



NORTH COUNTRY HONOR FLIGHT

2022 COMMEMORATIVE GUIDE

‘It is an honor...’

Finishing our most productive flight season, North Country Honor Flight chartered 8 planes: May 14 flights 36 and 37; June 18, flights 38 and 39; Sept. 3 flights 40 and 41; and Oct. 1 flights 42 and 43.

We continue to prioritize World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans. We were honored to have two World War II veterans and 15 Korean War veterans on these flights. We had outstanding flight leaders on each plane who put in hours of preparation prior to the flights assuring veterans were able to enjoy the day in Washington, D.C. visiting their National Memorials.

Each veteran is accompanied by a guardian, most often a family member. Returning to the U.S. Oval at the end of the day veterans say, “this is one of the best days of my life.”

As a Regional Hub of the National Honor Flight Network, North Country Honor Flight (NCHF) was founded in 2013. Completing this flight season, we have taken 650 veterans on Honor Flight.

We are an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization relying on fundraising and donations from groups, organizations, businesses, and individual citizens so Honor Flight can continue to take veterans to D.C. at no cost to them. Donations can be sent to North Country Honor Flight, PO Box 2644, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 or donate on the website nchonorflight.org.

We extend thanks to the law enforcement, motorcyclists and fire departments who escort veterans from home to the U.S. Oval and lead the parades to and from the Oval and the hangar at Plattsburgh International Airport. We also thank the Honor Guards and hundreds of spectators who attend the send-off ceremonies, line the parade route, and return to greet the veterans home. And, of course, our amazing volunteers make Honor Flight a success.

It is an honor for flight leaders to document the veterans’ stories providing the opportunity to read each veteran’s biography at the ceremony. We thank the Press-Republican for the opportunity to honor our veterans. When you see a veteran, please thank him or her for their service

Barrie Finneġan
Executive Director

Janet L. Duprey
Director of Operations

COVER PHOTO: Blair brothers (from right) Chet, with a portrait of his late brother Myrle; Richard, with a portrait of his late brother Leon; Fred, with a portrait of his late brother Robert; and Larry, with a portrait of his late brother Gerald, walk together to board the bus for their North Country Honor Flight on Oct. 1. All eight brothers, from the Cadyville/Saranac area, served in the United States military. (BEN ROWE/PRESS-REPUBLICAN PHOTO)



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***SALUTES OUR VETERANS & THANKS THE
BRAVE MEN & WOMEN WHO CONTINUE
TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY***



*FLIGHT 36***May 14, 2022**

Robert Almeter
Gary Brown
Michael Carpenter
William Cosgrove
Nikolaos Eggink
Alan Hughes
Duane King
Richard Knowles
Walter Kourofsky
James Layhee
George Maffey
Walter Martiny, Jr.
Louis Peryer
Edward Stansbury

*FLIGHT 37***May 14, 2022**

William Fornecker
Stephen Foster
Philip Jackson
Howard Kemp II
Earl George Larabee
Michael McDonough
George Miller
Robert Miller
Robert Pelkey
William Provost
Robert Siskavich
William Siskavich
Edwin Woodward
Frank Woodward III

*FLIGHT 38***June 18, 2022**

Frederick Betters
Richard Darrah
Walter Dubuque, Jr.
Kenneth Duffy
Robert Gricoski
Ronald Hicks
Clinton Isham
James Labounty
Charles Lashway
Robert Montour, Sr.
Donald Paquette
Edward Rice, Jr.
Edward Sampson
Allan Seymour

*FLIGHT 39***June 18, 2022**

Patrick Augustus
Ralph Cudworth
Charles Donah
Gary Lintner
Frank Madden
Dennis Mason, Sr.
Marshall Maynard
Robert Mooso
Robert Neureuther
Rudolph Pribis
James Rogers III
Vincent Ross
Larry Scott
Raymond Tousignant

FLIGHT 40

Sept. 3, 2022

Kevin Burrell
Russell Cole
Ronald Doshna
Leslie Fleury
Robert Gagnon
Lawrence Hart
Raymond LaFlame
Kim Lathrop
Robert Lawrence
Basil Matthews

Douglas Mauran
Edward McMahon
Keith Mero
Terry Peters
David Rabideau
Roger Sayward
Chris Tedford
Harry Treadway
Gregory Lee

FLIGHT 41

Sept. 3, 2022

John Aldous
Robert Boswell
Philip Davis
Gerald Parent
Eddie Gelineault
Warren 'Pat' Gordon
Thomas 'Dave' Hornell
James King
William Letourneau
David Pickering
Dale Robart, Sr.
Edward Robart, Jr.
George Silver
Lynn Shepard
George Tallman

FLIGHT 42

Oct. 1, 2022

Charles Boss, Jr.
Henry Cummings
Gary Dickerson
Kenneth Foster
Guy Grimard
Robert Helms
Chuck Moynam
Arnold Provost
Ronald Sickles
Francis Spendley
Thomas Sweeney
Melvin 'Buck' Terry
Bruce Wallett
Robert Wallett
Henry Wilson

FLIGHT 43

Oct. 1, 2022

John Berkman
Chester Blair
Frederick Blair
Larry Blair
Richard Blair
Ronald Breyette
John Cauffman
Royce Clark
Allan LaDuc
Michael LaDuc
Kevin Moriarity
John Ross
Gerald Villeneuve
Andrew West

VETERAN BIOGRAPHIES

For every North Country Honor Flight send-off ceremony, short biographies are read for each of the veterans traveling on the flight. Flight leaders for each of the trips travel to and interview the veterans on their experiences in the service, with the write-ups then organized and read at the send-off events by North Country Honor Flight Director of Operations Janet Duprey. The write-ups are nostalgic, heartfelt and often with a touch of humor.

Below are the biographies for the veterans who traveled this year. North Country Honor Flight takes area veterans on all-expense-paid flights to see the war memorials in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit northcountryhonorflight.org or call director Barrie Finnegan at 518-569-7429.

FLIGHT 36

ROBERT ALMETER

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1969-1973 | VIETNAM

At 14, Bob wanted to be a farmer until he was milking 180 cows a day. He left traditional classrooms at an early age, as he went on to achieve degrees in science, chemistry and a master's degree in Philosophy.

At 20, Bob enlisted, went to Texas, and became a member of the 823 RED HORSE Unit, the civilian engineering SWAT Teams of the Air Force. Bob was assigned to Indochina, Korea and Vietnam.

RED HORSE units are highly mobile, rapidly deployable, civil engineering response forces that perform heavy damage repair required for recovery of Air Force facilities and utility systems.

GARY BROWN

U.S. ARMY | 1966-1968 | VIETNAM

Drafted by the Army, Gary and four friends left for Albany. His girlfriend, Sandra, agreed to wait until he was out of the service to begin their many years of marriage.

Stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., 14 inches of snow shut the base down. North Country boy Gary had no issue going outside. But he hit an icy patch falling on a metal grate. A hospital orderly told Gary not to look in a mirror as a team of doctors put 66 stitches in his face. The General picked him up, gave him clean clothes, and took him home to supper.

Gary's Army boots were so comfortable he wore them for 20 years.

MICHAEL CARPENTER

U.S. NAVY | 1968-1974 | VIETNAM

Mickey left school early to help his family after his dad's heart attack.

At 18, he enlisted in the Navy; expecting to be a cook. His orders changed to gunner assigned to the carrier USS Boxer at Norfolk, Va. Waves were 4 times the size of the ship as they sailed to Panama, St. Thomas, the Virgin Islands and Cuba.

They trained daily locking and loading countless bombs, sent up by elevator to be discharged. On night watches, Mickey remembers the Marines being dropped on the Vietnam coastline.

When he had a long weekend, Mickey hitchhiked home to be with his loving wife Debbie.

WILLIAM COSGROVE

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1955-1977 | VIETNAM

Bill went to enlist in the Marines, but the only recruiter in Malone was Air Force. With dual citizenship, Bill chose the U.S. Air Force over the Canadian Air Force.

After basic training at Sampson Air Force Base, Bill was assigned to security police. Finding no civilian jobs available, Bill reenlisted in security and law enforcement. He traveled the globe. Stateside in Delaware, Texas, Arizona and Plattsburgh; also Guam, Japan, Germany, France and Belgium.

In France, Bill achieved the highest-level national security to protect the Supreme Allied Commander at the European headquarters.

NIKOLAOS EGGINK

U.S. ARMY | 1961-1963 | VIETNAM

Nik was born in Athens, Greece, moved to the United States with his family and enlisted in the Army as a non-U.S. citizen. He served in the 39th Infantry stationed in Seattle and Berlin.

Nik trained in heavy and light weapons and received a Marksman rifle M-14 badge. Much of his time was spent unloading supplies. He was also assigned to drive unmarked vehicles into areas to write down plate numbers of people coming and going.

After returning from overseas, Nik transferred to the Army reserves.

ALAN HUGHES

U.S. ARMY | 1954-1956 | KOREA

After basic training, Alan joined the 69th Infantry Division. Assigned to Fort Lee, Va., he worked in supplies and logistics.

Working in a large warehouse, Alan provided everything from food, outfitting clothing and gear to equipment. Everyone was nice to him as he had access to all the supplies from iced tea to ice cream.

Most of Alan's time was spent preparing supplies for maneuvers for Captains to Generals. His role put him first in line, so he had the best of everything.

Alan completed two years of college prior to the military and was given early release to complete his college degree.

DUANE KING

U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1954-1974 | VIETNAM

With his father's signature, Duane joined the Marines at 17 — first stop, Parris Island. His military career took him through all wings and ground forces of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Marine Divisions.

In logistics, Duane was in Okinawa and Vietnam, aboard the USS Duluth and landings on enemy soil. He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy and several other medals for ground or surface combat.

Denied additional years in Hawaii, Duane retired after 20 years of service.

Please join me today in wishing Duane King a slightly belated birthday as he turned 86 on Friday, May 13.

RICHARD KNOWLES

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1954-1968 | KOREAN

Dick and his buddy Carl wanted out of high school and flipped a coin between Navy and Air Force. The Air Force won the toss.

He was assigned to Security Police at Sampson Air Force Base and, at Fort Carson, he trained military dogs, illegally bringing Mr. Pepper home with him.

Dick served a year in the Arctic Circle before spending 12 years at a new Strategic Air Force Base, Plattsburgh with the 380th Security Police. That coin toss turning up Air Force came in handy as Dick, in Plattsburgh with a red convertible, met and married his wife Geraldine.

