This summer, Duffy's dedication to the fallen heroes of the Jersey Shore led him to cemeteries around the region, where he single-handedly cleaned up grave sites and rehabilitated headstones by using a special solution. While at St. Catharine's Cemetery in Sea Girt, an attendant showed him the gravestone of Sgt. John Comer that was neglected. "My eightieth fallen hero to research is John Comer," he said. "Here's a guy from Neptune that was in the Battle of the Bulge, who earned two silver stars and two purple hearts. He deserves a clean gravesite."



Duffy speaking at a presentation to the Point Pleasant Historical Society.

His tireless dedication to fallen heroes has led to him being featured in such media outlets as the Star Ledger, CBS, NJ.com, The Ocean Star, The Coast Star, and more. He acknowledges the support he's received from his wife, his three children, and his two grandchildren as he pursues his life mission.

Duffy's next project is to spearhead new memorials for Point Pleasant Beach's War Memorial Park, Point Pleasant Boro (location to be determined), and Bay Head that will expand upon existing monuments and list the names of every fallen hero, similar to the Brick War Memorial. Duffy looks forward to working with the mayors and councils from those towns, along with community groups and volunteers, to make his vision a reality.

"Each fallen hero's name deserves to be listed and their stories need to be told," Duffy said. "That's my goal, and it will happen."

–Jill Ocone

Letter from Private
First Class Melvyn F. Graves
to His Son in Rahway/Clark
for Christmas 1944



Sear Son,

Right here I am starting a very difficult tash. I am writing to a person who I hardly know except by what your Mommie tells me and the pictures that the falks send me of you.

I know you won't be abled to read this for quite a while yet ar even understand what it means, but you tell mommie to read if to you!

The real reason I am writing though is to wish you a very merry Christinas and a happy New Year Maybe by this time next year I can be with you and Mommie and we can have a swell time together on this time I will say so long and be a good bay untill I get back. Sad bless you and Mommies

Graves would be killed in action a month later.

