

NOVEMBER 2025

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



SHORELINEMEDIA VETERANS DAY

11TH NOVEMBER

LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS | OCEANA'S HERALD-JOURNAL | WHITE LAKE BEACON

★ A SALUTE TO VETERANS OUR HEROES ★



— 11TH NOVEMBER —

VETERANS DAY

★★★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★★★

With Our Sincere Thanks,

LUDINGTON DAILY NEWS • OCEANA'S HERALD-JOURNAL • WHITE LAKE BEACON

★ A SALUTE TO VETERANS OUR HEROES



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SHORELINE MEDIA

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OCEANA'S HERALD-JOURNAL
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A special thanks to our local veterans for their courage, sacrifice and service

On Veterans Day, we pause to reflect on the courage, dedication and loyalty of our nation’s military veterans. Throughout history, their hard work and sacrifice have kept us safe and protected our freedom. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid, and we salute them for their service. To all the brave men and women who have sacrificed to put their country first, we thank you.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

THANK YOU VETERANS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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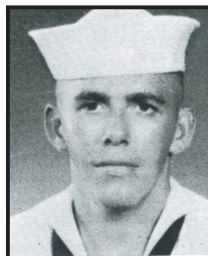
★ A SALUTE TO VETERANS OUR HEROES ★



Joseph Weaver
US Air Force
SRA



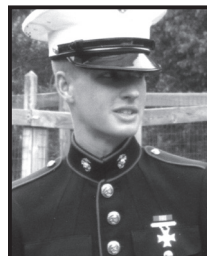
Alana Bergstrom
US Army
Sgt. Military Police



Robert D. Brooks
US Navy
1962-1969



Gregory Bussey
US Army
Sergeant, 1980-1984



Jared A. Bussey
US Marines
LCPL



Donald Clemons
US Army
Staff Sergeant



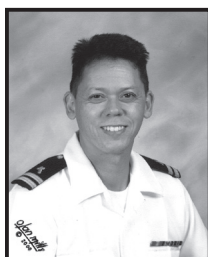
Stephen Cooper
US Army
Spec.



John Cotten
US Army
Lt. Colonel



Arthur J. Collins
US Army, Sgt. 3-6
1966-1969
1974-1999



Ronald Cox
US Navy
LCDR, Chaplain



Justin Duggan
US Marines
PFC



Bud John Holden
US Coast Guard
E-8, Sr. Chief
Operations



Tyler J. Jozwiak
Private 1st Class



Clarence Dust
US Army
PFC
1941-1945



Gregory Feister
US Navy
E-5



Randy France
US Marines
Staff Sgt
1973-1987



Joseph T. Kraus-McCarty
US Navy
Seamans Apprentice



Joseph E. McCarty
US Navy, E5
Electricians Mate,
1977-1988



Joseph McKinney
US Navy
E-4



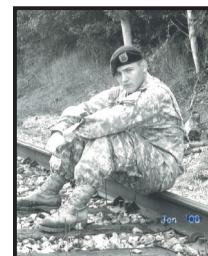
David Mickevich
US Navy, Petty Officer
3rd Class, E-4



James F. Pearson
PFC
1944-1945



Brandon Gokey
US Navy, E-5 Aviation
Structural Mechanic



Jon Jonio
US Army
Private 2nd Class



Darin Lambert
US Army
Specialist



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Alexis Del Tour
Corporal
Marine Corps



Dieter Muralt
Sergeant
Army



Michael Del Tour
Sergeant
Marine Corps



Stan Bennette
SSgt. US Marine Corps
Highly Decorated
Helicopter Crew Chief
Vietnam vet



Duane Cooper
FTG-2, US Navy 1962-66
Cuban Blockade
Vietnam, Round World



Lysle P.
Hansberger Jr.
Chief Boatswain's Mate
E-7, U.S. Coast Guard
Served 1965-1985



Steven M.
Fillmore
First Sergeant/E-8
U.S. Marine Corps
Served Feb. 2, 1982-Feb. 28, 2002



Gail Altschwager
PFC
U.S. Army



Larry R. Wisner
Airman 2nd class
Air Force



Mark
Levandowski
E-5 Navy Corpsman
Navy



Noel H. Kibbey
Sergeant, US Army
Korean Veteran



Louis Wolven
Spec 5 Army



John Fletcher
Spec 4 Army



Dawna Wilson
Airman 2nd Class
U.S. Air Force



Robert M. Wilson
Sergeant
U.S. Army, WWII



Frank Phillips Jr.
L/Cpl
U.S. Marine Corps

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With heartfelt gratitude, we thank you for your service and sacrifice including our own



TERRY
Marine Corps
Infantry/Marine
Security Force
4 Years Service



JB
National Guard Infantry
Air Assault
9 Years Service



JIM
Air Force
Jet Fuel Specialist
4 Years Service



RICK
United States
Marine Corps
Combat Specialist
4 Years Service



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Donald A. Linville
US Army
Sergeant



Casey M. Luskin
US Army
1st Lt.



Harlan J. Page
US Army, Cpl.
1943-1945



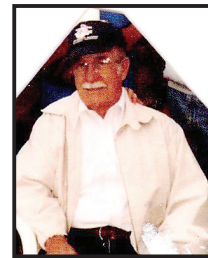
Levi Ivan Reed
US Army
Private First Class
1944-1945



Jerome Roebuck
US Army
1SG



Donald Vorac
Sgt., US Army
WWII and Korea



Wesley Vorac
Cpl., US Army
WWII



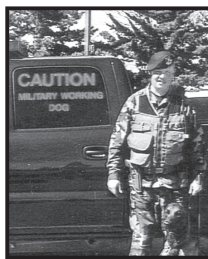
Gordon Nielsen
Sgt. (T), US Army
Korea



William Battice
US Army
PFC



Kenneth Boogaart
US Air Force
Tech Sgt., E6



Matthew Bowling
US Air Force
Tech Sgt.



Bernal A. Burke
US Army, First Lt.
1942-1946



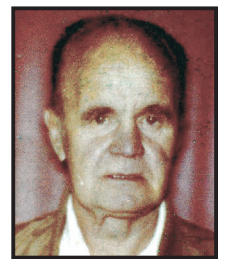
Andrew Champion
US Army
First Lt.



Michael Companion
Spec 5, US Army



Edward Frank Baker
Lance Corporal
US Marine Corp



Charles Risdale Friedley
Pvt. 1st Class, USMC
WWII, Iwo Jima

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jcotten@masoncounty.net

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Robert J. Jozwiak
US Marines, E-4 Cpl.
1988-1992



Robert J. Jozwiak
US Army
Sgt. E-5, 1994-1997



Trisha A. Kokx
US Air Force
Sr. Airman



Mark D. Morton
US Coast Guard
Damage Controlman 1st
Class, 1979-2009



Levi D. Pfeffer
US Army
Staff Sgt.
2000-2011



Robert C. Jaekel
Marines



Robert W. Nash
PFC First Class
Army



William
Nash II
Stationed in Germany
Army



Travis
Ruterbusch
US Coast Guard
BM2



Jacob D. Shimel
US Army
Specialist, MP, BN



Kyle D. Shimel
US Army
Staff Sergeant



Bernard Slimmen
US Nat'l Guard
Private



Charles Strejcek
US Army
Staff Sergeant
1942-1945



Orval A.
Jensen Sr.
Corporal, US Army
WWII



Orval A.
Jensen Jr.
Sergeant, US Air Force



Archie W.
Eastway
SFC, US Army, Korean
Conflict 1948-1954

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HAPPY 

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Gilbert Lauterwasser
US Navy Seaman 1944-47
WWII, US Army Corporal
E-4, 1949-1959 Korean
War



Daryl McLean
US Navy, E-4 Cook
1963-1967 San Diego,
Phillipines, Vietnam



Niels C. Nielsen
US Army, T5
Fort Bragg, European
Theater, WWII



Raymond Okoren
US Army - Air Force
Tech. Sgt., 1949-1945
Pacific Theater



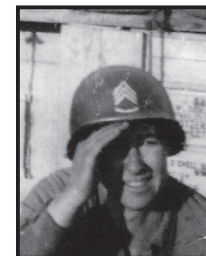
Robert Olmstead
US Army
Infantry Combat
Rifleman
Germany



Leo W. Dean Jr.
E4 Amphibious Army



Alvin R. Benson
S/Sgt. US Air Force
E-5 & E9 USCGR



Russell E. Lemke
Sgt. F.C. Battery A 38th
Field Artillery, Korea



Eric Piper
US Army, Captain
Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait,
Uganda, Ft. Benning &
Ft. Riley



Jack Rasmussen
US Army Air Corp, 1st Lt.,
WWII in France 1943-1946
Korea 1951-1952



Brad Sanford
US Marines, Master Sgt.
Camp Lejeune, NC;
Okinawa, Washington,
Afghanistan,
Camp Pendleton, CA



Justin Schubert
US Navy, Petty Officer
2008-2012



John T. Royalty
Corporal
US Army



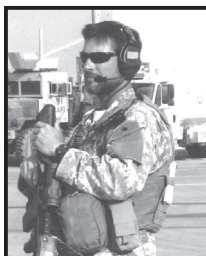
Marjorie M. Herin
US Marines, Lance
Corporal, 1983-1985



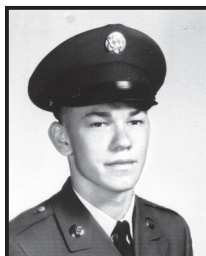
Peter R. Hiddema
Army Air Force (AAF)
Sgt., 1942-1945



Peter F. Hiddema
US Army, Specialist E-5
1968-1970



Kenneth Shaw
US Army
Sgt. 1st Class
1994-2006



Terry Lee Usoff
US Army
Sgt. E-5
1967-1969



Jason Wilson
US Army
Sergeant
2006-2012



Wes Althaus
US Air Force
Lieutenant



Richard Barritt
US Army, Corporal
1943-1945



Jerry Linstrom
US Army
Staff Sergeant
1950-1952



Evan Lundberg
US Army
Private



Frank Maleckas
US Air Force
Lt. Colonel
1940-1945



John Broderick
US Army
Capt. Quartermaster
1968-1972



Shaun Butterfield
US Marines
PFC



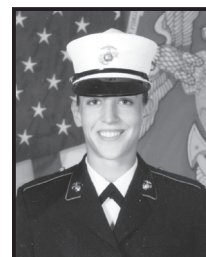
Mark A. Carroll
US Marines
Sergeant



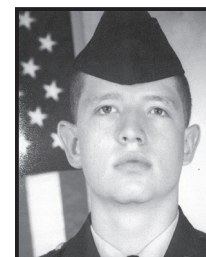
Matthew Carroll
US Marines
L. Cpl



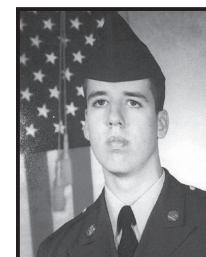
Nick Crescenzi
US Nat'l Guard



Marla Nelson
US Marines
PFC



Richard Perez
US Army
Sergeant First Class



Roger Perez
US Army
Specialist
1992-1999

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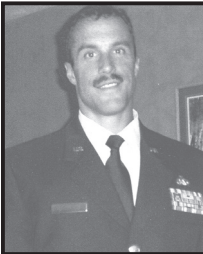
David VanAmeijden
US Air Force, Major
1990-2011



Lloyd Andersen
US Army
Sergeant
1950-1952



Justin C. Clark
US Marines
Lance Corporal



Brian Gregaitis
US Air Force
Master Sergeant



Michael Holmes III
US Navy, BMSN
2009-2013



Jacob Tufts
Technical Sergeant
USAF / Michigan Air
National Guard



Theodore James Stone
Sgt. US Army
Vietnam Veteran



Chad Philip Stone
E2 US Navy



James G. Jones
US Marines
Sergeant
1955-1961



Ki Kimball
US Marines
Staff Sgt.



