



THIS WEEK

FOOD



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**Home Front**

by BlockShopper

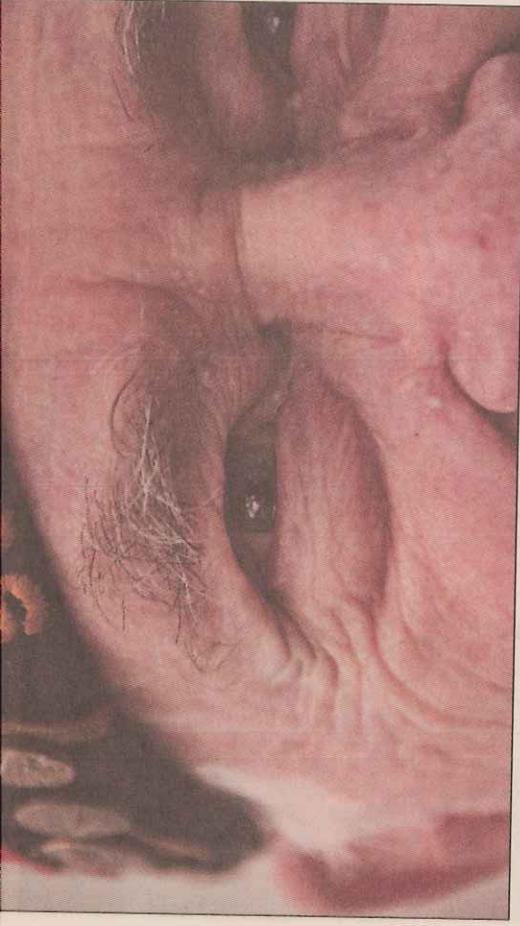
**House calls**

Which local residence sold, and for how much? Turn to Home Front to find out



**VETERANS DAY**

World War II veteran Marvin Kruse, 88, stands Oct. 28 in front of his Franklin Park home. Kruse was an Army medic and raced to save the lives of his comrades in France and central Europe during 193 days of combat from 1944 to 1945. PAGE 5 | Suzanne Tennant Sun-Times Media



# Through his eyes

**ABOVE:** World War II veteran Marvin Kruse witnessed the battle on the beaches of Normandy in France when he landed there in 1944.

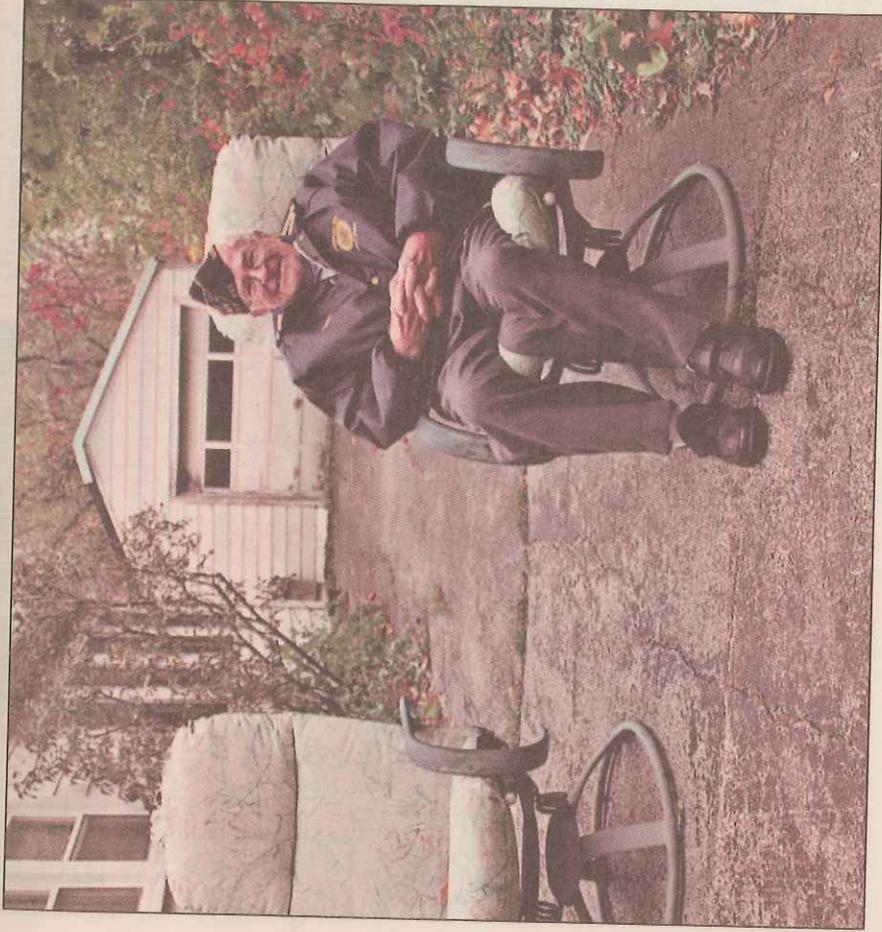
**RIGHT:** Marvin Kruse, 88, was given numerous awards, including the bronze star, for his service as a medic in five battles during World War II.

