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NOVEMBER 2017
The World

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Bandon, Oregon

(541) 347-2426

Penny Dahl, Page 5

Hardy Christensen, Page 13

Arnie Pooler, Page16

Don Strine, Page 17

Gerry Clark, Page 23

Dr. Kimberly James, Page 30

The World

Veterans Day

South Coast Veterans

Bill Albin*
Eric S. Anderson
Jay Anderson
Marion "Andy" Andrews
Merlin Axelton
Tony Baldacci
Robert W Barnes
Bert Bartow
James A Batdorff
James H Batdorff
Thomas E Benz
Bernice Bergman
Cecil A. Bessey
George H. Bessey Jr.
George H. Bessey Sr.
Michael D. Bessey
Sharon E. (Foster) Bessey
Michael P Boehme
Alden Wayne Boice
Allen H Boice II
David Allen Boice
Warren Clark "Jerry" Boice
Matthew Bottoroff
Billy Wayne Brown Jr.
Peter M Brown
Richard L Brown
Rachel Yost Bryner
Alvie Ernest Burcher
Bill Bush
Richard M Calbo
Benna Caldera
Alpha Carle
Clyde Cody Carlson
Amanda J. Carlton
Col. Won Loy Chan
Leland "Bud" Chase
Rod Cink
Raymond Leigh Coburn
Wally Collins
David Conn
Joe Cowan
Ron Cress
Phillip D. Crew
Anthony Culley
James Curran
Penny Dahl
George M Davis
Albert Deandrea
Bill Dickson
William Dooley
John Doty
Donald Keith Dunham
Raymond Edward Dunham
David Edminister
Wess Feeler
Leo Fernandez
Michael Fisher
George W Flier
Tamala Foster
John L Fox
Kermit Frazee
Henry "Hank" Fryer
Regino Orlando Gaoiran
Shelby George
Jack Gillhoover
Danny L Glass
Reginald Gordon
Jake Graves
Terrence Graves
Annie P Grayson
James Green
JR Greenlee
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Richard Hanen
Guy A. Hawthorne*
David Hillis
Danny Holmen
Thomas M. Hoshall
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Edward Huster, Sr.
Jackman L & Alice H Hutchens
Ron James
Nicholas Melvin Jansen
Ralph Nicholas Jansen
Stephen Bruce Jansen
Charles Jensen
Stephen P Judd
Merle Kalb
Chester Kauffman
Gerhardt Kaufmann
Edward M. Keim
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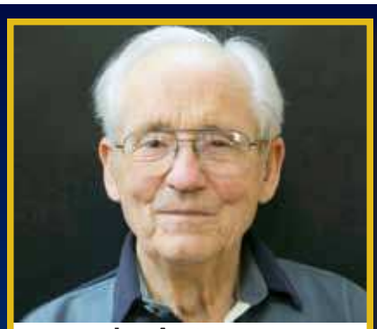
Chuck Knight
Arden Laird
Eugene W. Larochelle
Clifford A Larson
Claude Lemon, Jr.
David B Lentz
Gordon L Lentz Jr
Gordon L Lentz Sr
Ehren Linderman
Fawn Mathis*
Clyde McCall
Melvin McGriff
Hugh McNeil
Jordan Miles
Sean Miller
John Moir
Tara Moore
Wayne Murray
Ben W. Parks
Ed Parkes
Daren Pfaender
Dean Pfaender
Aubrey Pierce
Edgar Pilette
Dennis Pooler
George L. Proctor
David Ephraim Redding
Hiram Farmer Rema
R. Z. Rema
Randy Z Rema
Leroy Rennich
Emery Rogers
Marvin Rogers Jr.
Marvin T. Roger, Sr.
Howard Sams
Lois Sandberg
Richard Sandberg
Steven Schofield*
James R. Seeley
Charlie Sharps
Merritt Shaw
Joyce Sherwood
George W. Snodgrass Jr.
George W. Snodgrass Sr.
Nathan Snodgrass
Sidney Sparks
Frank St.Clair
Joshua St. Ives
Dr. Paul Starkey
Ron Staten
Frank Stelmacher
Bruce Stennett
Don Stettnisch
Evert S. Stever
Lavere "Russ" Stewart
Billy D. Stockman
Bob Strehl
David Strope
Bob Sturtevant
Alan J. Sutherland*
Dana Sweatt
Frank Taylor
Jack Thomas
David Tilton
Shane Truman
Ross Turkle
Jenna Turnipseed
Susan Uehara
Jack Ward
Michael Weathers
Shilo Michael Whitsell
James "Jim" F Whitty
James Leon Wiley Jr.
David L. Wood
Daryl Lynn Yost
Russel Lee Yost

Listed in advertisement, page 32

ERIC S. ANDERSON
Command Master Chief 1987-2017
Bronze Recipient



JAY ANDERSON
1945-1947 US Army Corporal, California & Alaska.
1950-1969 U.S.A.F.Senior Master Sargent, Texas, North Africa, Oregon, Alaska & Colorado

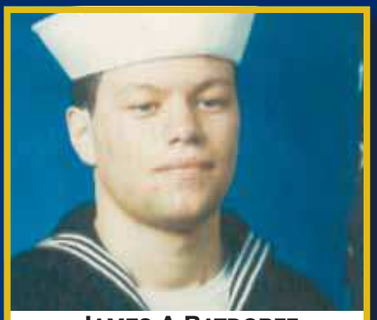
MARION "ANDY" ANDREWS
US Army 1943-1946, Coast Artillery

MERLIN AXELTON
U.S. Navy
Korean Conflict
January 11, 1949-December 19, 1952

TONY BALDACCI
US Navy 1975-1981 in Morocco on the USS John Young (DD-973). Received exalted title of "plankowner." Served at Naval Reserve Center in Encino, CA

ROBERT W BARNES
US Navy 1968-1989 'Mustang' Lieutenant, 8+ yrs. sea duty, 5 deployments aboard 3 guided missile cruisers, OIC NAVFAC Whidbey Island Det Coos Head

BERT BARTOW
of Reedsport, US Army
Aug. 10, 1943-Nov. 17,1945



JAMES A BATDORFF
US Navy 1984-1991, US Navy Reserves 1991-1994, Oregon Air National Guard 1994-2016, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, Retired 2016

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ENLISTING CHANGED THE COURSE OF HER LIFE

By AMY MOSS-STRONG
The World

In 1941, Penny Dahl wanted to do her part to serve her country, but at age 17 was too young to join the Women Accepted for Volunteer Military Service. So she took a job in a machine gun factory until she turned 20, then promptly enlisted.

The WAVES was the World War II women's branch of the United States Naval Reserve. It was established in 1942 by the U.S. Congress and authorized the U.S. Navy to accept women into the Naval Reserve as commissioned officers and at the enlisted level.

The purpose of the law was to release officers and men for sea duty and replace them with women in shore establishments. At their peak strength, some 86,291 WAVES served at 900 shore stations in the U.S. Enlisted women served in jobs from administrative and clerical to parachute riggers.

Some 2.5 million women have served in military roles since America was founded.

Nearly 400,000 women took on new roles in all military branches during World War II, due to the scarcity of manpower and the urgency of protecting the nation. These women served as nurses, stenographers, dietitians, translators, pilots, mechanics, physical therapists, stenographers, cooks and technicians.

Penny Dahl

WANTED TO TRAVEL

Dahl's father had served in World War I. She grew up in Dayton, Ohio surrounded by two U.S. Army air bases and when she graduated from high school in 1941, she thought about joining the Army and following in her father's footsteps, but was afraid she'd be assigned to one of the bases close by.

"I wanted to get away," she said. "I like to tell the story that I joined the Navy because I liked the blue outfits better than the khaki, but the true story is that I knew what I was doing," Dahl said. "I wanted to help the war and I wanted to travel. I'm afraid I was selfish."

Dahl attended WAVES boot camp in New York City, followed by a training school in Georgia, then was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas at a naval air station where pilots were trained. She worked as a storekeeper at a commissary warehouse where canned foods for dependents on base were stored. Seeing the devastated families on base when they lost their husbands or fathers in battle brought the war across the ocean. A German prisoner of war camp across the field from Dahl's building served as a constant reminder of why they were fighting.

