



Claire Elish

Legacy of WWII Valor: Keeping History Alive and Inspiring Civic Pride Across Generations

Impacted by her great-grandfather's moving personal stories from serving in World War II, Claire embarked on her Gold Award project to preserve his account of service during the Battle of Luzon. Claire interviewed, recorded, and subtitled the vivid stories of Herman Lange, a member of the calvary during the war, and submitted it to both the WWII Museum in New Orleans and the Library of Congress, where it is now archived. Claire also sought to pass these stories of resilience on to younger generations by leading a Brownie troop through an educational experience, teaching them about the USS Arizona and its role in Pearl Harbor, and guiding them in earning their Celebrating Community badge. A Girl Scout for 13 years, Claire will continue her journey at the Naval Academy, where she plans to pursue a degree in leadership with an emphasis in chemistry. She hopes to continue honoring her family's legacy of service and inspiring others along the way.

