



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED: NEVADA COUNTY SUPPORTS ITS VETERANS

From housing and health care to volunteer drivers and local discounts, Nevada County’s network of veterans, volunteers and businesses ensures no veteran is left behind

Submitted by Nevada County Veterans Services Office

The goal of the Nevada County Veterans Services Office (VSO) is to connect local veterans with every benefit they are eligible for and link them to the community supports available to them.

“We have a team of folks who are dedicated to working with our veterans, but it takes a village, and there’s something for everyone,” said David West, the County’s veterans services officer.

In recent years, Nevada County’s Veterans Office has developed award-winning programs that go far beyond filing paperwork, connecting veterans to employment, housing, wellness and community support with the help of a network of volunteers, organizations and businesses.

“We want to help in any way possible. We strive to solve all problems,” West said.

SERVING OUR VETERANS

The staff at Nevada County VSO are accredited and receive extra training to serve the over 10,000 veterans in the county.

West and the Board of Supervisors have been advocating to protect veterans from scams that charge for services they can receive for free through the VSO. The Board of Supervisors sent a letter of support for Senate Bill 694 in June, which would prevent these unaccredited businesses from charging veterans for these services.

Last year alone, Nevada County VSO submitted over 1,600 claims to the VA, generating \$4.3 million in funding for local veterans.

“It’s important that our veteran community knows that we are here to serve you and can get you connected to those same services and more at no cost,” added West.

Beyond direct services and advocacy, volunteers play a critical role in improving the day-to-day lives of local veterans.

THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERS

With veterans representing over 10 percent of Nevada County residents, support does not come from the County’s VSO alone. Local veterans’ organizations and volunteers are the backbone that help create a whole system of care for local veterans.

“One of the greatest challenges we have is helping veterans get to their VA appointments,” said West. “Telehealth appointments don’t work for everyone, and the closest doctor appointments with the VA are in Sacramento right now.”

Volunteer drivers like Jim Bradshaw, Gary Tanaka and Russ Bravard are helping close that gap.

According to West, it’s more than getting our veterans from point A to B for their appointment, saying, “They are having conversations and making connections when it’s needed.”

Tanaka has been volunteering with Nevada County VSO for the past 8 years. When asked what his favorite part about volunteering was, he said, “Meeting the



Nevada County worked with Caltrans to replace and add “where we honor veterans” to roadside county line signs in 2022. Left to right: Rachel Pena, Diana Runnels, David West.

people and bringing them to a level of calmness about their situation [and] being able to be there for them in some small way when they have these appointments that sometimes they are nervous or stressed about.”

“We cannot thank all our volunteers enough for the services they provide. Without our dedicated crew of volunteers, we would not be able to provide free transportation to medical appointments,” said West.

More volunteers are always welcome and needed, from drivers to even offering housing to veterans experiencing homelessness.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

For the past three years, the County has had a designated system to help house veterans experiencing homelessness. But it can’t be done without the community’s help. The County works with AMI Housing to help identify affordable rental housing options by providing guaranteed rent, financial incentives, money for repair costs and appliance replacements and a number to call for next-day assistance for any tenant issues through the Landlord Liaison and Recruitment program.

Continued on pg. C2



Volunteer Gary Tanaka shakes David West’s hand at volunteer luncheon earlier this year. Photo by Laura Petersen



Happy Veterans Day!

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Continued from pg. C1

“Finding housing remains one of the biggest challenges in our community, so we’ve tried to make it as easy as possible. The rental can be a house, granny unit or a room to rent, and you can choose to specifically rent to veterans if you’d like,” said West.

If you have or know of someone that has a rental property and is interested in the program, call (530) 878-5088 or contact AMI housing at HCT@amihousing.org.

MILITARY APPRECIATION WEEK: NOV. 8–16

2025 marks the 5th annual Military Appreciation Week in Nevada County, a program that engages community businesses to provide discounts or special offers to active-duty military, reservists, veterans and Gold Star families.

“Over 130 local businesses and organizations have stepped up to honor our veterans and active-duty military. It’s evident that we support our veterans,” said West.

This year, Military Appreciation Week runs from Nov. 8-16, but many businesses run their discounts year-round.

Businesses range from retail to restaurants, and even arts and travel, from Grass Valley to Truckee across the county.

