

## SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

John Duke served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He recalls how he was in the first group of Allied soldiers that crossed the Rhine River in Germany in March 1945. Following the war, Mr. Duke served as a Dallas police officer until his retirement.

Now at age 84, he finds he's in the position of needing help from the community.

Six years ago his wife passed away. Mr. Duke now lives alone with memorabilia from his military service – a framed portrait of himself in his army uniform sits atop a bookshelf, a photocopied picture of him with two other soldiers standing on the east side of the Rhine River lies on the kitchen table, and stacks of books about World War II fill his living room.

Mr. Duke's daughter-in-law was concerned that he wasn't eating regularly. She contacted the Visiting Nurse Association to begin Meals on Wheels service for him and paid for the meals because Mr. Duke was reluctant to accept public assistance. He later asked his daughter-in-law to stop paying for his meals because he felt it was a financial burden for her.

Although he wanted to take responsibility for the cost of his meals, Mr. Duke's monthly income



is mostly from a Social Security check. He eventually agreed to allow the Visiting Nurse Association to use funding from a "Texas Feeding Texans" home-delivered meal grant to cover the cost of his Meals on Wheels.

After serving his country and city for most of his life, the Visiting Nurse Association, through community support, is now there to serve Mr. Duke.

**John Duke proudly displays memorabilia from his military service during World War II.**