

"Some of the things you see just stay with you."

More than 140 people came together at the 11-11-11 Club Annual Banquet and Memorial Service on Friday, November 11, 2016 - the 98th anniversary of the day that much of the world knows as [Armistice Day](#).

On this Veterans Day, United States Marine James F. Young reminisced about his journey from Mount Joy to some of the most terrifying memories of World War II in the Pacific.

As did many, Young — then a recent high school graduate — responded to the call following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and he hitchhiked to Philadelphia to enlist in the war cause.

He recalled he was declared ineligible by the Navy recruiters and he went down the hall where another young man told him, “The Marines would take anyone.”

As a new Marine, he headed to [Parris Island](#) for basic training and from there to the west coast for deployment to the First Marine Division. Young, now 94 years old, told his story to Larry Alexander in this [Lancaster Newspapers’ article in 2009](#).

On Friday, Young recounted his story as an 81 millimeter mortar man. “Smaller mortars (up to 82 mm) are commonly used and transported by infantry based mortar sections as a substitute for, or in addition to, artillery. “

Years, fears, tears

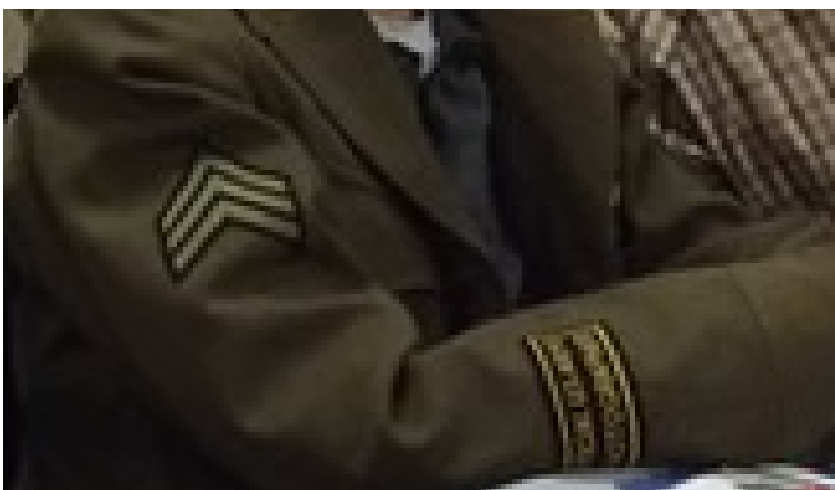
Young, barely a year following his enlistment, and the Marines of the First Marine Division faced the horrors of combat in island campaigns at [Guadalcanal](#), that savage combat was followed by actions on [Peleliu](#) and [Cape Gloucester](#) in the New Britain campaigns.

Young’s eyes teared and his voice broke momentarily as he remembered images from those encounters. Young’s response mirrors those of combat veterans from all wars. They know what General Sherman meant when he uttered, “War is hell.”

He glowed as he recalled the break from the rigors of island battles as his unit was rotated to Melbourne, Australia for R&R. The glowing memories of escapes from the harshness of combat dims the stress momentarily.

He told, too, of having served with Lieutenant General [“Chesty” Puller](#) - the famed, most-decorated US Marine. Lewis “Chesty” Puller was then a colonel.

Young’s most joyous recollection was coming home from war.



We were captivated by the sleeve patch on the uniform worn by one of the World War II veterans. Additionally, his uniform sported four combat bars. Quite impressive.!