For more information or to sign your business up, visit nevadacountyca.gov/militaryappreciation.

“From our dedicated volunteers to hundreds of local businesses that provide discounted services, it truly is a village serving and honoring our veterans,” added West. “Our work doesn’t stop here, but I’m beyond honored to do what I get to do every day, which is serving our veterans in a community that values their service too.”

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT NEVADA COUNTY VETERANS

Volunteer with the Veterans Services Office

Help local veterans get to medical appointments or connect with essential services.

- Volunteer drivers needed: Transport veterans to VA appointments in Sacramento or assist with local outreach.
- To volunteer, call (530) 265-1446 or visit nevadacountyca.gov/vso.

Offer Housing or Rentals

Have a home, ADU, or room for rent? You can make a difference.

- The Landlord Liaison and Recruitment Program offers guaranteed rent, repair funds, and next-day support for landlords who rent to veterans.
- Contact AMI Housing at HCT@amihousing.org or (530) 878-5088.

Support Veterans Through Your Business

Join more than 130 local businesses participating in Military Appreciation Week (Nov. 8–16) and offering year-round discounts for active-duty military, veterans, and Gold Star families.

- Sign up or learn more at nevadacountyca.gov/militaryappreciation.



Photos from Metro Media

Veterans Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars. In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as “the Great War.” Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, Armistice Day became legally known as Veterans Day.

In 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I. Commemorated in many countries as Armistice Day the following year, November 11th became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938.

ARMISTICE DAY

The Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, marking the official end of World War I. Nonetheless, the armistice date of November 11, 1918, remained in the public imagination as the date that marked the end of the conflict.

One year later, in November 1919, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The day’s observation included parades and public gatherings, as well as a brief pause in business and school activities at 11 a.m.

On November 11, 1921, an unidentified American soldier killed in the war was buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C. On the same day the previous year, unidentified soldiers were laid to rest at Westminster Abbey in London and at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

On June 4, 1926, Congress passed a resolution that the “recurring anniversary of [November 11, 1918] should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations,” and that the president should issue an annual proclamation calling for the observance of Armistice Day.



By that time, 27 state legislatures had made November 11 a legal holiday. An act approved May 13, 1938, made November 11 a legal Federal holiday, “dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as ‘Armistice Day.’”

In actuality, there are no U.S. national holidays because the states retain the right to designate their own, and the government can only designate holidays for federal employees and for the District of Columbia. In practice, however, states almost always follow the federal lead.

FROM ARMISTICE DAY TO VETERANS DAY

American effort during World War II saw the greatest mobilization of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force in the nation’s history (more than 16 million people); some 5.7 million more served in the Korean War.

In 1954, after lobbying efforts by veterans’ service organizations, the 83rd U.S. Congress amended the 1938 act that had made Armistice Day a holiday, striking the word “Armistice” in favor of “Veterans.” President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the legislation on June 1, 1954. From then on, November 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

The next development in the story of Veterans Day unfolded in 1968, when Congress passed the Uniform Holidays Bill, which sought to ensure threeday weekends for federal employees—and encourage tourism and travel—by celebrating four national holidays (Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Columbus Day) on Mondays.

The observation of Veterans Day was set as the fourth

Monday in October. The first Veterans Day under the new law was Monday, October 25, 1971; confusion ensued, as many states disapproved of this change, and continued to observe the holiday on its original date.

In 1975, after it became evident that the actual date of Veterans Day carried historical and patriotic significance to many Americans, President Gerald Ford signed a new law returning the observation of Veterans Day to November 11th beginning in 1978. If November 11 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the federal government observes the holiday on the previous Friday or following Monday, respectively.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Great Britain, France, Australia and Canada also commemorate the veterans of World War I and II on or near November 11th: Canada has Remembrance Day, while Britain has Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday of November). In Europe, Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries, it is common to observe two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. every November 11.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American servicemembers who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served.

In the United States, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held each Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, while parades and other celebrations are held in states around the country.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day—a common misunderstanding, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Memorial Day (the fourth Monday in May) honors American servicemembers who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle, while Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served.

VETERANS DAY 2025

Submitted by Mike Hauser, Adjutant, American Legion Post 130

Veterans Day is a day dedicated to and focused on the Men and Women who have served all fellow Americans by spending a part of their life in the Military defending our existence. It's a day to say thanks and honor them for their sacrifice and service to these United States and all our freedoms.