**BELOW:** Army veteran Marvin Kruse, 88, sits Oct. 28 in one of his chairs at the front of his Franklin Park home.



Photos by **SUZANNE TENNANT**

Sun-Times Media



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2012 | 9

IN PROFILE

**Community**  
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# Veteran served in World War II, Korea

BY MARK LAWTON | mlawton@pioneerlocal.com

## LEYDEN TOWNSHIP

Marvin Kruse served in the military for 10 years, including three years in the Army, during World War II.

Kruse, 90, lives in unincorporated Leyden Township. During the war, he took part in five major battles: Ardennes, better known as the Battle of the Bulge; Rhineland; Central Europe; Northern France, and Normandy.

**Q: What were you up to before World War II started?**

**A:** I graduated from Maine Township High School in 1940 and went to work at First National Bank in Chicago.



make \$50 a week. I was making \$16 a week.

**Q: Then what happened?**

A: Then I heard about Pearl Harbor. I was afraid it was going to end before I got into it. I went down to the Navy. At that time, the Navy wouldn't take me because I wore glasses. I went to the Army and they took me.

**Q: You were told you were going to become a medic?**

A: It was the first time I heard of a medic. I made a good medic because I was stocky and could run. I was told to prevent hemorrhaging, prevent shock and get them out of the line of fire. Get them back to the first aid station, where they had doctors.

**Q: Tell me about your first days in battle.**

A: I was in the 28th Division. We landed on July 20, 1944 in Normandy, near Omaha Beach. We came in from a small ship and went to a landing craft. The thing was choppy and I sprained an ankle. I had to grab a couple guys to get ashore. We dug a hole. I had to lay there for three or four days until I could finally walk. There was still firing going on.

**Q: How about after your ankle**

Marvin Kruse, a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, with medals he was awarded during combat operations in Europe over a period of close to three years. | **CURTIS LEHMKUHL-Sun-Times Media-**

**recovered?**

A: My very first day in combat. OK, Kruse, there's wounded over there. Go over the hill. We walked over. There's a guy with his leg partially blown off. Suddenly a machine gun nest opened fire. Never again did we walk in combat. We put the guy on a stretcher and crawled back.

**Q: I'm told Germans twice captured you?**

A: I was semi-captured. Me and another guy were carrying wounded back to an aid station. A German patrol appeared. They took us to a farmhouse nearby. He asked for our ID. We didn't have guns. He said, I could send you to a POW camp, but you're doing more important work. We picked up anybody: German soldiers, civilians. Most of the time they recognized the red cross on you, they wouldn't shoot at you.

**Q: You ever capture anyone?**

A: A couple times, Germans surrendered to me. I had a red cross on. They knew I

wouldn't shoot them. I'd walk with them back to headquarters.

**Q: When were you discharged?**

A: October 1945. I got three service stripes.

**Q: What did you do after you were discharged?**

A: I went back to where I worked. Met my future wife on a double date in 1945. Got married in 1946. Had a child in 1947. We were married 51 years. She was killed in an automobile accident 11 years ago. It was worse than combat when I lost her.

**Q: I understand you reenlisted during the Korean War?**

A: After I got discharged from the Army, I was probably in the best shape of my life. I joined the Naval Reserve. Sure enough, I got called back in.

**Q: What did you do?**

A: I served on a carrier. I was a yeoman, like a clerk. I worked in the ship's office. I maintained records. That was good duty. You got a cot to sleep in, hot food. Quite a difference from the Army. ■

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