Jordan T. Kolaski
US Army
Specialist E-4



Bruce S. LaPorte
US Navy, 1965-1967
HN Hospital Man



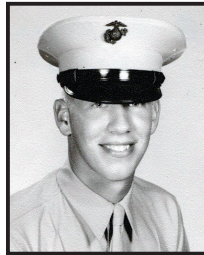
William O. Lindenau
US Army, Sgt. E-5
1967-1970



Cordell Frahm
Lance Corporal
US Marines



William Henry Sadler
Captain, US Army



Thomas A. Keson
Lance Corporal, US
Marine Corps, Vietnam

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For their courage, hard work and dedication to their country, we salute the men and women of our Armed Forces past and present. It is because of their sacrifice that America remains the land of the free, and we thank them for protecting our citizens and our country.

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★ A SALUTE TO VETERANS OUR HEROES ★

Mitchell Oakes: Grateful for the opportunities gleaned from Air Force duty

BY STEVE BEGNOCHE
SPECIAL TO SHORELINE MEDIA

On Dec. 29, 1975, at age 17 while a senior in high school in his hometown of Muskegon, American Legion Post #76, Edwin H. Ewing, Commander Mitchell Oakes enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He needed his dad's signature to do so.

Oakes graduated from high school June 4, 1976. Four days later he was on a plane out of Detroit bound for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

"At the time, the job markets weren't doing too good and I just kind of wanted to get out of Muskegon," Oakes, now a resident of Hamlin Township, said.

While the recruiter offered him the U.S. Army or U.S. Marine Corps as options to consider, Oakes knew what he wanted: To work in electronics in the U.S. Air Force. He went in as a radio relay equipment repairman. His training in the Air Force would shape his career as a civilian, with memorable experiences during his enlistment.

Learning electronics worked out well for him. He became an Air Force microwave radio technician working with mobile units Tactical Air Command. He served his last year assigned to a small communications unit at a U.S. Army Field artillery detachment working with HF, microwave and satellite radios on a WWII era Greek military base.

He also worked on a big red "Coke machine" which brought in teletype from

satellite, all encrypted. "If you looked at the message it looked like a bunch of mumbly, bumbly garbage," Oakes said.

"They made me go to Mannheim, Germany, for the whole month of October, 1979, to learn how to repair that machine. Single, 21-years-old – it just broke my heart," he deadpans before laugh-



COURTESY PHOTO

Mitchell Oakes was an electronics technician (ET) in the U.S. Air Force and jokes this is a picture of ET calling home.

ing. "Germany for the whole month of October, a young guy – what were they thinking? The Germans have some really good beer. They call it. 'Christmas beer,' don't drink two of them at lunch time ..."

The experience he gained learning how to operate and maintain the wide range of equipment the Air Force used, from tube radios to modern technology, gave him an advantage in the job market when he returned to the U.S. as a civilian in 1980, he said.

That job market led him to Ludington, where for more than nine years he worked at Nick's Radio before moving to Harsco as an electronics technician. Oakes retired from Harsco in May, 2024. He related young junior engi-

neers would question him saying his knowledge was vast and based on actual experience. During his time at Harsco, he also learned welding. Oakes said he wishes more schools emphasized learning trades because it's difficult to fill many skilled trades positions.

The best fields in the Air Force for prospective enlistees to consider are any of the aircraft mechanical, or electronics fields, he said.

"You're going to get a good education from that and you will have practical knowledge," Oakes said. "They teach you the stuff you need for your jobs."

"I ended up with 55 (college degree) credits from the Air Force. They all transferred to West Shore Community College." He didn't finish an associates degree though, lacking needed English credits.

Oakes cautions those thinking of enlisting to know what they want to do, research what is required – training for some fields require longer enlistment commitments than others -- and not be fooled by recruiters.

"Recruiters need to meet quotas ... so they will steer into fields they need filled," Oakes said.

They're known to say there's no immediate openings in a requested field and, instead encourage prospects to enlist in the infantry suggesting, once in, the enlistee can transfer to the desired field. Oakes said, such post-enlistment transfers generally don't happen. It's better to tell the recruiter you'll

wait for the desired field to open.

With those cautions in mind, Oakes recommends youth consider enlisting in the military. If they do plan to enlist, he advises asking if an enlistment bonus is offered for jobs needing filling.

In addition to his 4 years of active USAF service, Oakes served 3 years in the U.S. Navy reserves as an electronics technician out of a unit based in Cadillac and 4.5 years as a truck driver in the U.S. Army Reserves 182nd Transportation Company, Traverse City.

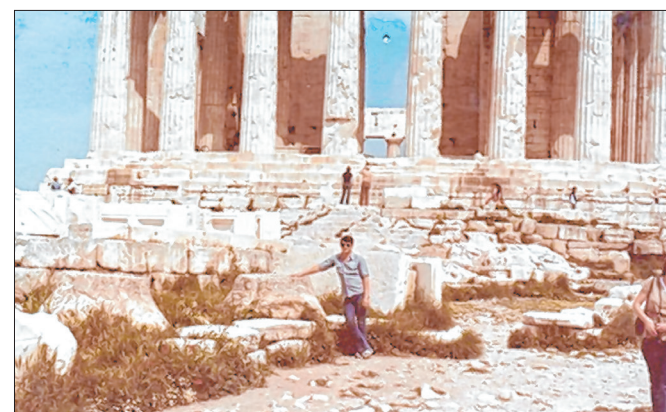
Jocular, as well as technically skilled, Oakes can drop a friendly joke about the various services, including his own. Such ribbing, he said, is common among post members.

He described the USAF as the best, in his mind, saying The Air Force offered better rooming arrangements than did Army or Navy, had the best chow and gave most weekends off.

He encourages anyone who enters the military to take advantage of perks.

"You're going to go see things. If you can travel, do that," Oakes said. "I didn't want to stay in Michigan. I wanted to go other places."

Even stateside. Oakes recalls fondly



COURTESY PHOTO

Mitchell Oakes was stationed in Athens, Greece, for the final year of his service in the U.S. Air Force and was impressed by its history and the Acropolis.

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STEVE BEGNOCHE PHOTO

Mitchell Oakes began in June as commander of American Legion Post #76, Edwin H. Ewing, taking over from the previous commander Mike Kuhn.

being sent on temporary duty from Barstow, Texas, to Sun City, California. The first time in Sun City, he saw "Welcome Brewers" signs and thought it had something to do with beer. Then he encountered members of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team which then conducted spring training in Sun City. The players he met got him and others a pass to a game. "We all went over and they honored us at the game. It was really cool," he said.

So is travel outside of the U.S.

"I got to travel. I went to some nice places: Athens, Greece; Frankfurt, Germany; Heidelberg, Germany; Tokyo, Japan ..."

He wasn't as fond of Incirlik Air Force Base near Adana, Turkey, where they were cautioned about going off base.

Greece favorably impressed him.

"The history in Greece is unbelievable," Oakes said. Athens was "awe-

some." He marveled at how ancient Greeks could build the Acropolis with such intricate detail.

When stationed in Germany, he'd hop on a train to nearby Heidelberg for weekends. He was impressed with how spot-on time the trains ran and how fast vehicles drove on the autobahn - "It flipped me out."

All wasn't perfect, though.

"The day before I got out of the Air Force, I was walking down the sidewalk, maybe two, three blocks from the base, (Hellenikon AFB, in Athens, Greece) in uniform, processing out. I'm getting out the very next day. ... A Greek pulled off the road and run down the sidewalk and ran me over. So, the last day in the Air Force I got to spend the whole night in the hospital. Broke my wrist, and messed up my elbow. Broke my fifth vertebrae in my neck, and four crunched discs in my back, torn meniscus ..."

It was 1980, a contentious election year in Greece with car bombings.

According to a United Press International archived story about the base's eventual closure in 1991, "The base at Hellenikon was the center of controversy during the 1981-89 term of Socialist Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu as left-wing activists, who opposed a U.S. military presence in Greece, frequently clashed with police during demonstrations to demand the closure of the base."

Oakes returned to the states but couldn't do anything until the cast was removed in July. Back in Muskegon, a woman who worked at the job service called and told him she had a cousin who had a radio shop in Ludington and needed help. That cousin was Nick Swan, owner of Nick's Radio and Electronics.

Oakes had camped at Hackert (now

Crystal) Lake as far back as 1969 and had been coming to the area for years. He told the woman he loved Ludington and on the second of July he was here looking for a place to rent. "Everybody said, 'Good luck.'"

Luck was with him this time and his sister found him a small cabin on the South Bayou of Hamlin Lake offered by Norm Kirker of the former Kirker Hardware then in downtown Ludington. It wasn't clean, so she made a deal with the Kirkers that Oakes would clean the cabin in return for something off rent. He spent that Fourth of July cleaning a cabin. "I never went home, I never went back to Muskegon other than to visit family.

Over his years in Ludington, Oakes turned down offers for work in Muskegon to remain in his adopted community where he now shares his home on 40 acres in Hamlin Township with his wife Elyse, whom he married in 2017. His first wife, Lisa, a 1982 Ludington High School graduate, died in 2013; their only son died in 2010.

In his new role as post commander that began in June, Oakes has used his knowledge and understanding of things electric to create an on-screen message board in the post lounge. He puts on information about contacts, services and events for veterans to keep members informed. He recently put on a Commander's Dance.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a serious concern for today's veterans, Oakes said. Modern medicine and technology saves lives of service personnel in conflicts that in earlier ones might have meant death. PTSD, he said, can afflict those involved in battle or other trauma, and also those who witness or help with the aftermath.

Today, he said, military veterans are treated pretty well, noting the Veterans Administration is there to help veterans and the public is supportive. He credits Vietnam Veterans who withstood abuse by fellow citizens upon returning home for the change by working to make sure no veteran today returns home without a proper welcome, Oakes said.

