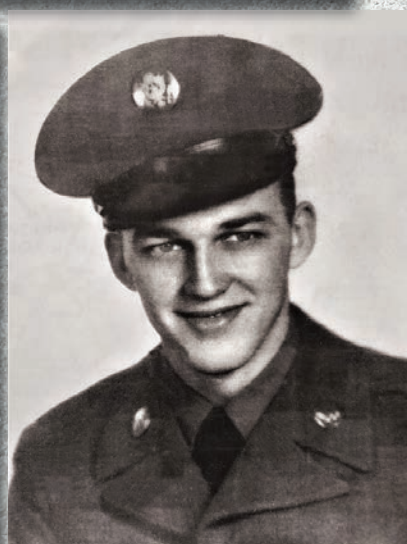


Our Veterans



A Tribute to Veterans from the Merrimack Valley



The Eagle-Tribune

Thursday, November 6th 2025



What does it mean to be a Veteran?



Jeffrey C. Hollett
 US Army / MAARNG
 Sergeant First Class / E7
 Jan 1985 to August 2012

Camp Jackson, SC – Ft Gordon, GA – Cp Walker South Korea – Fort Detrick, MD, - Fort Buckner, Okinawa Japan, - Operation Bright Star Alexandria Egypt - Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003, 2007, 2010), MAARNG – Hurricane Irene and Hurricane Sharon.

There are many kinds of Veterans, and we have much in common despite our different roles, different duties, different deployments, different backgrounds, and different circumstances. The Veterans Creed has been adopted by over eleven different Veterans Organizations across the nation. This creed speaks to me and many Veterans despite our differences and brings us together in a way that we can honor and respect our unique selves as well as our service then; and our service now. I am proud to be a Veteran.

THE VETERAN'S CREED

I am an American Veteran
 I proudly served my country
 I live the values I learned in the military
 I continue to serve my community, my country, and my fellow Veterans
 I maintain my physical and mental discipline
 I continue to lead and improve
 I make a difference
 I honor and remember my fallen comrades
 I am an American Veteran!



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A Viet Nam Veteran; In His Own Words:



Gerard Boucher
Marine Corps 26th Division
Lance Corporal, 1966-1968
Viet Nam

I remember the flight from Hawaii to Viet Nam and it was completely silent (no one saying word the entire flight).

I ended up in Viet Nam. I was a machinist by trade, so naturally they made me a machine gunner in the Marines. I told them that was not what I said.

A Colonel in Okinawa where we stopped before we went to Viet Nam was giving us a little lecture, 250 machine gunners, and he said, "All I can tell you is that only two of you are coming back from Viet Nam alive." I said to

my comrade, "That's a nice thing to say. He's a nice guy, huh?!?" I was lucky to be back alive, I guess. Machine gunners were the first target of the Viet Cong. They are the most powerful weapon out of the squad. That is why we always walked in the center of the squad.

We set up ambushes. The machine gunners, they are the ones who had to spring the ambush, we'd have to get as many as we can before they spread out and put all their firepower on us. We had to shoot tracers to find out if we



were hitting our targets. That is why machine gunners their life expectancy is very slim.

After four months (of being there) we were in a night ambush and a mortar round came down in our position killing the man right next to me and blinding

me with the same mortar round. I wasn't knocked unconscious, I reached up and felt my head, all blood and guts and I was in such a rage I went to grab a machine gun to fight back at whoever it was that shot us with the mortar round. That's when my comrades took me down behind a wall to sedate me so that I wouldn't go radical. They thought it was heroic and gave me a bronze star. That is when I was blinded in Viet Nam, Oct 1967.



The war is always bad, my good memories is living with the Vietnamese people. It was something different, I enjoyed them. They liked me and I liked them.

I came home, went through rehab and then went to college and I have been doing volunteer and work for the blind, disabled, elderly veterans ever since.

I'm proud to be a Marine. Everybody is. Me and my comrades we do a lot for each other and stand by each other. And they are some of the best people you can ever know.



