

A veteran's journey from Holocaust to hope at Mayo Clinic

VIDEO	AUDIO
	Millions of patients, families and visitors journey to Mayo Clinic for hope and healing — each with their own unique life story.
	---nats of Kurt volunteering---
	Kurt...
	----nats of Kurt volunteering---
	... an 80-year-old Mayo Clinic volunteer, has a life story you need to hear.
Kurt Emil Glover-Ettrich Volunteer Mayo Clinic	"I was born in Stimmersdorf, which was within the Nazi-occupied territory of the Czech Republic."
	In 1943, when Kurt was still an infant, his father was forced by the Nazis to fight for the German army on the Eastern Front ...
	"It's too dangerous here. You can't stay here."
	... as Kurt and his mother were sent to the concentration camps.
Kurt	"The one soldier said, 'Leutnant, ich habe zwei Juden hier.' (Lieutenant, I've got two Jews here.) ... And we were sent to Auschwitz."
	A year later, sent to Dachau. As the Allies approached in spring of '45, Kurt and his mother were quickly being transported by the Nazis to another camp when the train derailed. They survived the crash and escaped.
Kurt	"We kept going and kept going until we couldn't hear any more dogs barking, screaming, shooting."
	They spent 16 weeks on the run avoiding capture until the war ended.
	"We had to live off the land, so to speak."

	Meanwhile, Kurt's father was a prisoner of the Soviets.
Kurt	"Trains would come from Russia and bring home POWs."
	And during Hanukkah 1949 ...
	"It was the worst, coldest winter ever recorded."
	At the train station ...
Kurt	"We heard a faint voice, 'Ester, bist du das? (Ester is that you?)' We turned around, it was my father."
	In 1956, the family immigrated to the U.S.
Kurt	"And we saw the Statue of Liberty."
	They settled in Albany, New York. And as a young man at 18 ... Kurt became an American
Kurt	"Tears came down my cheek, and I was so happy."
	... and joined the Army.
Kurt	"I wanted to give back, and I served. It was the only way I could thank this great country called the United States of America and the American people for having allowed me to come here."
	A 30-year military career in the Army Special Forces as a Green Beret.
	----nats from Soldiers Field, "It gives me goosebumps."----
	He is reminded every day what freedom truly means.
Kurt	"Freedom is such a powerful word. Freedom gives you hope."
	----nats of Dr. Kwon appt---
	A cancer diagnosis brought him to Mayo Clinic ...
	----nats of Dr. Kwon appt---
	... where he's been treated for the past 23 years ...

Kurt	"They gave me my life back."
	... by a leading expert in advanced prostate cancer, Dr. Eugene Kwon.
Kurt	"He spent as much time with me as possible, explained things to me where I stood as far as my cancer. And I know with him, I was always in the best of hands."
	----nats of volunteering----
	Inspiring Kurt ...
	----nats of volunteering----
	... to move to Rochester, Minnesota, and volunteer ...
Kurt	"Monday through Friday ..."
	... at Mayo Clinic.
	"... usually from 6:45 to 11 o'clock."
Kurt	"This was the perfect opportunity. I knew there were patients coming through here, military people coming through here that I can relate to."
Kurt	"Not only talk to these people, but uplift their spirits, and instill in them that there is hope, that they're in the right place."
	----nats of volunteering----
Kurt	"Positive attitude, sunshine in the heart, and I use the gray matter God put between my ears to spread the joy, the happiness and goodwill, so to speak. This is why I'm supposed to be here."
	----nats of soldiers memorial---
Kurt	"America gave me freedom, hope."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network ...
Kurt	"Mayo Clinic did the same thing."
	... I'm Jason Howland.