"I give them all the credit."

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Lyle E. Hanson
Cpl., Army. 4th Inf.
Div., Band, Trumpet



H. Warren Tibbits
PHM 3/C, Navy,
Marine Corps WWII



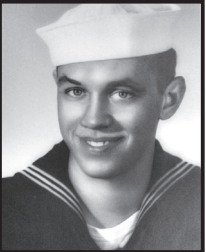
Michael
Companion
Spec 5
Army



Frank L. Bird
Captain
US Army



Richard Mather
82nd Airborne
1983-85



Matthew
Mauer
US Navy, Petty Officer
1950-1954



Richard P.
Mauer
US Marines
PFC



Robert Mauer
US Navy
Petty Officer



Philip McTaggart
USMC
1991-1995



Gary Ransom
E4 Army



Lance Ransom
E5 Navy



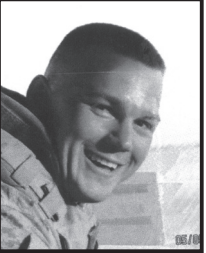
Dale Fritz
Air Force



Ian Fritz
Navy



Bradley
Passage
US Marines
Sergeant



Nicholas
Passage
US Marines
Sergeant, 2004-2012



Jake Schwass
US Army
Sergeant

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Larena Kramer
CPT
Army Retired



Justin Kramer
SSG
Army Reserve



Adam Sylvester
Major
Army National Guard



Alvin Jamison
Senior Master E-8
Airforce, Tuskegee Airman
WWI, Korea, Vietnam



Jim Sikkenga
Cpl.
Army



Carlin Seward
US Air Force
Korean War



Charles Seward
US Air Force, Served in
Vietnam, Korea, Pan-
ama & Germany



Don Seward
US Army
1943-1945
World War II



Brandon M.
Fisher
Senior Airman (E-4)
US Air Force
Served 2011-2015



David G. Fisher
Staff Sergeant (E-5)
US Air Force
Served 1950-1952



Michael D. Fisher
2nd Class Petty
Officer (E-5), US Navy
Served 1978-1982



Saara Sniegowski
Sgt. (E-4) US Air Force
Served from 1983-1989

Scott Sniegowski
Master Sgt. (E-7)
US Air Force
Served from 1981-2001



Matthew Seward
US Air Force,
Served one tour in
Iraq & Japan



Alex Shappee
US Air Force
E-1



Harvey W. Silver
US Army
Msg. (Ret.)
1951-1972

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Stan Pedris: HIS SERVICE NEVER ENDS

Career U.S Air Force officer continues to serve with VFW, American Legion, and more

BY DAVID L. BARBER

MANISTEE – When Stan Preidis retired from the U.S Air Force in 2001 after serving his country for 26 1/2 years, he was looking forward to sitting back and reading, golfing, fishing, hunting and other such relaxing joys.

He's done all that, and continues to do all that, but at the same time the soft-talking Manistee County man continues to serve his fellow veterans and community – indeed, to serve his country – in so many ways that he embodies the patriotic promise that such service can be a lifetime commitment.

In his combined five decades-plus of service in both the military and civilian arenas, he has seen change – some good, some bad.

"It is sad to see some of the VFW posts close because of lack of participation," said Preidis. "I worry that in a few years our county's Ritual Team will fade away as there is no one coming forward to replace us old guys."

"While we can get by if there is no VFW or American Legion, what about the military honors given to our veterans at graveside? It would be very sad not to be able to perform these duties to them (and me and you)."

A witness to change? Well, yes and no, especially in our civilian sector. The latter, he said, tend to greet those who served, and continue to serve, in very positive and meaningful ways, unlike during the Vietnam War era when the entire country broiled in debate and hate.

"(There's been) no real change to the military, but to the people," he said. "Early on in my career we had to wear a uniform to travel and I found people to be just indif-

ferent, even when I went to MSU (Michigan State University) and ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps), where we had to wear our uniform once a week, there was no reaction, one way or the other.

"Before I got out, and even more so now, people see my USAF hat and they thank me for my service."

Preidis graduated from Eastern High School in Lansing in 1969, and joined the Air Force two years later.

"My lottery number was number 1, and even though I was attending Lansing Community College (LCC) and had a 2S (draft status), I felt it was just a matter of time before the draft got me," he said.

Rather than wait to be drafted, the young college student chose his own fate.

While at LCC he enlisted into the Air Force where he rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant, ending his enlistment in 1974. He returned to LCC and finished there, and then went to Michigan State University where he joined the ROTC program, from which he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1978.

"In basic training the (instructor) asked who had a twin in the Air Force," he said. "I raised my hand and he asked where 'he' was and I said 'she' is at March Air Force Base in California. He asked if I wanted to go there and I said sure. So I went DDA – Direct Duty Assignment."

Later, and as a newly commissioned officer, Preidis was assigned to security police training, again at Lackland Air Force Base.

While most of his career was to serve as an officer in nuclear security, Preidis did over his long career serve in other capacities.

As an officer he served as a shift

commander, operations officer, squadron commander – "best job ever," he said – and staff officer at 20th Air Force & Air Force Space Command. Years earlier he served as a supply training specialist, worked in the commissary – "great job, wore civilian clothes," he said – and he became an administrative specialist, first at the CBPO (Consolidated Base Personnel Office) and then as a postal clerk in Germany.

During his enlisted years he served at March Air Force Base and Hahn Air Base in Germany, and then as an officer he served at many air bases, including Wurtsmith Air Force in Michigan; Incirlik Air Base in Turkey; Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi; Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota – "with a side trip to Saudi Arabia," he said; Air Command & Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama; F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming; Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota; and Peterson AFB in Colorado.

Foreign territories he served in included Germany, Turkey and Saudi Arabia; with a temporary duty assignment to England.

As an enlisted member of the Air Force his final rank/rating was SSgt/E5 Officer, and as an officer it was Lieutenant Colonel.

The awards and ribbons Preidis wears include a Bronze Star Medal; five Meritorious Service Medals; six Air Force Commendation Medals; an Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Good Conduct Medal; 12 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, including one with V device; Air Force Organizational Unit Award; National Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star; South West Asian Service Medal



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with two Bronze Stars; Humanitarian Service Medal; Nuclear Security Operations Medal with one Oak Leaf cluster; an Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; an Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters; an Air Force Longevity Ribbon with a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Reserve Medal; Air Force Marksmanship Ribbon with one Bronze Star; Air Force Training Ribbon with one Bronze Oak Leaf; and a Liberation of Kuwait-Saudi Arabia, Liberation of Kuwait medal.

Preidis and his wife, Margaret – they were married in 1971 after going to high school together – have two boys and one girl. They have lived in Manistee the past 24 years.

And it has been while living in Manistee County that Preidis has served – and continues to serve – with various service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), where his is a Life Member and has served in numerous ca-

pacities including Post Junior Vice-Commander, Senior Vice Commander for four years; District 12 Junior and Senior Vice commanders, Commander three different times, and at which he currently serves as Post Adjutant.

He also is a Life Member of the American Legion in which he served as Junior Vice Commander and Judge Advocate; as Chairman of the United Veterans Council of Manistee County with which he currently serves as secretary/treasurer.



“As such, I receive the money from the townships for graveside flags for veterans and order new flags every year,” he said.

He also has served as a member of the Ritual Team.

“I have been on it for 23 years,” he said. “When I first started we had a team for each the VFW and the American Legion, now we have a combined team from VFW, Legion, Catholic War Vets and DAV. For the last dozen years or so I have been the team captain, receiving calls for funerals, flag details at schools and parades. I have probably done close to 500 funerals and

events.”

He also has served with various veterans financial boards in Manistee County, including the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, Soldiers Relief Commission and the newer Veterans relief fund.

Some of his most meaningful memories, he said, was “... getting promoted to Major and then Lieutenant Colonel, and receiving the Bronze Star for achievement during Desert Shield/Desert Storm.”

Another came when he was the commander for the 28 Security Police Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

“We won SACs Best Large Security Police Squadron for that year,” he said. “The next year SAC went away, so we were the last large Security Police Squadron to receive it.”

His scariest moment?

“That was while I was at Saudi Arabia-King Fahd International Airport – all the A-10s were there – and a scud landed within the base perimeter.”



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John L. OstenSacken
USAF
1954-1958



Jack Varso
E5, 2nd Class Quarter-
master, Navy Nuclear
Submarine



Burton J. Tanis
Private First Class
US Army, 1943-1945



Robert J. Tanis
Sergeant, US Army
1967-1969 Vietnam



David Gaudette
US Marines
LPCL



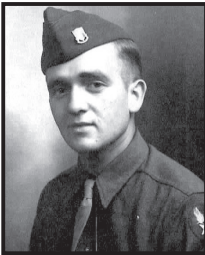
Lisa Kroesing
Specialist 4, Army
1975-1978



Donald Farber
PFC, Army
World War II



Burl Farber
PFC, Army
World War II



Earl C. Hanks
Corporal, Eighth Army
Air Force - England



Samantha C. Helms
A1C US Air Force
2008-2013



Frank Bird
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Merlin E. Bacon
Sergeant 1st Class Korea
War, Army
1948-1952



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US Army, Sgt. E-5
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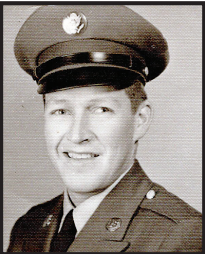
David A. Boughan
E4 - Staff Sergeant
US Air Force 1991-96



Lauren Nicole
Nguyen
Corpsman
Navy



John Henry
Converse
Sgt E7 Army, 1943-1968
WWII and Korea



David Lilleberg
E-5 Sgt., Army



Hiram W. Price
Cpl., US Army WWI
Co. I, 126 Infantry



Dakota Lichner
Staff Sergeant
National Guard



Raymond Ewing
Jr.
Corporal, US Army



N. Charles
Nielsen
US Army, Corporal
1943-1946



Lanny Hartman
MR1, Navy



Fred S. Olds Jr.
Pvt., USMC



Dan Vanderboegh
E4, Army



James Roy Steiger
E5, Army



Gary L. Dewey
E4, Army



Rudy Vorac Jr.
Merchant Marine
WWI



Rudy Vorac Sr.
Pvt., US Army
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'STRONG CORE VALUES'

Manistee Police officer talks about service to country, and community



BY DAVID L. BARBER
SHORELINE MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

There is a certain calmness within Doug VanSickle that is to be appreciated, a certain peace within that is to be emulated.

As a U.S. Marine for four years and as a police officer for the past two decades, life hasn't always been so calm and so peaceful – it's had its moments of chaos and downright danger, to say least.

But maybe, just maybe, it's been all that chaos and danger that's cloaked him calmness, and delivered the peace within that helps him look forward to carrying out his duties each and every day. The Marines, he said, and his service as a civilian police officer, have much in common.