WALTER KOUROFSKY

U.S. ARMY | 1951-1953 | KOREA

Wally was drafted, sent to basic training at Camp Gordon, Ga., followed by a duty assignment in communications. At Radio School, he trained in Morse code.

Destined for Washington, D.C., MPs put him on an Air Force bus. He was taken to a beautiful home with a group of eight, a waiter and a maid. They were questioned in several different ways. After the eighth day he was transferred out and told he 'flunked' but never knew why he was there or what he flunked. Leaving he was told "he was never there, never saw this place".

Wally received several medals for his participation in Korean War zone operations.

JAMES LAYHEE

U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1961-1964 | VIETNAM

Three months before high school graduation, Jim and 5 friends joined the military. He remembers well going home to tell his mother!

Stepping off the bus at Parris Island for boot camp was a wake-up call. After a hard time getting into the marines due to poor eyesight, Jim became the second in his platoon in marksmanship. He was assigned as a fire-line coach and instructor in the weapons battalion and remained at Parris Island for his entire enlistment.

Before leaving the Marines, Jim led 100% of his platoon to pass and qualify at the highest performance level.

GEORGE MAFFEY

U.S. NAVY | 1957-1959 | LEBANON CRISIS

George attended Maritime College, earned a degree in Marine Engineering, joined the Navy and received a Coast Guard license.

Assigned to the USS Saratoga supercarrier, George supervised 150 service members, three officers and was in charge of all ship equipment. The ship produced its own oxygen and nitrogen.

In Lebanon, nitrogen couldn't keep up with demand and the center unit of 7 one-ton air conditioning units shut down. Admiral Anderson approached saying: "Mr. Maffey, you are personally responsible for the situation failure". Guess you know where that AC unit was located — yes, George fixed it!

WALTER MARTINY, JR.

U.S. NAVY & U.S. MARINE CORPS 1944-1946 | WORLD WAR II

In high school when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, Walter graduated on a Friday; started college in March 1944. On his 18th birthday, Walter joined the Navy. He completed the Great Lakes Training Camp as a highly trained electronics officer, a position considered in the top 3 to 5% of Navy Personnel. Aboard the USS New Jersey, Walter was headed for Okinawa.

Walter was transferred to the Marines. The Japanese occupied Okinawa and the Marines were preparing to drive them off the island.

As troops advanced, they found tunnel systems connected to island Caves. Walter said the Japanese were continuously shooting at them

until the Allied Forces finally forced the Japanese off Okinawa.

Providing ship to shore communications, Walter thought it was stupid to advertise where they were to enemy islands.

Admiral Tower, Fifth Fleet, wanted a communications guy. Walter was assigned and arrived in his Marine uniform. Admiral Tower said 'Get him in a Navy uniform' so Walter had to buy some new uniforms.

After President Truman and the Japanese Emperor negotiated a treaty, the soldiers of the Greatest Generation had won the battle and were going home.

What an honor to have World War II Veteran Walter Martiny with us today. Let's show our appreciation.

LOUIS PERYER
U.S. MARINE CORPS
1957-1959 | LEBANON CRISIS

Lou joined the Marines at 20 and served in the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions as an infantry rifleman.

Lou enjoyed being on ship in spite of 22-foot-tall waves where the ship swayed so much they could put their hands in the water. Caught doing it once everyone was ordered off deck and stayed in the hole for days. You wanted to be on the top bunk in case someone was sick.

Lou spent 6 months in the Mediterranean during the Lebanon Crisis including time in foxholes. Not as pleasant as the ship, Lou spent up to 30 days in fox holes taking his footlocker with him and then back to the ship.

EDWARD STANSBURY
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1959-1985 | VIETNAM

Ed and his twin brother enlisted together but were separated after tech school. Ed served as an aircraft maintenance supervisor for three years and fabrication superintendent for nearly 23 years.

Ed flew across the globe; Panama (he'd asked for Alaska), New Mexico, California, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Michigan (closing the base, he didn't unpack), Virginia, Syracuse, England, Germany, and his first and last assignment: 380th Bomb Wing at Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

He didn't like his initial Plattsburgh assignment with below zero time on the flight line. Returning to finish his career, he made Plattsburgh his permanent home.

FLIGHT 37

WILLIAM FORNECKER
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1968-1972 | VIETNAM

An 18-year-old high school graduate, Bill expected he would soon receive a draft notice. He went to a recruiting office in New York City to learn about military options. He quickly ruled out the Marines and Army, being on a Navy ship didn't appeal to him so Air Force was his choice.

On a flight overseas, Bill missed his birthday while adjusting for time zones. Bill volunteered for helicopter gunner duty but instead he was assigned to load bombs.

Stationed at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Bill collided with a car, met an attractive young woman, married her and Kathy is his guardian today.

STEPHEN FOSTER
U.S. ARMY | 1966-1969 | VIETNAM

Stephen completed basic training, and Advanced Individual Training of an additional 30-days training on Parris Island. Steve left Texas, went to Vietnam joining the 86th Main Battalion Tanks.

He completed basic combat engineer training and served as a carpenter building barracks, showers, day rooms and churches.

Steve's respect for fallen soldiers led him to work with the military and international Marshall service to bring our fallen soldiers home. For 60 years, Steve has traveled the globe to locate grave registrations and escort military soldiers home.

PHILIP JACKSON
U.S. NAVY | 1968-1971 | VIETNAM

To avoid the draft, Philip signed up for the Navy. He arrived at Great Lakes Naval Train-

ing Center for boot camp and continued training at Nuclear Power School.

Phil served on the USS Joseph Kennedy Destroyer and the USS Gato submarine. With 36 men on board the submarine, they slept in shifts. Phil was regularly checked for radioactive levels. The percentage of acceptable levels was much different then than today. Fortunately, Phil wasn't claustrophobic as submarine missions could last 7 weeks.

Phil is a 3rd generation Navy shipman, and his guardian son Schuyler is 4th generation. Quite a testament to Naval dedication.

HOWARD KEMP II
U.S. AIR FORCE 1966-1970 VIETNAM
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 1985-1992

Howard trained at Limestone and Loring Air Force bases, Maine, and McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento.

Howard was active in airborne early warning control systems. While long range radar surveillance and control center were still used for defense; satellite systems were now actively being used.

A radar operator, Howard flew missions on the borders of Thailand, Laos and coastal Japan providing him with combat and flight service.

With the Army National Guard, Howard went to France joining other NATO volunteers from Italian Mountain Infantry.

EARL GEORGE LARABEE
U.S. ARMY | 1951-1953 | KOREAN

George joined the Army to get away and served with the 2nd Battalion, 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment and 82nd Airborne Division.

He volunteered for jump school. In the 4th week, they were to perform rolls, but George couldn't hear what the instructor was telling him to do. The entire class was so bad, the instructor passed them on so they wouldn't hold up the other groups. After completing 12 jumps, George was released due to family hardship.

At age 87, George dreams of completing a jump in a C-47 in Normandy.

MICHAEL McDONOUGH
U.S. ARMY | 1966-1969 | VIETNAM

Drafted out of college, Michael completed basic training at Fort Dix. He then went to Fort Bragg for Advanced Infantry Training.

Within a week of arriving in Vietnam, Mike shot a family's sacred cow. The Army made him pay for the cow and the two bullets. He also had to apologize to the family and bury the cow. Out of curiosity he returned to the site and found that the cow had been dug up. No steaks for Mike!

Michael spent one and half years in Vietnam. There were 4 McDonoughs in his company; he was the only one who made it home. While nearly 10,000 miles away from home, he met his neighbor.

GEORGE MILLER
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1964-1968 | VIETNAM

Graduating from high school on Long Island without money to go to college, George enlisted in the Air Force looking for an opportunity to learn a trade that would serve him in life.

After basic training, George's orders brought him a 22-month assignment at Plattsburgh Air Force Base where he met his wife, Susan. A Sergeant caused George to have a disabling hand injury, so he worked in the auto hobby shop and was given a jeep to putt around in.

George left for 18-months in Goose Bay, Labrador, Newfoundland, and George's final assignment was Castle Air Force Base, California.

ROBERT MILLER
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1958-1963 | VIETNAM

A young airman, Bob was handed a helmet, gun and flashlight and told no one is to enter without proper authorization. He asked, "Where are my bullets"? The answer: "You don't get any".

As an Aircraft Engine Mechanic, Bob spent his military time at Plattsburgh Air Force Base except for an 89-day TDY when he overhauled engines while on alert with bombers and tankers. Ready to end his service, Bob was informed he was extended 9 months due to the Cuban missile crisis.

As a civilian, Bob stayed at the Base for a to-

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tal of 34 ½ years. The Base Commander recommended Bob for the highest medal awarded to a civilian and invited Bob to join the General's staff at the Base closing ceremony.

ROBERT PELKEY
U.S. NAVY | 1968-1972 | VIETNAM

To beat the draft and liking water Bob decided to enlist in the Navy. At Great Lakes Training Center, he signed up for Hospital Corps training.

A recruiter told Bob being Hospital Corpsman might send him to the Marines, but Bob wanted this field of work. Standing in line, others were directed to Fleet Marine, Camp Pendleton.

Bob happily received orders for the USS WASP chasing Russian submarines. On ships for 3-6 months, Bob went on flight operations as a medic on helicopters.

He traveled through Europe and in 1970 went to the Artic Circle receiving the honorary blue nose. Bob said they DO paint the noses blue and he continues to wear his Blue Nose Patch.

WILLIAM PROVOST
U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1971-1973 | VIETNAM

At Carole's high school graduation, Will had quit school, his long hair was cut off, he'd joined the Marines.

After boot camp, Will and Carole married and left for North Carolina. Carole went home as Will was assigned to Okinawa for a year on a ship off the coast of Vietnam. Designated Infantry Repair, most of his time was spent guarding the ship.

On leave in Hong Kong, Will purchased a ring which Carole still wears. She'd have matching earrings, but Will needed money for beer. Flying to California on a 90-seat C5, they got STUCK in Hawaii. There was beer in the soda machine.

Will's brother and Carole greeted him home.

ROBERT SISKAVICH
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1954-1957 | KOREAN

Bob's high school principal convinced him to join the National Guard, and he later joined the Air Force. Basic training was at Sampson Air Force Base and then on to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.

