

## Robert C. Abrams Info Sheet

<b>Name of Soldier:</b>	Private First Class Robert C. Abrams
<b>Branch of Service:</b>	U.S. Army
<b>Home State:</b>	South Carolina
<b>County/Town:</b>	Laurens, South Carolina
<b>Enlisted City:</b>	Colombia, South Carolina (Fort Jackson)
<b>Serial Number:</b>	34388398
<b>Family Numbers:</b>	Single, without dependents
<b>Education:</b>	1 year of high school
<b>Job Prior to Entering Military Service:</b>	Student/Factory Worker
<b>Birthdate:</b>	1922
<b>Date of Death:</b>	May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1944
<b>Age when Died:</b>	22 years old
<b>Awards:</b>	Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman badge, American campaign medal, WW2 Victory medal



On October 3, 1942, Robert C. Abrams decided to enlist in the Army at Fort Jackson in Colombia, South Carolina in order to defend his country. Born in 1922, Abrams was only 20 years old when he enlisted. He was from Laurens, South Carolina and was able to complete one year of high school before he joined the 399<sup>th</sup> regiment of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry division. Unfortunately, Private First Class Robert C. Abrams died in combat at age 22 on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1944, and now resides in the Sicily-Rome American cemetery. You can still honor Private Abrams memory and sacrifices as he is located at plot B, row 2, and grave number 23.

### **Paying Homage to Our Solider**

To pay homage to our soldier and honor his sacrifice we decided to recite the poem, “Freedom in America,” by Joanna Fuchs at his grave site. The poem focuses on the freedom, in particular on the freedom we now have and how it comes at such a high price, that of people’s lives. Hopefully this homage will show Abrams how much his sacrifice means to us and how we will never take for granted the price he paid to give us our liberty.

We have also decided to recite a prayer, for Private Adams, chosen from Psalm 116:15, which reminds all of us that God has kept these precious souls that have died for us, close to him. Finally, the last way in which we plan to honor Private Abrams is by bringing pansies and laying them at his feet. The name pansy is from the French word pensie, meaning thought or remembrance.

### **Thoughts before the Cemetery:**

Having many relatives who have served in all branches of the armed forces, including my brother who is in the Army and currently deployed, military cemeteries are not something I take lightly.

I have had personal experience with the sadder aspects of military life before. My brother who left for a yearlong deployment and also a cousin who suffered a traumatic episode in combat, but thankfully returned home.

I have visited a military cemetery before when I was in the Boy Scouts, but I was only twelve years old at the time and don't remember much other than being very cold since it had been on Veterans Day. The many heroes entombed unfortunately didn't strike me at such a young age. But in the seven years since then I have changed and matured a lot as a person. Honestly, I don't know what to expect, but something tells me that I will be incredibly moved by visiting this particular cemetery.

### **Thoughts after the Cemetery:**

Everyone in the class was feeling especially patriotic as many of us had stayed up very late the night before to watch the presidential election. Since Pennsylvania was the swing state that decided the election, I was a very proud Pennsylvanian that morning.

Emotions were running high and energy was running low when we arrived. That being said, nothing could have prepared me for this experience in the Sicily-Rome American cemetery. During the tour I just couldn't stop thinking about my brother, who is a twenty-two year old Private First Class, just like my soldier Robert was when he died in combat.

Being in a military family, the sadness of seeing all those heroes who are buried here in a faraway land unable to go home to their loved ones really struck me. Along with making me truly miss my brother, it strengthened my resolve to give Private First Class Robert C. Abrams the type of homage he deserves. Even though our simple homage can't compare to the ultimate sacrifice he made, it felt great to try.