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Viet Nam Veteran: In His Own Words



James Themelis
101st Airborne, Viet Nam
1969-1970

I got drafted in '68. They gave you a month to go home to say goodbye to your friends and relatives and then off to war.

We landed at Cam Ranh Bay. We heard rumors that the reason we were in the 101st was because we were replacing the young people that died at Hamburger Hill and the minute you heard that...it was like "Are you (kidding) me?!?" It was that kind of feeling.

I was scared. I was scared the whole time I was there, but after the first time that hits you, it just goes into the back of your mind and you have to rise above it and become a man; if that's what you want to call it.

(We) were there to fight, you know as they say, kill or be killed. When I went over there I was about the peace. I wore a peace sign around my neck. I didn't want to do anything like that, but you had to. You had to. Because it was life or death. I have to give the Drill Instructor in Ft Jackson credit; they were trying to tell us something (before we left). They taught us about mines, booby traps, how to protect yourself from the elements and trying to avoid being scared. That is in everyone's mind. Without the Drill Instructor, I believe this, there is no way I'd have made it through Nam.

The unknown was always there. It was about the farmers during the day and "Charlie" at night. The same people you were looking at (during the day) were trying to kill you at night. That was the common knowledge at the time.



There is one thing that I did. I never wanted to know anybody's name. I mean like their last names, because I knew that somewhere down the line if someone was to get killed, if you knew his last name it would be more personal. It was personal knowing a person's name, everyone had a nick, I was The Greek. It was crazy, but I knew somewhere in the back of my mind it would be a protective devise. It allowed

me when I came home to not carry that part with me. I carried all the other parts but not that.

(My memories of VietNam) have been stored away, deep, if I really tried to push it out, I really believe it would destroy my life. Because I know there is (stuff) back there, buried so deep and I've never talked about it.

I said if I ever made it back I was going to do anything and everything I possibly can. I made it back.

First thing I did when I got off the plane was kiss the ground. People thought I was some kind of a crazy bastard. Then when you got out there you started hearing every place you go, "baby killer" "fighting the wrong war" and all this and that. I wanted to say, why don't you go to the Nam and then come back and see if you still want to call us names or point at us. It sucked. It really did and it wasn't right, but to them they felt this was the way it had to be.



I tell people it was a just cause. It is what I was told to do.



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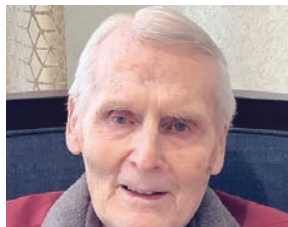
Russell Chaput
Army
RA
1952-54
Korea



Martin Welch
Army
SP4
1969-71
Fort Bragg



Edward Chernesky
Army
Staff Sgt
1963-70
Fort Dix



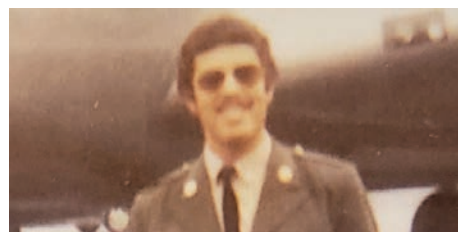
Robert Alan Perry
Navy, 3rd Class bosun mate,
Korean War (Haverhill)
– Also, Retired Haverhill Firefighter



Michael McGonagle
Navy, Navy Reserves
Hospital Corpsman
1977-80, 1980-88



Joseph Rogers
Air Force,
c1945 Japan/Korea, Airman 1st Class
(Cambridge, MA; adult life in Andover)



James Themelis
101st Airborne
1969-70
Viet Nam



John Good
Marines, Sgt.,
Korean War; Presented The Purple Heart
(wounded) (Boston)



Joseph Savio
Army
Private 1st Class
Korea • 1953-1957



Gerard Boucher
US Marines - 26th Division
Lance Corporal
1966-68
Viet Nam

James Boland
Navy
World WarII
Guam
William Nicholas
Navy
Commander Physician
1962-73