Bob was assigned to Anchorage, Alaska where he spent 2 years and 1 day – it was a leap year. He experienced minus 57-degree temperatures with icy fog.

Security greatly increased on base when General Curtis LeMay landed in a 56 bomber.

Bob thawed out from his time in Alaska with a final assignment in Blytheville, Arkansas.

WILLIAM SISKAVICH
U.S. ARMY | 1948-1952 | KOREAN

Bill and his buddy got drunk and they signed up for the Army. Plans to stick together ended a week after basic training as they were sent in different directions.

With the 568th Ordinance Heavy Maintenance Company, Bill was stationed in Germany and then was assigned to 9 months in Korea. During his service in the Infantry, he spent time welding and training new recruits.

Among his commendations, Bill received the Korean Service Medal with Bronze Star, 3 Bronze Stars, United Nations Service Medal and Good Conduct Medals. Yes, Bob and Bill are brothers.

EDWIN WOODWARD
U.S. ARMY | 1970-1972 | VIETNAM

After boot camp, Ed was sent to Vietnam, where he spent 365 days, 4 hours and 15 minutes.

On special assignment in the combat zone where napalm bombing was taking place, Ed

was abandoned by his 'battle buddy'. Waiting an hour for a cobra helicopter to arrive, he was told to gather equipment and be ready to be quickly air lifted out. He doesn't know what happened with the other guy.

In his new Class A uniform, going through the gate at Los Angeles Airport, human fluids were thrown at him; he was called 'baby killer'.

For 50 years, Ed didn't talk about Vietnam and only shared his experiences with his family in the past 5 years.

FRANK WOODWARD III
U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1967-1971 | VIETNAM

Frank was one of 4 in his high school graduating class to join the Marine Corps. His draft notice was received by his mother 3 days later.

Frank was an Infantry Squad Leader, and Aircraft and Engine Mechanic. He served in the 12th Airwing flying clean-up in combat. He also flew as a volunteer door gunner for the Army.

Frank's assignments took him through all areas of Vietnam including Khe Sanh and Chu Lai Combat areas.

For his meritorious service in Vietnam, Frank was awarded several service medals.

FLIGHT 38

FREDERICK BETTERS
U.S. ARMY | 1968-1969 | VIETNAM

Frederick was assigned to the Military Police, 148th MP Company, 5th U.S. Army in Fort Carson, Colorado.

Fred's military career included time with the infantry, and he completed his service as a medic.

Fred was deployed to Vietnam below the Demilitarized Zone where he was wounded during an ambush.

For his heroic service Frederick was awarded the Purple Heart and The Silver Star which is the United States third highest award given exclusively for combat valor.

RICHARD DARRAH
U.S. ARMY | 1966-1972 | VIETNAM

Rick was assigned to Cambodia with the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry as a Field Wireman, worked in telecommunications and as a radio operator.

Stationed along the border, their position was attacked. Ground forces used choppers to defend their position. U.S. forces deployed 'Bee-Hive' rounds, defensive weapons firing small projectiles into the jungle at close range. At Quan Tri, Vietnam Rick could see the high-altitude bombers performing raids.

Rick recalls the rat bites and centipede stings – not pleasant memories.

WALTER DUBUQUE, JR.
U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1956-1962 | VIETNAM

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD | 1962-1999

Walter began as a Rifleman serving active duty at the Non-Commissioned Officers Leadership School. He then joined the 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force.

Leaving the Marines, Walter enlisted in the Vermont Army National Guard. Taking extensive medical training, Walter served as an Army Medic. His training and skills provided Walter the knowledge to save the life of a soldier who had consumed a controlled substance. With Army Criminal Investigation Division and Military Police, Walter assisted in the investigation, the arrest and securing of the contraband.

KENNETH DUFFY
U.S. NAVY | 1963-1967 | VIETNAM

Ken enlisted, completed basic training, and was sent to Vietnam. Aboard the USS Canbeera CAG-2, a Guided Missile Cruiser, Ken served three tours of duty as the ship cruised the coastal waters.

When the U.S. Navy's Ground Radar units were knocked out by Vietcong, the Canbeera was called upon to provide all the Radar for Air Defense. The ship was shelled while in the Gulf of Tonkin and they also traveled to the Philippines.

Leaving the Navy, Ken took a lovely young lady Sandy to dinner, and they are still happily married 54 years later.

ROBERT GRICOSKI
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1958-1978 | VIETNAM

Bob was a Combat Defense Security Policeman who traveled throughout the world. He

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THANKS ALL OUR VETERANS

for their service!

was stationed in Plattsburgh, Rome, NY, Bergstrom Texas, Loring, Maine, Kingdom of Libya, coast of Tripoli for 18 months, Korea and Vietnam.

For service members overseas Mail Call is often their only connection to family back home. While in Vietnam, Bob and his wife were 3 months without receiving any mail or communication between them. Morale was low.

After 20 years of service, Bob retired from the 380th Bombardment Wing, Supply Squadron, Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

RONALD HICKS

U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1960-1964 | VIETNAM

Assigned to 1st Landing Support Company, 2nd Service Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, Ron was a 'Shore Partyman' whose duties included unloading ammunition, equipment, food, and other supplies off beaches to support amphibious landings.

Ron traveled extensively including Japan; France; Spain; Greece; Philippines. In Sardinia, France a young lieutenant ordered 10 Marines to push a beached landing craft into the water. A Marine commandeered a bulldozer and pushed the 10-ton vessel off the beach. Quick thinking!

CLINTON ISHAM

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1968-1988 | VIETNAM

In Vietnam, Clint, an Aircraft Mechanic Crew Chief, worked on the C-123-K airplane at night as freight was loaded prior to powering up the aircraft as the plane's crew arrived. One night 2 boxes of lobster tails appeared. A lieutenant took one and a friend gave Clint the other. Nice feast! An angry Colonel couldn't find his case, so they chipped in to get his lobster tails.

After 5 years on alert in Alaska Clint arrived at Plattsburgh. An officer asked Clint to go on alert for 2 weeks. After 3-1/2 years on alert duty, he'd had enough alert and retired from Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

JAMES LABOUNTY

U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1965-1969 | VIETNAM

Deployed to Vietnam, Jim was assigned to 3rd Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. He was stationed 2 miles from the Demilitarized Zone where the Battle of Con Thien took place during the year-long Tet Offensive. Jim recalls being shelled daily with Vietcong rockets and large artillery.

Once Vietnamese rockets and artillery hit the ammunition dump killing about 100 men. The Dump burned for 4 days shaking the ground as ordinances burned and exploded.

newsman Dan Rather was at Con Thien and broadcast live footage across the world.

CHARLES LASHWAY

U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1968-1971 | VIETNAM

An Aircraft Fire Rescue man, Charles was ordered to Vietnam but was diverted to Okinawa assigned to a Helicopter Support Group.

Completing his training, Charles became an

instructor teaching firefighting and crash rescue. During his tour he was placed in an aircraft ejection seat, sky-rocketed upward, powered by a 5mm cannon shell, abruptly stopping at the end of the ride.

Charles and his Marine brother got together for much-needed Rest & Recuperation in Okinawa. A proud family of U.S. Marines.

ROBERT MONTOUR, SR.

U.S. ARMY | 1951-1953 | KOREAN

An iron worker in New York City, Robert, a Canadian citizen, was denied by the U.S. Navy, so he enlisted in the U.S. Army and immediately went to boot camp.

Robert liked cooking and after 3 volunteer requests he boarded the USS Howze and was a cook in Korea.

Because Robert was Canadian, the American Red Cross denied him assistance when his father was seriously ill. He went home and back to Korea on his own.

Robert's memories of Korea: meeting singer Eddie Fisher ; eating in the Officers' Mess Hall; the fish smell in Pusan city.

DONALD PAQUETTE

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1963-1988 | VIETNAM

Don was drafted and deployed to Vietnam. He was trained as a Medic, later earning his degree as a Physician's Assistant. In Vietnam Don was the non-commissioned officer in charge of a surgical ward.

As a new Physician Assistant, Don correctly diagnosed a patient with a spleen injury requiring immediate surgery to repair a posterior tear.

Don was stationed in the Philippines and at 11 bases. He estimates he served over 100,000 men, women and children during his 25 years of service to our Country.

EDWARD RICE, JR.

U.S. NAVY | 1967-1969 | VIETNAM

Drafted at the age of 19, Ed enlisted in the Navy and was assigned to the Navy Sea-Bees. Ed was deployed to Okinawa and later to Quan Tri, Vietnam. Upon landing at the base near the Demilitarized Zone, they were attacked by long range artillery.

Ed was part of a thousand-man advance force responsible for building, plumbing, and concrete work. He was also assigned to stop enemy river traffic in the pitch-black darkness of night.

Ed gave candy to the children from his C-rations. The kids told Ed 'if the streets are empty, you must hide because the Vietcong are close'.

EDWARD SAMPSON

U.S. ARMY | 1970-1973 | VIETNAM

Ed received training as a Morse Interceptor and Radio Intelligence Operator. He was assigned to the Army Security Agency, 7th Radio Search Field Station, Udorn, Thailand.

Ed served 12 months in the mountains of Thailand intercepting enemy messages and communications.

Ed had a unique living accommodation as

he was allowed to live off the military station. He hung out among the Buddhist Monks who readily accepted him. He enjoyed their bonfires and fresh cooked corn.

ALLAN SEYMOUR

U.S. MARINE CORPS | 1966-1968 | VIETNAM

With a group of Plattsburgh buddies, Allan joined the Marines. After basic training, he was designated a Vehicle Operator, Motor Transport and volunteered for Vietnam.

Instead, he was assigned to a Navy ship, and a Mediterranean Cruise to Turkey, Greece, Italy, Sicily, France, Spain, Portugal.

Allan said the Mediterranean area was beautiful country and people. In Italy he saw Pope John Paul II. He then spent 4-months in the Caribbean.

Allan's time in the Marine Corps allowed him to see the world, something he could not have afforded to do as a civilian.

Allan said Marines stick together and 'protect your brother'.

FLIGHT 39

PATRICK AUGUSTUS

U.S. ARMY | 1970-1973 | VIETNAM

After enlistment Pat went to Vietnam as a Teletype and Morse Code Operator. Serving with the Army's 101st Air Cavalry, Pat was stationed with the 175th Radio Research Field Station in Saigon.