Unfortunately not every service member makes it back to normal after their service time.

We Veterans, we Nevada County citizens, we Americans are so lucky to exist and live in a community which has, as one of its' goals, to see that those who sacrificed are honored.

I personally have had the honor of working with the County and the City of Grass Valley in their efforts to say thanks to Veterans of all eras. In a meeting with the City Council and City Management, it was proposed and approved that flag pole banners honoring our local service men and women be displayed on a routine basis visible to all in downtown. Grass Valley's Vice Mayor, Haven Caravelli will present the idea at our Ceremonies on November 11th.

Nevada County, with the support of its Veterans and Veteran organizations, won a very large grant to refurbish the local Veteran facilities. This support the community in dire times as well providing safe and convenient places for group activities from youth sports to club meetings and other group activities which bond us all together. Is Nevada County artistically very talented? You know it. With the help of the County we're going to visually accent the Vets Hall to honor Veterans and the community we live in. Stay tuned.

We invite you to attend this year's Veterans Day celebration, which begins with a breakfast at 8 a.m. before ceremonies take place at 10 a.m., Tuesday November 11th at Grass Valley's Veterans Building.

Nevada County's All Veterans Color Guard will open the

ceremonies by presenting the colors then we are so fortunate again to host the Nevada Union High School Band which follows them by performing our National Anthem and our Scouts leading the pledge of allegiance. Try keeping a dry eye.

The program will end at 11 a.m. with the Color Guard firing three gun volleys followed by Taps to honor our passed Veterans.

All the County's Veteran organizations take pride in investing in our youth like Mom & Dad took pride in us. We support the kids who will one day run and defend this Nation.

Post 130 is in full support of local Scouts and our High Schools. One activity the Boy and Girl Scouts have become quite good at with the help of our High Schools, is the collection and proper retirement of damaged American Flags.

Every year well over 2,000 flags have been collected since the program's inception for proper retirement. Sometime around the 11th, in a private ceremony, local Boy and Girl Scouts troops will properly put those flags to rest. Look for those dramatic images in The Union and on the Post 130 web page.

May we express our thanks to the Scouts, NUHSD's CTE program and the Businesses and Operations, The Union, The VSO, GVPD, B&C Hardware, Waste Management and Hills Flat Lumber for hosting the flag collection boxes.

Thank you for flying the flag and taking care of her as needed. You got her back, we Veterans have yours.

God Bless America

Mike Hauser
Adjutant, American Legion, Post 130



Courtesy photos



VETERANS DAY PROGRAM — 10 a.m.

NOVEMBER 11, 2025

- Opening Remarks**
Claude Hessel, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard (Retired)
Commander, American Legion Frank Gallino Post 130
- Presentation of Colors — Post 130 Color Guard
- Pledge of Allegiance — Boy and Girl Scout troops
- “National Anthem” — Nevada Union High School Band
- Invocation — American Legion Auxiliary Unit 130 Chaplain, Pam Blertuempfel
- “America The Beautiful,” — Nevada Union High School Band



- “God Bless The USA,” by Donna Mattson
- Speakers — Grass Valley Vice Mayor Haven Caravelli,
Vietnam Veteran Tom Munroe
- “Medley of Service Songs,” by Donna Mattson
(Veterans muster in front of stage when you hear your service song)
- Three Gun Volley — Nevada County All Veterans Honor Guard
- “Taps” — Nevada Union High School Band
- “Soldiers Marching Home” — Nevada Union High School Band

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Submitted by Bonnie Magnetti & Sally Knutson, Co-location Coordinators for Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization responsible for placing fresh balsam tip wreaths on veterans’ graves in 5200 worldwide locations at Christmas time is, 20 years old this year!

Because of our common goals: PATRIOTISM, PRESERVATION and EDUCATION; the Nevada County chapter Daughters of the American Revolution decided to make WAA our Community Project.

In 2016 the Captain John Oldham Chapter joined the Nationwide organization and sold wreaths for veterans’ graves in St. Patrick’s Cemetery. We held a ceremony on the 2nd Saturday of December, and invited the community to come and help us lay the wreaths on the veterans’ graves which were marked with small American flags. It was a beautiful day.