"The service with both shares the same strong core values: honor, courage, commitment, and teamwork," said VanSickle. "Both professions require professionalism and integrity."

Sitting at his desk in the Manistee Police Department the road sergeant he "looks forward to each and every day," and how those "always offer something different – something challenging," no matter the chaos or danger that he confronts as a matter of routine.

As a police officer VanSickle has been presented with a (State of Michigan)

Medal of Honor, two Medal of Valors, two Life Savings awards and a Medal of Bravery, the latter for rushing into a burning building to carry a woman to safety, which was an "... act which endangers him or herself to serious injury and when, because of the nature of the action, a life may be saved, a serious crime prevented, or a person arrested who has committed a serious crime."

VanSickle grew up in Manistee and graduated from West Shore Community College. He served with the U.S. Marines from 1994 to 1998 and saw service at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in Africa, Italy, and Spain.

During his four years with the Marines he served in administration and as a Riot Team Leader, earning the National Defense Service Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Humanitarian Service Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Coast Guard Special Operation Service Medal; Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal; Rifle Expert Badge (Second Award); and the U.S. Navy Achievement Medal.

In recent years he has served on SWAT Team, Manistee County Dive Team, narcotics enforcement team, as a field training officer, road patrol officer, and more.

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Manistee Police Sgt.
Doug VanSickle

Over the past 21 years he served with the Hart Police Department (parttime) Benzie County Sheriff's Department, Newaygo County Sheriff's Department, and for the past 11 years with Manistee City Police Department.

A family man – he and his wife have three children – VanSickle enjoys hunting, fishing and “spending quality time with my family.”

Service to country he said, and to community, is what has brought him the calmness and peace that he looks to share with others, every day.

“I can’t imagine doing anything else,” he said as he sat in his office. “A lot of good out there – a lot of good people.

“As a former US Marine, and a current law enforcement officer, I would say that both are very rewarding careers. Protecting and serving your community or country is the most direct way to make a positive impact. In law enforcement, every day is a chance to build a safer, stronger neighborhood for your friends, family, and community.

“For the younger generations, I would strongly encourage you to take an opportunity to serve your county or community,” he said.



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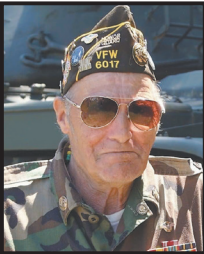
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US Army
E-4



Atanas (Pete) Sanoff
US Army, PFC
WWII 1942-1946



Bruce Genia
SP-4
US Army



Timothy E. Kokx
Senior Airman
U.S. Air Force



Patrick H. Dake Jr.
Hull Technician
3rd Class, US Navy



William Bluhm
FT1 (Fire Control)
1st Class
U.S. Navy



Emil E. Utermohlen
Army WWII Co. A 30th
Inf., Italy, France,
England



**Raymond &
Richard
Karstens**
US Navy, 1957-1961



Roger Kraus
US Marines, Corporal
Vietnam
1966-1967



Stanley Norberg
US Army, 1942-1945
World War II



**Edward "Suds"
Czarny**
Army
Tech 4



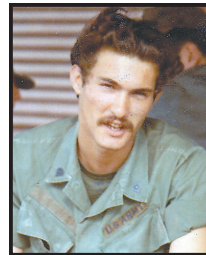
Bob Taylor Jr.
Private First Class 1
U.S. Army



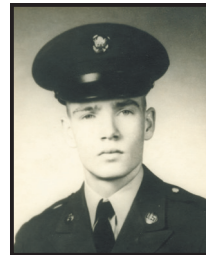
William E. Olson
Staff Sergeant
Army 4 years and Army
National Guard 4 years



Robert H. Wagner
Sergeant
U.S. Marine Corp



Steven A. Salter
SPC 4 Army
Vietnam 1971-72



Michael Claus
US Army
Corporal
1967-1968



Egan Simmons
US Navy, E4-ETN3
USS Eisenhower



Carl Simmons
US Navy, E4-FCA3
USS Normandy



**Kenneth H.
Wegner Jr.**
US Army
Spec 4



Stanley F. Sanford
US Marine Corps
WWII



Scott Case
US Marine Corps
Corporal



Kim Tate
Corporal, US Marines
1970-1976
Vietnam



Everett Herin
US Army
World War II
Germany



Harold Hunt
US Army
World War II



Aaron Loughridge
Sgt. 1st Class
US Army, S. Korea



Frank A. Delia Jr.
US Marines
Private First Class



**Richard A.
Weinart**
US Air Force, E-4
Senior Airman, NY

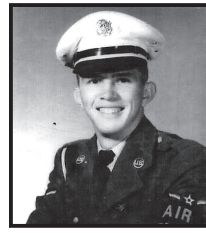


Caitlin Mauer
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant
Okinawa, Japan

Cory Mauer
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant
Okinawa, Japan



**Nancy Gay
(Williams) Frye**
US Air Force Veteran
American Legion Past
Commander and Vice
Commander

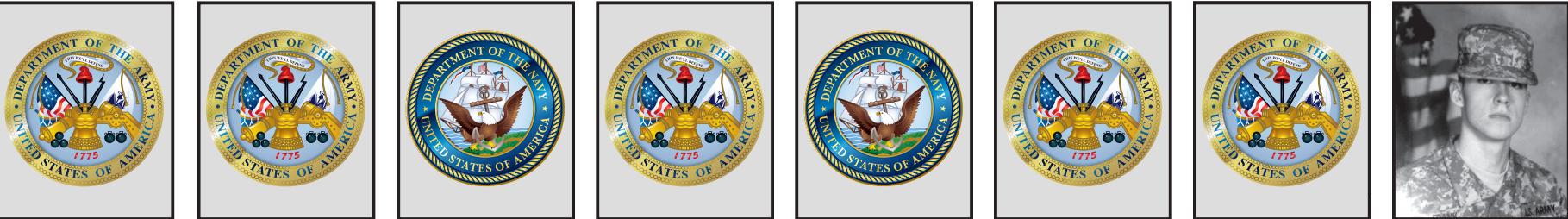


**Hughie Douglas
Frye**
US Air Force
SMSgt retired



**Ronald J.
Townsend**
US Navy, E-5 Petty
Officer 2nd Class
1960-1964

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Sergeant
Army

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Sergeant
Army

Andrew Sanders
Petty Officer First Class,
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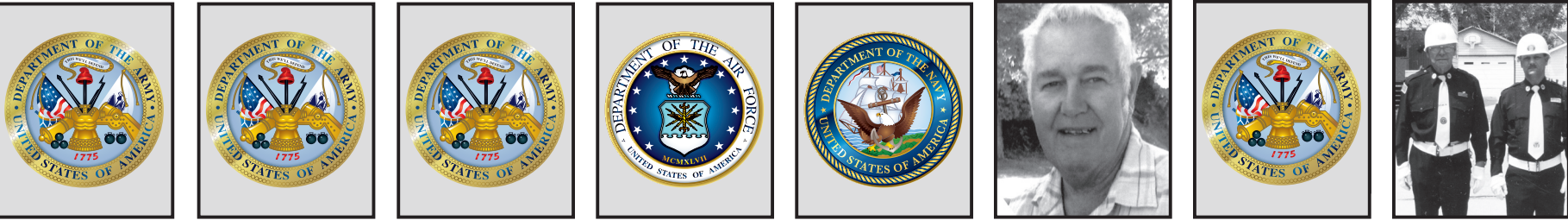
Larry Sanders
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Corporal
1952-1953

David Frank
US Army
E4



Wayne Abbato
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Army

Roger Francisco
Army

James Francisco
PFC
Army

John Charles Krim
Airman Basic
Air Force

Alfred H. Ardolf
Y3 USN SV
Navy, World War II

Lloyd Hansen
US Army
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Father and son reflect on their time in uniform

BY CRISTINA JUSKA, STAFF WRITER

Clyde “Butch” Bursley and his sons, Mark and Scott Bursley, have all served in the U.S. Army. While they all came home, none returned unscathed.

Butch was drafted, while Mark and Scott willingly followed in his footsteps

and enlisted. From 1969 to 1971, Butch served in Vietnam. Mark served in South Korea from 1996 to 1999; and Scott in Desert Storm, serving a total of 27 years in the Army.

We spoke with Butch and Mark—Scott lives outside Michigan—about their ex-

periences.

Butch said his deployment was determined by alphabetical order. “The first half of the alphabet went to Vietnam and the second half went to Korea. Well, my name is Bursley, so...”

For Mark, it was a conscious decision.

“I came to a fork in the road, and I was like, ‘It straightened him out, maybe it will work on me, too,’” he said. So he joined.

The men experienced different eras and different wars, but shared many similarities. Both enjoyed basic train-

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ing and the camaraderie of meeting new friends who became like brothers. Both served in elite units.

“I went over with the 25th Infantry Division,” Butch recalled. “I was in-country, probably, a little over a month, and I had seen this group that kept coming in for maintenance and stuff like that, and it was called CRIP—Combat Reconnaissance and Intelligence Patrol. They were the first ones to have camouflage fatigues... so I decided I want to try that, and I got accepted. There’s only 14 of us. And I spent most of my time in the jungle, which I didn’t know I was going to do, and I had some bad experiences.”

“When we came back, we really weren’t accepted,” Butch added. “I tried to pull myself together.”

Some of his experiences left Butch with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), for which he receives 70% disability benefits. He hopes to reach 100% someday, “So when I’m gone, I can leave my wife something.”

Mark, who worked in demolition—building bombs—and spent time in the 101st Airborne Division, came home with lasting physical injuries. His brother Scott suffers from hearing and lung damage and receives 70% disability benefits.

“I got injured pretty bad. I had a big piece of my kneecap out. I messed my back up pretty bad. I’m 100% disabled,” Mark said. He credited Jodi Slinkard and the Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs for helping him navigate the system and secure the benefits he was owed.

“She’s an angel,” Mark said. “She fights for you. She will go to bat.”

Mark said the Department of Veterans

Affairs offers many helpful services. He and Butch enjoy attending coffee and donut gatherings every third Monday—a chance to sit and chat with others who understand their experiences and sacrifices.

“I also do a PTSD meeting twice a month at the VFW Hall, and it’s open to veterans or first responders,” Butch added.

Mark is the father of a 5-year-old son who attends kindergarten at Hart Public Schools. Twice divorced, Mark says he’s given up on marriage. Butch and his wife recently moved from Colorado back to Michigan because, “Grandma wants to be Grandma!”

When asked what advice they would give young people considering military service, both men paused before acknowledging how much the world has changed since their time in uniform.

“You have to look at what’s going on in the world right now,” Mark said. “If there’s conflict going on, then I would probably say, no, I wouldn’t join because that’s exactly where you would go. But you have to be willing to essentially sign your life to the United States. Look at me, you know, look what I paid... Are you willing to do that? If you are, then I would say, make your choice.”