Pat was on duty on the Base when a Vietcong motor attack took place. He said the exploding mortar rounds were a noise forever embedded in every soldier's brain.

Following his Vietnam tour, Pat enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserves, Seabees, for 17 years. He later returned to the U.S. Army from 1992-2000. Quite a testament of career changes!

RALPH CUDWORTH

U.S. ARMY | 1968-1970 | VIETNAM

Ralph was deployed to Vietnam as an Infantryman assigned to B Company, 5th Battalion, 10th Infantry. He was stationed near Saigon for a year.

Ralph was wounded in the line of duty and hospitalized with his injuries. For his valor, Ralph received the Purple Heart.

Back home his parents placed an article in the newspaper requesting people to write to Ralph as he recovered overseas. One particular person began a pen-pal relationship. Upon Ralph's return from his tour, he met his pen-pal, Diane, and they have been happily married for 51 years.

CHARLES DONAH

U.S. MARINES | 1965-1967 | VIETNAM

Charles enlisted and was deployed to Vietnam. He was assigned to the elite 32nd Marine Aircraft Group, 2nd Division, Marine Air Wing. As a bulk fuels man and laboratory tester, Charles was responsible for pumping fuels 2 and 1/2 miles to the Marine unit, assuring

safe storage and testing the fuels near the Demilitarized Zone.

The Jet-fuels were vital to the F4B Phantom Aircraft missions which provided close air support for the US Forces. The fuels powered the 'Deuce' 6x6 vehicles, jeeps, and armored vehicles.

GARY LINTNER

U.S. ARMY | 1959-1962 | VIETNAM

Stationed at Clark Air Base, Philippines, Gary was a High-Speed Intercept Operator in voice and Morse Code. He worked in a cinder block building in the middle of a 15-acre antenna field. The unit grew from 75 to over 250 intercept operators. Under the direction of the National Security Agency, they forwarded intercepts to Hawaii and the United States.

On a time-off visit, Gary discovered Aboriginal people who were topless, wearing loin cloths and considered to be headhunters. Always up for a challenge, flying on a military aircraft, Gary was sitting on a crate, didn't know what was in it, and didn't want to ask!

FRANK MADDEN

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1949-1953 | KOREAN

Frank joined the 5th Air Force, 6132d Forward Air Control radar squadron assigned to Pusan, South Korea.

Trained as an Operations Intelligence Technician, Frank set up FAC ground radar unit in Pyongyang, North Korea. As Chinese forces advanced southward, Frank quickly evacuated to Taegu setting up radar locations from hilltop to hilltop throughout Korea.

One night Frank was walking in the dark to the latrine. Due to the darkness, he didn't see a newly dug trench and landed at the bottom of a six-foot deep hole. He climbed out, and in daylight realized local laborers had begun to dig a new latrine.

DENNIS MASON, SR.

U.S. NAVY | 1967-1971 | VIETNAM

Dennis trained in Electronic Fire Control Systems. He was assigned aboard the Aircraft Carriers USS Constellation CVA64, and the USS Forrestal CVA59.

The Navy provided Dennis with opportunities to cruise in the Mediterranean off the coast of Greece, Japan, Hongkong, Philippines and for 9 months in the waters around Vietnam.

Dennis witnessed an onboard crash off the flight deck. A pilot was ejected from his aircraft and fortunately had a safe recovery.

Dennis has fond memories of Rest & Recuperation time in Hawaii.

MARSHALL MAYNARD

U.S. ARMY | 1952-1954 | KOREAN

Trained as a Medic, Marshall was assigned to the 309th Field Hospital, Vassincourt, France. Although set up to treat wounded veterans from Korea, it was never used for that purpose. The Field Hospital was always kept ready with daily maintenance and upkeep.

Linen service was supplied by a local French village. It came to light the linen was be-

ing shorted on its return. Marshall, fluent in French, was sent to stem the pilferage of sheets. A bottle of wine sealed the deal.

Marshall toured throughout France enjoying local bars and stores, visiting Paris and the Louvre Museum of Art.

ROBERT MOOSO

U.S. ARMY RESERVES | 1970-1990 | VIETNAM

At the Army Redstone Arsenal, Alabama Bob was trained as an Ammunition Specialist and Magazine Keeper. He was then assigned to the 309th Ordnance Company, Elizabeth-town.

Bob's units were responsible for the handling and storage of live ammunitions ranging from small 9-millimeter handgun rounds to tanks and artillery munitions.

While Bob enjoyed the versatility of the Reserves, he was away on training exercises on the day of his wedding anniversary every year, except one out of 20 years. Good thing Phyllis, his wife and guardian today, is understanding.

ROBERT NEUREUTHER

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1960-1980 | VIETNAM

Bob was trained in Automated Flight Controls and Instrument Systems. He specialized on several aircraft types: B-52 Flying Fortress; C-130 Hercules; KC-135 in-flight refueling aircraft; swing-wing F-111 Bomber.

In a remote area of the Philippines, Bob

maintained aircraft coming and going into Vietnam. Too often casket laden aircraft landed on their way stateside.

Assigned to Reese Air Force Base, Texas Bob worked on Cessna T-37 and T-38 pilot training aircraft.

His family enjoyed Texas, but their last stop was Plattsburgh Air Force Base which Bob and Carole call home.

RUDOLPH PRIBIS

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1964-1968 | VIETNAM

Rudy was an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist with expertise on board the C-141 Star Lifter Aircraft. Rudy's flights took him along the Equator, and he flew out of Air Bases in California, Hawaii, Philippines, Japan, India, Spain., and major military base Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam where Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine units were stationed. The C-141s were used to transport combat troops, vehicles, paratroopers and sadly hundreds of aluminum coffins in and out of Vietnam.

Rudy watched inexperienced, white-knuckled pilots, dripping in sweat, attempt 'touch and go landings' alongside experienced senior officer

JAMES ROGERS III

U.S. ARMY | 1951-1953 | KOREAN

Jim was assigned to the Army Signal Corps stationed in Korea as a Cryptographer.

For decades spies had written their encoded messages in groups of 5 letters. Jim's assignment was to send encrypted radio messages using 5 letter code groups to prevent classified information from falling into enemy hands He used an encryption technique that could not be cracked.

Jim and his co-workers liked to prank new arrivals into thinking they were going on special missions and parachuting into action to achieve their mission.

VINCENT ROSS

U.S. ARMY | 1950-1953 | KOREAN

The Korean War was proclaimed on June 25, 1950, and the next day Vincent and his best friend Sully enlisted.

Vincent was an Infantryman. In 1953 he was shot by a Chinese sniper who was hiding in a treetop. Vincent was evacuated to a hospital in Japan.

The location of the bullet was deemed inoperable, and it's still in his spine. This ended his military service, but Vincent was awarded the Purple Heart for his valor.

Through many life challenges – broken hip, cancer, inoperable bullet — at 92 Vincent meets each day with a beautiful, positive attitude.

LARRY SCOTT

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1964-1968 | VIETNAM

Assigned to Vietnam, Larry, a Telephone Switch Equipment, Repair and Installation 'essential worker', flew as "Priority Two". Throughout Vietnam, he installed and maintained telephone equipment; replacing old, outdated equipment. In Da Nang, installers competed to achieve the impossible taking only two weeks to install an all-new switchboard system; a job that should have taken months.

Larry is proud of time spent working on an orphanage, and he still carries photos of the Vietnamese children in his wallet.

A civilian, 35 years later, Larry pulled the plug shutting down the Plattsburgh Air Force Base Communications as the base closed.

RAYMOND TOUSIGNANT

U.S. ARMY | 1960-1964 | VIETNAM

Ray was drafted and assigned to the 12th Cavalry, 5th Army. He was deployed to Korea as an Intermediate Speed Radio Operator. Ray said he never saw a radio and instead operated telephone switchboards for 13 months just outside of Osan, Korea.

Ray was next assigned as a driver for the Commander of the 2nd Engineering Battalion. In addition, he was the driver for the Chaplain and became the Chaplain's Assistant for his remaining 10 months.

Leaving Korea, Ray was separated from the Army at Fort Carson, Colorado.

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FLIGHT 40

NOTE: All of the veterans aboard Flight 40 are members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, which provides motorcycle escorts for the veterans on their way to the flight line of Plattsburgh International Airport.

KEVIN BURRELL
U.S. ARMY | 1985-2007
COLD WAR COMBAT VETERAN

As a member of the Combat Engineers, Kevin had several assignments including Bosnia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. Kevin's unit constructed many bridges while serving in harms way.

Kevin was submitting retirement papers when his unit received orders to go into combat. He had his orders pulled to serve with his regiment. Kevin is most proud that his entire unit came home with no casualties and only three wounded veterans who received purple hearts.

Kevin earned many ribbons and decorations including the Bronze Star as he completed a very distinguished 22-year Military Service Career.

RUSSELL COLE
U.S. ARMY | 2008-2009
AFGHANISTAN COMBAT VETERAN

Russ received training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he became an 11 Bravo Infantryman serving with the 27th Infantry Brigade. His unit served in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Returning to the United States, Russ volunteered to work with a special program, Community Based Health Care, to help returning veterans receive their much-deserved healthcare benefits. For three years, Russ also assisted his fellow veterans to adjust to society.

With his U.S. Army and Reserve service, Russ served our country for 15 years.

RONALD DOSHNA
U.S. ARMY | 1968-1970
VIETNAM COMBAT VETERAN

Ron was assigned to the 34th Engineer Battalion as a truck driver.

Ron and his twin brother Dennis were ready to go to Vietnam. At the time, brothers were not allowed to go into combat together. Ron went to a commanding officer, signed papers not allowing Dennis to go.

Ron went to Vietnam, his brother didn't. But the next day Dennis went to another office and signed papers saying Ron could not go.

Already in Vietnam, Ron was sent to the airport to pick up new replacements. He loaded them on the truck, but one was missing. He found a guy sleeping with his hat pulled over his head. Ron kicked him, told him to wake up. Yes, indeed, it was Dennis.

LESLIE FLEURY
U.S. NAVY | 2003-PRESENT
IRAQ COMBAT VETERAN

Leslie is currently serving in the Navy Reserve as a Chief Hospital Corpsman.

She served a 10-month tour in Iraq with the Marines. Leslie's scariest time was when rocket-propelled grenades came into the compound area.

On guard duty, Leslie was making rounds at night. Two guys were spooning to keep warm. Of course, Leslie made sure to tell everyone.

