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***KU Office of Veterans Services Interview***  
***with Camille DeMarco '81, M'01, Assistant Director, University Marketing***

***By: Tatiana Britton, Graduate Assistant - May 2021***

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**1. What branch of service did your uncle, PFC Eake DeMarco, join- Active Duty, National Guard or Reserves?**

ARMY 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division (The Big Red One) ..... ACTIVE DUTY

**2. How did you find out about your uncle's involvement in the military?**

My dad (his brother), and great aunt and great uncle (who raised him) ... also, historical items I provided.

**3. How would you describe him?**

I did not know him, but from what I was told, he was quite charismatic, handsome, brave and popular in high school.

**4. Do you and your family have any traditions to honor his bravery and sacrifice?**

Not so much a tradition, but my (other) uncle and his children have visited the grave in Normandy every time they traveled to Europe (approximately five times including the 75th anniversary of D-Day).

**5. As a civilian, what does the term "Veteran/Service Member" mean to you?**

Someone who is duty-bound and is/was willing to sacrifice his/her life for our country and freedoms. Someone with a social conscious who has made an incredible commitment for the betterment of all our lives.

**6. As a civilian, what do you believe it takes for a Soldier to be considered a good quality Service Member?**

Bravery in time of war; incredible discipline; teamwork; and the willingness to give up his/her normal life to work, live in, and travel to (possibly) dangerous areas for duty or to preserve our way of life here at home.

**7. Do you have any stories you want to share about him?**

I was told that when he was in high school, many girls wanted to date him or attend the prom with him. Instead, he asked a girl who was disabled to go because he knew, or realized, no other boy would do so.

We believe he married a Scottish woman (and Soldier) during his service in Europe. Her name was Elaine and we have a few photos of her (in uniform). I Don't know much more other than she did remarry after Uncle Eake's death.

**8. If you had the opportunity to ask him one thing, what would it be?**

Where did that courage come from to fearlessly engage in the major Allied Invasion of Sicily, where he was wounded and earned a Bronze Star, to then participate in the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day where he ultimately lost his life (and earned another Bronze Star as well as the Purple Heart). From letters my great aunt received from his commander, he was an excellent soldier and fought bravely in all battles.

**9. If you had the opportunity to tell him one thing, what would it be?**

We (family) are so proud of his bravery and legacy. Also, what is said at funeral services when the American flag is presented: "On behalf of ..... a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your honorable and faithful service."

**10. Would you like to add any additional comments, statements, information, etc.?**

His mother and father (my grandparents) were very poor and could not afford to house, clothe, and feed all the children they had; so, when Uncle Eake was born they "gave" him to my great aunt and uncle to raise. He considered them his parents and loved them very much to the end. I can tell this by the letters, postcards and gifts he sent to them while in the service and in Europe.

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***Thank you for your selfless service PFC Eake DeMarco!***

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