



# DEOMI

DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE



## NEWS RELEASE

# DEOMI Observance Products ‘touch the hearts’ of California family members

By Christopher Calkins  
DEOMI Public Affairs

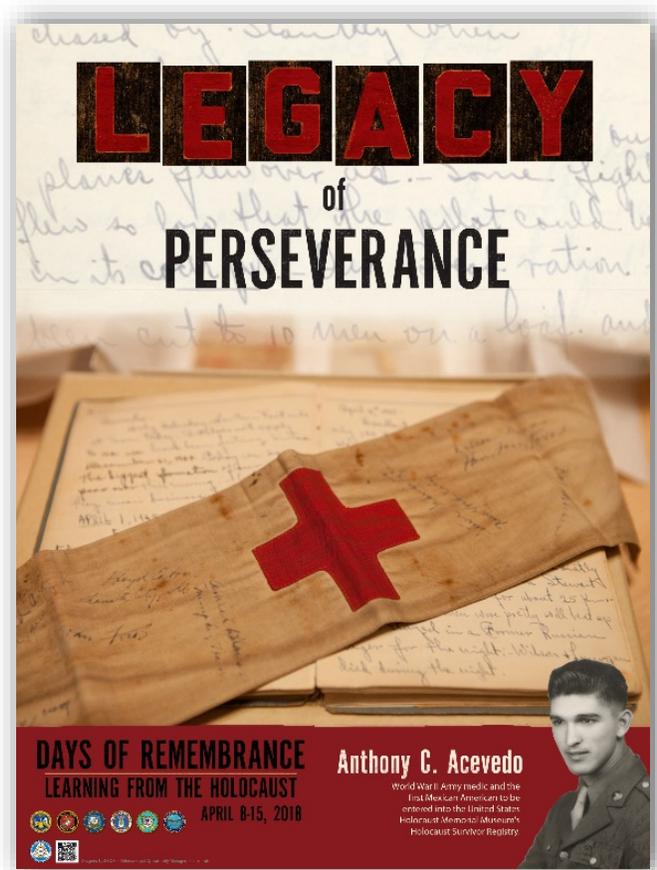
PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Ten times a year, a small group of talented Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute staff members conceptualize, design and create a wide range of products for organizations throughout the DOD to use in their Monthly Observance/Awareness Month events.

Earlier this month, their “Legacy of Perseverance” products (Poster, PowerPoint, Media Release, etc.) literally brought tears to the eyes of Fernando C. Acevedo, the son of Anthony C. Acevedo (see poster).

Fernando, an El Segundo, California resident, made contact with DEOMI immediately after seeing all the products honoring his father on [www.deomi.org](http://www.deomi.org)

“I want to convey to you my deepest appreciation for the beautiful work you’ve done recognizing my father Anthony C. Acevedo for the Holocaust Days of Remembrance poster and products you developed at DEOMI,” he said.

“Thank you for allowing me to share my father’s extremely painful past and yet a beautiful life he shared with his family. Seeing the poster and the other products touched my heart and brought me to tears,” he said.



“The work you and your department have done for Remembrance Observance Day allows not only my father’s memory to live on, but will also stir up the heart for today’s young men and women. It can help teach them how important “giving a little” brings great rewards to humanity. My father always said “kill them with kindness don’t repay evil with evil,” he added.

Anthony Acevedo was a 20-year-old medic in the U.S. Army’s 70th Infantry Division when he— along with 350 U.S. soldiers — was captured by the Germans following the Battle of the Bulge, one of the bloodiest battles of World War II.

While a prisoner of war, Acevedo kept a diary of the soldiers’ experiences. In 2010, Acevedo donated his diary to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum along with personal artifacts. The portrait in the lower right corner of the “Legacy of Remembrance” poster is a military photo of Acevedo with an inscription to his significant other, which he sent home prior to his capture.



COL Mary L. Martin, DEOMI Commandant, was happy – but not surprised -- to hear the Acevedo family was pleased with her Observance Team’s work.

“To hear the remarks and sentiments of the Acevedo family is fantastic and it makes us all pleased. I’m even more pleased our great team consistently “hits the mark” on every monthly product they produce,” she said. “What this team does time and time again isn’t easy.”

“It takes imagination, knowledge, and research. It sometimes takes the ability to start over again, so it takes tremendous flexibility. And most importantly, it takes a real love and commitment for doing what

they do to enhance mission readiness,” she said.

“Remember, it is the duty of each of us to work to make the Department of Defense a workplace of choice that is characterized by equity and inclusion and one that is reflective of this great nation we represent, where all individuals have infinite dignity and worth,” said Martin.

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