ROBERT GAGNON
U.S. MARINE CORP | 1971-1973
VIETNAM COMBAT VETERAN

Bob trained at Paris Island, South Carolina and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he trained as a 0311 Rifleman. He continued training at Camp Pendleton, California.

Bob's unit was sent to Okinawa and then on to Vietnam where he was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 1st Marine Division at Bien Hoa, South Vietnam. The 9th Marines were a heavily decorated Unit.

Bob's unit boarded a ship in 1973 and became part of Operation Frequent Wind.

Bob and his wife Kathy of 41 years enjoy their quiet life in Owls Head.

LAWRENCE HART
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1984-2007
COLD WAR COMBAT VETERAN

Larry had an MOS 275x0, Tactical Air Controller. With boots on the ground, Larry called in air support and artillery. Larry had training in Aircrew, Aerospace Medical Service Craftsman, and Public Health Apprentice.

When they were in the dessert Larry said a captain drove into a pool of water and needed to be pulled out. Wonder how the captain explained that one.

RAYMOND LAFLAME
U.S. ARMY | 2001-2012
COMBAT VETERAN

Ray, better known as Link, decided to try out the various military branches. He started with the U.S. Navy Sea Bees and served in the Navy, Air Force and Army where he was a truck driver.

Before Homeland Security was formed, Link was stationed at Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in Westchester County. Link also went to ground zero during Hurricane Katrina on a Humanitarian Mission.

Link's favorite moment was walking into a recruiting station and falling in love with the sergeant, his beloved Kim Lathrop, who was recruiting for the Army.

KIM LATHROP
U.S. ARMY | 1992-2015
COMBAT VETERAN

Kim joined the Army as a Medic with assignments at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Scofield Barracks, Hawaii, Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Drum, New York, Joint Base Lewis McCord, Washington, and overseas at Camp Monteith, Kosovo and Firebase Hammer Iraq.

Kim enjoyed bouncing around all sorts of terrain in an Army ambulance traveling from site to site. She slid down a 100- foot gulch in Hawaii trying to find a point of contact -and a navigation point grabbing on vines on the way down. Sure — Lots of fun.

Kim received many medals and citations for her 23 years of military service to our country.

ROBERT LAWRENCE
U.S. ARMY | 1984-2007
IRAQ COMBAT VETERAN

After basic training Robert went for additional training as a Combat Engineer, 17th Engineer Battalion. Assigned to Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, Robert trained as a surveyor.

After his enlistment, Robert joined the Army Reserves and completed training in loading helicopters and drill sergeant training.

Using his extensive training, Robert went to Iraq and trained Iraq National Soldiers. Robert received many medals and citations for his service to our country.

BASIL MATTHEWS
U.S. AIR FORCE, U.S. ARMY | 1972-1981
VIETNAM COMBAT VETERAN

Following basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Basil served as a Security Policeman. Matt's favorite training was work-

ing with K-9s in Texas. He was stationed at many bases in the U.S. and around the world.

While in Thailand, Matt was involved in Operation Bullet Ship and the bombing of North Vietnam as that war was ending.

Leaving the Army, Matt joined the New York State Police. He won the Commander's shooting award for marksmanship. A member of the Vermont Army National Guard, Matt was called to serve in Kuwait and Iraq during Operation Iraq Freedom.

Matt retired from military service and the State Troopers after dedicated service to country and community.

DOUGLAS MAURAN
U.S. ARMY | 1973-2007
COLD WAR COMBAT VETERAN

Doug received training in Telecom Operator, Motor Transport Operator and Senior Instructor.

At night in Iraq, the compound was ground attacked so helicopters were called in to repel the enemy. The soldiers in the compound bunkers were returning fire at the enemy.

Doug wanted to look over the wire and bunkers so he stood up on concrete next to him. Tracer rounds and rocket explosions lit up the area. Doug looked up and realized he was standing under the American Flag and thought of the Star-Spangled Banner. Whenever he hears the National Anthem, he thinks of that moment. This is patriotism.

EDWARD MCMAHON
U.S. ARMY | 1967-1969
VIETNAM COMBAT VETERAN

Ed was assigned to a new group of engineers called the Airborne Combat Engineers. The First Corp operated in the area around Hue, Pleiku and DaNang, South Vietnam.

The unit was designed to go into areas that could only be reached by helicopter. The heavy equipment had to be small enough to be transported by Sky Cranes or giant Chinook Helicopters into remote areas in the jungle. They also built camps for the Special Forces to occupy, gun pads, airstrips and defensive positions.

Ed is proud to be sharing this day in D. C. with his Guardian granddaughter Honna.

KEITH MERO
U.S. ARMY | 1972-1992
COMBAT VETERAN

With the 2nd Combat Army Regiment, Keith realized if trouble started this group would be the first to respond. When they were not in the field, they increased their training to be fully prepared.

Keith was assigned to the Prisoner of War Team working with Military Personnel and Interrogators. As the first in battle, the Team policed all foot soldiers near the tanks. In constant contact with the commander, their mission was to capture the enemy. Some enemy soldiers laid down their weapons and those who continued to fight lost their lives. The



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Team processed 2,000 enemies with a sad casualty loss of one Team member.

TERRY PETERS
U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD | 1974-1980
COMBAT VETERAN

Terry was stationed with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team at Fort Polk, Louisiana. As a member of the Army National Guard, Terry was in the 108th Infantry Unit.

Terry's MOS (military operational specialty) training provided logical progressive individual skills. Participants are trained and educated in skills enabling them to contribute as efficient team members.

DAVID RABIDEAU
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1977-1997
COMBAT VETERAN

Dave was assigned to the Civil Engineering Squadron as a Utilities Systems Craftsman for 8 years. For the next 12 years, Dave served as a Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Craftsman. With his expertise, Dave traveled throughout the world performing his duties in 43 countries. Dave spent a year in Malaise assigned to the State Department in a top-secret duty assignment. He was selected to take part in the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in the early 90s.

Dave was the last official active-duty personnel assigned to the Plattsburgh Air Force Base as it closed in 1995.

ROGER SAYWARD
U.S. NAVY 1962-1966 | VIETNAM
COMBAT VETERAN

Roger served as an Onboard Engineering Steam Boiler Operator and Maintenance. On the assault landing ship LPD-2 USS Vancouver, Roger deployed with the 7th Fleet to Vietnam.

After leaving the Navy, Roger joined the New York Army National Guard serving 18 years. He participated in the Marksmanship Training Unit and the Rifle Team. Roger traveled throughout the United States taking part in numerous competition events to advance as a successful High Master Rifle Shooter; the highest award in competitive rifle shooting.

CHRIS TEDFORD
U.S. MARINE CORP | 1994-1998 | IRAQ
COMBAT VETERAN
U.S. AIR FORCE | VERMONT NATIONAL GUARD
2010-PRESENT

Chris served in the Infantry securing and evacuating civilians in Liberia, Central Republic of Africa, and humanitarian duty in Bosnia.

Chris trained in Jungle Warfare in Panama; Rock Climbing, West Virginia; Mountain Warfare in Slavonia; and Helicopter Repelling at Camp Lejeune. Chris left the Marines for civilian life.

13 years later when his sister Meagan joined

the Air Force, Chris decided to follow her. As a Munitions Builder, Chris helped build 828 bombs; all delivered on target.

Chris and Meagan serve in the Vermont National Guard. A family affair, Meagan loads the weapons her brother builds.

HARRY TREADWAY
U.S. ARMY | 1967-1970 | VIETNAM
COMBAT VETERAN

Harry served as a Combat Engineer, 18th Engineer Brigade on two consecutive tours. He was with II Corps, the largest Command in Vietnam. Harry spent over 2 months in the Central Highlands and was involved during the Tet Offensive.

Often assigned to temporary duty (TDY), Harry finally returned to base to learn the Commanding Officer and Sergeant in Charge had changed. Harry had been marked AWOL.

Harry's scariest moment was flying on a C-130 to Pleiku. The co-pilot announced the base was being shelled so they wouldn't stop, but by lowering the rear ramp the troops could roll off and find a bunker. Harry had second thoughts about having signed up for a second tour.

For his valor, Harry was awarded a Silver Star in lieu of 5 Bronze Service Stars of which he has seven.

GREGORY LEE
U.S. MARINE CORP | 1968-1970 | VIETNAM
COMBAT VETERAN

Greg had basic training at Parris Island, Camp Lejeune and jungle training at Camp Pendleton. Assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines as a machine gunner with a 03-31 M-60 Machine Gun, Greg, one of the smallest guys, had the biggest weapon.

Deployed in Quang Tri Province on patrol, Greg was in the bush when a Viet Cong stepped on his foot. A Marine behind Greg shot the enemy before he could shoot Greg.

At Hill 41 on patrol Greg was wounded the first time. He said it was minor as shrapnel went into the back of his neck, he couldn't turn his head and was Medevac'd to the hospital ship, Sanctuary. He spent two weeks there enjoying the hot food.

Greg's second wounding occurred when friendly fire missed its target and dropped a bomb close to the Marines. Greg sustained shrapnel wounds in both legs, lost his hearing and his right arm was amputated. When the Medivac helicopter arrived, Greg was wrapped in a flimsy cloth with a Velcro-type strap. The chopper dropped a chain down and Greg was lifted straight up, not parallel. As Greg was spinning on the way up, he was 'waiting to be shot'. Greg spent 13 months in various hospitals.

Greg was 17 years old when he received two purple hearts for his combat valor. Greg Lee is a Patriot and a true American hero.

FLIGHT 41

JOHN ALDOUS
U.S. ARMY | 1967-1970 | VIETNAM

After basic training, John attended Counter Intelligence Agent School in Maryland. In Vietnam in 1968, he was in a jeep accident and spent weeks in a hospital near the South China Sea.

John was assigned to the Studies and Observation Group known as SOG. This was a highly classified, multi service U.S. special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. John participated in numerous night flights hunting down Vietcong in helicopter gunships and B-52s going throughout Vietnam to different outposts flying over a lot of ground.

ROBERT BOSWELL
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1966-1992 | VIETNAM

In charge of Aircraft Maintenance Fuel Systems, Bob said the C-130 planes had fuel tank fires. Bob pulled an airman, almost dead from fumes, out of a tank. An engineer 1st Lt. Masterson and Bob went to Alaska to study fuel tank fires. They removed the reticulated foam, using a protractor the lieutenant determined pilots could not take off at more than a 17-degree altitude angle. Fires were eliminated. Great job done, and lives saved.

