

## Impact Statement

Marcellus Brown, Grade 10.

***Andrew Higgins' Dedication***, 2020.

Acrylic on canvas, 20 x 16 Inches.

Las Vegas Academy, Las Vegas, NV

Unsung Hero: Andrew Jackson Higgins

D-Day was a vital part of World War II that led the way to victory for the Allies, but this success hinged on many people that are often forgotten. One of these heroes is Andrew Jackson Higgins whose innovatively designed boat made the D-Day beach landing possible. Higgins's boat was unique because it could drop off soldiers directly on the beach. This allowed the Allies to attack from all fronts along the coastline instead of the heavily defended ports. It was Higgins's creativity, dedication, and patriotism that pushed this imaginative construction. He inspires me to work and find ways to use my own creativity to help others.

In my artwork, I presented Mr. Higgins reaching out and giving his ship to assist in the war. The Higgins's boat was famously used on D-Day, so to help the viewer connect to this event, I included Czech Hedgehogs, barbed wired, and the slight change in the color of the water to allude to the upcoming deadly beach. I wanted to represent a balance in the artwork showing Higgins's creativity and craftsmanship against the raw dangers that had to be overcome in the war. The American flag behind him represents his dedication and love for his country.

Another reason I've wanted to do this artwork of the World War II era is because of my own family's connection. My great-grandfathers Webster Maughan, Harley Guinn, and Louis Hanson fought and served in World War II. Webster Maughan was in the "Screaming Eagles" 101st airborne division as a paratrooper that dropped behind the front lines. He and his unit were eventually surrounded at the Battle of the Bulge. He was actually rescued at that battle by another grandfather of mine: Harley Guinn. Louis Hanson enlisted in the Navy to serve his country as a trumpet player in the Navy jazz band. Unfortunately, the band was cancelled, but since Louis learned morse code as a Boy Scout he was able to transfer to work as a ship's radio technician. I am proud that each of them, like Andrew Higgins, found a way to use their unique skills to serve their community and country. I hope my artwork serves to honor and keep alive the stories of my great-grandfathers' service.

My wish is to use this artwork to reach out to the families of World War II Veterans. I hope to help show respect for their dedication and sacrifice for our countries. Too many of these great veterans are no longer with us and it is important that we do not let these true stories and unsung heroes fade silently away. I want to honor their legacy. These soldiers and civilians served our country in sometimes creative and unexpected ways. Andrew Higgins and his revolutionary boat design needs to be remembered as it sets an example of what we each can do to help our community and country in our own unique way.

I hope I can follow Mr. Higgins's dedication to excellence. I also want to use my creativity and hard work to serve my country and fellowmen. D-Day is still an emotional event felt throughout the world and we need to recognize that it took all kinds of heroes to be successful. Andrew

Higgins is one of these unsung heroes. To paraphrase Dwight Eisenhower, without his work we could not have won the war. It was Andrew Higgins's creativity, dedication, and patriotism that helped him serve and protect his country in his own way. We all can use this model to find ways to develop our own selves and skills to help our communities, serve our country, and make the world better for everyone.