Despite her sometimes unglamorous job, she and the other women on base felt they were doing their part for the war effort. And Dahl gained personally as well.

"I grew up," she said. "At 20, I was still a young girl who had never been away from her family. I also learned that I still wanted to travel."

Dahl signed up to serve in the WAVES for the duration of the war plus six months. At the end of that six months, she was asked to stay an additional six months to help transition her job back to men returning from overseas. When her duty was up in 1946, she used her G.I. Bill to go to business college back in Dayton.

She read in the newspaper that the Civil Service was recruiting people for the Pacific Rim area. With degree in hand, she applied and was accepted in 1947, and sent to Japan in 1948. Dahl was stationed at a small military base there as a secretary, handling paperwork for the Far East Air Material Command. The whole unit was moved to a different area and Dahl was then assigned as a supply chief.

During her time in Japan, she found the Japanese people friendly and welcoming, despite the recent war and Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

"You had to worry more about GI's than the Japanese," she laughed.

She and a friend wanted to see Hiroshima where the U.S. had dropped the atom bomb. At the time it was dropped, many Americans felt the action was justified. There was a build-up in the Pacific and the U.S. was planning an attack that would have cost many lives.

"The people I knew felt it had to be done, though a lot didn't feel that way and still don't," Dahl said.

Still, she wasn't prepared for the devastation she saw in Hiroshima.

"I thought how horrible it must have been for the people there. I've read a lot about it since then," Dahl said. "I still feel it was the only answer at the time."

Military careers

Dahl served from April 1948 to October 1950 in the Civil Service, then was transferred to Clark Air Force Base in the Phillipines. She met her future husband, Edward, who was in the U.S. Air Force serving in Japan. Edward had served as a gunner during WWII on a B-17, flying 30 missions over Germany and France. He was now fighting in the Korean War.

When Penny left, Edward traveled to the Philippines to convince her to marry him. Several months later, they were married at an American consul's office in Tokyo.

"Edward had been injured in Korea by 'friendly fire,' and he was on crutches for our wedding," Penny recalled. "People teased me about dragging him there."

The couple had a church wedding in 1951 and staying in Japan another year. They returned to the states and Edward continued in the military, serving 30 years, from 1942 to 1972 before he retired. They have two children, Mark and Gail, who both also served in the military. Gail married Joe Addair, also a veteran, and both are Bandon residents. Gail served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years and Mark served in the U.S. Coast Guard. Mark's son Miles is a full-time helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army National Guard.

Edward, who has Alzheimer's, resides in the memory care unit at Pacific View Assisted Living Community in Bandon.

Penny said over their 30 years in the military, the family was stationed in Georgia, New York, Tennessee, Hawaii, Japan, Nevada, Alaska, New Jersey and, finally, California.

"I think it was good for them," Dahl said. "It made them more mature."

"I think it was good for me too," Dahl added. "I did get to travel. I went back to my 50th high school reunion and there were still people there who had stayed right in town and I couldn't relate to them at all."

Penny and Edward both were able to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C. Thinking about it still gives Penny goosebumps. She earned the American Campaign Medal and the WWII Victory Medal and has a living memorial plaque mounted on her living room wall from the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. Edward's medals are proudly framed and hang in the couple's house at Inland Point Community.

Their children are also proud.

"For a woman to be essentially a pioneer in the military and then go over to occupied Japan as a single woman in the Civil Service is truly remarkable," her son Mark said.

At 93, Penny is thankful for the path she chose.

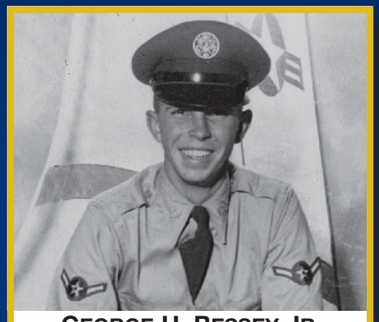
"I've enjoyed my life and I think I was fortunate," she said. "I have a lot of very good memories."

JAMES H BATDORFF
US Army 1964 -1966, Trained at Ft. Leonard Wood and Ft. Dix, Served in Okinawa as Sp5 Chaplain's Assist.

THOMAS E BENZ
US Army 1966-1969
Vietnam 1968

BERNICE BERGMAN
US Coast Guard 1944-1946

CECIL A. BESSEY
U.S. Navy 1948-1950
Aviation Elect., U.S.S. Valley Forge, Korea



GEORGE H. BESSEY JR.
U.S. Air Force 1956-1960, Aircraft Mech, F-86H & F-100 D&F, 50th Tact. Fighter Wing, France Wheelus Libya, Hahn Germany

GEORGE H. BESSEY SR.
U.S. Navy 1917-1921
Engine Room, U.S.S. Harrisburg, troop transport, 10 round trips, New York to England

MICHAEL D. BESSEY
U.S. Marine Corp 1978-1988

SHARON E. (FOSTER) BESSEY
U.S. Air Force 1960-1963, Maxwell AFB, AL War College Library, Flt. Traffic Spec. C-118, McGuire AFB, NJ, MLK Freedom March, Cuban Crisis

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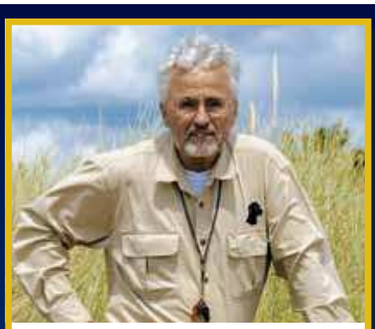


MICHAEL P BOEHME
US Navy 1961-1967, Hospital Corpsman, 3rd Class

ALDEN WAYNE BOICE
US Marine Corps - WWII

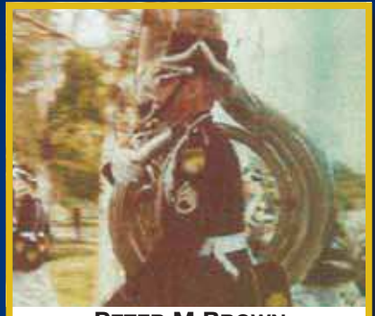
ALLEN H BOICE II
US Marine Corps - WWII

DAVID ALLEN BOICE
US Marine Corps – 1955 - Japan

WARREN CLARK "JERRY" BOICE
US Navy - WWII

MATTHEW BOTTOROFF
US Navy - Stateside

BILLY WAYNE BROWN JR.
Army National Guard SSG
Served a one year tour in Iraq 2004-2005
Retired 21 year veteran



PETER M BROWN
US Marines – 7th Infantry Battalion 1950-1951. US Army – US Military Academy Band, West Point 1956-1959

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RICHARD L BROWN
US Army 1967 Personal Spec 5
Fort Lewis, WA, Fort Lenore Wood, MO
Vietnam 1968-1969, Germany 1970-1973

RACHEL YOST BRYNER
U. S. Air Force 1973-1993
Retired and currently resides in Spring City UT

ALVIE ERNEST BURCHER
Air Force 1947-1950, Army: 1951-1953 – '52 & '53 Korea, Army: 1959 – 1974 Korea, Alaska, Vietnam, Master Sergeant/1st Sergeant, Retired 1974

BILL BUSH
Bandon. U.S. Army
1963-1966

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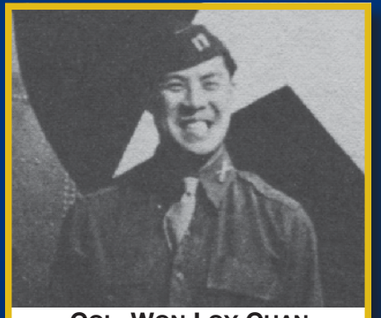
RICHARD M CALBO
US Air Force 1962-1966 McGuire AFB, Airman 1st Class, Vietnam

BENNA CALDERA
Private, US Army
Korea 1956-1957

ALPHA CARLE
Army National Guard, Served a one year tour in Iraq 2004-2005, Retired Veteran

CLYDE CODY CARLSON
US Navy – Submariner WWI

AMANDA J. CARLTON
AD1(AW,CCC)
United States Navy 1995-2005
Operation Enduring Freedom



COL. WON LOY CHAN
U.S. Army CIA 1942-1968
Burma Campaign 1943-1945
1931 graduate of NBHS

LELAND "BUD" CHASE
US Navy Petty Officer SS DOROTHEA L DIX AP67, World War II 1943-1946, Normandy landings, Operation Torch, Invasion of Sicily.

