

Heritage vets open meetings in song

I recently attended a lunch meeting of the Heritage Veterans Association at the Heritage of Green Hills retirement community in Cumru Township.

The association, which has about a dozen World War II veterans among its members, starts its meetings with a presentation of the flags of the nation's armed services. As the colors are posted, vets sing a portion of their respective theme songs.

When the Army flag was posted, for example, Army veterans sang, "First to fight for the right, and to build the nation's might, and the Army goes rolling along."

In turn, Navy veterans sang, "Anchors aweigh, sail on to victory and sink their bones to Davy Jones, hurray." Marine Corps vets chimed in with, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we fight our country's battles in the air, on land and sea." And Army Air Corps vets sang, "Off we go into the wild blue yonder, climbing high into the sun."

After pledging allegiance to the U.S. flag, the entire gathering sang the national anthem. "And the rockets red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

God bless America, and the Greatest Generation who saved her.

- Ron Devlin
reporter