Bob was stationed at nine Air Force Bases throughout the states and overseas. Plus three assignments at Plattsburgh Air Force Base where he retired after 26 years of service to our Country.

PHILIP DAVIS
U.S. MARINE CORP | 1956-1958 | COLD WAR

30 guys from Malone, the Adirondack Platoon, went to Albany to enlist. Phil's buddy failed the test and went home. In New York City, 400 recruits boarded a train to Beaufort, South Carolina for basic training.

A Military Policeman, Phil patrolled the perimeter of the Naval Weapons Station at Yorktown, Virginia. They would transport missiles onto barges that were loaded onto ships. It took a day and a half for them to go down and back to Base.

On January 7, 1957, six inches of snow brought everything to a standstill. Used to four feet of snow, Phil found it amusing the city plowed the Base that had no plows.

GERALD PARENT
VETERAN GUARDIAN FOR PHILIP DAVIS
U.S. ARMY | 1966-1968 | VIETNAM

A Hawk Missile Launcher crewman, Jerry participated in launching a Hawk Missile at White Sands, New Mexico. He said he's never seen anything move so quickly getting two miles down range.

Jerry spent most of his tour in Germany. General Westmoreland arrived next door at

the Nike Hercules Nuclear site. Soldiers were directed to have everything spotless should the general stop in. They were nervous, no passes given, and relieved the general didn't visit.

On Christmas Eve, Jerry decided to call home. At a train station phone booth, the operator asked if he had a reserved line. He did not and was told it takes 12 hours to get one.

No Christmas greetings to his family.

EDDIE GELINEAULT
U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD | 1966-1969
VIETNAM

After basic training at Fort Dix, Eddie went on to Camp Johnson in Vermont and he was assigned to the 131st Engineer Company.

In Vietnam, Eddie was stationed in the Central Highlands making roads that were covered up by muck and mud from a quarry next to the base. A good part of working in a Construction Battalion was having building materials nearby. Bridge ties made great barriers as they backfilled dirt four feet deep making them impenetrable.

WARREN 'PAT' GORDON
U.S. ARMY | 1955-1957 | KOREAN

Pat was in Army Administration as an IBM Operator. He was stationed in hot, hot Japan. It was humid except where the IBM Collators, Interpreters and Reproducers were. They had an air conditioner.

Japan was still dangerous. Pat said they were shot at, there were kidnappings, and obvious anger about World War II.

Seeing Hiroshima was traumatic. Ten years later there were still bombs and various remnants; people with deformities were very prevalent.

Pat says all people should go in the service.

THOMAS 'DAVE' HORNELL
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1963-1984 | VIETNAM

Dave joined the Canadian Army at age 17; At 19 he moved on to the Canadian Air Force and trained for Ground Control Radar above the Artic Circle. He didn't want THAT. Dave settled in with the U.S. Air Force where he served 22 years.

In 1968 a General learning Dave was Canadian with the U.S. Air Force assigned Dave to the Army 101st Airborne Division, Vietnam.

Returning to the Air Force, Dave went up the ranks to Weather Station Operations Supervisor providing weather support to bases across the country, the White House, Camp David, Joint Chiefs and heads-of-state.

We knew Dave would bring good weather for today's flight.

JAMES KING
U.S. ARMY | 1964-1966 | VIETNAM

Assigned to the 7th Infantry Division, Combat Engineers, Jim was among 2,500 troops for two weeks in rough waters heading to Korea. Jim, an electrician, went to Camp Casey, about 40 miles north of Seoul.

One hot day, and in spite of Jim saying it was not a good idea, a lieutenant ordered Jim to shut down a 60-Kilowatt generator. Soon an upset major approached and told Jim to restart the generator. The general was in the middle of a briefing and NOT happy. Back at base, the major apologized for yelling at Jim and asked if there was anything he could do for him. Quickly, Jim said 'it's hard to lay cable with an M-16' and could he get a 45 pistol. Jim got the pistol; the lieutenant got the M-16.

WILLIAM LETOURNEAU
U.S. ARMY | 1965-1971 | VIETNAM

Bill was assigned to the 12820 Combat Engineer Battalion which played a significant role supporting U.S. and allied forces in Vietnam. They built bridges, roads, helicopter pads, buildings as large as football fields to repair tanks.

Bill said they finished building a bridge and went back to the barracks. Two days in a row the Viet Cong blew up the bridges overnight. The Green Berets were called in and the bridges remained built.

Bill and buddies were eating lunch sitting on a bank. Bill saw something shiny, recognized a landmine as they all backtracked to safety. A C-4 plane blew up the landmine. If he hadn't noticed the landmine, Bill wouldn't be with us today. Glad you're here.

DAVID PICKERING
U.S. MARINE CORPS. | 1966-1968 | VIETNAM

After high school graduation, Dave entered

the Marine Corp. At 19 years old he was in Quang Thien, South Vietnam attached to the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marine Division. Dave was shot in the back during a Viet Cong ambush in a rice paddy. Two-thirds of the company were killed including one of his buddies who was standing 10 feet from him.

Dave was taken to a Vietnam hospital and the next day flown to a hospital in Japan where he was treated for his shoulder wound.

Dave an MOS 0311 Infantry Rifleman received a Purple Heart and several other medals in recognition of his battle wounds and bravery.

Dave has attended our ceremonies as an Honor Guard since we started, and we are delighted to have him on this flight.

DALE ROBERT, SR.
U.S. NAVY | 1970-1976 | VIETNAM

Dale was on board the Destroyer USS Damato when he received the "Blue Nose" by crossing the Arctic Circle. Wearing a jacket in the boiler room was a necessity.

At Guantanamo Dale said there were armed guards from both sides. Dale said no one could go off base and Cuban help lived on Base.

The Mediterranean cruise made it all worthwhile.

Dale climbed up the Main Mast of the ship to get a Commissioning pendent. The ship's Commander said "If you're dumb enough to go up there, you can keep it".

For his valor, Chuck received several medals including a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Parachutist badge.

HENRY CUMMINGS
U.S. ARMY | 1962-1984 | VIETNAM

After basic training at Fort Dix, Hank was assigned to the Joint Military Assistance Command in Saigon. Part of the Department of Defense, the MAC included all branches of service.

Hank did two tours in Korea at 1st Cavalry Headquarters as he went from Personnel Clerk to Personnel Supervisor during a tour in Germany. Completing his military career as a Personnel Supervisor at Fort Dix, Hank remained there in the same position called Human Resources as a civilian.

Hank equally served 20 years as a soldier and 20 years as a federal employee, retiring after 40 years of service to our country.

GARY DICKERSON
U.S. ARMY | 1963-1966 | VIETNAM
309TH U.S. ARMY RESERVES | 1974-1992

Gary was in basic training at Fort Dix when President Kennedy was shot. At Fort Leonard Wood, Gary completed Heavy Equipment Training, and 10 soldiers were given special or-

EDWARD ROBERT, JR.
U.S. NAVY | 1968-1988 | VIETNAM

Ed served two years in Vietnam. He was then called from Vietnam to Korea on an expeditionary force.

On the USS Ranger, the sound of bullets hitting the deck from the M-16s was harassing. The Phantoms flew in and quickly took care of the M-16s.

Ed sailed the world on seven ships: the USS Kitty Hawk, Midway, Coral Sea, Saratoga, Ranger, Lexington, and Constellation. Ed received many medals and commendations for his 20 years of service to our country.

GEORGE SILVER
U.S. ARMY | 1960-1963 | VIETNAM

George was assigned to Company "C" 5th Special Forces Group; and 1st Special Forces 3rd Division. George trained as a Special Forces Medical Technician. He also received training as a Jump Qualified Parachutist jumping out of several different planes and helicopters.

During his tour in Vietnam, George was in the Tay Ninh Province close to the Cambodian Border and near the infamous Ho Chi Min Trail.

Arriving at Fort Benning, George was assigned to the 101st Airborne Special Experimental Platoon. The French had developed a Wire Guided Missile System. George said the program didn't work but it was a lot of fun.

ders to Thailand.

Thailand was a hardship tour at 100 degrees and heavy rains. They worked 12-hour days, 7 days a week with 3 days off at the end of the month. Gary ran earth moving equipment all day building roads.

Flying from Bangkok to Saigon, they landed on the runway as it was being blown up. They were the last plane to take off heading back to the States. Landing in San Francisco, Gary understood the instruction to put on civilian clothes as the soldiers would not be welcomed back.

KENNETH FOSTER
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1952-1956 | KOREA

In Korea, Ken was assigned to the Squad 75th Bomb Wing, Pusan East K-9 Air Force Base. The 543rd Ammo Supply Squad Depot mission controlled large bomb dumps at a railroad head. Ammo was then shipped to other bases heavily controlled by Air Police.

At Pusan, Ken drove tractor trailer. Operators had problems with reprocessed jet fuel tanks and moving heavy equipment as they delivered to the docks in Pusan. Equipment was then shipped out to various points. A lot of GIs went through the Squadron. Too often, snipers fired from the mountains to the Base.

LYNN SHEPARD
VETERAN GUARDIAN FOR GEORGE SILVER
U.S. ARMY | 1968-1971 | VIETNAM

Lynn was assigned to 1st Field Forces, 7th Battalion, 13th Army.

During the TET Offensive, Lynn provided ammunitions and supplies to the field battalions. While on a munitions convoy, their unit was ambushed by the Viet Cong who attempted to take out the radio command vehicle, to break communications and take control of important Army communications equipment.

Lynn thought he was stung by a hornet, but it was a glass fragment that struck him when the vehicle's driver side mirror was hit by enemy weapons fire.

GEORGE TALLMAN
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1968-1988 | VIETNAM

George, an Environmental Medicine Technician, began his military career as a food inspector. He checked chemicals on planes to assure there were no communicable diseases.

George had the honor of flying on Air Force -1 with President Richard Nixon. George said the worst country he was assigned to was Turkey and the best was Germany.

When George's father died, his mother couldn't raise all their children. Five families saved him. A cocky teenager at the time, the military took care of that. George is most proud of staying with the Air Force for 20 years. He retired from Plattsburgh Air Force Base with several medals and commendations from his 20 years of service to our country.