ROD CINK
US Navy, 1969-1973

RAYMOND LEIGH COBURN
Army National Guard 1949-1951
US Marines 1953-1960 - Korean

WALLY COLLINS
1933-2013
U.S. Navy 1951-1954
U.S. Coast Guard 1961-1965

DAVID CONN
US Army 1966-1970

JOE COWAN
US Army 2002 – 2010 E4, Field Artillery
1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division – The "Devils" Brigade. Iraq

RON CRESS
US Army 1967-1970

PHILLIP D. CREW
US Army World War II, 3rd Army, 4th Armored Division -European Theater. Served in five major battles incl. Battle of the Bulge

ANTHONY CULLEY
US Army 2010-Present Warrant Officer 2, Black Hawk Heli Instructor Pilot, Fort Rucker, Alabama and Seoul Airbase Seongnam, South Korea

JAMES CURRAN
US Navy – 113th Seabees
New Guinea and Philippines 1943-1945

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Contact Shana Brazil
Dellwood Hall Room 19
Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
541-888-7236 | vets@socc.edu
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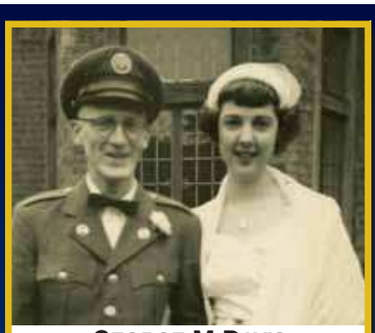
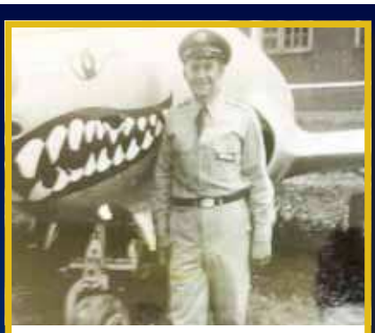
PENNY DAHL
US Navy - WAVES
1944 - 1946



GEORGE M DAVIS
US Air Force 1956 - 1960, Stationed in England as part of NATO 1956 -1959.
Airman 2nd Class

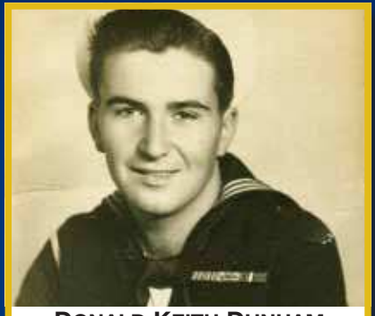


ALBERT DEANDREA
US Air Force
Korea 1952

BILL DICKSON
1950-1954
Seabees US Navy

WILLIAM DOOLEY
US Air Force 1954-1957 Active Duty,
16 years ORC Reserves

JOHN DOTY
US Army 1955-1963



DONALD KEITH DUNHAM
US Navy - Seaman 2nd Class, Served WWII 1942-1945 on USS Maryland,
Asiatic Pacific Campaign

RAYMOND EDWARD DUNHAM
US Navy – ET1 1978-1989
Original crew of USS Fife(5 yrs) and USS San Jacinto(2 yrs), Satellite Tech

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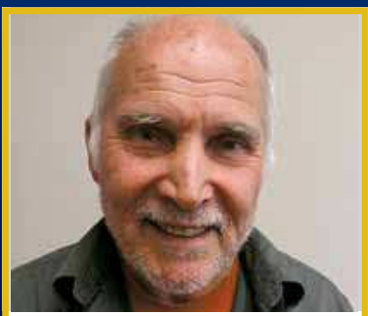
DAVID EDMINISTER
US Navy 1968-1971 RM3 (Radioman),
Vietnam – Mekong River

WESS FEELER
US Navy 1953-1973 CSC - retired.
Served aboard many ships and at Midway Island



LEO FERNANDEZ
US Army 1953-1957 1st Cavalry Div.
77th Field Artillery – Japan

MICHAEL FISHER
1973-1979
National Guard
Specialist 4

Korean War Veteran Hardy Christensen

KOREAN WAR VET REMEMBERS HIS SERVICE

'We stayed there, and it was about 40 below zero. We stayed there all winter'

By NICKOLAS JOHNSON
The World

From 1952 to 1953 Army Corporal Hardy Christensen spent his time fighting in the Korean War.

He was 23 years old. It was his first time away from his home in Bandon, where the 87 year old still lives today.

"I'd never really been away from home. It was interesting, because it was something new. It kept you busy. It was kind of hard but you just lived with it," Christensen said.

Christensen was a Field Wireman, his job was setting up telecommunications for the Army. It's not uncommon for wiremen to have to setup communications while under the pressures of battle.

"The Lord must be with some of us, because two of our guys were out working on wires when a shell came in. They dove in a hole, and once the shell hit they moved to another hole. The next shell landed right in the hole where they had been," Christensen said.

He started his deployment at Heartbreak Ridge. It was winter at the time, and Christensen remembers it being very cold.

"We stayed there, and it was about 40 below zero. We stayed there all winter," Christensen said.

From there Christensen fought in the valleys of Korea for the next four months, before moving over to Panmunjom.

"We were slugging it out with them in Panmunjom. The Chinese took an outpost, and the Turks didn't like that. We were supporting the Turks, and they took out after them. It was a pretty big loss for the Chinese... They were fighting the Chinese in hand to hand combat, with their machetes and knives. They were getting them about three to one," Christensen said.

Shortly after that Christensen was shipped back home. On his way back to the U.S he almost ran into his father in Korea, but the timing was a bit off.

"My dad was a merchant seaman, and he pulled into Incheon, they were unloading. He thought I was still there so he went out to where I was to find out I had shipped out the day before," Christensen said.

Christensen spoke very highly of the mess hall sergeants he served with. He enjoyed the food and felt like the cooks were really looking out for their fellow soldiers.

"The mess sergeants were good people. They'd get what they could for you. We got a container of frozen pork chops in once and this sergeant was smart enough that he picked up a package of these pork chops and smelled them and he said 'There's something wrong with these pork chops.' He called headquarters and told call all the pork chops that you were going to have off tonight. So we had "shit on a shingle" that night," Christensen said.

The sergeant was right to have called off the pork chops because they were actually bad. The meat had thawed and then been refrozen after sitting for some time.

"We would have had a whole division out had we ate those pork chops, but he was smart enough to notice they were bad," Christensen said

Christensen has been a member of the Bandon community for so long he remembers the 1936 fire that burnt the city to the ground.

"I remember dad coming home and he said to mom and us kids that the town was going to burn tonight, He left to go help fight the fire, and he saved several houses," Christensen said.

When Christensen returned home he worked with a four man crew logging some timberland that his family had. After that he built cranberry bogs until 1990 when he had a heart attack and gave it up.

He was born on a farm a quarter of a mile from where his home now is, and lives across the street from the cranberry bogs he used to build.

Christensen lives a simple life in the place where he was born. A place that he loved so much he put his life at risk defend and uphold the principles it represents.

