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Daniel V. Kinder, Sr. stands in front of Vought F4U Corsair.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTY KINDER

Pearl Harbor attack impacted Daniel Kinder

BY MARGARET GRAHAM
Correspondent

U.S. Marine Daniel V. Kinder, Sr., of Lake Placid, served in the Pacific during World War II as an aviation mechanic. He passed away on June 2, 2023, at the age of 98.

Born in Charleston, West Virginia, on Dec. 2, 1924, the youngest of nine children, he escaped the pressure to work in the coal mines by running away from home at 15, jumping a train and subsequently joining the circus.

His travels took him to the west coast where an Oregon family befriended him. At 18 he decided to join the Marines. It was 1942, one year after Pearl Harbor. He completed boot camp in San Diego, California, and became a crew chief on a marine aircraft group,

worked on Corsair F4Us, the legendary WWII-era American fighters known for their immense speed and the Douglas Dauntless SBDB52 bombers, nicknamed "Slow but Deadly."

He served in the Pacific, including Soloman's Island, Guadalupe Canal, Philippines, and also Xingtao, China. He was in Iwo Jama two weeks after the Marines went in and levelled it.

His son Marty said, "I could tell that had an effect on him."

His father told him he could not believe what he was seeing. He said the island was decimated. It was the devastation of war.

Marty said, "He got a little emotional when he was talking about it, but he didn't go into any more detail than

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that.”

His father said the Japanese were still up in the mountains. They used to come down to try to steal food and were fired upon by the Marines who in turn were forced to take cover amid sand-filled barrels while Japanese aircraft flew over them close enough that you could see the zeroes on the plane.

When he returned home at the end of the war, they were placed on a “four stacker,” a transport ship capable of carrying 5,000 troops called C.G. Morton. They sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge and his father said it never felt so good to see home.

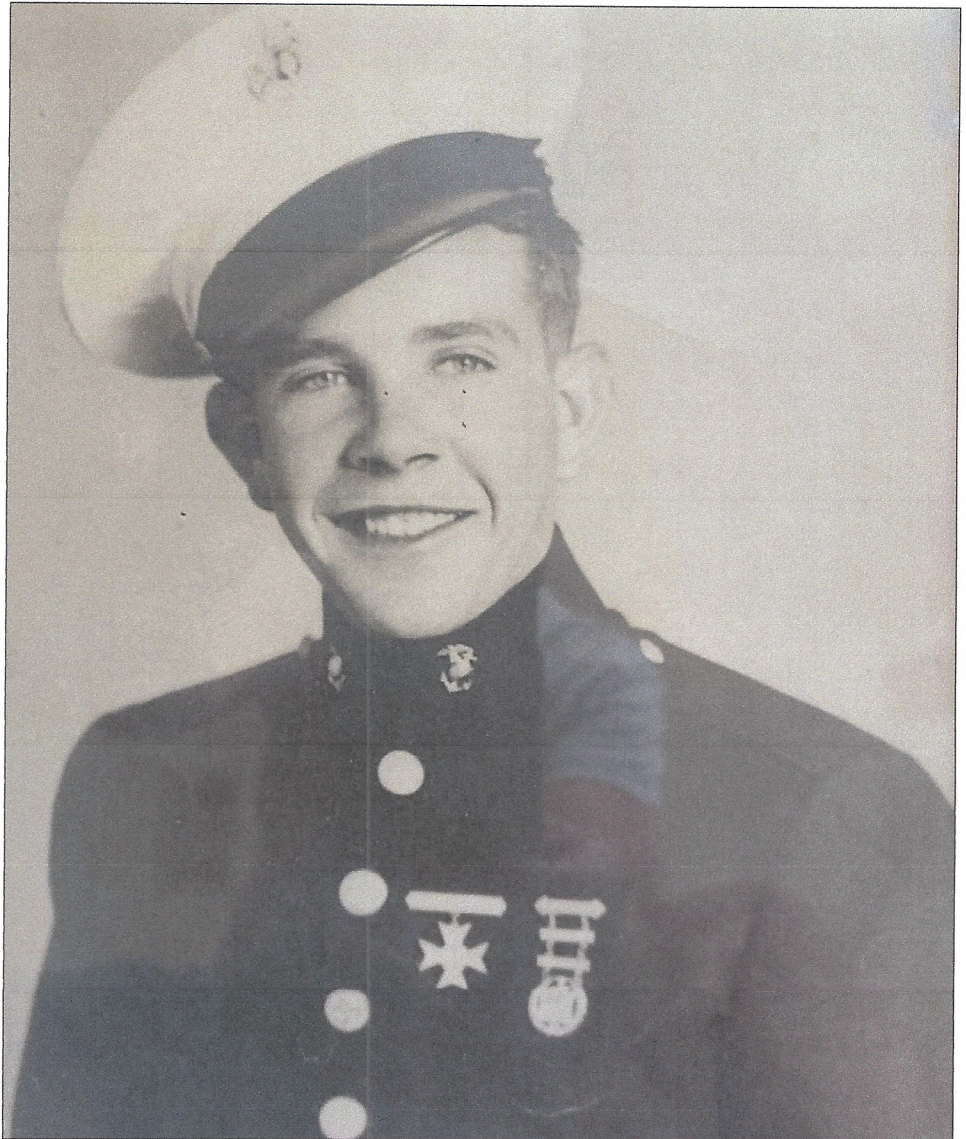
In 1945, after two years of active service, Kinder came back home to West Virginia, couldn’t find work, and re-enlisted in the Marine reserves, staying another six years.

He went on to work at Safeway Stores Inc. as a truck driver, retiring after 42 years with a perfect safe driving record.

Daniel married the love of his life Doris Geneva Kinder (Clark). They were married for 73 years. She passed away in 2021.

Daniel had been a resident of Lake Placid for eight years after moving from Inwood, West Virginia.

“I think my Dad was proud of his military service. Probably the attack on Pearl Harbor had a serious influence on him. He wanted to defend his country. I am proud of my Dad, proud of his service,” Marty said.



Daniel V. Kinder, Sr.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTY KINDER

