



Arlin Rhine Class of 2015

Corporal Clifford Arlin Rhine, USMC, died on March 2, 1945 during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Arlin graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1942. He was a three sport athlete who played tennis and basketball all four years and football for his last two years. He was very active in Associated Student activities, he was a four year member of the Block O Society, and he played in both the band and orchestra all four years. Arlin and classmate Walter Franklin helped to organize the Royal Tigers Orchestra. The orchestra performed for all school events as well as many community events. Arlin played the clarinet and alto saxophone.

As an OHS student, Arlin was also active in his community. He participated in many community affairs as a member of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Along with his buddy, Hal Dahlmeier, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout, BSA's highest honor, at age 16. Arlin and Hal were awarded their Eagle badges together in a ceremony at the Oroville Elks Hall.

Upon graduating from OHS, Arlin enrolled at the University of California at Berkeley (Cal) as a freshman and pledged the Alpha Lambda fraternity. Being an outstanding athlete, he also played on both the college's school football and basketball teams.

With World War II heating up near the end of his freshman year at Cal, Arlin and some of his fraternity brothers decided they wanted to serve their country even though they were exempt from the draft as college students. On April 19, 1943, Arlin enlisted in the United States Marine Corps (USMC), 5th Marine Division. Upon enlisting, he commented, "At last I can do something for my country." He trained at Camp Pendleton and later earned the rank of Corporal. He graduated "honor man" from Radio Operators School, having made the highest marks in his class. Arlin also played in the Marine Regimental Band.

In September 1944, Arlin was sent overseas. This was to be his final living journey in life. In the fierce battle on the island of Iwo Jima, Arlin gave his life for his country as he was killed in action by a sniper's bullet on March 2, 1945 at age 20. His military citations included the Purple Heart.

Memorial services for Corporal Rhine were originally held on Iwo Jima where he was briefly interred. His body was then transferred to Punch Bowl on the island of Oahu. Finally in 1948, Arlin was buried in the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, CA where he received a full military burial.

On November 17, 1947, the Oroville City Council unanimously approved the naming of the new street on the levee behind the Municipal Auditorium be renamed Arlin Rhine Drive. The navigable portion of Arlin Rhine Drive extends about 2,900 feet from 1st Avenue to Oliver Street. On February 16, 2011, the Council asked that a request from Stu Shaner, Co-Chair of the Veterans Memorial Park Committee, to change the name of the drive to Arlin Rhine Memorial Drive and to place a gold star on every street name sign in the city that bears the name of an Oroville area veteran war hero, be placed on the next agenda for consideration. The Council unanimously approved the two items at their March 2011 meeting.

In his letter of support for his childhood friend, Hal Dahlmeier wrote, "I think of my friend Arlin Rhine quite often. I reflect on our good times, like playing in the high school band, working on and receiving our Eagle Scout merit badges together. Mostly I miss my friend and just simply hanging out. More importantly though, I was included in his family and treated like a family member. Arlin's father took us hunting and fishing and it was through him and our experiences together that I came to appreciate the environment and the beauty it has to offer. He enlisted in the Marines and I in the Navy. I came back, but my dear friend Arlin did not come home. He gave his life for his country. My best friend has been missed all these years."

The only surviving member of Arlin's immediate family is his sister Jackie, born two years after Arlin's death. Jackie lives in Ruckersville, VA.