GEORGE W FLIER
US Navy
1951–1955

TAMALA FOSTER
US Army - Stateside

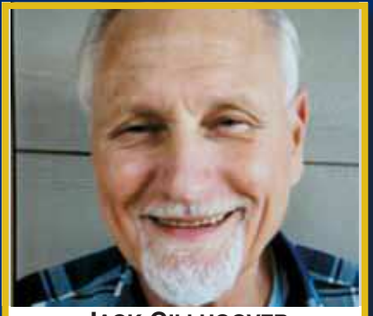
JOHN L FOX
US Air Force 1963-1983
Sr. Master Sergeant
Korea/Vietnam

KERMIT FRAZEE
1951-1962
Sergeant US Army

HENRY "HANK" FRYER
U.S. Army 1956-1958
24th Infantry Div Charlie Batt. Field Artillery 14 mos. DMZ, Korea 1957

REGINO ORLANDO GAOIRAN
NBHS Graduate, US Army 2000-2014, Sergeant – Communications w/Top Secret Clearance, 2 tours in Iraq

SHELBY GEORGE
Sergeant - US Marine Corps Reserves
2005 to 2013



JACK GILLHOOVER
US Marine Corps 1961-1967
1st and 3rd Marine Airwing
Message Center Cryptographer

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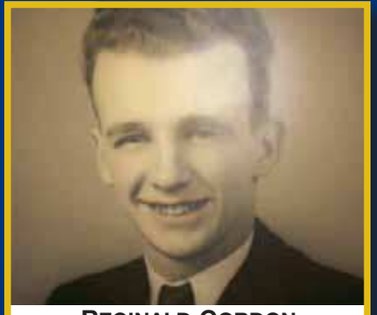
DANNY L GLASS
US Coast Guard 1964-1988
Chief Petty Officer E7



REGINALD GORDON
US Coast Guard
WW II USS Wakefield
LeHavre, France, China, Guam and Hawaii

JAKE GRAVES
US Navy – Pearl Harbor

TERRENCE GRAVES
US Navy – Seabees (retired)

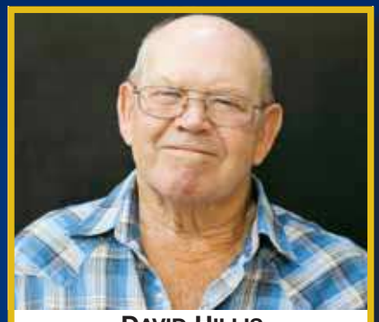
ANNIE P GRAYSON
US Air Force 1998 -still serving
Master Sergeant E7 -
Medical services flight chief.

JAMES GREEN
US Army 1963-1965

JR GREENLEE
US Air Force 1963-1969

MARVIN CHARLES GROELLE
US Army Signal Corps
WWII Burma

RICHARD HANEN
US Army 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry
WWII Europe



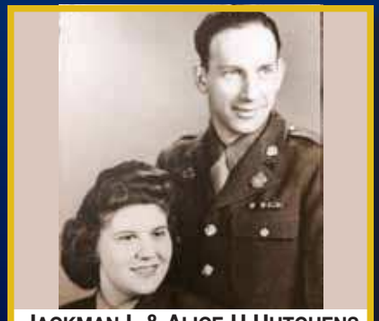
DAVID HILLIS
1953-1956
U.S. Army
11th Airborne & 82nd Airborne

DANNY HOLMEN
US Coast Guard 1962- 1968
Boatswain's Mate

THOMAS M. HOSHALL
U S Navy, March 1968 to December 1971, USS Coral Sea, USS Midway, VF 151 Maintenance F4 Phantom,

COLIN S. HUROWITZ
US Marine Corps. 2006 - 2010.
Third Marine Aircraft Wing 2007 - 2010.
Marine Corps band.

EDWARD HUSTER, SR.
US Navy - Aircraft mechanic
WW II Kaneohe Bay, HI



JACKMAN L & ALICE H HUTCHENS
US Army WW 2 Jackman was hurt and flew back to the U.S./Bingham City hospital where he met Alice H Layland Hutchens.

RON JAMES
US Navy Retired Corpsman - 20 years
Vietnam Veteran.

THREE TOURS LATER

Arnie Pooler

'If you were in a certain spot at a certain time you were going to get into a fire fight'

By SAPHARA HARRELL
The World

COOS BAY — When Arnie Pooler of Coos Bay was 17 years old, he knew he wanted to be in the military.

At first, he wanted to go into the Marine Corps, but because of his age he needed his parents' permission.

His brother, who's a member of the Coast Guard, was able to convince their mom to allow Pooler to sign up for the National Guard.

"Thinking the National Guard doesn't ever go anywhere, doesn't ever do anything and here I am three tours later," Pooler said.

He was first deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in 2003.

"Imagine Portland, rush hour traffic. Stop. Go two feet. Stop. Go two feet. And have people wanting to blow you up or shoot at you," Pooler said.

He said the absence of people in an area was often a tell-tale sign of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

"You turn around a corner and if there's nobody around, somethings about to happen," Pooler said.

The first sergeant said it takes a long to get adjusted back to civilian life.

"You have to remind yourself constantly - I'm in America, I'm in America, I'm in America," Pooler said.

He recalled one incident that occurred while he was driving over a pothole on an uneven highway in Washington, after returning from a deployment.

"So, when you go over it'd 'pop,'" Pooler said, "I went over one of those about three or four months after I got home and about wrecked the car, because I took it off the side of the road because I thought something blew up."

Pooler said the National Guard has started taking care of soldiers with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"Before it used to be 'oh you've got PTSD, OK suck it up, drive on, do your job or get out,'" Pooler said, "They finally are OK with saying 'we screwed you up, we will fix you.'"

Pooler has been home for two years since his last deployment to Afghanistan.

"If you were in a certain spot at a certain time you were going to get into a fire fight," he said of the area.

Pooler is still serving and is anticipating being deployed again in the future.

"You watch the news and try to figure out what's going on 'are we actually going to do something in Korea? Are we actually going to do something with Iran?'" Pooler said, "You've got to keep up on all that stuff just to stay prepared."

Iraq War Veteran Remembers

'That drive took us right to Fallujah's edge.'

Don Strine

By JILLIAN WARD
The World

NORTH BEND — When Don Strine drove I-5 after returning home from his deployment in 2008, he couldn't help but keep an eye out for bombs.

The bronze star recipient began his military experience after signing up for the Army National Guard during his senior year at North Bend High School in 1987. Joining the armed forces was his way to help his parents pay for college.

His first notice of deployment arrived in 2003.

"I kinda knew it would come sometime after September 11," Strine recalled, "There had been rumors, so it hadn't been a big shock."

But a few others weren't ready to go to war, going so far as to check themselves in at psych wards.

"The rest of us, well, it's what we signed up for," Strine said, "If we have to go, we have to go."

His first deployment sent him to Bagdad, Iraq following the initial invasion. His unit was the first to replace soldiers who had been part of the invasion. To get there, they had to drive in.

"We were the first to drive there," Strine said, "It was an eye opener seeing vehicles on their way out with holes in their sides from RPGs. It meant that this was getting real now."

The first long drive

The second day of driving was Strine's last convoy push into Bagdad. As he described it, the pushback was almost like clockwork.

"The insurgents had an uprising," he said, "It's like they knew that new people were coming in and people were coming out because we'd stop for IEDs, had mortar impacts around us, had different convoys get bombed worse than others because the darker it got the harder they hit."

Strine earned his combat infantry badge that second day of driving. When asked about it, all he said was, "It was from driving down the road. We had three days of driving."

The public is well aware of the stories of the Vietnam War and the jungle soldiers had to contend with. When Strine rolled into Bagdad, "there's a lot more people in the city than in the jungle and there's just as much cover."

"The initial invasion didn't have a lot of IEDs or car bombs, but when we arrived those are when they started to come out," he said. "They got smart quick with how to make them and where to get the stuff to make them. When we're in a city the size of Portland with five million people, it is packed and there are a lot of vehicles. You're always on edge waiting for that one car that stands out from the rest of them. You're always looking for it."

Though none detonated next to his convoy, they went off a block away.

"It rattles you," he said.

Strine spotted car bombs by looking for vehicles that sat too low to the ground. He watched the height between the road and the bottom of the car because if it was sagging that much, it meant that it was heavy.

"You never let cars come up from behind or the side," Strine said. "The rear gunner was there to make sure no one passed us."

The long drive into Fallujah

Strine's troop escorted the Iraqi National Guard into Fallujah.

The convoy was so long that his radios wouldn't reach the second company bringing up the rear. There were five American vehicles in front, followed by five miles of Iraqi National Guard troops, and four or five vehicles on the tail.

"We had to escort them from Bagdad to Fallujah," Strine said, "That drive took us right to Fallujah's edge."

Because the line was as long as it was, there were spots where communication was impossible and he didn't know what was going on.