“And you’re never out, you’re still there,” Butch added.

Mark concluded, “I learned quite a bit when I was in the military, you know, and [there was] a lot of companionship, too. Brotherhood. So, it’s nice, you know, just—be careful what you wish for, you know what I mean?”

For Oceana veterans needing assistance with benefits or community services, call the Oceana County Department of Veterans Affairs at 231-873-6834.

For veteran crisis services, call 988, then press “1” to speak with a responder qualified to support veterans. Or text 838255.

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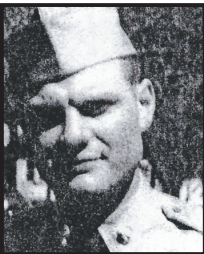
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PFC, US Army WWII
Co. B, 87th Infantry



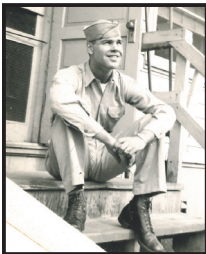
Valentine Blank
US Air Force
Airman 1st Class



Orval Jensen Jr.
Sergeant
US Air Force



Orval Jensen Sr.
Corporal
US Army, WWII



Jim Seward
US Army
1944-1946
World War II



James Sniegowski
Senior Master Sgt.
(E-8) US Air Force
Served from 1978-2003



Tammera
Sniegowski
Technical Sgt. (E-6)
US Air Force
Served from 1983-2003



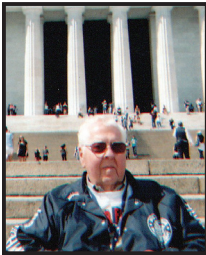
Alexander M.
Oomen
Lance Corporal
Marines



Al F. Krusniak
T-5 Corporal
US Army 1945-1947



Raymond P.
Guiher
Private, U.S. Army



Walter A.
Johnson
Pvt., US Army
Served 1945-1946



Leona B. Ashley
US Army, Spc.



John F. Strall
US Marines
Staff Sgt.
1943-1953



Wesley E. Carlson
PFC HQ 20th E.A.B.
Army 5th, 1952-1954



Debra (Debbie)
J. Genia
L/CPL (E-3)
US Marine Corps



G. Wayne Davis
GySgt (E-7)
USMC Retired



Gerald E. Thorne
Specialist 5, US Army
1966-1968 Air Support
Liaison, 25th Infantry, Cu Chi,
Vietnam



Darrell E. Hansen
SFC, US Army Retired



Augusta J. Morse
Hospital Corpsman
1st Class, Surface
Warfare, Veteran,
Navy Reserves



Randall S. O'Brien
US Air Force, Airman
1st Class, 1979-1983



Raymond C.
O'Brien
US Air Force, Airman
1st Class, 1954-1958



Ernest V. Hansen
TSGT, US Army
WWII POW



John Fekken
Private
US Army



Pete Kelly
Colonel (Ret.)
Air Force & Air
National Guard



Lorrie VanDyke
Staff Sergeant
US Air Force



Kevin VanDyke
Staff Sergeant
US Air Force



Leo Petrosky
US Navy
Petty Officer 2nd Class
1940-1949



Irving Prescott
US Army Air Corp
Staff Sergeant
1942-1946



Steven C. Price
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant

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John Urick
Sergeant, US Army
187th Infantry,
101st Airborne
1967-1969 Vietnam



Franklin Adkins
E-5, US Air Force



Josh Morrison
Sergeant, US Army
Two tours Iraq



Kevin Fitzgerald
Corporal / E-4
US Marine Corps



Gabriel Malburg
Sergeant, US Army
Reserve - Truck Driver
and SAW operator
1 term in Iraq War



Charles T. Giles
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
1948-1968



Stanley P. Giles
US Marines
E-4
1982-1986



James Howe
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant
1950-1953



Bruce E. Wright
Private First Class
US Army
1961-1963



Christel Ables
Sergeant
US Army



Steven Tennant
SPC
US Army



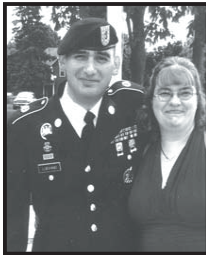
Jeff Spaniola
Musician Seaman
US Navy Currently stationed
at Fleet Forces in Norfolk VA



Willard Dornbos
Master Sgt, WWII US Army,
1942-1945 Europe Company 738
Amphibious Track Battalion



Richard I. L. Lathouwers
US Air Force
Sgt., 1964-1968



James Luevano
US Army
SFC



Louis Lundberg
US Marines
Corporal
1944-1946



Mark W. Trim
US Army
Global War on
Terrorism



Jean M. Nielsen
US Army



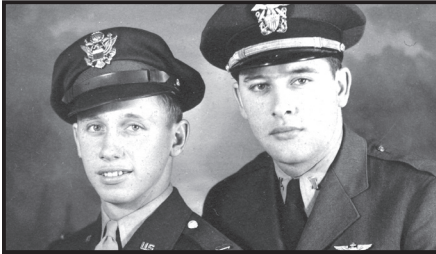
John J. Wallace
US Army, Operation
Urgent Fury, Grenada



Daniel A. Trim
US Army
Desert Storm



Danielle Trim
US Army
Iraq



Roy Grams
US Army Air Corp
Flight Officer WWII

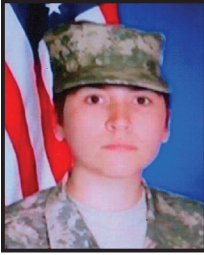
Rodney Grams
US Navy
Lt. Commander Naval
Aviator, WWII



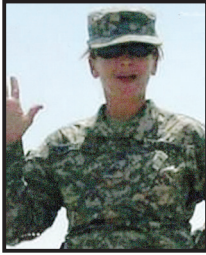
Kenneth L. Johnson Jr.
US Army, Spec. 4



Joshua A. Trim
US Marine Corp
Afghanistan



Dianne M. Trim
US Army



Tamara Ellzey
US Army
Kuwait



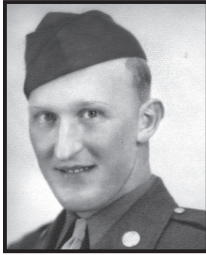
Timothy G. Murphy
US Army
Iraq



Carly A. Gehris
US Navy, Defense
Intelligence Agency,
Washington DC



Ronald L. Lamb
US Navy, Petty Officer,
2nd Class
1966-1969



Pete Lucas
US Army
Technician 5th Grade
1943-1945



Kevin Luskin
US Marines
Corporal

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Lenny Gajeski
E3 - M5SR
US Navy



Larry Pierce
EAS-2, US Navy
Vietnam



David Landis
Spec - E4
Army



Leonard Tomaszewski
PFC US Army 2nd wave
D-day Omaha Beach



Franklin Pierce
US Merchant Marines



Patrick Appledorn
US Navy
1980-2003



Phillip Appledorn
US Marines
Sergeant, 2002-2016



William A. Appledorn
US Navy
SN, 1973-1976



Rudolf Vorac
US Army WWI France
2nd Division



Carl M. Nielsen
Danish Army, WWI



Gordon V. Nielsen
US Army, Korea



Don G. Wallace
US Army
WWII & Korea



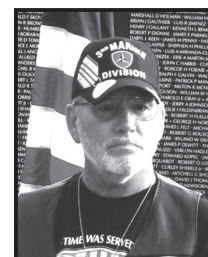
Lou Anne Wallace
US Air Force
Korea



Theodore L. Bell
US Army
Airborne Ranger



Blake A. Bentz
US Navy
E-2



Michael D. Chambers
US Marines
Corp E-4, 1967-1970



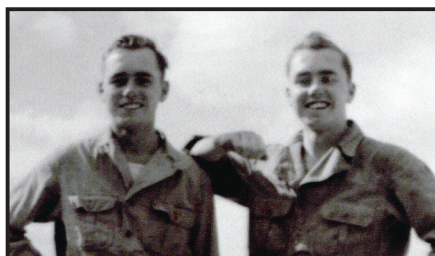
Bob Gancarz
SK3, US Navy
1956-1957



Robert J. Tanis
Sgt. E-5 - Infantry
US Army, 1967-1969
Central Highlands, Vietnam



John Organ
Corporal
US Army



C. Gordon Osborn
P.F.C., US Army
1943-1946 WWII
Europe

Thomas H. Osborn
Corporal, US Army
1943-1946, WWII
Europe



Clayton D. Sommerfeldt
US Army, E-5
1972-1974



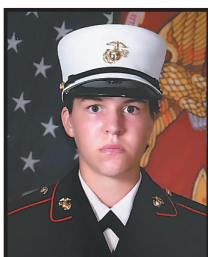
Claud J. Taylor
US Army
Tech Sgt.
1942-1945



Justin Wyer
US Air Force
E-4



Megan Marsteller
Corporal
US Marine Corps



Molly Guthrie
Sergeant
US Marine Corps



John T. Royalty
Sergeant
US Army



Clayton Kroll
Sea Bees
US Coast Guard
1942-1944



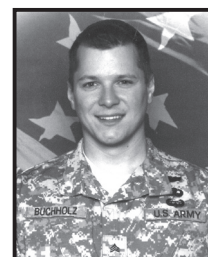
Rick Singleton
MK2 / E-5
US Coast Guard



Larry Bogus
US Marine Corps
SSgt



Joseph Buchholz
US Army
E-2



Joshua Buchholz
US Army
Sergeant



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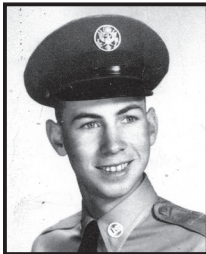


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Richard D. Paul
US Army
Private



Kenneth L. Johnson Sr.
US Air Force
A/IC



Glenn F. Ketchman
US Navy
1st Class Boatswain
Mate



Aaron Baade
MM1/SS
US Navy



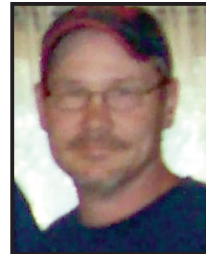
Delbert Baade
Master Sergeant
US Air Force



Rodney W. Baade
Tech Sergeant
US Air Force



Donald Dykman
Corporal
US Army



Nick Baade
Chief
US Navy



Robert H. Schrink
US Air Force
Lt. Colonel, 1982-2005



Gregory McDonald
US Nat'l Guard
Specialist E-4



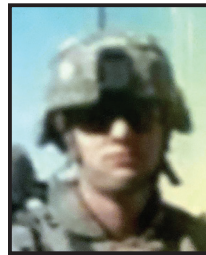
Jeffrey McDonald
US Coast Guard
Petty Officer 2nd Class



