

Peter Rhalter

Los Angeles, CA 90066

Prescott Fire Department Administration
1700 Iron Springs Rd
Prescott, AZ 86305

July 4, 2013

Dear Sirs,

I have a story for Mr. Brendan McDonough that I hope may be of help to him. One of my friends served in the Marines during World War II. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton and was trained there to be part of a Jeep reconnaissance unit.

At the end of 1944 his unit prepared to join the war in the Pacific. Their destination was Iwo Jima. The night before they shipped out my friend received an order. He was called away to officer's school so he didn't leave with the rest of the group he trained with. Tragically, all the men from his unit were killed in the invasion of Iwo Jima.

The thought that he survived when his comrades didn't is still with him today. However, after the war Hugh O'Brian went on to become a star on TV and in the movies. He had his own top-rated TV Show (Wyatt Earp) and still likes to joke that he is the last man to ever shoot John Wayne.

As awful as it was (and is) for Hugh to be the sole survivor of his Marines unit, he still had a great deal left to do. Among other things he founded HOBY, an organization that has given leadership training to hundreds of thousands of high school students around the world. He has always felt that somehow he was spared so that he could do something positive with his life.

I wish Mr. McDonough the very best as he works through this trying time. I also send my heartfelt sympathies to your entire department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Rhalter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Rhalter