"We were one of the first platoons hit with an IED, so they gave us this jammer to block radio frequencies if any of the bombs were set off by cell phones," he remembered. "That was brand new then, but they don't even use that technology anymore."

Because most of his battles were small firefights with insurgents and came unexpectedly while on the road, coming home meant he had to get used to driving where bombs weren't hidden under overpasses or behind guard rails.

"It takes a while to get used to driving again," he said. "You have to remind yourself constantly that you're in America, you're in America, especially when you're driving in cities or on I-5. It takes a long time."

As for seeing the war continue long after he retired from it, he thinks "we shouldn't have to be there anymore."

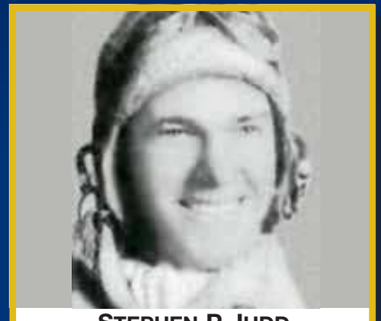
"If it's taken this long for them to get a functional government up and running, they should be able to secure their own borders, fight their own battles and their own country by now."

Nicholas Melvin Jansen
US Army
1966-1970 Kingston, Wa. and South Korea

Ralph Nicholas Jansen
US Navy 1940-1946
USS Oklahoma Dec. 7, 1941

Stephen Bruce Jansen
U. S. Air Force
Pilot
1970-1991

Charles Jensen
United States Marine Corps, Operation Enduring Freedom 2012-2016



Stephen P Judd
US Air Force 1942-1944 – 2nd Lieutenant, Co-pilot, 564th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, KIA

Merle Kalb
US Army – WWII Aleutian Islands

Chester Kauffman
US Army Air Corps (US Air Force) 1942, Flight Engineer, WWII –51 missions

Gerhardt Kaufmann
U.S. Army – Korean War
Jan, 2, 1952 – Feb. 15, 1953

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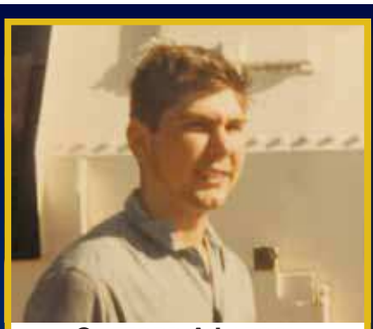
Edward M. Keim
MP Platoon, 75th Infantry Division
US Army, 1943-1945
WW II

William Kendrick
US Navy 1951-1961

Chuck Knight
US Army 1963-66,
8th Military Police Co.

Arden Laird
US Navy – Korean War

EUGENE W. LAROCHELLE
US Air Force –1965-1968, Andrews AFB, Washington D.C., Served at inaugural as Honor Guard



CLIFFORD A LARSON
US Coast Guard 1965-1969
Fireman FN-4
USCG cutter The Dexter - Alameda, CA

CLAUDE LEMON, JR.
US Navy WWII

DAVID B LENTZ
US Army - Americal Division, Vietnam 1968 – KIA 1969, E-5 Sergeant - ground soldier, NBHS graduate class of 1967

GORDON L LENTZ JR
US Navy Gunners mate - USF Everett F Larson DD 830, 1969-1973 in Vietnam, NBHS class of 1968

GORDON L LENTZ SR
US Navy 1946-1948 Seamen 2nd class, World War II Veteran, Submarine service, Groton, Connecticut

EHREN LINDERMAN
Major U.S. Army Ranger
MPHS 2002, West Point 2006, Univ. Ohio 2015, Iraq 2007-08 and 2009-10, Africa 2014-15

CLYDE MCCALL
US Air Force 1951-1955

MELVIN MCGRIFF
US Army 1944-1946

HUGH MCNEIL
US Navy – US Air Force
WWII Korea

JORDAN MILES
Airman, US Air Force - Firefighter
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona
Marshfield High School Class of 2011

SEAN MILLER
U.S. Marine Corp
July 1993-Aug. 2004
Iraq/Kuwait

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For more information about Southwest Oregon Veteran's Outreach, visit www.sovo4vets.com

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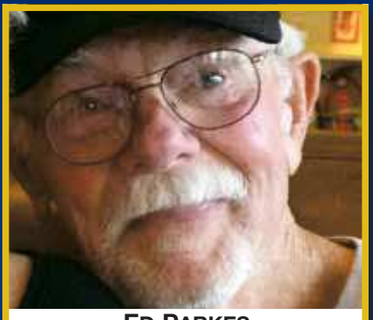
JOHN MOIR
U.S. Army April 1964, Volunteered for Vietnam. Proudly served in battalion recon platoon, 1st/28th, 1st infantry division March 1966

TARA MOORE
US Air Force 2000-2004
Andrews AFB - Senior Airman 3C151
Ground radio communications

WAYNE MURRAY
1958-1967
Lieutenant Commander U.S. Navy

BEN W. PARKS
Corporal – Battle of the Bulge
MIA for 2 months
England

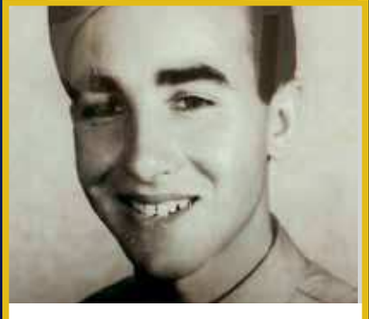


ED PARKES
Proud to be an American
Served 1951-1955 Korea
Navy-Tin Can Sailor

DAREN PFAENDER
US Navy & Oregon National Guard
1984-2008, Iraq 2003-2004 – Hurricane Katrina 2005, Retired 2008

DEAN PFAENDER
US Coast Guard 1960-1968, Duty Stations: Coos Bay; Groton CT, San Pedro CA, Cutters: McLane, Triton, Basswood, Vietnam 1967

AUBREY PIERCE
US Army 1999-2014 E5, Iraq 2006, Uzbekistan 2011



EDGAR PILETTE
US Army 1941-1945

DENNIS POOLER
US Navy Personnelman 3rd Class
1951-1955

SEAN MILLER, U.S. Marine Corp, July 1993-Aug. 2004, Iraq/Kuwait

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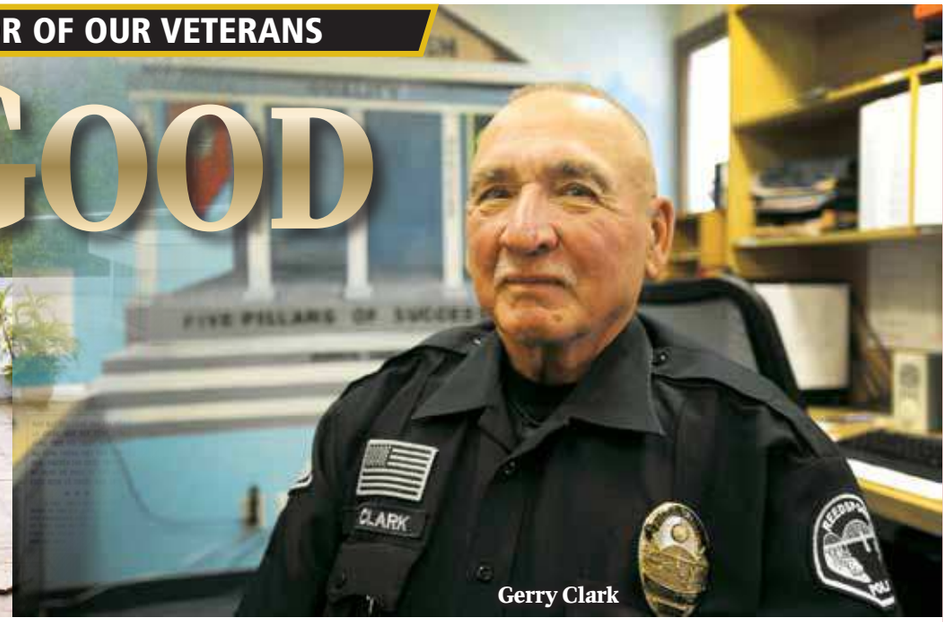


Gerry Clark

'It's not mystical. War is not a movie. It's not a temporary thing.'