Norman Dustin
Army
Sgt.
Korea



John Mead
Navy, Seaman
Korean War; Note: Honor Flight to DC in
2017 (Newburyport)



Richard Broadnax
Marine Corps
Corporal • 1956-1958
Stationed in the Mediterranean



Keith Gopsill
US Navy 1993-2000
Signalman, Second Class
USS Connolly DD-979
USS Constitution

Donald Morris
Marines, Sgt. 1980-84
1984-90 Reserves
Camp LeJeune

Joseph Donnelly
Army
Korea

Lawrence Rutherford
Navy
Petty Officer - Electronics Tech
1958-62

Daniel Muldowney
Navy
2nd Class CE
1950-56
Korea

Theodore Gaeiro Jr.
Army, Sgt
1966-69
Viet Nam

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Thank you

to those who continue to serve our communities



Veterans on the Andover Police Department:

Chief Patrick Keefe	Army	LT Jeffrey Arleque	Army	SGT Richard Crimmins	Army
SGT Michael Connor	Marines	Off Kyle Kiberd	Army	Off Elliot Siegel	Army
SGT Steven Gerroir	Air Force			Off Jake Allard	Army

Veterans who work at the Salem, NH Police Department.

- Captain Jason Smith (Marine)
- Officer Paul Benoit (Army)
- Officer Kevin Swanson (Army)
- Officer Joseph DeFeudis (Marine)
- Sergeant Joshua Dempsey (Navy)
- Officer Sean Wilson (Army)
- Detective Paige Baril (Army)
- Sergeant Jeffrey Czarnek (Marine)
- Sergeant Nicholas Manent (Marine)
- Detective Arthur Harvey (Navy)
- Officer Michael Hennessy (Marine)
- Officer Robert Jamer (Marine)
- Officer Matt Fitzgerald (Army)
- Officer Nolan Demers (Army)
- Officer Eugene "EJ" Donovan (Army)

Thank You

to the members of the Haverhill Police Department who served.



Officer Kaitlyn Tully #123
U.S. Army 2011 - 2017

- Afghan Campaign Medal with STAR**
Army Commendation Medal
Army Achievement Medal
National Defense Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Medal**
Army Service Ribbon
Armed Forces Reserve Medal
NATO Medal

HAVERHILL POLICER DEPARTMENT VETERAN LIST 2025

Lieutenant Nicholas Brown #29	U.S. Army	1998 - 2007	Officer Christopher Pagliuca #41	U.S. Coast Guard	1999 - 2003	Officer Zachary Bouchard #140	U.S. Navy	2018 - Present
			Officer Bryan Bailey #70	U.S. Marines	1999 - 2003	Officer Conor Clark #141	U.S. Army	2013 - 2016
Sergeant Thomas Howell #66	U.S. Army	1992 - 1990	Officer Dana Burrill #74	U.S. Navy	2003 - 2007	Officer Mark Andrukaitis #143	U.S. Army	2008 - 2019
Sergeant Kevin Lynch #90	U.S. Navy (Retired)	2000 - 2021	Officer Nicole Donnelly #85	U.S. Navy	1998 - 2006	Officer Michael Mills #144	U.S. Marines	2013 - 2017
Sergeant Michael Shinnars #95	U.S. Coast Guard	2004 - 2020	Officer Jared Brady #112	U.S. Army	2006 - 2014	Officer Geraldine Jimenez-Rivera #146	U.S. Army	2014 - 2018
Sergeant Bethany MacKinnon #102	U.S. Marines	2009 - 2013	Officer Sean Harrison #113	U.S. Navy	2001 - 2012	Officer Daniel McDonagh #147	U.S. Coast Guard	2014 - 2019
Sergeant Kyle McCann #108	U.S. Army	2008 - 2020	Officer Christopher Landers #114	U.S. Marines	2008 - 2012	Officer Michael Silvestro # 159	U.S. Navy	2008 - 2016
Sergeant Zachary Phair #107	U.S. Army	2008 - 2014	Officer Timothy Menzi #115	U.S. Army	2008 - 2014	Officer Nicholas Depina #168	U.S. Marines	2007 - 2018
Acting Sergeant Michael Tortorise #132	U.S. Navy	2004 - 2019	Officer Christopher Dondero #116	U.S. Army	2007 - 2015	Officer Tomanik Falcon #186	U.S. Marines	2017 - 2023
			Officer Kevin O'Brien #122	U.S. Army	2012 - 2015	Officer Andres Nova Castro #189	U.S. Army	2021 - Present
Officer Adam Durkee #33	U.S. Army	1997 - 1998	Officer Kaitlyn Tully #123	U.S. Army	2011 - 2017			

