

# HARVEST FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Enrico & Vicki Correlli  
P.O. Box 119  
White Marsh, MD 21162

Email: [ecorrelli@gmail.com](mailto:ecorrelli@gmail.com)  
Ph: 443-804-3525  
SEPTEMBER, 2020

*harvestfellowshipinternational.org*

I don't normally include personal, family matters in our Newsletter, or on Social Media. However, today I make an exception to speak about the life of an exceptional person, my Dad. Dad passed away on July 9<sup>th</sup> at age 98. Dad was a veteran, an entrepreneur, a family man and my personal hero. Most importantly, he loved God.

He was born in 1922 and entered the world with two strikes against him: his Mother died four hours after his birth, and he was born into near poverty. His father made two important decisions: he would never marry again, and he was committed to keeping his family of eight children together. Some urged that my Dad should have been placed in an orphanage but Enrico, born in Italy, would have nothing of it!

Life was hard for Italian immigrants. Dad was passed, at times, from family member to family member. He remembered these caring women all his life. As he grew up, he began to take odd jobs just to earn some money, which he turned over to his father. He sold newspapers, helped sell fruit and shined shoes. When a teenager, he became a roofer's helper. These were the roots of a strong work ethic, which paid huge dividends later in life. At an early age, he bought a car. At 18, he operated tall cranes on the waterfront for the Bethlehem Steel Co.

When World War II broke out, Dad enlisted in the Navy. His unit was shipped to the Southwest Pacific. He served time on some very historical islands like Guadalcanal. He was a member of the *Construction Battalion*, later known as the *Seabees*. The *Seabees* were builders. Although trained in warfare, they would normally go in after the fighting to unload cargo then build roads, airstrips and barracks. Dad led a squad of 12 sailors.

The *Seabees* had two mottos: "*We build, We fight, Can Do!*" and "*The Difficult, We Do Now: The Impossible Takes A Little Longer.*" Throughout his life, Dad quoted these sayings especially the latter. His personal motto reflected his service experience: "*Can Do Better.*" He held himself to these words. Later in life, after being so successful, he said the Holy Spirit gave him these words to live by.

Like so many others of *The Greatest Generation*, he married in 1946 and had six children. Dad always worked two jobs to provide for his large family. Mom stayed home and also worked hard. They were married 66 years.

He returned to work as a crane operator with Bethlehem Steel, followed by the B&O Railroad then back to the Steel Company. As a 2<sup>nd</sup> job, he would work for his brother's Roofing company. In 1960, at the urging of Mom, Dad started his own Roofing Company. He still worked full-time. Some days, he would work all night in the Steel Mills then work all day roofing with no breaks in between. Starting with small homes, his business began to grow. In time, he had to decide between the two jobs as he could not physically continue both. He chose roofing.

Eventually, the Company began to do commercial work and prosper even more due to an outstanding reputation for excellent work. Today, it is one of the leading roofing companies in America. At age 50, Pop was living the American dream. He had sons in business. He had more time with his growing family. A giver all his life, the wealth he accrued was poured into his family and Churches. When he died, his family numbered over eighty.

In his last years, he spoke more and more about his Mother who died at childbirth. He felt guilty thinking he should have died, not her. His oldest brother comforted him saying Dad was meant to have a large, Christian family and leave a Godly legacy. *And that, he did, dying on the birthday of the Mother he never knew.* Only God could have orchestrated that!