By SHELBY CASE and BETHANY BAKER
The World

REEDSPORT — For Winchester Bay resident Gerry Clark, service during the Vietnam conflict was simple when he signed up.

"I'm an American," Clark said. "I joined to fight for my country."

Clark was born in Eureka, Calif., graduating from Fortuna Union High School in 1960. Although he took some college classes, he didn't receive a degree. The high school grad attended Navy boot camp in San Diego, gaining extensive training for becoming a Navy SEAL and frog man. He later shipped out to Vietnam.

He served in the Southeast Asian country from 1965 through 1967 for two tours SEAL and frog man. Clark worked with others in an underwater demolition team, specifically on hydrological surveys. This way, troops could land amphibious crafts "on enemy held beaches and peaceful beaches."

Along with thousands of others, Clark saw combat.

"I was a swimming scout and a point scout," the veteran said. Part of this included leading teams onto beaches. "You know, we were a team. Everyone was on a mission."

The difficult work as part of the demolition team "separated a lot of men."

"There's some things I won't talk about," he said, adding that for one thing as a vet he's not allowed to do so. "It's not mystical. War is not a movie. It's not a temporary thing. You know I don't brood about it."

Over time, some Vietnam veterans have returned to Vietnam. Not so with Clark.

"No I have not and I have no inclination to do so," he said. "It was a time in space."

Although he liked the Vietnamese people themselves, he despised and still dislikes the Communists.

"They were the enemy," Clark says of the Vietcong. "The Communists were very vicious to their own people. So I felt kind of righteous. I could stand up for the people who were getting tormented by their Communist captors over there. That's pretty self righteous I would think."

He also spoke whether he'd volunteer to serve in the conflict again. Technically, Congress never declared war but acted instead upon the Tonkin Gulf Resolution in 1964, providing President Lyndon Baines Johnson authority to commit more troops to the conflict. Johnson inherited the conflict from President John F. Kennedy, who in turn had inherited the war from President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Even though he's anti-Communist and said he'd serve in Vietnam again, Clark remembers President Eisenhower's farewell address, in which he warned of the "military-industrial complex."

"That rung a lot of bells," Clark noted.

"This time as an old person I would want to know what the results would be," Clark said, emphatically saying he didn't want any "dilly dallying around" and "sticking around for 10 years."

The local vet said "supplies came in North Vietnam and Hanoi. It was a shipping port. They (the Vietcong) marched them down the Ho Chi Minh Trail."

"You should try to win the war," Clark said.

He frowns a bit at some of the supply decisions commanders and others made.

"I wouldn't have landed my helicopter in a wooded area," Clark said. "For one thing, helicopters cost too much."

SERVING HIS COMMUNITY

These days, Clark volunteers as a reserve police officer at the Reedsport Police Department.

"I'm one of them," he said.

"These are great people. They're courageous people. They respond to violent situations. Their manners are good, all in all," Clark observed.

For Clark, his mantra is simple and is written across his bright yellow safety vest as he bikes around Reedsport.

"Do Good."

Four years ago, Clark added the phrase to his vest to give a slogan to the attention he received picking up trash around Reedsport. What began as a way to get more exercise as he grew older has turned into an identity for him around town.

"I've been called Do Good-er, Mr. Do Good, along with others," said the vet.

Throughout the years of picking up trash, many people waved or thanked him as he loaded the garbage can attached to his bike. While collecting trash, the veteran even came face to face with a stranger who took his mantra to heart. A woman stopped to thank Clark to credit him for inspiring her to track down the owner of a wallet she found at the grocery store.

"Now that made it all worthwhile," Clark said. "That one incident, I think, made four to five years of picking up trash all worthwhile."

Soon, he started volunteering elsewhere in the community, eventually leading him to helping at the police station. Clark assists with fingerprinting, code enforcement violations and vacation checks. He also serves as bailiff for the municipal court.

However in November 2016 Clark's commitment to Reedsport took a giant step when he became a sworn reserve officer.

Reedsport Police Chief Duane Wisehart approached Clark with another opportunity, transporting prisoners to the county jail in Roseburg. Clark now makes that three-hour round trip that would otherwise take an operational officer away from Reedsport.

Unlike many South Coast residents, Clark is uniquely qualified to serve as a reserve police officer. That's because he worked more than a decade in the California corrections system. Regardless, Wisehart conducted a full background check on Clark and Clark himself finished a variety of training courses, including firearms, use of force, CPR and First Aid.

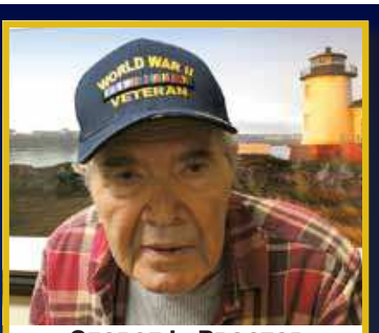
"I feel 100 percent unequivocally comfortable with having him transport a prisoner, or doing anything around here," the police chief said.

Clark's growing volunteerism likewise is growing his wardrobe.

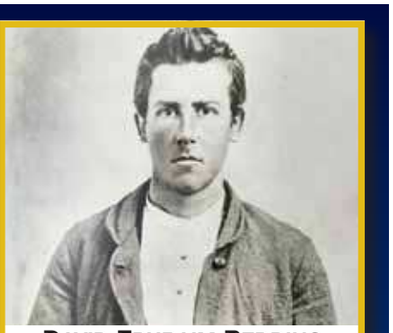
"I have lots of uniforms," the veteran said.

"Serving my town is kind of like serving my country," Clark emphasized. "I mean, let's face it. We can't all do the big, huge things. Sometimes we do little bitty things … even picking up tissue along the road. I'm not above that."

AMANDA J. CARLTON, AD1(AW,CCC), United States Navy 1995-2005, Operation Enduring Freedom



GEORGE L. PROCTOR
Army of the United States, WWII 1943-1946
Tec 5, Co. B, 593rd FAB, Coxswain on Landing Craft, New Guinea and Borneo



DAVID EPHRAIM REDDING
Union Army – Civil War – Private 1861-1865, 87th, 189th and 193rd, Ohio Infantry, POW - accepted bonus to fight in another's place.

HIRAM FARMER REMA
Union Army – Civil War
Company K, 3rd Illinois Cavalry

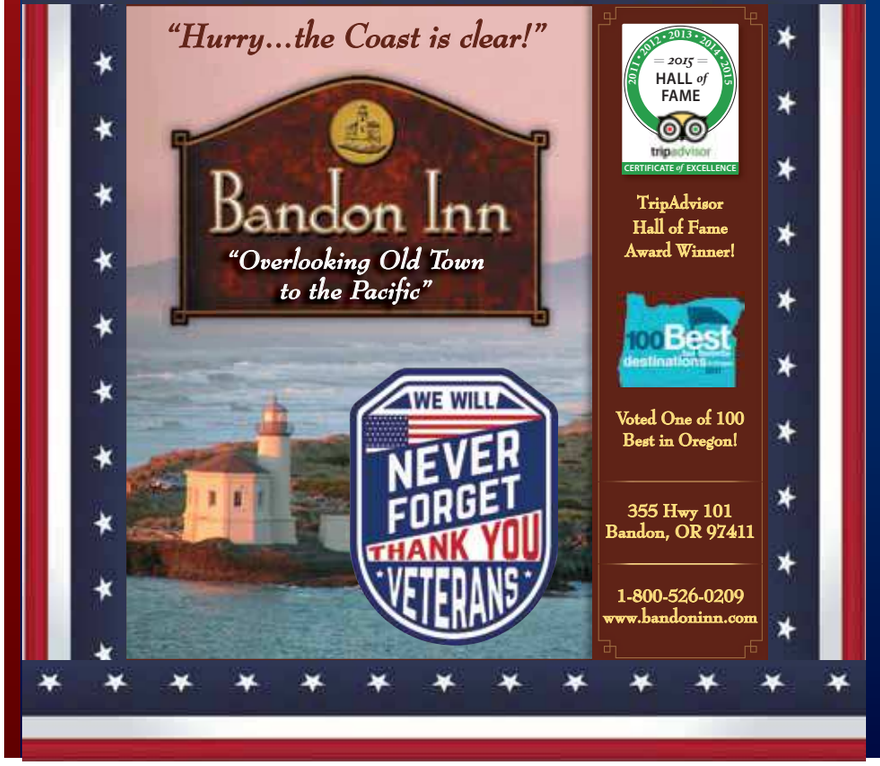
R. Z. REMA
US Navy – Gunner's mate
WW II Pearl Harbor, HI