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Veterans Day is the day to thank and honor ALL those who served honorably in the military in wartime and peacetime. Thank you Veterans for your service, and your contributions to our national security are greatly appreciated.

Programming will be at 8AM and replay at 5PM.

- 8 am:** Haverhill in World War I Part #1 with Jack Lynch.
- 8:30 am:** Haverhill in World War I Part #2 with Jack Lynch.
- 9 a.m.:** Edward Haseltine's World War I diary Part #1 & Part #2
- 10 am:** The Leathernecks in South Pacific with Kenneth Kilillea
- 10:30 am:** Haverhill's Patrick Linnehan with Leo Joubert.
- 11 am:** The Hatchet with Leo Joubert.
- 11:30 am:** The Battle of the Bulge with Bill Plante and Gene Smith.
- 12 pm:** The Marine Raiders with Pat Emiro.
- 12:30 pm:** Quiet Courage with Cate Jones.
- 1 pm:** Vietnam with Paul Twomey and Al Pettingil.
- 1:30 pm:** Michael Gambino Vietnam Hero with Linda Baxter and Tom Vartabedian.



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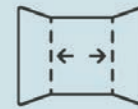
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Lt. Joe Aiello	—	Navy	Dannery Serrano	—	Army National Guard
Sgt. Eric Deleon	—	Army	Michael Diaz	—	Army National Guard
Arthur Hardy	—	Air Force	Trevor Sampson	—	Army
Aaron Little	—	Marine Corps	Richard Sawyer	—	Marine Corps/Army
Stefan Laboy	—	Marine Corps	Winnie Medrano	—	Marine Corps
Tracey Noonan	—	Army National Guard	Woodrick Clervi	—	Army National Guard
Robert Gordon	—	Army	Thomas Curtis	—	Marine Corps



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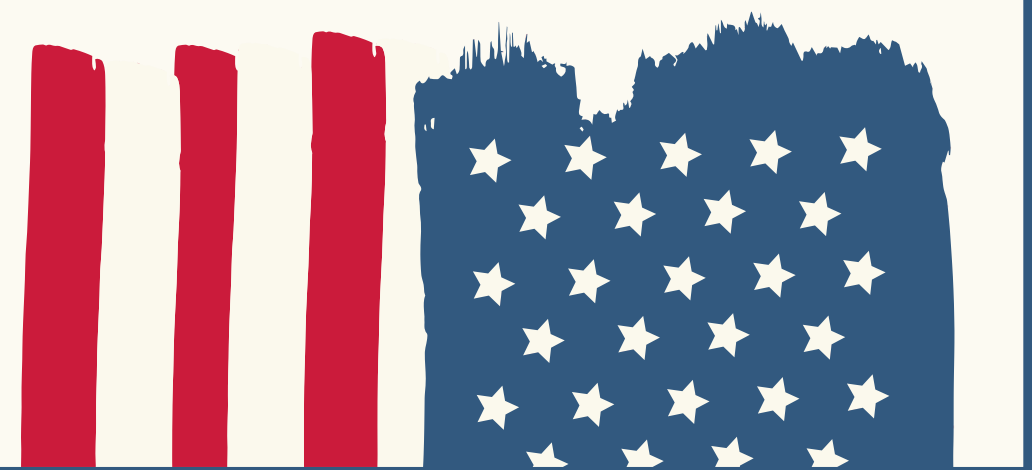


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