

# Imperial Valley Press

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GATEWAY TO IMPERIAL COUNTY

THE GREATEST GENERATION

## Filner honors WW II vet



**Rep. Bob Filner (D-Chula Vista) huddles next to World War II veteran Dale McCrory, who was recognized Wednesday as a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9305 in Imperial County. The recognition ceremony took place at the American Legion Hall in El Centro.** SILVIO J. PANTA PHOTO

**BY SILVIO J. PANTA**  
Staff Writer

Combat veterans were all smiles Wednesday when Rep. Bob Filner appeared at the American Legion Hall in El Centro to honor World War II veteran Dale McCrory.

McCrory, 92, attended the event in the company of relatives and was presented by Filner with a

certificate recognizing McCrory as a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9305 in Imperial County.

A gathering of Vietnam War veterans stood behind McCrory as he received a certificate from Filner, who said, "You represent what we call the Greatest Generation.

"You gave us the country that is so important," Fil-

ner told McCrory.

McCrory, who moved to the Imperial Valley 10 years ago to stay with his stepdaughter, was 23 when he enlisted in what was then the Army Air Corps, he said. The native of Anita, Iowa flew a B-17 bomber over Normandy beach during the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion, he said.

McCrory indeed did fly 43 missions as a pilot of

the B-17 and logged in 210 combat hours as the pilot of a P-51 aircraft, Filner said. McCrory's service extended from 1942 to 1945, he said.

When asked about his secret to longevity, McCrory playfully said, "Just enjoy life."