



# St. Johns High School

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Home of the Redwings!

## Roger Jorae

Interviewed by Adam Argersinger

Roger Jorae, a World War II Veteran, was a part of one of the most important pieces of history of all time. This being the Second World War which started in 1939 and lasted until 1944. He entered late in the war after most of the damage had been done, so he never did actually engage in any combat situations. However, this does not deteriorate the importance of his role in WWII. Besides being in WWII, Mr. Jorae was also involved in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was involved in the Pacific Region of WWII against Japan. He was involved in a rescue mission which involved the U.S. to strip an aircraft carrier of its storage hangers and make bunks for the men so there would be enough room for all of the people that were scheduled to be brought home. This is just one of the many memories Mr. Jorae has.

To begin, Mr. Jorae entered the war roughly around 1942 for the last part of the war. He had enlisted in the NAVY because he and his father had figured that if he didn't enlist in something, then he would have been drafted anyway so he had might as well enlist in something that he wanted to do. He had a cousin who had earlier been involved in the War over in Germany, but he had been captured during a battle and was then being held as a prisoner of war in the prison camps. Mr. Jorae, although never was in combat, helped out on Aircraft Carriers, and also was a guard for a while, which involved 24 hour shifts of watching for the enemy. Although it could get lonely on those 24-hour watches, he seldom missed home, except for the ladies of course, but was not too homesick during the war. No other family members except for his one cousin had been in the military forces so he needed not worry much about the safety of his family. During the war, he had made many friends, but lost some do to the war and after affects of the war, which is unfortunate. His platoons do sometimes hold reunions, but he does not attend so he really doesn't contact most people who were a team with him in helping to end the war.

Mr. Jorae has many memories of the war, some not so bright, but even though war is a terrible event, some humorous stories can come out of it. The war experience for Mr. Jorae was not necessarily a good one, but a definite learning experience. He was skeptical about sharing his experience with other people, but once he started, his information was thorough and clear. Thank you Mr. Jorae for being a part of American History and sharing with all of us your interesting story and information about World War II.

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