

Salem, Oregon

Hello. My name is Casey Chaffin and I am an 8th grader at Straub Middle School.

My interest in WWII started with a report on Rosie the Riveter last year. However, one cannot research only one aspect of WWII. As I researched the Rosies, I found out about rationing and the hardships people went through during the war. Not to mention the abundance of gold stars that represented lost loved ones.

Now that was just the beginning. After I finished that report, the years of 1939—1945 were imbedded in my brain. I love finding out even the most random facts. To be truthful, the random facts are the ones I find most interesting.

Because of this newly found interest in WWII my mom bought Mrs. Beebe's book, *Snapshots of a War Bride's Life* for me, which in turn led to me meeting her. This heightened my interest of WWII even further. To hear her story from almost seventy years ago and how active she still is now made me respect the people of the Greatest Generation even more.

Something I also find intriguing about the era is the trust people put into their communities. People could leave their doors unlocked and ask their neighbors to babysit without worry of something bad happening. Nowadays you can't turn around without someone wronging someone else.

Also, I believe most kids my age could learn from this generation. The 1940s were a time before cell phones and the Internet, and people (in my opinion) lived fuller lives. A lot of kids think history is boring, but that's because of the general information we are presented. In history class, you don't get to hear about the little guys, including war brides, who made the era what it was. You don't get to learn about the small tidbits of information that make WWII interesting.

In short, WWII changed the lives of many, and as a generation of plugged-in children, we are forgetting the past. Many kids' worlds now revolve around technology. I think the kids I go to school with should know that there were a lot harder things our grandparents and great grandparents had to do than update a Facebook account. I think they should know we wouldn't be here if our ancestors didn't fight battles for us years before we were born.

Thank you.

Casey Chaffin 4/18/13