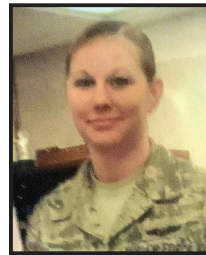
Jay Salyards
E4, US Air Force
1983 - 1987



Jay Salyards
E4, Naval Reserve
1990 - 1996



Michael Sandoval
Sergeant
National Guard



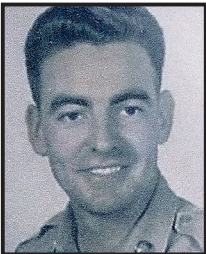
Alaina Ramos
Master Sergeant
US Air Force



Merwin E. Bacon
Sgt. 1st Class
US Army



Junior Cable
Staff Sgt.
Army



Harvy Cable
Tech Sgt.
Army



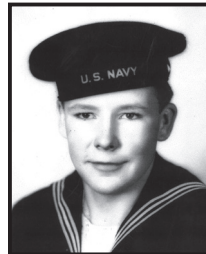
Ethel Cable
Lieutenant
Army



Evart Cable
Buck Sgt
Army



Ezra Cable
Master Sgt.
US Army Air Corp



Wilbur Nelson
US Navy
Fireman 1st Class
1945-1945



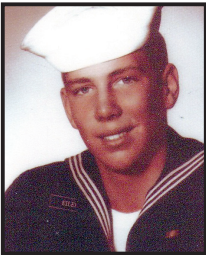
Joseph E. Papes
US Army
PFC
1942-1945



Jeffrey Peters
US Marines
Lanc Corp. E-3
1985-1989 & 1990



Wendy J. Beal
US Air Force
Colonel (Ret.)
Active duty service
of 25 years



Thomas Eilers
Aviation Ord. 2nd
Class US Navy -
Squadron 191
Vietnam



James A. Wicklund
Airman 1st Class
US Air Force
1951-1955



William F. Wicklund
E6 (EN1) US Navy
Served 1997-2006
& 2009-2013



David M. Bean
Navy



Frederick D. Stohr
US Navy Air, Seaman
1st Aviation Mechanic

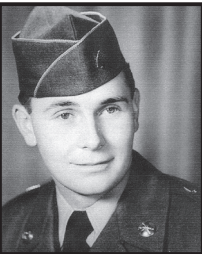


Roy L. Vanhanselaere
US Army, Cpl.
1952-1954



Albin J. Wincheski
US Army
Staff Sergeant

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Kenneth F. Saunders
Corporal, US Army
Korean Veteran



Larry Rathburn
US Army, Specialist 4
Vietnam 1969-1971



Joseph A. Vanden Heuvel
US Army, Corporal,
Medical Corps 1942-1945.
North Africa and Italy



Keith Hoffman
US Army, Sgt. E-5
Vietnam 1966



Robert Lee Kunsky
US Army, Sgt. E-5
1965-1967



DeOren Wolever
US Army, 1950-1953
Private 1st Class



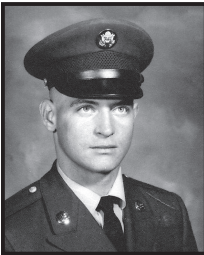
Lance Zaverl
US Army
Spec. E-4



Tom Hansen
US Army
Sergeant



Tyson Beetz
Private First Class
Marines



Thomas Amstutz
Sargeant E-5, 1970-1971
Army 11th Armored
Cavalry, Black Horse
Vietnam, Cambodia



George Barna
Tech. Sargeant
US Marines 1939-1946
Pacific Theater



Larry Brower
SP5 - CO.A/229th AHB
1st Cav. Airmobile
Cook & Gunner - Vietnam



Kevin Keller
US Air Force,
Sr. Airman, Moody Air
Force Base, GA



Donald L. Gale
US Navy



Lawrence Wise
Corporal
US Army



Thomas P. Gaffney
Ensign A-1
US Navy



Richard I. L. Lathouwers
US Air National Guard
Staff Sgt., 1970-1971



William M. Appledorn
US Army, Private
1944-1945, WWII



Bernard Bennett
US Army
Cpl. 42nd Div.



Earl Russell Hartley
US Army, WWII 1943
New Guinea



Russell Earl Hartley
Tec 4, Army, WWII
1943



William L. Hartley Sr.
Military Police WWII
1943-1945 New
Guinea



John Michael Thibert
E5 Army Engineers
Vietnam, 1966-1969



Donald Earl Harrison
EM3, Cook
US Navy



Steven G. Miller
US Navy
Petty Officer 2nd Class



Jack Ereon
US Navy
SI/C USS LSM 200



Sidney Haight
Union Army
1864



Joseph D. Thibert
US Air Force
Thailand, 1966



Fred Campbell
Sergeant, US Army
WWII, 1943-1946



John A. Doty
Petty Officer 3rd Class
US Navy, 1943-1946
Electrician Mate



Henery Charles Rodger Moore
Private First Class
U.S. Army



David Coon
Corporal
U.S. Army

Albert J. Conroy
US Army, PFC
World War II

James L. Howard
Corporal
US Marines

Richard Romaine Corsi
US Army, Staff Sergeant
US Air Force, Corporal

**James Carlton
Corsi**
US Navy
WWII

Daniel Louis Flynn
Fireman Apprentice
US Navy

**Dennis Francis
Flynn**
Fireman
US Navy

Bob Gancarz
US Navy
SK 3, USS Sierra

Christopher P. Osborne
US Navy
Lieutenant

LeRoy P. Horter
E5, US Army and
National Guard

**Frank Peter
Horter Jr.**
E5, US Army
National Guard

**William S.
Albaitis**
Pvt. 1st Class, Marines
Guatemala Canal

Harvey J. Anes
Pvt. 1st Class
Marines
Korean War

**Gordon M.
Tushek**
Captain, U.S. Air Force
1969-1979

Thomas P. Carroll
Sgt. (E-4)
U.S. Air Force
825th Security Police
Squadron, 1967-1971

Russell A. Odean
Sgt.. Army , Vietnam
May 1966-May1968
Oct. 1966-Oct.1967

Rachel Sanford
US Army
Specialist
National Guard

Walter
Crescenzi
US Navy
1975-1987

Mark Hamilton
US Marines
Corp.

Michael Harmon
US Marines
Lt. Col.

John T. Healy
US Army
E-4, 1973-1976

Gaylon A. Heyse
US Army, Lt.
1941-1945

Ezra Swan
US Army
Spec.

Nathan Ulman
US Navy
SKSN

Brad Walker
US Army
Sgt. First Class

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Robert T. Gilchrist
US Marine Corps
Corporal



John L. Peters
US Navy
FTB 1., Nuclear Subs.
1981-1983



John J. Quinn
US Army Air Corps
2nd Lt. 8th Air Force
WWII



Laverne (Pete) Smith
US Navy, Korea



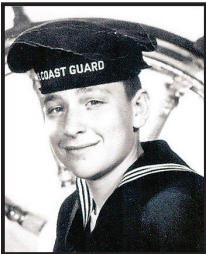
Joe Faltinek
US Army, Vietnam



Fredrick F. Brunner
M1, US Navy
WWII



Jeffrey D. Smith
Coast Guard



Ronnie D. Smith
Coast Guard



Roger Dereske
US Navy
DC-2
1961-1969



Donald Albrecht Sr.
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant
1950-1953, Korea



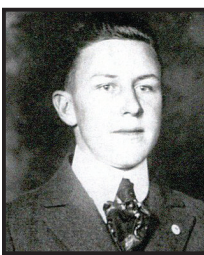
Ronald V. Beemer
US Navy
1981-1989



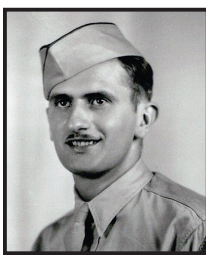
Russell N. Brady
Pvt. ARMD RTC
US Army



Kristian Tutten
HM3, US Navy
1994-1999



Meredith Clifford Field
Private, US Army
1917 - WWI



LeRoy Don Peterson
1st Sgt., US Army
1941-45 WWII Europe



Paul Warmuskerken
Major, US Army



Eric Gilchrist
US Air Force
Sr. Airman
2000-2004



Jeffrey Gilchrist
US Marines
Corporal
1976-1982



Dylan Lambert
US Army
Specialist



Andrew Lange
US Army
Sergeant HHT - 126
Calvary



Samuel Miner
US Army
Staff Sergeant



Joseph Motyka
US Army Air Force
First Lt., 1942-1945



Robert J. Quinn
US Army
Sergeant
1950-1952



Tyler Schulz
US Navy
Airman Recruit

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Tobin Warnock
US Army
Sergeant, Retired



Stanley Hlady
US Navy, A03
Served on Aircraft
Carrier USS Oriskany



Shirley R. Fasset
3rd Class Petty Officer
US Navy, World War II



Richard A. Fasset
Sergeant, US Marine
Corps, Vietnam 1971-74



Richard Lynn
Myers
3 Stripe Sergeant
Air Force, 1968-1972



Craig Allen Myers
3 Stripe Sergeant
Air Force, 1990-1994



Chad A. Welsh
Chief Warrant Officer 2
Air Force, Army - 12 yrs.
1994-1998, 2000-2008



Emil Lathouwers
US Army, Private 1st
Class, 1918-1919



Roger J.
Hiddema
ABH-5
US Navy



Tracy Blamer
US Navy
E-4 (AW)



Lyle A. Taylor
US Air Force, Staff Sgt.
1942-1945, Austria,
Africa and Italy



Marvin E. Taylor
PFC
Fifth Army, Korean
War



Ron Gorzynski
U.S. Coast Guard
1959-1963



Deanna Gorzynski
Lutz
U.S. Air Force
1987-1991



Glenn R. Cooper
S/Sgt.
U.S. Air Force



Fred Malliett
US Marines
Sergeant, 1948-1952
Korea



Dennis Tabor
Staff Sergeant, DI
U.S. Army



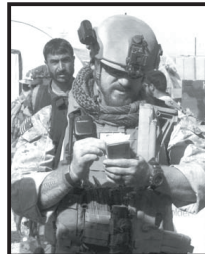
Nathan Palmer
US Navy
E3 Seaman



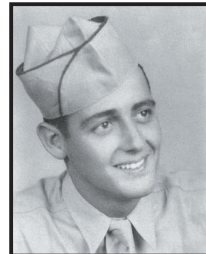
Robert J. Kelley
US Marine Corps
Corporal



Philip Dyer
US Army Air Corp
Staff Sgt.
1942-1946



Pete Evans
US Army Rangers
Captain



Howard Fugere
US Army
Specialist
1945-1947



David J. Gancarz
US Army, Spec. E-4
2001-2006



Joshua Bryant
US Army, PFC
Medic

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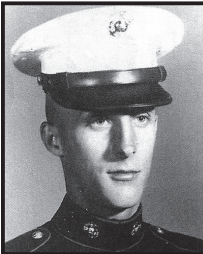
Eva M. Galvin
US Navy E3
COMSERVRON 6
Naples, Italy
Vietnam War



