

Howard Beach

Class of 1945

Howie Beach is a decorated war hero whose commitment to his fellow men and women in uniform endures long after his service in the United States Army. His father was a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy during the First World War.

Likewise, Howie Beach heeded the patriotic call to join the military and fight in World War II. Beach entered the Army upon turning eighteen in 1943; he had not yet graduated from high school. In his twenty-eight months of service, Beach endured harrowing battle conditions, including the Normandy Invasion and eleven months of steady combat with the Ninth Infantry Division. Among many honors, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal for conspicuous bravery and five Campaign Battle Stars. Returning from war, Beach earned his high school diploma through night school attendance and tutoring at the homes of Wauwatosa teachers.

Subsequently, he studied at the University of Wisconsin. His book, The Private War of Howie Beach, details not only the trials of battle, but also the post-traumatic stress of returning home. With his participation in the documentary cinema “Warriors, In Their Own Words” and a portrait book of 31 combat veterans, Beach continues to veterans, contributing all profits of “Warriors” to “Freedom Is Not Free”, an organization that aids service members and veterans, their families, and the families of the fatally wounded.

Spring, 2011