RANDY Z REMA
US Navy Sonar Technician
USS Harold E Holt, Pearl Harbor, HI

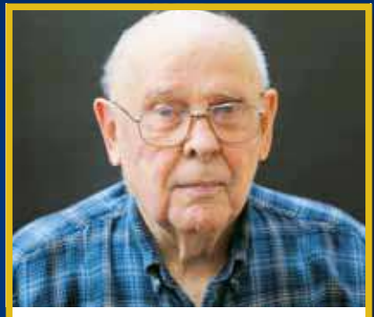
LEROY RENNICH
US Army - Korea

EMERY ROGERS
US Army Infantry 1st Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion of the 39th Infantry Division, Vietnam. 1968-1969

MARVIN ROGERS, JR.
US Army 1967 – 1972.
One tour in Vietnam. Served in West Germany and Hawaii.



MARVIN T. ROGERS, SR.
US Navy WWII 1943 – 1946.
Served on the USS Santee in Atlantic and Pacific corridors.

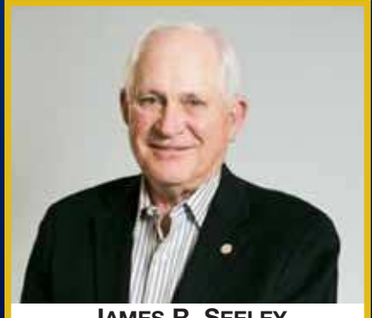


HOWARD SAMS
1944-1946
Seabees US Navy

JAMES LEON WILEY JR., U.S. Army, JAG 4th Infantry Division

LOIS SANDBERG
US Air Force 1951-1955

RICHARD SANDBERG
US Air Force 1950-1974



JAMES R. SEELEY
1964 United States Naval Academy. Vietnam Navy Commendation Medal w/ Valor Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation & Navy Unit Commendation Medal.

CHARLIE SHARPS
US Army 1967-70, Infantry platoon sergeant/ acting platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne in Vietnam. April 1968-69

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MARVIN ROGERS, JR., US Army 1967 – 1972. One tour in Vietnam. Served in West Germany and Hawaii.

MERRITT SHAW
1950-1958
US Army
P.F.C. Quartermaster

JOYCE SHERWOOD
US Navy WAVES US Navy Reserves (W)
Chief Storekeeper 1942-1946

GEORGE W. SNODGRASS JR.
Born in Philippines, moved to Coos Bay, 1945
U.S. Army 1953-1955
7th Infantry Div. Korea

GEORGE W. SNODGRASS SR.
U.S. Army 1903-1933, WW I, France
WW II, Captured by Japanese
Retired to the Philippines

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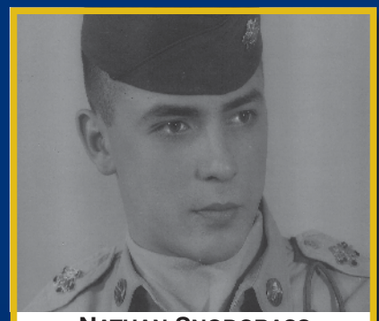
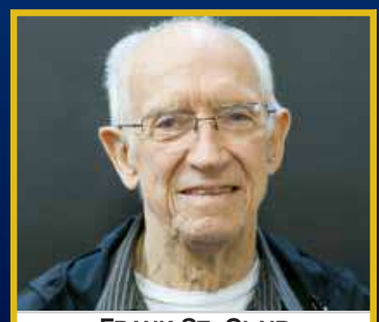


NATHAN SNODGRASS
Born in Philippines, moved to Coos Bay
1945, U.S. Army 1959-1961, 9th Cavalry,
24th Infantry Div. Augsburg, Germany

SIDNEY SPARKS
US Navy – WWII South Pacific



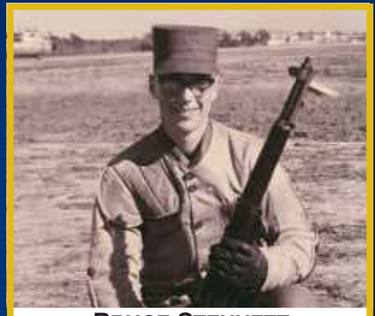
FRANK ST. CLAIR
1946-1951
US Navy
3rd Class Petty Officer

JOSHUA ST. IVES
US Marine Corps
1973 to 1974

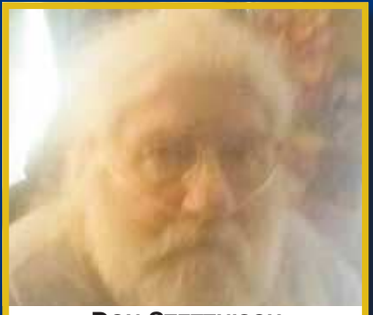
DR. PAUL STARKEY
1942-1946
U.S. Navy Dentist
4th & 5th Divisions

RON STATEN
US Marine Corps 1969 to 1972
Sergeant (E-5)

FRANK STELMACHER
US Army – soldier-for-hire. Fought in 5 wars including WWI. Served later as Assistant Fire Marshall for State of Oregon



BRUCE STENNETT
US Army 1960-1963 – Army Security Agency, Electronic Warfare Specialist(E4) Jammed enemy radars. 7th Army HQ in Frankfurt, Germany



DON STETTNISCH
US Army – 1966-1969
Served in Germany - 2 tours in Vietnam
Last stationed at Ft. Ord, California

EVERT S. STEVER
1944-1945
Sgt. Co. H 179 Infantry
WW II, Thunderbird Division, US Army

LAVERE "RUSS" STEWART
Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron 1960-1964, Vietnam. A proud Marine.

BILLY D. STOCKMAN
SM1 - retired, US Navy 1953-1956, US Navy Reserves 1956-1991, "To be a reservist is to be twice a citizen" Winston Churchill

DANA SWEATT, U.S. Army 1969-1972, 131st AVN Co. (SA) image interpreter, Phi Bai Vietnam 1970-1971

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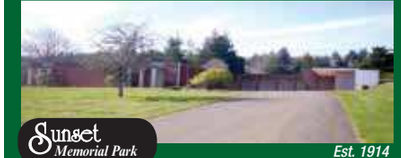

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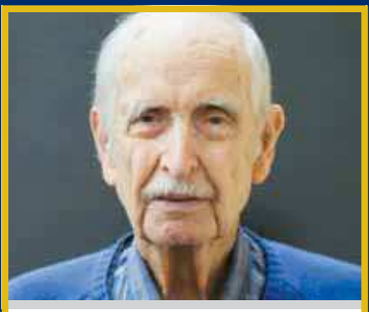
BOB STREHL
USCG (RET K9)
Oct. 22, 1962-Sept. 1, 1990
Semper Paratus

DAVID STROPE
US Army 1973-1976
Korea/Vietnam

BOB STURTEVANT
1963-1967
U.S.A.F. Dental Technician

DANA SWEATT
U.S. Army 1969-1972
131st AVN Co. (SA) image interpreter
Phi Bai Vietnam 1970-1971

