It’s people like Richard Foth, a story teller, that makes me enjoy history. We have always had a history; and it tells a story. A story about ourselves, what we say, how we act and why we do certain things. However, too many times I’ve seen people treat it as if it’s simply useless knowledge; fit into our curriculum for an unknown purpose. But Mr. Foth is an exception. As I enter class one Friday morning my friend, who is just leaving, briefly says “Hey, this guy is awesome”. A little confused, I sit down and examine this “foreigner” in my classroom. Soon enough he gets up and introduces himself, you know how it goes, “I’m so and so and I’m here to tell you about so and so”. That’s how it was going until something caught my attention, it went a little like “I’m no historian, neither a teacher, but I am a story teller and through my stories, I will tell you about WWII”. I lean up in my chair and listen, little did I know this was about to be an incredible 50 minutes. Mr. Foth continues on and begins to tell stories of how everyone across the nation joined together and did their part. From storming the shores of Normandy, to tirelessly working in Victory Garden’s to provide food for soldiers; everyone helped. On top of it, our manufacturing was so productive, we went from the 17th strongest nation in the world to the 1st in a matter of a year or two. Women joined the workforce and became a huge participant in factory jobs, they stepped up when the nation needed them to. All this information, and more, told in short stories that embedded themselves into my mind, and I still think about them today. Instead of reading from a textbook and taking notes, I was able to soak in the information and become immersed in detailed stories as if I was right there. On top of the countless stories that absorbed the entire class, he gave advice that has and likely always will stick with me. During one of his stories he describes leaders throughout the time period. He states that leaders don’t have to be recognized publicly or talked about often among peers. Like many of the everyday people who did their part in WWII, “good leaders set noble objectives, and pursue those goals so feverishly others follow too”. I was reminded in that moment that I’m supposed to pursue something greater than myself and impact my classmates enough to have them join me. No matter how you type that into a computer, or read it in a book, it will never impact you as much as it did when I watched this leader himself tell me this. One might ask why I chose to write my reflection this way; well, truthfully I find stories a lot easier to remember. So I hope that someone will acknowledge how influential Mr. Foth was to me and decide to not only look at history a different way, but to look at life in a new way. Because maybe, just maybe, you will be blessed enough to talk to Mr. Foth for 50 minutes yourself.