

'The Grand Old Man' of cavalry

Edwin Price Ramsey's military service includes receiving the Silver Star, being incorrectly declared dead and leading the last cavalry charge in United States history in the Philippines during World War II.

Ramsey's life story is described in the new documentary, "Never Surrender: The Ed Ramsey Story," which was co-produced by his widow, Dr. Raquel R. Ramsey. She says it is a story of sacrifice and survival. "I would like to reach out to new eyes, ears and hearts so they may learn of my husband's legacy," she said.

The documentary of his storied life had a screening at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on May 8, the eve of what would have been Ramsey's 100th birthday.

Much of the documentary is based on Ed Ramsey's book "Lieutenant Ramsey's War, From Horse Soldier to Guerrilla Commander," published in 1990. Ramsey died in 2013 and now rests at Arlington National Cemetery. He was a life member of The American Legion; his wife is still a member of the American Legion Auxiliary at Pacific Palisades Post 283 in California where they used to enjoy regular dances. "I love that post, having had so many dances there, brings me back," said Raquel.

Ramsey learned to overcome tragedy as a child when he lost his father at age 12. But his book acknowledges a great deal of constructive influence in his life.

"The daring and indomitable courage of my sister, Nadine, probably set the stage for many of my later actions and decisions," he wrote. "But most of all, the constant love, unquestioning support, and faith in me expressed by my mother, Nelle Ramsey, formed the dominant factor in my life and the ultimate development of my character."