



Keep Going

Ernest Stadvec

I enlisted in Army Air Corps in December 1942, before my senior year of high school, and served as Sgt. Gunner in the 29th Squadron. I was injured serving in the military and discharged in 1946. I could not enroll at the University without a high school diploma. Assistant Football Coach Andy Maluke got me credits for military schools, and I was able to enroll at the University.

What the good people at the University did for me and many other returning veterans—all of the professors, coaches, tutors, physical therapists and ROTC personnel—was way above and beyond the call of duty. I am forever indebted to

those good people who instilled in me a lasting love of learning and to keep going no matter what. I lettered in football and baseball. In 2011, I received the Mike Krino Award for my achievements and was inducted into The University of Akron Athletic Hall of Fame.

I learned to fly in the military, then became an airline pilot with several airlines but was laid off and came back to Akron and started my own flying services, Stadvec Aviation and Shawnee Airways. I am a veteran of two wars and fly as a contract pilot for the US and British Governments, and I am now approaching ninety-four years old. What those good people at The University of Akron did for me and their encouraging words since then, have resonated deep in my heart of hearts: “Keep going, never give up, you can do it.”