presented with two proclamations, one from the California State Assembly the other from the Senate. They state in part, “Where as Rosemary Murray was known and recognized by public officials and farm Community leaders as a resource, guidance and help from the Farm Bureau, and Where as she has shown unfailing dedication to agriculture above and beyond the ordinary expectations of her job with Farm bureau, and”—

John Corona is from a Farm Bureau family but chose to be a History teacher. He was the founder of “King High Remembers” at Martin Luther High school, to have the Veterans tell their stories to history students. I got involved and told the story of my great-grandfather who fought in the Civil War. I have letters he wrote telling of the battles he was in. John asked me to tell my story to his history classes. I talked to his five classes in one day.

I was the newsletter Editor for the 25th Infantry Division Assn, Southern California Chapter for 30 years. I have been on the 25th Inf. Div. Assn Scholarship Committee since 1994. After rating the applicants I have first choice in picking the one that is awarded the CWO4 George F. and Rosemary Murray Scholarship of \$1500.00.

I have taken the Riverside National Cemetery under my wing and been at almost every Veterans Day and Memorial Day Service since it opened Nov. 11,

1978. I compiled a book on how the Cemetery changed over the years and it makes the rounds when a new Director comes on board. As a Board member of the RNC Support Committee, on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, at 9am, I receive the Flag at the service for the men who were buried the month before without one. They are given full Military Honors.

I have been blest to have lived this long.