We have been able to expand to Greenwood Memorial Cemetery and Sierra Memorial Lawn Cemetery through the generosity of our “giving” community.

Last year we placed 1,672 wreaths at the three sites. There are many more cemeteries and veterans’ graves in Nevada County. Our goal this year is 2025 wreaths. Please consider helping us reach this goal if you can.

The wreaths are shipped from Maine and delivered by truckers who volunteer their time. The wreaths are \$17.00 apiece. To sponsor a wreath go to: www.wreaths-acrossamerica.org/CA0231P, or send a check made out to Wreaths Across America to: Bonnie Magnetti, 22627 Sunset Ridge Dr., Auburn CA 95602. All checks must be received by November 21st. Online orders may be made until Nov. 28th.

The Ceremony at St. Patrick’s Cemetery on West Main Street, Grass Valley will be on December 13th this year at NOON. Bring the family and REMEMBER the fallen, HONOR those who serve and TEACH the next generation the value of freedom. We thank you for your participation and for honoring our veterans.



Courtesy photos



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CONTINUED VOICES OF THE LOCAL VETERANS

MAJOR KYLE W. GREEVER, SR.

US AIR FORCE



Major Kyle W. Greever, Sr. was born on December 28, 1921, in Buffalo, Oklahoma. Upon graduation from Cheyenne High School, he was accepted into the U.S. Air Force Cadet Program and shortly thereafter proceeded to aviation cadet training where he graduated as a pilot and Second Lieutenant.

Subsequently, Mr. Greever was trained for flying P-47 Thunderbolt fighters and became part of the 342nd Fighter Squadron in the S.W. Pacific, passing through

countries such as New Guinea and the Philippines, eventually ending up in Ie Shima (now Iejima), a tiny island near Okinawa, Japan.

During his fighter pilot stint during WWII, he completed 139 combat missions flying the P-47 Thunderbolt and P-51 Mustang, providing ground support and attacking Japanese shipping. One of Major Greever’s most life threatening episodes during WWII was when he had to ditch his P-47 into the China Sea. Luckily he was near an island and was rescued by locals. He states that most individuals don’t survive this situation as there are only seconds to get out of this heavy aircraft.

Toward the end of the war, Mr. Greever was recalled by the Air Force and became a flight instructor in Greenville, Mississippi, as well as an ROTC instructor at Florida State University. His next assignment in the Air Force was as an F-86D fighter pilot for 1.5 years stationed at Naha AFB, Okinawa. Major Greever retired after 20.5 years, finishing his Air Force career as a command pilot in KC-135 tankers.

After retirement from the Air Force, Major Greever worked as a Nevada County Deputy Sheriff for 10 years. He was married to Marion Greever from 1941 until her death in 2015. Major Greever passed on January 10, 2018 at 96 years old.

—SUBMITTED BY FRANCES SHERIDAN





American Legion
American Legion Frank Gallino
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Friends of Nevada County Military
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Marine Corps League
<http://www.mcl885.org>



Vietnam Veterans of America
<http://www.vva535.org/>



Veterans of Foreign Wars
<http://www.vfw.org>



Welcome Home Vets
<https://www.welcomhomevets.org>



Courtesy photo | Captain William A.O. Dianus



WILLIAM A. O. DIANUS

To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Merchant Marine to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt thanks of the Nation. You undertook a most severe task—one which called for courage and fortitude. Because you demonstrated the resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example in further serving our country in peace.

