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Meals on Wheels and More



## newsletter of meals on wheels and more

### “MOWAM Helps Me Out a **WHOLE LOT**”

“I remember we went into this town and they were shelling us. They were shelling the whole town.”

At 89 years old, Ray Schiller still carries vivid memories of his time in France and Germany during World War II. He also bears physical reminders of the battlefield; fragments from an enemy shell remain lodged in his left knee 70 years later. “I heard something whistling in. It got me. I woke up in the hospital,” Mr. Schiller says, describing the day he was injured. He spent months recovering from his wounds. He was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

“I got discharged after four months in the hospital,” says Mr. Schiller. “Sixteen days later, I went to work for Texas Power and Light. I climbed poles, hooked up wire, and dug holes.” He worked there for three years and during that time a trip to a burger joint in Taylor changed his life forever. Inside the restaurant, he noticed a young woman. A conversation ensued



MOWAM client Ray Schiller stands next to his Bronze Star and Purple Heart

and eventually so did a romance which blossomed into marriage. Asked what attracted him to her, he replies “she was nice. She’s still pretty.” Ray and Magdaline Schiller have been married for 69 years. They have one daughter, Renee, who is a school teacher in Round Rock.

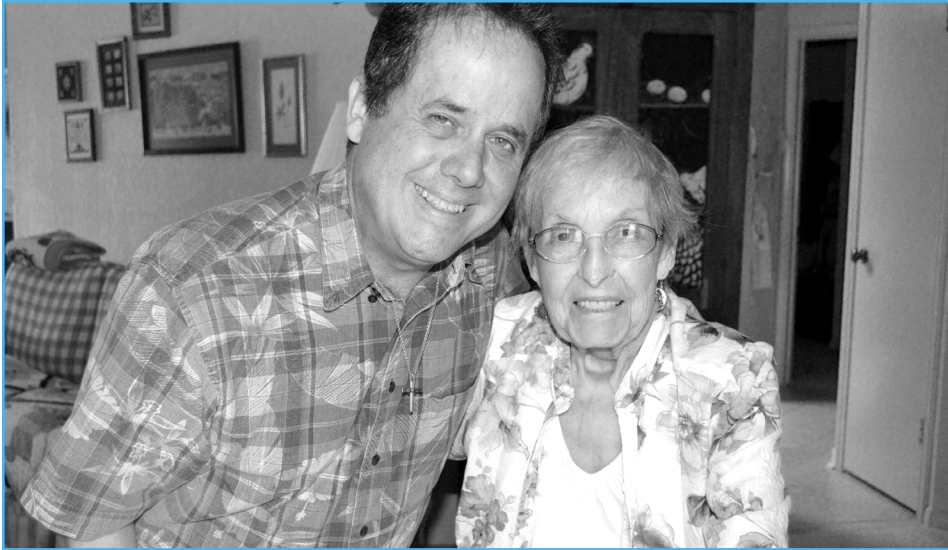
For most of Mr. Schiller’s career, he worked for a company that built bridges, a job he held for 38 years. He’s retired now. But he’s been busy the past two years caring for Ms. Schiller whose health has deteriorated to the point where she is mostly confined

to her bed. He and his wife began receiving our hot, nutritious meals early last year. Mr. Schiller loves the convenience. “I don’t have to cook all the time. I appreciate that,” he says.

He also appreciates the smiling volunteers who deliver the food to the couple’s modest home in Northwest Austin. “They’re nice people,” he says. He tells a story about giving a small gift to the six-year-old daughter of a MOWAM volunteer. “My wife’s got so many trinkets and I gave [the little girl] one.” Wendy Wells’s daughter was the recipient of that angel figurine. Wells has been delivering meals to the Schiller’s since last November. She enjoys her weekly visits with the WWII veteran. “He’s so sweet. I’ve really been impressed by how he cares for his wife,” says Wells.

Asked what life would be like without our services, Mr. Schiller answers “I guess I’d manage somehow. But I don’t know exactly how. Meals on Wheels and More helps me out a whole lot.”

## Substitute Volunteer **KEEPS WHEELS MOVING**



Longtime MOWAM volunteer Kyle Wilkie with MOWAM client Maxine Wallace

Kyle Wilkie began volunteering for us by doing a favor for a co-worker. “I was working at Motorola and a good friend of mine [there] was delivering meals [for MOWAM] and her boyfriend at the time didn’t want her delivering routes alone. So she asked if I would join her. I did that with her for about six to eight months and then I ended up getting my own route,” says Kyle.

That was in 1992. Since then, he’s switched jobs but he’s still delivering our hot, nutritious meals to some of the homebound older adults we serve. Kyle owns Event Data Solutions, which provides race data services. “Basically, if you’re having a running or cycling event and you need timing or registration or anything else, I do it all from stem to stern” he explains.

Kyle’s work schedule can be chaotic. He’s found that being a substitute volunteer meshes well with his career. Substitutes fill in when our weekly volunteers are unable to deliver their routes on any given day. MOWAM’s Volunteer Services Department contacts subs on an as-needed basis. “You get a call in the morning usually in the 8,9, or 10 o’clock range, to see if you can cover a route that day. Then you say ‘yay’ or ‘nay,’” he says.

He welcomes the times when his schedule allows him to say yes. “It’s a way that you can give back that’s just simple. It’s easy, it’s fun and it doesn’t take very long; just a nice little treasure point right in the middle of the day.”

MOWAM has an immediate need for substitute volunteers. To learn more, contact Denise Jimenez at [djimenez@mealsonwheelsandmore.org](mailto:djimenez@mealsonwheelsandmore.org) or 512-476-6325, Ext. 143.

## Glass Artists Create **ANOTHER MASTERPIECE!**



MOWAM’s Dan Pruett (third from right) accepts a \$45,000 donation from the Armadillo Art Glass Initiative (AAGI), an organization of glass artists dedicated to helping Central Texans in need.

For the past three years, AAGI has organized an annual festival that raises money for our agency. The event, which spotlights more than 50 artists from across the Lone Star State, features live glass blowing demonstrations, a silent auction, music, and food. The giant check in the photo reflects the money from this year’s festival. Combine that with the amounts raised during the first two years of the event and AAGI has donated more than \$85,000 to MOWAM since 2013!

*Thank you, Armadillo Art Glass Initiative!!!*