

# World War II was a matchmaker for these two Navy lieutenants

*The Navy said in forty-four,  
"Proceed to Arizona."  
Unlikely place to fight a war,  
but there I met Iona.*

These lines and 10 additional stanzas were penned by Creed Myers in 1986 on the anniversary of his 41st year of marriage to Iona Fackler. The poem highlights their relationship that began by a chance meeting in Tucson, Ariz. in the midst of World War II when they both wore the uniform of the United States Navy.

William Creed Myers was born and raised on a farm near Afton, Iowa, deep in America's agricultural heartland. Hard work was a fact of life to a youngster growing up on a family farm in the 1920s and '30s, and even when he entered the University of Iowa at Iowa City, he was still expected to do his share of farm work when not occupied with his studies.

Early in his sophomore year at Iowa, Creed was asked if he would be interested in assisting sportscasting the Iowa football games, as he knew all the Hawkeye players well, and spotting the players was necessary to the success of any radio sports announcer. Creed agreed to try it, subject to what the announcer thought of him and his ability to identify the players on the field during the games. The sportscaster from radio station WHO in Des Moines, known by all as "Dutch," was none other than Ronald "Dutch" Reagan, our future president. Creed and Dutch immediately became a match at all the games for the next three years. It was quite an honor for Creed when the folks back home in Afton regularly heard Dutch give Creed credit for his important role in the broadcasts, and Reagan's enthusiasm during the games, which made each one more exciting than the last.

After his graduation from Iowa, Creed accepted a position as sales manager for Jewel Tea Company of Berrington, Ill., which required him to make continuous trips to various branch offices in the U.S. It was on one of those extended trips that his draft notice was sent to him early in World War II. Unfortunately, it did not reach him until after his scheduled induction date, and it appeared

that he was in big trouble. His case was heard before the draft board at DeKalb, Ill., and it was then obvious that he had not intended to avoid the draft. He was given the option to enlist in the service of his choice within 30 days, and he selected the U.S. Navy. As a Storekeeper 3rd Class he trained at Great Lakes, then was assigned to the Philadelphia Navy Yard and Gasco Bay, Maine, before being sent to the Pacific.

