



WE HONOR VETERANS

Capt. Epstein
MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care
New York, NY

Herbert Epstein is a retired Captain, WWII Veteran at Normandy and is one of the liberators of Buchenwald. He's also an MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care patient who was recently honored for his incredible service to this country.

A member of the 512th Division 1st Army, Capt. Epstein was in heavy maintenance and was stationed in France, Brussels and Germany. When he and his fellow soldiers reached Buchenwald, Epstein says dead bodies were stacked in such high piles, they looked like wood from a distance. This devastating sight is one that he'll never forget and one of the many reasons why he says that "old age is blessing."

A blessing because he is fortunate to have a loving wife and family. Herbert married before the war, returned to a loving wife and built a family. Today he is 99.5 years old! The captain has children, grandchildren and is awaiting the birth of his first great grandchild.



Epstein was drafted by the Army in 1943, a year after he graduated from Brooklyn Law School and had started his career as a practicing attorney. Following his military service, he married Celeste (pictured in the red sweater) in 1964.

Together they had four children. As a civilian, Epstein took his family to Brussels, Paris and Normandy—they stopped at many cemeteries and paid their respects to fallen heroes of different nationalities and backgrounds. And, for many years, Capt. Epstein stayed in touch with men from his company. That connection was very important.

Submitted by: Audrey Waters , MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care