



Private George Fox
United States Army
1920 - 1944



Memorial Day is the National holiday to honor military personnel who died while serving.

United States Army Private George Fox was killed in action in 1944 in Italy during World War II. He was almost completely forgotten.

His grave in Unalaska was unmarked for almost 80 years.

His name was missing from the Alaskans Fallen in World War II Memorial Wall here in Anchorage. Until just a few days ago.

In 1920, George Fox was born in Unga Village near the Alaska Peninsula.

The youngest of nine children of Emma Gardner and Thomas Fox.

He was a member of the Native Village of Unga.

He was raised in Unalaska Village in the Aleutian Islands on the land and sea of the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska – the *fierce Sea Lion Tribe*.

After Pearl Harbor was bombed in Hawaii in 1941 and after Unalaska Village in the Aleutians was bombed in 1942, George Fox joined the United States Army to protect our villages, our youth and our elders, to protect Alaska and the United States.

Private George Fox was an Unangax̂ warrior.

Unangax̂ warriors crave fame while protecting the lives of others.

Well-founded praise & good fame are the greatest rewards.

Private George Fox served as a military police officer in North Africa.

He served with Company G, the 179th Infantry Regiment, and the 45th Infantry Division.

He landed on Anzio Beach in Italy with thousands of US soldiers, sailors, and airmen.

Anzio Beach was a large battle involving ships, planes, rifles, and bombs.

Anzio Beach was a brutal battle with the loss of over 800 soldiers every day.

Private George Fox survived Anzio Beach.

Unangax̂ warriors consider it glorious to be courageous in war.

To show this courage through action is outstanding.

These heroes are worthy of fame.

On June 1, 1944, Private George Fox was engaged in battle against the enemy.

His infantry division was attempting to take Rome, the capital of Italy, back from the Nazis. As Governor Mike Dunleavy said, Private George Fox came from a warrior culture that prides itself on facing death without flinching; he was fighting against the greatest evil that the World has ever seen.

The battle was intense. A Nazi bomb exploded near him.

He was transported to a nearby hospital in Italy, but he did not survive the concussion.

He was only 24 years old.

When Unangax̂ warriors are killed in action, they are uplifted and honored.

They are celebrated with praise.

Their memories are transmitted from generation to generation.

New songs are written.

New dances are performed honoring their bravery.

Body ornaments are created in their image and displayed.

Tattoos. Earrings. Piercings. Necklaces.

Full size statues are created.

Clothing worn by the warriors are placed on the statues.

So fallen warriors will not be forgotten.

After World War Two, Private George Fox was buried in an unmarked grave in Unalaska. His memory was essentially forgotten.

Gertrude Svarny kept his memory alive. She placed a small American flag on his unmarked grave every Memorial Day. For over 70 years.

Thanks to the help from US Senator Dan Sullivan, Private George Fox's grave in Unalaska is now marked with a 220-pound United States Army granite gravestone.

Thanks to help from Carol Larsen Smith of Unga Village and Darlene Sorenson Crawford, we found the last letter Private George Fox wrote from Anzio Beach, just two weeks before he was killed. We had three words engraved from that letter on his gravestone: Wish All Love.

Thanks to help from United States Army General Brian Eifler, on Memorial Day 2022, we had the US Army Color Guard and a 21-Gun Salute in Unalaska to honor Private George Fox. To quote Major General Eifler, the United States Army applied the proper honors and rendered the proper respect that was long overdue.

Thanks to help from the Mayor Dave Bronson, Private George Fox's name is now on the Alaskans Fallen in World War II Memorial wall. His name is the first name ever to be added to this wall.

Private George Fox is the only known Unangax̂ soldier killed in action.
During World War II. Or any War since.

As United States Senator Dan Sullivan said, his story is an epic story.
An incredible story, an uplifting story.
A story of service, honor, and bravery.
A hero who gave his life for the United States.

Ancient Unangax̂ traditions of honoring warriors are being brought out of slumber. So that Private George Fox is not forgotten.
So that other Unangax̂ warriors will be remembered for generations.
As Mary Bourdukofsy of Saint Paul Island said,
“Don’t forget the soldiers that died for us.”

I would like to conclude by saying thank you Private George Fox.
And thank you to his family for raising a brave warrior.
Who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Qāgaasakung.

Thank you for being here today.
To honor our soldiers who died for us.