

# Purple Heart comes home

## Family discovers medal from WWII 60 years later

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As World War II came to a close, Florence Mater delighted in watching her brothers triumphantly return home from the service, one after another.

But one brother never came back.

Roy Marin, the second youngest of seven children, perished when his Navy submarine was sunk by the Japanese on the same day the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

His death at age 21 became a source of unending anguish for family members in Milwaukee. Some say Florence Mater died in 2004 at age 87 still hoping that her baby brother, somehow, would come home.

Now, in a way, he has.

Family members scanning the Internet for information about Roy Marin's submarine have uncovered a Purple Heart that was awarded to him posthumously — but that the family never knew about.

"I still find it hard to believe," said Kenneth Mater, a nephew who stumbled across the distinguished military medal on his home comput-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROY MARIN FAMILY

**A fallen** submariner's family didn't know he had been awarded the Purple Heart until seeing it on the Internet.

er in Brookfield.

"It was a fluke," he said. "Where this thing has been for 60 years I have no idea."

After reaching the collector who displayed

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