Harry Truman

THE WHITE HOUSE



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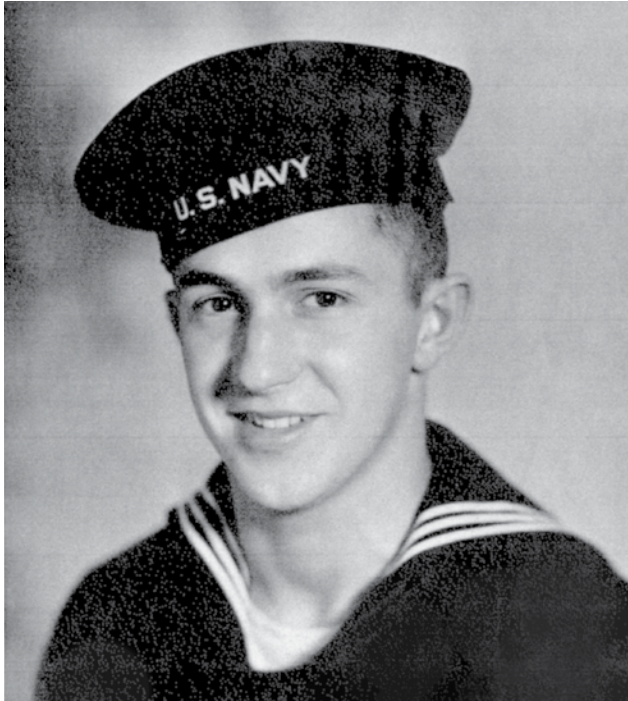
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CONTINUED VOICES OF THE LOCAL VETERANS

MATHIAS
HERMAN

US NAVY



Sept 1944–June 1946

I loved the Navy, I was treated well and have no complaints. As a matter of fact, I sometimes wonder why I let myself get discharged. I met my best buddy at boot camp and as luck would have it, we were transferred to the same ship, the hospital ship Tranquility. This was a brand-new ship, and the newspapers on the East Coast were filled with articles about this new wonderful hospital ship.

I worked in the Engine Room, Machinist Mate M/3. I was on the wheel for power, checked pumps, kept things lubed, etc. I really enjoyed my work.

1945 Time Line:
June 27th : We arrived at Pearl Harbor to join the service force, Pacific Fleet.

July 11th: Arrived in Ulithi served as the Base Hospital Ship.

Aug 3rd: Sent to Palaus to take on board the survivors from the cruiser Indianapolis, which was sunk by a Japanese Submarine just days earlier. We headed to Guam where the 166 survivors were disembarked on the 8th.

Aug 11th: Rendezvous with 3rd fleet 350 miles off the coast of Japan, from there we headed for Guam.

Aug 27th: We took on 766 patients at Apra Harbor, they disembarked in San Francisco on Sept. 11th and returned to Pearl Harbor on the 26th. Attached to the Magic Carpet Fleet, returning Armed Forces from overseas bases to the U.S.

Oct 18th: Arrived at Guam and picked up 788 patients, disembarked them in S.F. on Nov. 3rd.

The ship was reclassified, did two more voyages with the Magic Carpet Fleet and returned to S.F. on January 30, 1946.

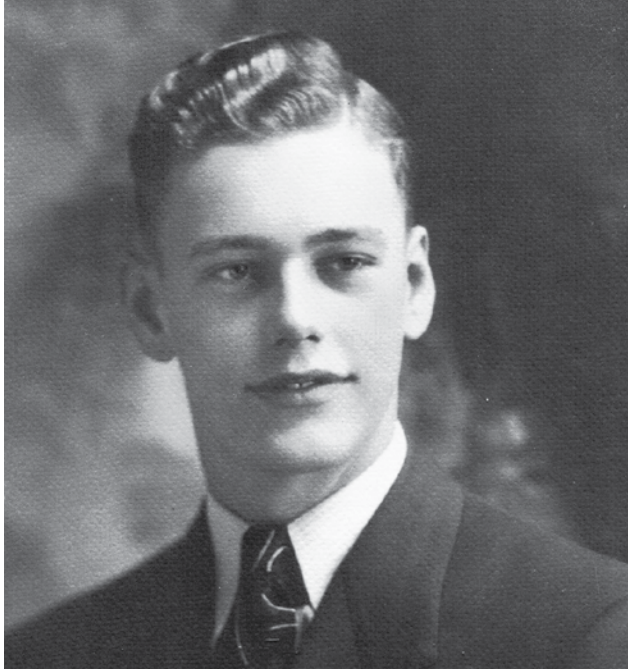
Tranquility received one Battle Star for WWII service.

The ship was scrapped in Philadelphia in July 1974. It was a true honor to serve my country and help the service personnel who fought for our freedoms. I enjoyed my time on the ocean and traveling around the world.

