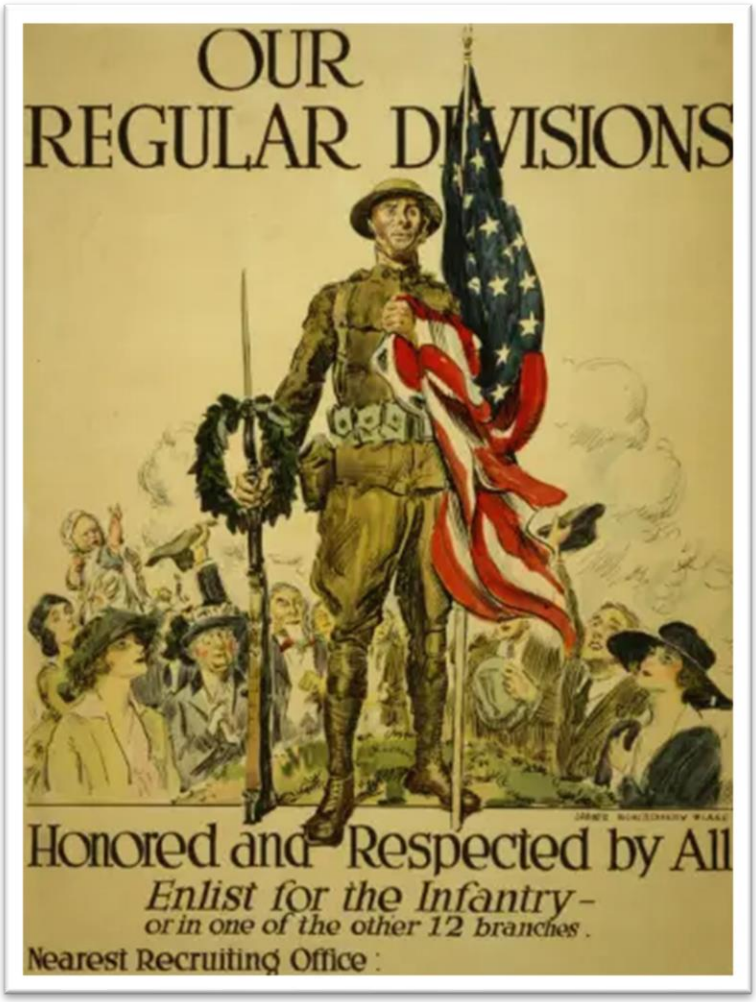
Robert Javor

Robert "Bob" Javor was born 24 or 26 December 1894 in Podlopača, Croatia (formerly Austria and Yugoslavia). He immigrated to the United States in April 1912 at age 18, recorded under the name Bora or Bozo Javor. His name was later Americanized to Bob Javor. His parents were both dead by 1920 when he filed his military service record with the Minnesota War Records Commission. His brother Mike Javor lived in Aurora, Minnesota in 1920.



Javor registered for the draft on 5 June 1917 in South St. Paul, while he was working as a laborer for Butler Bros. in that city. At that time, he lived at 410 North Concord Street and was single.

Javor's number was drawn in the first day of the draft lottery in July 1917, and he was inducted into the U.S. National Army on 21 September 1917 at Hastings. A private, he was initially assigned to Company C, 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th Division. He trained at Camp Dodge, Iowa from September to November 1917, and then at Camp Cody, New Mexico from 1 November 1917 until 3 February 1918.

He was discharged from service "for the good of the service," due to his non-citizenship status. In the interest of national security during the heat of WWI, Javor, then an Austrian citizen, was additionally required to register as an enemy alien with the Minnesota Public Safety Commission in February 1918.

After the War, he returned to live in South St. Paul and working for Swift & Co. In April 1920, he lived at 416 2nd Avenue South. When a soldier's bonus act was passed in Minnesota in 1920, Javor applied for a $75 Minnesota Soldier's Bonus, but notes in the file show that his claim was recommended to be denied because he had been an "alien objector." However, his 1917 draft registration card does not reflect such a claim. An additional note in the file says, "Not an

honorable discharge, as defined in the Act. See reason for discharge." Since Javor was discharged for service due to his "alien enemy" status, he was given a dishonorable discharge despite his good service record. Therefore he and others noncitizen soldiers like him were ineligible to receive the Minnesota bonus.

On 8 July 1922 at South St. Paul, Robert married Marie or Mary Lavichky (1899-1986), born in Nebraska. They had two children, Bernice (1923) and Virginia (1928). Robert gained his U.S. citizenship in 1931. To do so, he renounced his allegiance to "Alexander I, King of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes." He worked as a butcher (specifically a calf skinner) for Swift & Company in South St. Paul, where he and Mary owned a home at 319 6th Avenue South. Witnesses on his citizenship application were Fred Wuest of 771 15th Avenue North, a co-worker at Swift's, and Mike Gerkovich, shop owner at 6th & Marie in South St. Paul.

Robert Javor died at age 75 on 9 January 1970 at Divine Redeemer Hospital in South St. Paul, and is buried alongside his wife in Oak Hill Cemetery. At the time of his death, they were living at the Nan McKay senior high-rise at 200 Marie Avenue in South St. Paul.