

Here is a meaningful response from OCS Hall of Fame classmate Don Pavlik after reading this article "The Second Greatest Generation?"...

"I enjoyed the article you wrote. You made an excellent case for our generation. I have felt that Brokaw took too narrow an approach in his book, *The Greatest Generation*. Soldiering is a brotherhood that knows or recognizes no generations or comparisons, stated or implied, among its esteemed membership. The purpose of war has remained constant for centuries. The uniforms, battlegrounds, weaponry, and uniforms have changed mightily. The sacrifices made by those who wore the uniform were function of the prevailing societal beliefs and practices. The bravery demonstrated by the combatants, in my opinion, never changed. Their bravery remained constant. Every servicemember who has ever worn a uniform has been fearful. That fear produced the adrenalin that propelled them to do what had to be done in support of the ultimate mission generation after generation, thus forming the brotherhood. Brokaw's book had an undercurrent that suggested those who fought in WW2 put more skin in the game than those who fought in earlier wars and by implication, those who fought in wars since and those who would fight in wars not yet fought. The servicemembers of all generations have made countless contributions to our great nation. No man or woman who served should feel that their service was not as good or important as another's.

As I stated earlier, Paul, I think that you did an excellent job in your article. There should, however, never have been a need to write it if Brokaw understood what soldiering is all about. I am very pleased that you did write the article. It deepened my pride to have been wearing the uniform during the timeframe discussed in the article and in being a part of OC 20-69 with the caliber of men who chose to be leaders during a time when being a leader was not a choice many made for a myriad of reasons.

Once again, thanks for reaching out".

Don