GUY GRIMARD
U.S. NAVY | 1958-1961 | VIETNAM

Completing electrical school at Great Lakes Training Center, Guy went on board the USS Fulton AS-11; 186th Nuclear Support Ship. Sailors cut off two guns to put a liquid oxygen plant to give oxygen to nuclear submarines.

Nautilus, the world's 1st nuclear powered submarine, came in after going into an ice cap. Two guys were on one side of the ship with 68 tons of fluid for refueling the submarine. Forgetting to put the generator on the other side, the boat almost tipped everybody over the side. Guy served all 4 years on the USS Fulton.

ROBERT HELMS
U.S. ARMY | 1964-1967 | VIETNAM

Bob completed Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Dix and went to Fort Benning for jungle training. For 8 months, 29 days, Bob was in Vietnam near the Cambodian border.

Thirty Viet Cong in major bushes attacked Bob's group of soldiers and, in Bob's words, 'tore them up'. As they called in support, Bob was shot through the stock of the rifle, took muscle off through his shoulder, and shots put shrapnel in his legs. The Viet Cong began searching bodies as Bob and two buddies laid down together. One was deceased; as one

FLIGHT 42

Among the passengers of these North Country Honor Flights were the Blair Brothers of the Saranac/Cadyville area.

All veterans, the brothers held portraits of their four late brothers, who were also in the service, as part of the Honor Flight send-off ceremony.

Also aboard the flights was Frank Spendley, a World War II veteran and member of the famous 101st Airborne who jumped into Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, to help liberate France.

CHARLES BOSS, JR.
U.S. ARMY | 1967-1969 | VIETNAM

Right out of high school, Chuck joined the Army with a dream of jumping out of airplanes. Scheduled to be in Korea, he was accepted into jump school.

He volunteered for Vietnam making many jumps as an Infantry Paratrooper in the 82nd and 173rd Airborne Divisions. Chuck went into combat with full ruck and a weapon longer than his body. His wife Sandy lovingly calls him Rambo with the photos to prove it.

raised up, he was shot. An enemy flipped Bob over and he played dead, saving his life. The following morning an observation helicopter found Bob, zeroed in as a gun ship picked him up for transfer to a hospital.

For his courage Bob received many medals, including a purple heart.

CHUCK MOYNAM
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1964-1969 | VIETNAM

Chuck received basic training at San Antonio as a Morse Code Intercept Radio Operator.

The teams worked in shifts including practicing on alert as telecommunications were received at all times. A couple of times Russian Migs were chasing U.S. planes as analysts copied – at the moment – Morse Codes. Chuck said it was exciting but put everyone on edge.

Chuck served at Air Bases in Mississippi, Texas, Turkey, and England. He enjoyed his two years in England and went to Sherwood Forest. Sightseeing in Turkey, he learned the language so taxicab drivers couldn't double charge him.

ARNOLD PROVOST
U.S. ARMY | 1964-1966 | VIETNAM
309TH U.S. ARMY RESERVES | 1977-1996

Arnie was stationed at Red Stone Arsenal in Alabama twice and trained at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky. Sent to Germany for 16 months, Arnie worked at the ammo dump and served as a radio teletype operator.

Summer training in Italy was a beautiful time before returning to Fort Dix driving a forklift and working at the ammo dump.

Going overseas, Arnie spent 8 terrible days on ship. Returning from Europe, his designation as a Personnel operator gave him a flight from Frankfurt to Heathrow ending at LaGuardia. Arnie enjoyed the plane ride over a ship any time.

RONALD SICKLES
U.S. NAVY | 1960-1961
U.S. AIR FORCE | 1962-1966 | VIETNAM

After basic training at Great Lakes, Ron was assigned to chipping paint on the outside of the ship so he decided to transfer. Joining the Air Force he attended Jet Mechanic School as the B-47 was decommissioned. Ron went to Heavy Equipment School and built sidewalks, parking lots, roads, rebuilding whatever was damaged.

On a bus in Dallas heading back to Lackland, they learned President Kennedy had been killed.

Two days after arriving in Alaska an earthquake hit so lots of clean-up in cold weather. Final assignment Plattsburgh Air Force Base where Ron decided not to re-enlist.

FRANCIS SPENDLEY
U.S. ARMY | 1942-1945 | WORLD WAR II

Frank's amazing military career began with the 101st Airborne Division. A Wisconsin Division with an eagle mascot became the Screaming Eagles.

A newspaper reporter at 101st Headquarters, Frank knew everything was top secret. Speaking only among themselves, reporters were aware every month came closer to an invasion. Seven months later they were in England.

The evening before D-Day, General Eisenhower addressed the troops, telling them to wear their Screaming Eagles Patch with pride. Frank said it was an honor to meet the General.

On D-day morning their venture started well ahead of the Marines invasion. Their mission was to keep the Germans from bringing reinforcements and vehicles on the beach.

As the troops moved through dense woods, they used the Cricket system. Frank explained they pushed the cricket twice and if they got one click back it was friend; no click it was foe.

In December 1944 the German Army launched a surprise attack known as the Battle of the Bulge. In Bastogne, U.S. soldiers were ordered to leave all things behind including winter jackets. Frank couldn't stand wet feet, so he kept dry socks in his helmet to replace cold, wet socks.

A German ultimatum told the troops to surrender. General McAuliffe responded with one word "NUTS".

General Patton saluted the soldiers, said a few words, and pinned a medal on Frank.

Suffering the death of his brother off the Pacific Coast, Frank was home for Thanksgiving. In January 1946, Frank began hitchhiking across the country to visit the homes of soldiers who were killed during their time together. Frank said it was what he needed for himself to heal.

THOMAS SWEENEY
U.S. MARINE CORP | 1959-1963
1964-1967 | VIETNAM

Tom was an 0331 Machine Gunner, Military Policeman.

Tom was wounded in DaNang on Hill 22, taken to a hospital in Okinawa, then Clark Air Force Base Hospital and to Japan where he re-connected with a wounded friend Sgt. O'Malley.

Visiting Sgt O'Malley, fluid started to run out of Tom's stomach. After surgery he was in isolation, the only guy there. Looking out the window, Tom saw flames shooting up and realized the hospital was on fire. A Corpsman arrived, taking him on a stretcher to the parking lot. The old wooden hospital was blown up, burned to death like a barbecue.

Tom arrived back in Plattsburgh on February 17th which was to be his and Dorie's wedding day. They postponed the wedding a week and will celebrate 56 years of marriage in February.

MELVIN TERRY
U.S. NAVY | 1960-1964 | VIETNAM

Better known as Buck, he completed basic training at Great Lakes looking through holes to the outside. At Norfolk, the hobby shop was a good job as Buck knew machinery and kept supplies for all companies.

Aboard the USS Fred T. Berry (DD-858), Buck, a Boiler Technician, maintained the critical ship filter tests, did plumbing and welding. When an aluminum helicopter deck cracked, Buck welded it up. All sailors with Type O blood were told to be ready to donate when John Glenn was scheduled to come down.

They harbored in 14 nations, traveled half around the world 41,800 miles, using over two million gallons of fuel. Buck said it was an excellent four years.

BRUCE WALLET
U.S. ARMY | 1959-1961 | COLD WAR

After basic training at Fort Dix, Bruce went to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for Artillery Rocket Battery, 3rd Infantry Division training.

Sent to Germany, Bruce shook hands with Audie Murphy as he came to the outfit to film taking Rockets from the truck to the Launcher.

And Bruce saw Elvis Presley twice – driving a jeep. In the field during a training group and playing volleyball.

Bruce said the German barracks were well-insulated and warm compared to the old wooden barracks in the States. He added the German food and beer were good and people were nice to the soldiers.

Bruce couldn't re-up as he was needed to take care of the farm back home.

ROBERT WALLET
VETERAN GUARDIAN FOR
BROTHER BRUCE WALLET
U.S. NAVY | 1965-1969 | VIETNAM

Bob completed Radar Ace School at the Great Lakes Training Center.

He was assigned to the USS Francis Marion (APA-249), an amphibious assault ship. Bob served his entire tour on the USS Francis Marion, the primary recovery ship for Apollo 8. There had been some concerns as contact was lost when Apollo circled the moon, but there were no issues on the landing.

Christmas, 1968, the ship's Captain, affectionally called the 'Old Man', took the sailors to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, for two weeks of vacation. Safe to say a good time for all.

HENRY WILSON
U.S. NAVY | 1955-1959 | KOREA

After basic training at Bainbridge, Maryland, Hank went to Boiler Tender School in Philadelphia. Hank was assigned to the USS Tarawa as they traveled up and down the east coast from the North Atlantic to the South Atlantic. The ship crossed both the equator and the North Pole.

To protect the USS Tarawa, they were escorted by anti-submarine warships to find, track, damage and destroy enemy submarines. There were numerous quite serious encounters with Russian submarines.

Riots on the streets of Venezuela forced Vice President Richard Nixon to shelter at the U.S. Embassy. Mobilizing the USS Tarawa, eight destroyers and two amphibious assault ships

created high alert. The Vice-President was airlifted the next morning.

FLIGHT 43

JOHN BERKMAN
U.S. ARMY | 1967-1969 | VIETNAM
U.S. MARINE CORP | 1973-1980
U.S. ARMY RESERVES | 1982-1992

After basic training, John took advanced training at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

Joining the 2nd Civil Affairs, John learned Vietnamese customs and language. In Vietnam, following intense destruction, the Civil Affairs Team rebuilt schools, hospitals, homes, supplied medical care and food to refugees.

Assigned to the 3rd Brigade. 9th Infantry Division, John went throughout the Mekong Delta. During the 1968 Tet Offensive, John held his position all night as the infantry sustained numerous casualties and deaths.

John received several medals and commendations for his courage and bravery over his many years of Military Service to our Country.

You will notice the next 4 veterans are all named Blair; the first time we've had 4 brothers on a flight together.

Their mother Myrle raised 3 girls and 8 boys – all 8 served in combat in the U.S. Army.

Chet was in high school when their father died leaving Mrs. Blair to run the farm while still raising younger boys and girls.

She was tough, she raised her children well.

CHESTER BLAIR
U.S. ARMY | 1962-1965 | VIETNAM

Assigned to the 7th Cavalry in Korea, Chet said the Korean Armored Unit slowed down so people behind them could prepare for North Korea or China invasions.

With fierce winds coming out of the Himalayas, walking the fence line on Guard Duty, they could only patrol for one hour. It was so cold they only shot live ammo 8 minutes at a time.