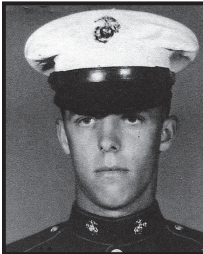
Samantha Darling
US Navy, AWF3
Aviation Warfare



Scott Daugherty
US Army
First Class E/7



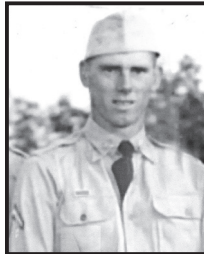
Nick Fekken
US Marines
Corporal



John Fekken
US Marines
Corporal



Robert Fekken
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant



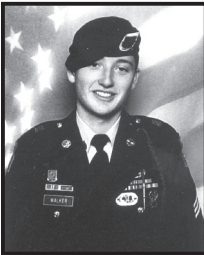
Carl Edward Wiegard Jr.
US Army
Spc. 4th Class



Eric L. Roskam
US Marines
Lance Corporal



Seth Forbear Linville
Marine Boot Camp
San Diego, CA
Graduated 10/28/22



Gabriel Walker
US Army, Sergeant
2004-2008



Kenneth Wheaton
US Army, PFC
1953-1955



Edward Frank Baker
US Marines, 1968-70
Lance Corporal



Alfred H. Ardolf
US Navy, Y1
World War II
1944 - 1946



Travis Geil
US Marine Corps
Corporal
2008-2013



Soraida Rozell
E-7/Chief Petty Officer
US Navy



William Rozell
E-8/Senior Chief
Gas Turbine System
Technician, US Navy



Larry P. Osborne
US Army, Spec E4
Vietnam, 1965-1967



Pauline (Liebetreu) Lunde
Sgt., Army, Spokane WA
San Antonio TX
1942-1945



Raymond (Bud) Lunde
PFC US Army, 64 Coastal
Artillery, Pearl Harbor
1941-1945



David Ross
US Marines
Sergeant



Willard (Curly) Hinzman
US Army, Private
World War II



Clifford E. Albrecht
US Navy, Machinist
Mate 3rd Class, 1970-74
Vietnam



Gary Seiy
US Navy
E-3 Store Keeper



Randy Seiy
US Air Force
E-3 SRA
Military Police



Donald W. Galvin
US Army PFC
Third Infantry Division
Anzio, Italy WWII



James O. Carlson
Gunnery Sergeant
US Marine Corps
Vietnam Veteran



Robert Mathew Kemmer Sr.
Ae2/SSG
US Navy, US Army



Felix (Phil) Petrongelli
US Navy Radarman
3rd Class, 1943-1946



Shelby Benson
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant



Terri Berling
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
1986-2006



James M. Bloom
US Army, Sgt. E-5
1960-1963



Joshua T. Davis
US Air Force
AIC Special Forces

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Justin Groff
US Nat'l Guard



Brittany C. Padilla
US Coast Guard
SN-E3



Joel Seward
US Army
1941-1946
World War II



Joseph Martz
US Army National
Guard
Specialist
2010-2016



Bill Seward
US Coast Guard
World War II



Larry Gustafson
US Army
Vietnam War



Roy Bruce Gates
Spec 4, US Army
*Army Commendation Medal
for Meritorious Service 12 Aug
1963 - 6 Aug 1964*



Christopher P. Bogus
US Marine Corp
Corporal



Billie Wilson
US Army, E2



Sarah Bean
US Army E4



Jeff Sanborn
US Marines E5



Ralph Kruska
US Army, Spec 4
Military Police,
Vietnam



Bill Travis
US Navy, E6



Dan Bross
US Navy, E5



Arthur R. Jeffries
US Army, SP 4



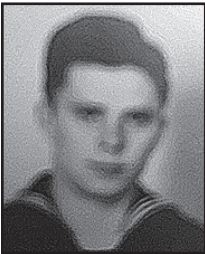
James R. Rozhon
US Air Force, E04
honorably discharged
1969



Alexandra D. Weisenburger
2nd Lt, US Air Force
Wright Patterson AFB



William G. Kruger
US Army Pvt. 1st Class
WWII



Donald J. McCarthy
Yeoman, US Navy



John Sonefeld
US Navy 1964-1967
3rd Class Petty Officer
Sonarman



Raymond Buchholz
US Navy, Aviation
Munitions Mate 2nd
Class



Ron Rottler
Senior Airman,
US Air Force



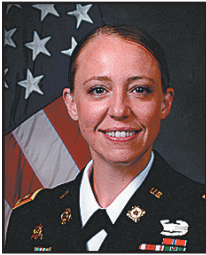
Bryson Waller
US Air Force
Senior Airman



Howard E. Nickelson Jr.
US Army, Vietnam
1967 and 1969



Ronald H. Scott
US Army
PFC E3



Trista Budzynski
US Army
Major



Wayne Kinstner
US Army, E4



Arland E. Purchase
Tech Sgt.
US Air Force
Retired 20 yrs.



Kenneth Dewayne Leonard
US Air Force
Tsgt
Technical Sergeant



Brenda (Dutton) Miller
US Army
Sp 4



Dennis Wilson
US Navy
E3

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Nick Wiggins
US Army
Spec. 4



Aric Lee Bentz
US Air Force
Airman First Class



Ron Gotwalt
US Air Force
A1C



Richard D. Hamilton
US Army
Cpl. Technician 5th grade



Gary Dancz
US Army Signal Corp
SP 3



David Hackert
US Army
PV 2



Joseph W. Balcom
US Marines
Sergeant



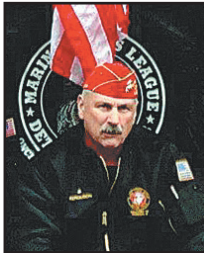
Timothy P. Engemann II
US Navy Reserve
MN Senior Chief Mineman



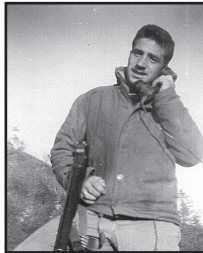
Sarah R. Engemann
Ensign, US Navy



Timothy P. Engemann
US Navy
GMT 2



Jay E. Ferguson
US Marine Corps
LCPL



Joseph J. Orlando
US Sergeant
US Marine Corps
Korea



Robert Colston
US Air Force
Master Sgt.



Terry Gleason
US Army
Sgt.
Vietnam



Gary J. Pletcher
E5, US Army
Vietnam



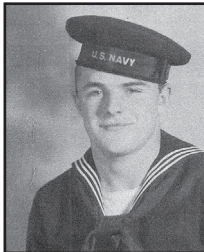
Carl Pletcher
Seaman 1st Class
US Navy
WWII



Richard E. Wallis
E5, US Navy



Jimmy D. Walker
AE2, US Navy



Donald E. Gleason
Seaman 2nd Class
US Navy, WWII



Daniel R. Astrowski
Sergeant E-5
US Army



James Gajeski
US Army National
Guard
Spec 2



William G. Copley
Cpl., USMC
Korea



William M. Copley
SP4, US Army



James C. Copley Jr.
Cpl., USMC
Korea



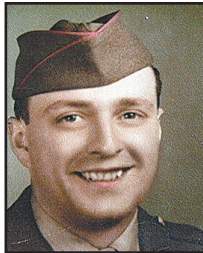
Harry W. Copley
Specialist E-5
US Army
Korea & Vietnam



James Copley
US Army, WW I
341st St. Motor Truck Co.



Thomas J. Sayles
US Army
PFC



Rex B. Funnell
608 Field Artillery
Battalion, Sergeant
71st Infantry Division
US Army 1943-1946



Kim Halladay
Captain
US Army Medical
Service Corps



Lowell Bailey
Corporal
US Army
Korea



James Cunningham
Airman 1st Class -
Senior Airman
US Air Force
1955-1959



Gary Kent Swanson
Pvt. E-2
Army National Guard
of Michigan

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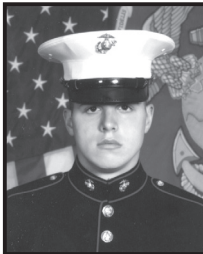
Richard C. Callis
US Army - Airborne, E2
1970 to 1973
Fort Knox, Georgia, TX



Devon Eves
US Army, Specialist
Combat Medic,
2002-2006, Germany,
Kuwait, Iraq



Richard A. Dodson
Pvt. 1st Class, US Army
1957-1960, Fort Lewis, WA
and Vicenza, Italy



Austin M. Egeler
Lance Corporal
US Marines
Okinawa, Japan



John Franklin
Staff Sergeant
US Air Force
Middle East



Ben Kaat
US Marine Corps
Sergeant
Nov. 2000 - Nov. 2004



James Ackenberg
US Army, SP4
Germany



Robert A. Beckman
Sergeant
US Army



Hugh G. Gannon Sr.
US Air Force, A/3C3
1954 - 1958
Gettysburg, S.D.



Howard Haight
US Army, PFC
1958-1960
Korea



Hiram Herrick
US Air Force, Lt. Col.
Vietnam



Augusta Alayon
US Navy, HM2 Surface
Warfare

Fredrick Alayon
US Navy, GM1
Surface Warfare



James D. Herin
US Navy, FC1
1990-2010



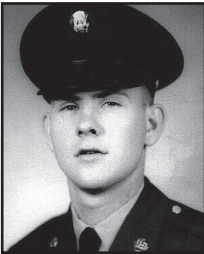
Nora J. (Herin) Seng
US Navy, Petty Officer
1st Class, 1979-1988



Frank Peter Horter Sr.
Merchant Marines
6 years



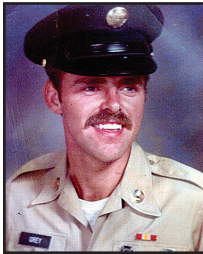
Donald E. Grey
US Army
WW II



Daniel L. Grey
US Army, E4
Vietnam



Chuck Keller
US Army
E-5



Dennis L. Grey
US Army
Germany



Curtis Lamb
US Army
Staff Sergeant



Walter A. Carrier III
Chief Master Sergeant
US Air Force
23 July 80 - 31 July 06



Myrton Hackert
Sergeant, US Marines
1952 - 1955
Korean War



James McDowell
US Army



Donald Jr. Grey
US Army
Korea



David R. Grey
US Army
Vietnam



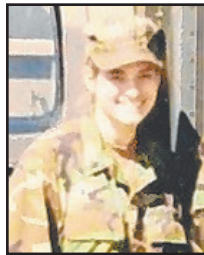
Diane (Grey) Bradley
US Army
Germany



Joseph Negele
Corporal
US Army



Dalton Haldeman
PV2
US Army



Leona Ashley
Specialist, US Army,
1997



Johanna Booms
Specialist, US Army,
1997

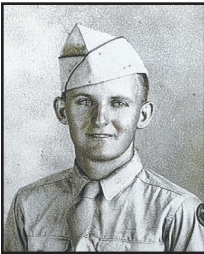


Tristan Andre Sutton
PFC Army Reserve -
M.P., Desert Storm

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William F. Spenhauer
Private First Class
US Marine Corps



William Forrester
US Army
1943-1946
WWII



Mary Frances Phillippi
US Army
Nurse



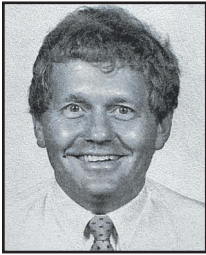
Don Miller
US Army



Jon Trojan
E-4 Specialist
US Army



Kerina Mariana
Staff Sergeant
US Army



Kim Halladay
Captain
US Army



Ron Baynton
E-5 2nd Class Petty Officer, US Navy
1982-1988



Leona Ashley and her sister Johanna Booms, 1997. Specialists, US Army.

