

ANNA KEMPER

"Be the Difference – Never Again"

April 19, 2017

Soldier: **CHESTER M ANGELL**

Intercultural Awareness

Members of your group:

Anna Kemper, Nicole Shirilla, Olivia Stout, Alice Pietrobono, Sara Papparella, Valeria Pavam

Soldier's Information

Soldier's Name	<i>Chester M. Angell</i>
Branch of Service	<i>Air Force, U.S. First Lieutenant</i>
Home State	<i>Colorado</i>
County or Town	<i>Fort Collins</i>
Serial Number	<i>0-725238</i>
Family Members	<i>Father: George Bush Savage Mother: Lillian White Adoptive parents: William R. Angell Sr. and Frances Bell Brother: Donald Leigh Savage Wife: Elaine Brown Angell Daughter: Janice Lee Angell</i>
Birthdate	<i>February 19, 1919</i>
Died	<i>March 16, 1944</i>
Age when died	<i>25</i>
Other Awards	<i>Air Medal, Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal</i>



My Soldier’ Story

Chester Munson Savage was born to Lillian White and George Bush Savage on February 19, 1919 in Alberta, Canada. He had one older brother, Donald Leigh Savage. His mother, Lillian, left Canada with the two sons to live with family in Wisconsin. She eventually divorced George and he took Donald and Chester to Michigan, and left them in an orphanage. George’s sister, Frances Belle and her husband William R. Angell, Sr. took Chester to live with them and their son, William R. Angell, Jr. Chester’s brother, Donald, lived with Edith and George Hood, a sister of William. Chester was then officially adopted by the Angell family. Both boys grew up in and around Fort Collins, Colorado. Chester then attended grade school in Riverside, California and later attended Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana from 1936-1938 where he graduated from the Black Horse Troop Unit. After graduating, he attended the University of Southern California for one year as a banking and finance major.

Chester enlisted in the Army Air Corps on November 4, 1941. In the Air Corps, his California training included attending the Boeing School in Oakland, Cal-Aero School of Aeronautics in Ontario with basic training at Taft while receiving his wings and Lieutenant’s commission at Stockton Field in May, 1942. He married Elaine Brown on June 4, 1942. His only daughter, Janice Lee Angell, was born on July 8, 1943. To train as a bombardier, he flew Beechcraft AT-11 planes out of Albuquerque, then served as an instructor in the Martin B-26 Marauder bombers at Barksdale Field, Louisiana until January 10, 1944. He then was sent to Sardinia, Italy.

Chester was killed in action on March 16, 1944 just a few short months after his deployment. He died as a First Lieutenant with the 37th Bomb Squad, 17th Bombardment Group, called “daddy of the all” for the group’s size, experience, and prestige. In one series of strategic bombings, the group protected much of the art in Florence, Italy.

Chester’s daughter was 9 ½ months old at the time of his death. The letter that he sent to his father on March 12, 1944 just days before he died truly captures his positive character and determination. From this letter, he says “It’s a mite rough in spots but I’ll get along all right...I’ve got a darn good crew.” He will forever be remembered by his family as “a young, handsome, and intelligent hero in so many ways.”

Chester’s father, William Angell was a trustee of Kalamazoo College from 1943 to 1950. In 1944, he donated a gift to the college which was used to begin construction of their “Angell Field.” It was named for William and in honor of Chester. At the time of its construction, Angell Field was said to be the first major war memorial dedicated to sports events following World War II.

Thoughts Prior to Cemetery Visit

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I am extremely excited to visit the cemetery in Anzio. At first, I was not sure how we would manage to learn much about our soldier, a man who died young and fought amongst a sea of other brave men. But as we put more and more time and effort into our search—even going as far as contacting his niece on ancestry.com—the pieces of his short life really began to fit together. I was shocked to find that the 17th Bomber Group was responsible for strategic bombings in Florence meant to protect the art housed there. So, the work that Chester and his comrades did allowed us students to spend a weekend there, seeing the work of Michelangelo and other great Florentines in person.

Though the details about his service are interesting, the most moving piece of Chester’s story, I believe, is the letter that was given to his wife when he died. I have seen scenes of men in blue delivering these letters to new widows in movies, but to actually read the words written by the military chaplain, and to put myself in the place of a newlywed that would never see her young husband again, was an entirely new

experience for me—one that made this project come to life. Now that I feel a legitimate connection to my soldier, I am delighted to honor him at the cemetery in Anzio. I imagine the setting will be much like Arlington National Cemetery, and I look forward to experiencing the site in person.



How We Paid Homage to Our Soldier

My partners and I laminated an image of Chester and his wife with the lyrics to a song that I sang at his grave. I wrote one verse into the song “Peace Before Us” to honor Chester personally. We decided to put pinecones on the grave rather than flowers because they are the symbol of Colorado, and his relatives did the same thing when they came to visit him so we wanted to honor them as well.

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Below: An image of Chester and his wife placed at the grave,
and the lyrics to the song we honored him with



**Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet,
Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.**

Love before us, love behind us, love under our feet,

Love within us, love over us, let all around us be love.

**Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet,
Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.**

**Rest now, Soldier, rest forever, rest in the land of your own,
Rest now, Angell, rest forever,
Rest, now that you're home.**

Thoughts After Cemetery Visit

After visiting the cemetery, I am very grateful for the opportunity to get to know our soldier, Chester. Many of the other students weren't as lucky with their research. Thankfully, we found a relative of Chester's on Ancestry.com, and were able to not only learn from her, but also to share our experience with her. She was incredibly grateful. We were so fortunate to have such a deeply moving experience. We were able to see with our own eyes the words written to his dear wife after he died, and we were also able to find out other interesting information about his young daughter and the field that was dedicated in his name. All of this aside, the trip to Anzio was truly beautiful. The grounds are extremely well taken care of, and the guides were very passionate about honoring the soldiers. The information about the fallen soldiers, men and women alike, was very interesting and the huge number of soldiers that were never found—their names recorded on the walls in the chapel—really helped to put the loss of life into perspective. I really enjoyed singing our song for Chester, and saying a prayer of thanksgiving for his sacrifice, and I also was so pleased with the work of our friends from the Bachelet High School. They were very kind and helpful, and they even brought their own little proverb to read at the gravesite. This was a wonderful experience that I was blessed to be a part of.

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