



Widow accepts Medal of Honor

By Amanda Miller

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President Barack Obama honored Jack Weinstein, who was a resident of St. Francis, with the nation's highest honor in one of the largest Medal of Honor ceremonies in history. Cheyenne County resident Nancy Weinstein was invited to Washington, D.C. to accept the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late husband.

Nancy went with her daughter Judy, son Randy, Cindy Fiedler, Arlene Walz and Arlene's daughters Jana Wilhelm and Marta Walz to Washington, D.C. She and Judy flew out on March 16. When she arrived, there was an escort waiting for her at the airport to take her to her hotel, the Sheraton at Pentagon City. Nancy said she could look out her window and see the Pentagon and the memorial from when a plane struck the building on 9/11.

On March 18, she got to meet President Obama as she was presented with the prestigious award on behalf of Jack. Nancy said that the White House was "like a museum," with paintings, antique furniture and elegant decorations. She was led into the Oval Office, where she met the President.

"It was awesome. He is such a compassionate, caring person," she said. "And he treated us as though we were the same status."

She said the President gave everyone hugs.

As she accepted the medal on behalf of Jack, the President held her hand. She said this made her feel at ease, as the entire day was overwhelming.

"The entire trip was like I was walking in a dream. I haven't really come out of it yet."

On March 19 she visited the Pentagon, where she was presented the Medal of Honor Flag by Secretary of Army John McHugh.

She said the Pentagon was like

a city, completely self-sufficient.

"It was really something to see," Nancy said.

Nancy said she was proud to accept the medal for her husband of 54 years. The two were close, and they had met before he was drafted into the Army.

She met him when she was 16. Nancy was living in her hometown of Lamar, Mo. Jack's parents had moved to a farm outside of Lamar, so he was living there as well.

She saw him from across the room at a dance one night. The very next night, he drove her home from the skating rink. They dated from then on.

Jack Weinstein was drafted into the Army in 1950. He was a Cheyenne County native, but was living in Lamar when he was drafted. He completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood. He was then shipped to Korea on April 24, where he spent the next one and a half years.

Jack was trained in the 21st Infantry Regiment, Company G of the 24th Division. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, was the first fighting unit deployed to Korea at the start of hostilities when North Korean forces invaded South Korea. The 24th Division fought the first battle of the Korean War at Osan, South Korea.

On Oct. 19, 1951, Sergeant Weinstein was a member of the platoon which had just secured a strategic hill position from the enemy in the vicinity of Kumson, Korea. However, the enemy immediately launched a fierce counterattack against the platoon. His unit "was hit," according to the regimental report, "by a fierce counterattack by about 30 fanatical Chinese Communist troops."

Most of the members of the platoon had been wounded in the previous action and withdrew under the heavy attack.



NANCY WEINSTEIN accepts the Medal of Honor on behalf of her late husband, Jack. The Medal of Honor was presented by President Barack Obama at a ceremony held March 18 in Washington, D.C. Photo by U.S. Army photo by Leroy Council/Released

Sergeant Weinstein saw that it was necessary to withdraw the men but, in order for them to withdraw, there would need to be cover for them. Sergeant Weinstein volunteered to stay, firing on the enemy.

After killing six men, he was out of ammunition and was injured. Instead of leaving, he started gathering enemy grenades which lay round him and threw them at the enemy. Alone and unaided he held the ground his

platoon had fought hard to take. The enemy suffered many casualties. On a broken leg, and against overwhelming odds, he held out until friendly forces were able to move in and the enemy was driven back again.

"He was doing it for his guys under him," Nancy explained.

His outstanding courage and complete disregard for his own life was an inspiration to his comrades. It was this act of

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