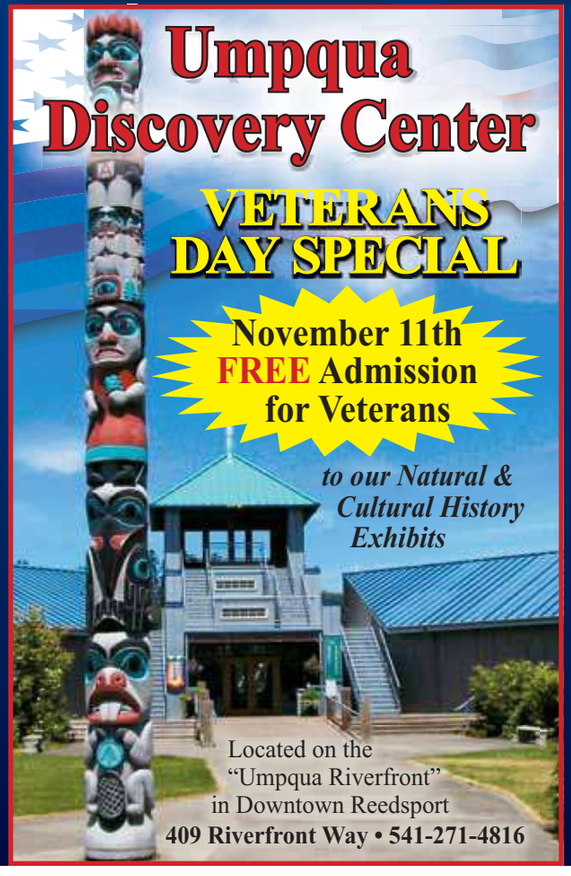
FRANK TAYLOR
US Army 1941-1945
US Air Force 1945-1960



JACK THOMAS
1942-1946
T-4 Sergeant U.S. Navy

DAVID TILTON
US Coast Guard 1971-1975 Electronics Technician, Wind-class icebreakers: USCGC Southwind & USCGC Edisto, Lewis and Clark Law School 1984

SHANE TRUMAN
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant K9 handler
Now at Cannon Air Force base, NM

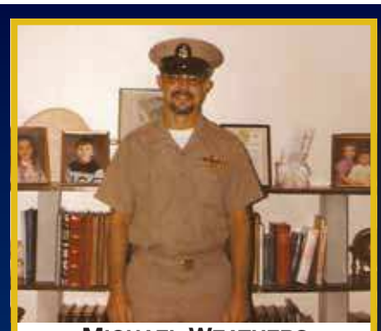


ROSS TURKLE
US Army 1943-1945 PFC,
104th Timber Wolf Division –only division formed in Oregon in WWII at Camp Adair

JENNA TURNIPSEED
US Army 2001-present-Captain, Air Assault School and Airborne School, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom

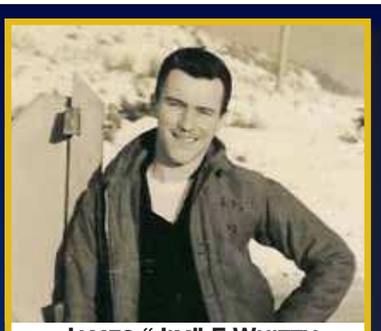
SUSAN UEHARA
US Navy Radiomen 1st Class Petty Officer, 17.5 years serving our country

JACK WARD (1920-2008)
US Navy: WW II, Pt. Barrow, where he was the voice of "Top of the World," Naval radio station. Korean Conflict: USS Brannon, Pacific Fleet.



MICHAEL WEATHERS
US Navy 1961-1988 Marshfield alumni 1960, Chief Petty Officer - USS Davidson FF-1045

SHILO MICHAEL WHITSELL
US Army – just completed Advanced Individual Training. MOS – 91D – preparing to ship to Germany for active duty.



JAMES "JIM" F WHITTY
US Navy 1949-1954 Petty Officer - Yeoman, Korean War Veteran, USS Breckinridge - invasion of Inchon Harbor

JAMES LEON WILEY JR.
U.S. Army
JAG 4th Infantry Division

DAVID L. WOOD
US Marine Corps 1966-1970, Vietnam 1967-1968, Staff Sergeant E-6

DARYL LYNN YOST
U. S. Army
1976-1979

RUSSEL LEE YOST
US Army
Aug. 1946-Aug.1949

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IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

SERVING AS A DOCTOR AND SAILOR

Dr. Kimberly James, now an NBMC doctor, reflects on military service

North Bend Medical Center Dr. Kimberly James served in the U.S. Navy where she received her training while serving her country.

By TIM EPPERSON
The World

Dr. Kimberly L. James' service in the U.S. Navy did not involve direct combat, but her service as a medical professional was just as honorable.

James, a 1984 Marshfield High School graduate, is currently working as an OB-GYN at North Bend Medical Center. During her military service, she provided medical care to soldiers and sailors who either served in combat or performed other vital functions for the military.

"I'm proud of my service, said James. "That'll never change."

She joined the Navy in 1990, but still attended school where she would serve upon graduating from college. James decided she would apply to medical school. where she was accepted into medical school at University of the Health Sciences F. Herbert School of Medicine in Bethesda, Md.

"The navy paid for medical school and I gave them 16 years of service in my education, residency and service."

She attended medical school from 1991-95 after which she completed her residency. Her first duty for the Navy was at the naval hospital in Guam where she worked from 1999-2001.

James was then transferred to the naval station in Rota, Spain, where she served as an OB-GYN at the base hospital. She treated active military personel and their families. She was just getting settled until that fateful day on Sept. 11, 2001.

Soon after, the United States invaded Afghanistan in the campaign Operation Enduring Freedom. During that campaign, James was forward deployed and became a part of the support team serving active duty members, some of whom were airlifted to Spain from Afghanistan to receive medical care.

In 2003, James was transferred to the naval hospital in Bremerton, Wash. where she continued her medical duties until 2006. Her next assignment was to provide medical services support for the hospital ship the USNS Mercy which treated victims of the giant tsunami that struck in Southeast Asia.

"Instead of deployment, I served in support at the fleet hospital," James said.

James returned to Oregon after receiving an honorable discharge and worked at a hospital in Bend for a few years. James then worked at Samaritan Hospital in Lebanon for nine years, before returning home to the Bay Area in July 2017 where she accepted a position at NBMC as an OB-GYN.

James said speaks highly of service to this country.

"I saw and experienced the sacrifices of military service," she said. "This (civilian life) is a whole different world than being in the military. I grew as a person through my service."

James married and raised a family of three while serving and working following her service. Regarding her time in the military, James said, "you develop a bond with the men and women you serve with."

"I have to give my husband a lot of credit," she said. "I worked a lot."

She said she has encountered a lot of people since serving who have served in the past.

"Until you ask or see, you'd be surprised at how many people have served," James said.

THANK YOU

To every woman and man who has ever served America:
WE SALUTE YOU

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HOME SAFE

There are precious few veterans of the two World Wars around these days, and with the passage of time and the precedence of the last decade's conflicts in the Middle East, we now hear less from or about our Vietnam vets. But you likely know someone, in your family or through friends, who has done a tour of duty in the war on terror.

No matter the setting for their service, retiring or returning members of the military must eventually face the challenge of redefining themselves as civilians — especially those who have been in high-risk combat situations. Whether career soldiers or whether they simply answered a call of conscience to serve our country for a few years, veterans need to know that the community appreciates their personal contributions.

Let's make sure we do what we can to help veterans reintegrate into our town, first of all, by understanding that it might be hard for them to see themselves as anything but soldiers. Basic training, esprit-de-corps, and especially war will do that to a person. Don't be shy about greeting retirees or returning soldiers with a word of thanks for their service. If your personal and political convictions won't allow for that, nothing is stopping you from a simple, "I'm glad you're home safe."

Issues such as boredom, post-traumatic stress, physical injury, and even just feeling out of sync with age-group peers might complicate an individual veteran's ability to reintegrate. Keep that in mind, and at work, at college, and at home, step up to an opportunity to offer support, understanding, and encouragement to a veteran.

The World

Honoring Our Nation's Heroes

Guy A. Hawthorne

10 years, US Army Military Police
Germany, South Korea

Bill Albin

4 years, US Army
NSA Germany

Alan J Sutherland

MOS 2A651B C-130 Aircraft Mech
U.S. Air Force 2007 - 11
MOS F-15 Aircraft Mech
USAF Oregon Guard 2011 - 13
Served in Afghanistan 2009 as C-130 Mech

Fawn Mathis

MOS 11B Infantry
U.S. Army 7 yrs 6 mos
Served in Iraq and Afghanistan multiple tours

Steven Schofield

MOS Communications
U.S. Coast Guard 25 yrs, 14 yrs Afloat
Served in the Persian Gulf Combat Zone

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