—MATHIAS

DERALD DONOVAN
GOFORTH

US NAVY

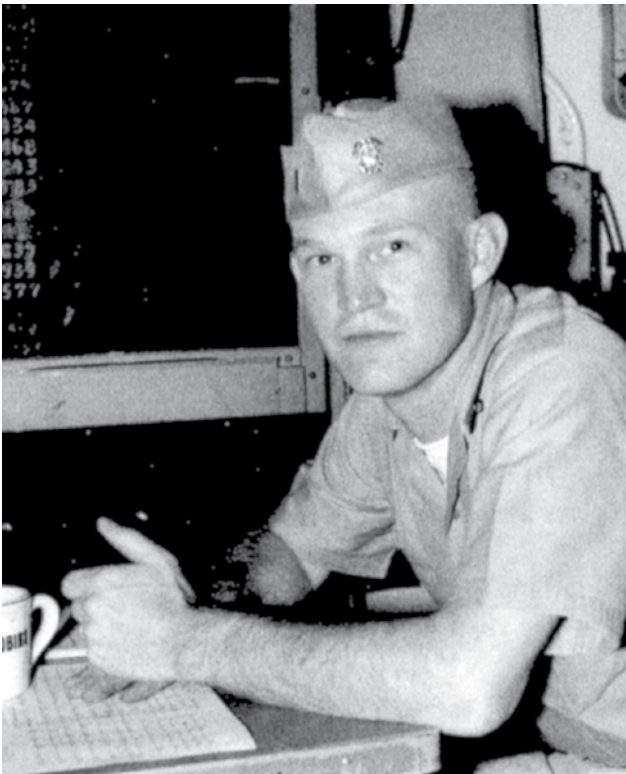
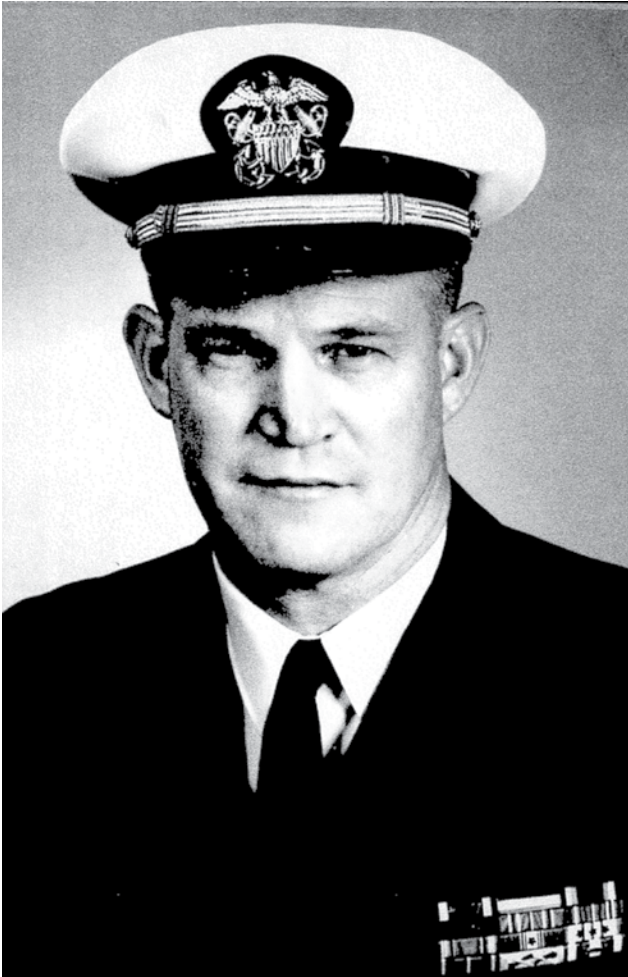


Derald Donovan Goforth served in the U.S.Navy on the USS Monaghan during WWII and the USS LST-611 during the Korean War. He worked as a machinist for 32 years at Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo. He retired to Nevada City in 1985 and was a member of the United Methodist Church of Nevada City, the Elks Lodge of Nevada City and the American Legion.

—SUBMITTED BY BONNIE MAGNETTI

LCDT THOMAS
D. ROBINS

US NAVY
1942-1972



I started out peeling potatoes ended up working with nuclear weapons.

I served in Europe in WWII, then in Korea, then Vietnam.

I served on 10 different aircraft carriers and numerous aircraft squadrons.

“I did what I did so that my family and the rest of the country could do what they are doing today.”

God Bless America.

—TOM



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VETERANS

VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2025

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