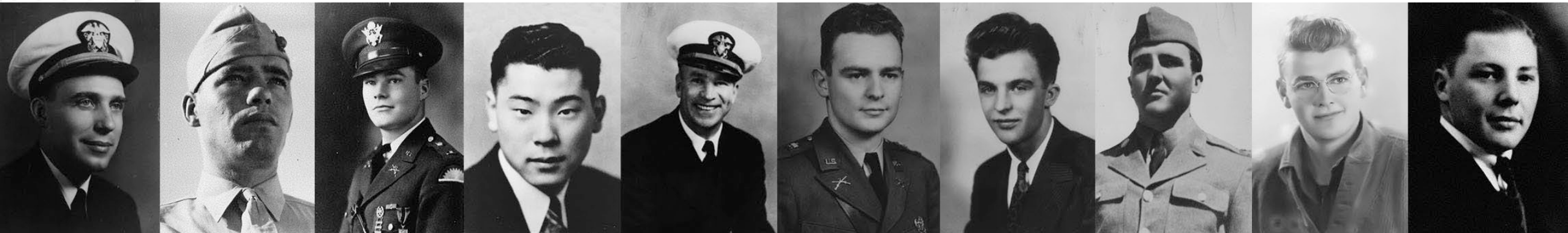




WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

Fallen Cougars WWII Commemoration Project





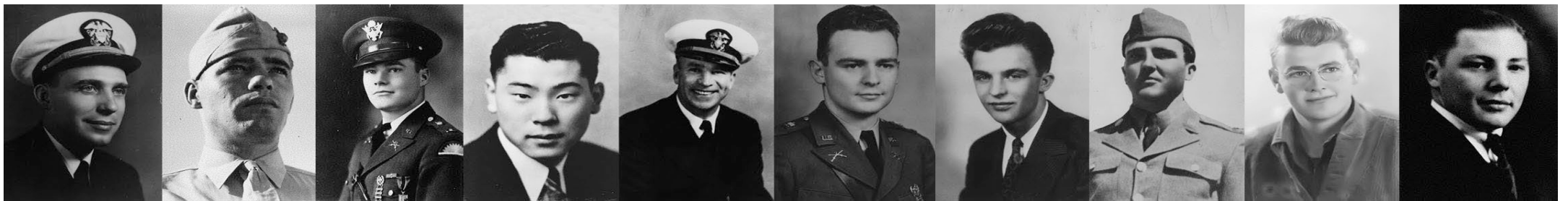
Fallen Cougars

- During WWII, the WSU Registrar's office and President Holland corresponded with the families of student soldiers.
- According to President Holland, [we] “will prepare a brochure describing the contributions made by thousands of W. S. C. men in this great conflict, and giving special emphasis to the supreme sacrifice made by over a hundred of our graduates.” April 10, 1945
- The commemorative brochure was never published, however the War Records Collection was preserved in the Libraries.



Fallen Cougars

- In 2017, Dr. Ray Sun initiated a service project for his students to research the lives of WSU students who perished during WWII
- From 2017-2025 teams of research students drawing upon library collections and additional resources have restored the stories of 250 individuals
- Some of these Fallen Cougars, such as Vernon Elmer Bishop, are only known now because of this research



Vernon Elmer Bishop

[Access image](#)[Image Metadata](#)

CONTENTS

- ▶ [Pre-WSC Background](#)
- ▶ [WSC Experience](#)
- ▶ [Wartime Service and Death](#)
- ▶ [Postwar Legacy](#)

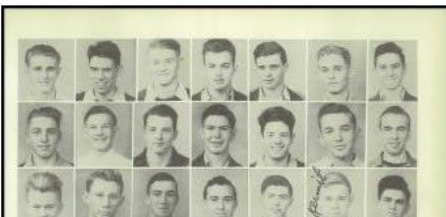
DATE BORN

03/04/1923

DATE DIED

06/18/1945

Pre-WSC Background



Vernon Elmer Bishop was born on March 4, 1923, to Thomas Bishop and Vesta Dwinell Bishop. Bishop's parents divorced within the first three years of his life, and he went to live with John and Hattie Mae Weed in Sunnyside, Washington in Yakima County at the age of three. Weed owned a farm, and in the 1930 United States Federal Census, Bishop was listed as a "Boarder." Bishop remained with the Weeds for the duration of his childhood. Despite this living situation, records show that Thomas Bishop remained in contact with his son.





Next Steps



- Provide family members of the Fallen Cougars with a Certificate of Academic Achievement
- As part of this project, we discovered a handful of discrepancies in spellings, preferred names, and most importantly, Fallen Cougars who had inadvertently been left off the original memorial
- Update the WSU Veterans Memorial by recasting the WWII plaques
- Finalize the Fallen Cougars website that provides the full biographies of these remarkable individuals