

Interview Essay: Robert Womack

By Paige Nowell



Paige Nowell and Robert Womack

As a millennial, we take those veterans that have come back from World War II and built their lives in this little town, known as Goldthwaite, Texas, for granted. Goldthwaite is filled with historical things and people that are waiting to be recognized. One person I would like to recognize is Robert Womack, he has lived here since 1947 and is one big history buff. Womack has established relationships throughout this community from his welding jobs and owning part of the Hills Country Farms. Specified pieces of work Womack has done were building the Quick Check steel structure, First Baptist Youth Center roof repair, farm equipment repairs, also owned part of Hill Country Farms. Robert Womack and I took a trip down Mills County memory lane and talked about how deep his work goes and his part in creating the World War II memorial for Mills County veterans.

The History Channel stated, "Coming just two decades after the last great global conflict, the Second World War was the most widespread and the deadliest war in history, involving more than thirty countries and resulting in more than 50 million military and civilian deaths (with some estimates as high as 85 million dead)". "Overall 16,112,566 U.S. troops served and 670,846 wounded." Our county has families that have had family members serve in the war, so for a remembrance three men have put together a memorial to go on the Courthouse lawn. Six years ago, Womack is one of two responses to a letter in the newspaper concerning how there has not been a flag put up for those veterans that served. Womack told the man who wrote the

letter, which his father was a veteran, that if he wanted a flag Womack would build him one. Little did they know that a flag would turn into a five stone, 16 feet wide by 42 feet long, and including twelve hundred names to go on the stones. They originally started with 548 veteran names but later updated by Frank Bridges to 1,200 veteran names and 38 veterans that died overseas. As Womack says, "This should have been done 50 years ago!"

In the end, we have not yet shown our appreciation to those veterans but this memorial is a way for the people of Mills County to show our appreciativeness for our veterans. "The people of Mills County would like to honor and thank the greatest generation of men and women, that served in World War II, for our freedom," a statement that will be put on the center stone of the memorial. Robert Womack's roots go deep into our community from his contributions to buildings, helping repair farm equipment, also help put together the memorial. Our community is built on farming, ranching, family-owned businesses, and in Womack's case welders. Without welders, our ranchers would not have barns to provide shelter for animals, farmers would not have easy accessibility to equipment repairs, or the buildings for those family-owned businesses would not be around.