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11, marking an opportunity to express one’s gratitude and support for the scores of veterans who have served honorably.

Eight ways to honor veterans

- 1

Attend events. Organize or participate in local Veterans Day celebrations, such as parades and ceremonial events.
- 2

Get involved with veterans’ affairs. Support veterans by volunteering with organizations that assist them.
- 3

Petition for veteran speakers. Reach out to schools, scout troops or other groups and arrange opportunities for veterans to share their stories and contributions.
- 4

Support the families of veterans. Reach out to veterans’ families, who also must make sacrifices and concessions. Anything from shopping, babysitting, doing chores, or making a meal can help the families of veterans.
- 5

Make a donation. If finances allow, make contributions to reputable charities that provide services for veterans like those that offer mental health counseling or job placement services.
- 6

Hire veterans to work. If you are a business owner or hiring manager, consider hiring veterans for open positions at your company.
- 7

Offer personal acknowledgements. Take the time to speak to veterans and thank them for their service. If possible, when dining out, ask the server if you can pay for the meal of a veteran who also is dining that day.
- 8

Don’t forget the fallen veterans. Although Memorial Day is designed to honor those who lost their lives through military service, people still can honor the fallen veterans on Veterans Day by sharing stories or placing flags at veteran cemeteries.

★ A SALUTE TO VETERANS OUR HEROES ★

Mark Young: Honoring fellow service members



BY SHANNA AVERY
SHORELINE MEDIA STAFF WRITE

Army veteran Mark Young has not just spent years serving his country, but he continues to give his time to make a difference in the lives of veterans as vice president of the Lake County Honor Guard as well as serving on other veterans groups.

Young reflects back on his years of service. He enlisted in the United States Army in Feb. 1987, at age 17.

"I left for Army basic training on March 25, and went to the wonderful location of Fort Benning, Georgia and stayed there 13 weeks. I graduated from Army basic training at the end of June," he said.

"I served during Desert Storm, the first one, and then my enlistment was up and I got out for just a little bit and went back. I did a National Guard thing and when I went back, I just stayed in for what seemed life forever and I finally got out when I was 40. I was in Iraq in '08 and '09,

June to June, so that was an adventure. I wouldn't put it on your to do list or anything, but it was an adventure," Young said.

With family members who served in the military, Young followed in their footsteps. His grandfather and uncle were both in the Army. His dad was a Marine in World War II, and an older brother was in the Marines.

"It just seemed like a family tradition type thing. Most of the boys went," he said.

However, Young didn't follow in exactly his dad's footsteps, as he shared a humorous story about when he was going to enlist in the Marines, but that same day he was feeling at odds with his dad over something.

"So I went in and changed my mind," Young said. "He thought I was going to sign all the papers for the Marine Corps and I went and joined the Army instead. He was not impressed at all. I came out and had a big old smile on my face be-

cause I knew what I had done, and he's like, 'So, when do you go to boot camp?' I go, 'I don't know about boot camp but I go to Basic Training.' He's like, 'What's that?' I said 'That's what the Army calls boot camp' He said, 'The Army?'

"I was infantry for 16 years, so that's not a real, real difficult job. It's more dangerous than most, but it's not by any means rocket science. You go out, you do your maneuvers, you deal with threats and remove them, but I believe all branches got a part. If the different branches don't do their job, someone's going to be suffering somewhere, whether it be air support or naval support or whatever the case may be. There's going to be something lacking somewhere if they don't all do their jobs," Young said, reflecting on his time in service.

Young shared about how he became involved in the VFW and eventually a riders group, and about the serendipitous way he ended up in the Lake County Honor Guard.

"My stepfather, he was in the Army in Korea. He was a post commander at the VFW in Newaygo, and my mother was Ladies Auxiliary President at the same time and stuff, so I grew up around that stuff anyways," he said. "I've seen that they've done good things for people, so before I ever left to go to Iraq I signed up, and they were really cool. They said, 'Your first year's on us.' I'm like, 'Oh cool.' The only problem is I signed up before I left and I was gone for a year, so when I got back I went to go get a beer, they said 'Oh, you got a card?' I'm like, 'I sure do.' I pulled it out of my pocket because it was in the mail when I got back, but then we found out it was expired, so in order to get a beer I had to pay \$35 for my next year's dues, so they paid dues for something I wasn't even able to use."

"But then I got more into it. Some of my buddies called me up, because I ride motorcycles and stuff, and say, hey, you want to start a VFW riders group down here in Grand Rapids? I said, 'Okay.' So

★ A SALUTE TO VETERANS OUR HEROES

we did that. We kind of streamlined the process and then we ran around the state helping other people, like in Holland, Vanderbilt, Pulman, maybe Coleman. I was riding all over the place trying to bring them papers and stuff like that and help get that stuff handled so they can start their own groups. So that's how it kind of started, and I ended up being junior vice commander then I was president of the riders. I was on house committee and other committees for this and that and other stuff," he said.

Young stepped away for a little bit after feeling burnt out, and moved up toward the Big Rapids area.

"Then I got here and I didn't have anything else to do, so I'm like 'You know what, I got to find a purpose. Otherwise life is going to suck.' So I started looking at the veterans stuff again and all that and said, 'Yep, I'm not going to be an officer if I can help it,' and now I'm the vice president of the Honor Guard," he said.

Young has served in the Lake County Honor Guard for about three or four years. He shared how he went to check out the AMVETS in Baldwin and found out he knew the commander, Marlene Gaitan, who was in the VFW back when he was starting up the riders group in Grand Rapids.

"She was sitting there talking to me, and she's like, 'I knew a guy from Grand Rapids in the Riders over there,' and I'm like, 'Oh you did, so what was his name? I knew all of them.' And she says, 'I don't know his real name, but his name was Stretch.' And I just kind of looked at her and chuckled and she goes, 'You know

him?' I said, 'Yeah, he's standing in front of you,' because that was my road name back then, Stretch. She's like, 'Oh my God, really?' She thought that was really cool. She's like, 'What are you doing up here?' I said, 'I came to check it out, and maybe I'll join the AMVETS.' She said, 'Well you're more than qualified,' because she knew I was a life member of the VFW, so if I'm eligible there, I'm eligible here," Young explained.

Young is now a fixture there. "I come in and everyone is like, 'Mark!' It's kind of like Norm on Cheers, the TV show," he said.

Young explained some of what the Lake County Honor Guard takes part in, such as funerals for veterans, parades, observances on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and helping kids around Christmas time.

"It's a way to honor those who didn't return and stuff like that, and the ones who did who need to be laid to rest, we get to do it, you know, give them the honors that they fought for and earned," he said.

Young shared his appreciation of others who are involved in the Honor Guard who may not have served.

"There's some people who might have been a son of an AMVET, or had a parent or grandparent who may have served, and may have been big into supporting veterans because a lot of Patriotic Americans do that stuff if they can get into these places by relatives. They'll help out a lot and go above and beyond to try to help and volunteer a lot of their time. And sometimes they pass away, but be-

cause they weren't military themselves they don't get to have the service. In a way it kind of sucks, but I also understand it. It seems like they could probably do something for them, maybe not a full military service. But that's just my opinion," he said.

Young is also part of an association called Veterans Valor.

"We do venison for vets. So there's a processor that gets donated a bunch of venison through the hunting season and he'll get a hold of us and we'll locate veterans and veteran's families that need some food or something and we'll give them food. Around Thanksgiving we team up with the Leatherneck's Motorcycle Club and they pitch in, we pitch in. We go shopping and get all kinds of Thanksgiving foods and drop them off to different places," he said. "We all do veterans charity rides. If it's going to benefit some veteran somewhere, we'll go riding, rain or shine, warm or cold, we do it and make money. Everybody

that's doing it pays money to ride our motorcycles which we could absolutely do for free, other than fuel, because I can put a tank of fuel in my bike and ride all over. So for charity I pay to ride my own motorcycle. It would be nice if they let me ride someone else's motorcycle, just for a change."

Young said all of the volunteering and giving back to those who also served brings fulfillment.

"A lot of people transitioned out of the military, we always had a purpose in the military, and when you come back you feel lost just because of the fact that you don't know what to do with yourself, and some are classified by the VA as disabled, like myself. They got me classified as disabled and unemployed, so okay, then what am I supposed to do with my time? You got to find a purpose somehow. So a lot of them get into volunteer stuff to do, like this. I'm no different than the bunch. I'm just another one," Young said.

TO ALL OF OUR AREA VETERANS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

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PENTWATER - 279 S HANCOCK ST
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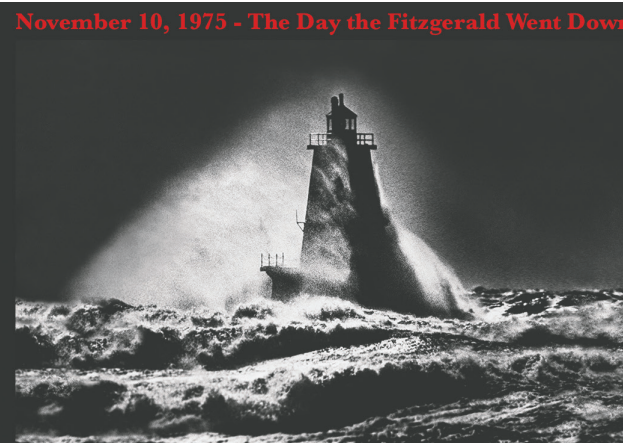


THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SERVICE!



White Lake Eagles
Aerie #3214
1204 S. Lake St., Whitehall

November 10, 1975 - The Day the Fitzgerald Went Down



We salute
all our
Veterans!!



TODD & BRAD REED
PHOTOGRAPHY
AND RACHEL GAUDETTE



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REMEMBERING AND HONOR

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OUR FREEDOMS WE ENJOY EVERY DAY ARE
BECAUSE OF YOU AND WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

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