



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Central California Healthcare System
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For Immediate Release
June 11, 2013,

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WORLD WAR II VETERAN, 99, TO RECEIVE MEDALS

FRESNO - On Thursday, June 20, 2013, at 10:00 am, VA Central California will be presenting Mr. Gome V. Ruiz his service medals after nearly seven decades following World War II. Mr. Ruiz served in the United States Army from March 7, 1941 to October 28, 1945. After such a time he received an Honorable discharged. Like a number of veterans during WWII many never collected their medals.

Mr. Ruiz put his life behind him. He finished high school, got married, and started a family and a career.

Within the last year or so family members were concerned about his time in the military and started to research his military career and sent a letter to the Department of the Army to verify his service record and to see if he had any service medals. Since, he had served in Rhineland, Central Europe, Normandy and Northern France. On January 17, 2013, the Department of the Army responded and provided Mr. Ruiz with a letter stating what awards and decorations he was entitled to.

American Defense Service Medal
American Campaign Medal
European African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Star
Word War II Victory Medal
Army Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp
Marksman Badge with Carbine Bar
Honorable Service Lapel Button-World War II

Due to Mr. Ruiz age, family members have requested VA Central California Health Care System, Fresno, CA to present him with his medal before he reaches his 100th birthday in January of 2014.

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