In Alaska the Unit built roads and Chet said watching the U-2 spy planes take off was quite an experience.

Returning from Korea, they were two weeks on a ship. From Japan they went to Hawaii where they put a hole in the ship and were forced to spend an entire day before heading to California.

FREDERICK BLAIR
U.S. ARMY | 1962-1965 | VIETNAM

After basic and advanced training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Fred was certified as a Radio Operator who knew Morse Code, a Mechanic and Generator Repairman.

As direct support to keep everything running smoothly, Fred worked 8-hours, 5 days a week and had weekends off. As the driver for the Commander, Fred had his own jeep. This

schedule allowed Fred to visit Garmisch, Germany, Innsbruck, Austria, and parts of France.

A German alert was issued, and everyone ordered back to the barracks when word came that President Kennedy had been assassinated.

LARRY BLAIR

U.S. ARMY | 1964-1966 | VIETNAM

Larry completed training as a Military Policeman at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Stationed in Germany, Larry said he hated arresting lots of U.S. soldiers who were put in jail until they sobered up; many went to trial. While there were a few robberies, one soldier was sentenced to two years in jail. The Military Policemen had their own barracks with 10 MPs to a building.

Larry went to Hitler's Hideaway, known as the Eagle's Nest. The underground town has 4 miles of tunnels and Hitler had lavish living quarters. It was an interesting site.

Larry liked Germany and said it was a good time; likely made even better that their German buddies would buy their beer.

RICHARD BLAIR

U.S. ARMY | 1964-1966 | VIETNAM

Richard trained at Fort Sam Houston. Texas as a Medic Specialist with the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry.

Stationed in Germany, Richard was on a weekend pass going to Hitler's Hideaway. At the gate, Dick heard a tap on the window, saw an MP in uniform with a weapon as brother Larry waved at him. They didn't see each other again during their 2 years in Germany.

Richard enjoyed weekend passes. Returning to Germany from Austria, his pass didn't say he could leave Germany, so they weren't going to let him back in. Not daunted by that experience, he went on to visit Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, France and happened to be in England the weekend the Playboy Bunny Club opened.

RONALD BRETTE

U.S. NAVY SEABEES | 1967-1970 | VIETNAM

After basic training at Gulf Port, Mississippi, and combat training at Camp Lejeune, Ron was assigned to MCB 133rd Battalion, Charlie Company, as a Seabees Steel Worker.

Ron did two 9-month tours in Vietnam. The first Tet Offensive took place north of Quang Tri Province. On Ron's second tour the Battalion attached to the Marines at Mekong Delta. They could see Cambodia and a mile and half across were rice patties.

Home on leave in between his two tours in Vietnam, Ron and his future brother-in-law went to Albany State University to see the musical HAIR. Ron realized he really stand out with his clean-cut hair.

JOHN CAUFFMAN

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1965-1988 | VIETNAM

John began the first three years of military service as a Fireman and Crew Chief. The next 20 years, John worked transportation squad, packing, and crating shipped cargo all over the world including hazardous materials.

During his service years, John was stationed at bases around the world; including Pease; Castle; McClellan; Loring; Guam; Vietnam; Thailand; England. John retired from Plattsburgh Air Force Base.

John's guardian Cindy, his wife of 56 years, said they really enjoyed their years in England.

ROYCE CLARK

U.S. ARMY | 1969-1971 | VIETNAM

After basic training at Fort Dix, Royce completed Advanced Individual Training on Heavy Equipment Maintenance at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Stationed in Vietnam, Royce was assigned to the 554th Engineer Battalion. He drove a 2-1/2-ton truck hauling material across Vietnam and building roads in Cambodia.

Royce was stationed in Germany for 15 months driving tractor-trailer hauling fuel to other U.S. military bases.

Royce has been a dedicated member of the Honor Guard at flight ceremonies, and organizers are pleased he is finally going on a flight.

ALLAN LADUC

U.S. ARMY | 1953-1956 | KOREAN WAR

Allan, better known as Bill, was assigned to the 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Division.

As the troops crossed a river, shots came from overhead. Grabbing his 46-pound rifle

and pistol Bill walked to shore. Bill felt like a Mountain Goat as they climbed Hill 3 which was so high, they looked down as pilots flew by.

On night patrol in the pitch black, Bill fell off the hill. He spent 21 days in a field hospital tent. At Walter Reed Hospital doctors determined Bill had lost 2 centimeters of his brain and half the sight in both eyes.

A young man Raymond Ferguson took care of Bill during his time at Walter Reed. Several years later Bill and Retired Brigadier General Raymond Ferguson reconnected in friendship.

MICHAEL LADUC

VETERAN GUARDIAN FOR HIS FATHER, ALLAN LADUC U.S. AIR FORCE | 1975-1979 | COLD WAR

At 17, Michael went to basic training in Texas where he received an expert marksman ribbon. Assigned to Tech School in Denver, Michael trained on F-111, A-7 and F-4 fighter aircraft weapons systems. He then joined the A-10 Warthog Test Team.

Sent to Germany, Michael was assigned to the 52nd Munitions Maintenance Squadron to work on the A-10 Warthogs. The program was canceled because the hangars were too small for the Warthogs large wingspan.

Michael extended his time to work on the F-4-E Phantom Nose guns until his military separation.

KEVIN MORIARITY

U.S. NAVY | 1967-1971 | VIETNAM

Kevin completed training in Fire Party Duty, Electrician, Duty Driver and Hazard Response Team. While at sea, Kevin ran the generator and the switch board in the engine room.

Kevin first joined the USS Tutuila (ARG-4) in the Mekong Delta. He then boarded the USS Gainard (DD-706) until it was decommissioned. Next was the USS Edward McDonald (DE-1043) until Kevin's new and final ship arrived the USS Fiske (DD-842).

The various ships took Kevin to Alaska, Mediterranean, North Atlantic, Caribbean, Europe for a total of 14 countries.

JOHN ROSS

U.S. NAVY | 1965-1969 | VIETNAM

Jack was assigned to the USS Grapple (ARS-53). Jack was the ship's chef while also serving as the Captain's Bodyguard carrying a pistol, submachine gun and rifle.

If there were no issues imminent, the intercom system said "all clear" throughout the ship and Jack went back to cook.

As a repair and salvaging ship, the USS Grapple operations while moored on beaches or piers put sailors, including Jack, highly exposed to Agent Orange.

Jack's discharge date was a Saturday. The 2-day weekend put him over 4 years of service into the 5th year increasing his pay.

GERALD VILLENEUVE

U.S. AIR FORCE | 1951-1955 | KOREA

Jerry was assigned to the 12th Air Force and sent to West Botton, Germany. He was designated a cashier but spent most of his time providing security. Jerry was responsible for the weapons, radio relay off the base and guard duty.

While his job was listed as a 62250 Cook, the Germans did all the cooking, and he never cooked a meal. Jerry said the German food was good.

Returning to the States, assigned as a clerk-typist, Jerry again, spent most of his time on Guard Duty. On a rainy night – out there by himself- Jerry heard a voice call 'what makes your head so hard? "Rocks"? It broke up the night.

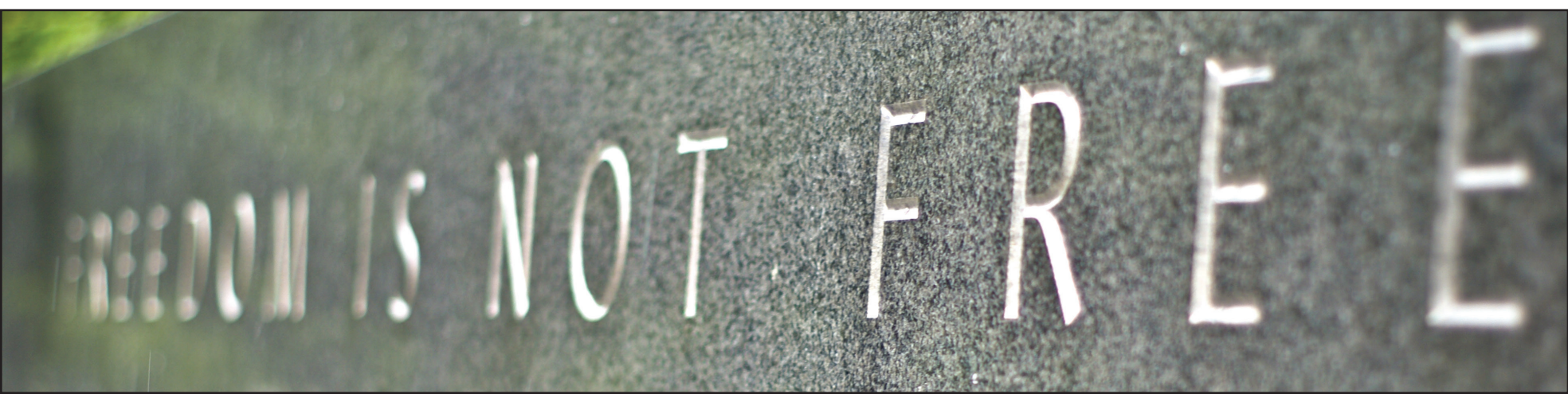
ANDREW WEST

U.S. NAVY | 1955-1958 | VIETNAM

Andy was assigned to the USS Vulcan (AR-5), an auxiliary repair ship. Andy served as a Metalsmith and Shop Foreman with a crew of 20 seamen. Their mission was to repair major damage, retro fits and update existing fleets.

With a home base in Norfolk, the USS Vulcan was scheduled for dry dock in Newport, Rhode Island. The aluminum decking on the ship needed costly repair. Andy said he could fix it in the metal shop with blueprints and ordering the right 'stuff'. Because of his ability, Andy saved more than \$100,000.

The Captain presented a Citation to Andy for outstanding service.





Brandy Cray holds up a sign for her father, Army veteran Royce Clark of Altona



World War II veteran Frank Spendley, who turned 100 this year, heads to the bus to be aboard Flight 42



A Border Patrol helicopter adds to the procession at a send-off ceremony



World War II veteran Walter Martiny Jr. greets a Marine Corps service member before boarding the bus for North Country Honor Flight 36



The veterans and the Morrisonville Elementary School choir span generations at the September send-off ceremony

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP A VETERAN FOR HONOR FLIGHT:

Visit northcountryhonorflight.com or call
Executive Director Barrie Finnegan at 518-569-7429

