

A decorative border surrounds the text, consisting of a blue outer line, a red inner line, and white stars at the corners and midpoints.

Veterans Gateway Park Dedication



November 11, 2005



George M. Adams – U.S. Army

George was one of five brothers – all who served in the military. He was stationed in California when a surgery prevented him from going overseas. His long-time girlfriend, Mary, traveled from Chicago to the California base – where they were married on February 13, 1942. They joked that all the “bridesmaids” were servicemen! George was later stationed at Camp Gordon in Augusta, Georgia before he returned home.

He lived from 1914-1974.



Wayne R. Alm

Wayne R. Alm joined the Marine Corps in March 1953 at nineteen years of age. He served in the 3rd Motor Transport Battalion, 3rd Marine Division during the Korean War. When he returned from his tour of duty overseas, Wayne was stationed in Quantico, Virginia. He received an honorable discharge in June 1960 at the rank of Sergeant. For his service in the Korean War, Wayne was acknowledged with the Korean Service Medal, UN Service Medal, National Defense Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

Wayne moved to Schaumburg, Illinois, in 1963 where he and his wife, Dorris, raised their three children. He remained a resident in Schaumburg until his passing October 22, 2003.

In loving memory of our Dad...

Duane, Tina and Merle

Hal M. Bascomb

Like so many of his contemporaries during World War II, my Dad eagerly enlisted in the U.S. Navy immediately upon his graduation from high school at age 17. Dad served his country in the Atlantic theater through the War's end, then as a part of the Naval Reserve for four additional years.

Members of my dad's generation are often referred to as the "Greatest Generation". My Dad, proud and honorable Veteran, loving husband and father, hard-working businessman and volunteer, exemplary United States citizen, is a part of this group so aptly named and revered!





Staff Sergeant George Zbygniew Basinski

U.S. Air Force - November 1950 to November 1954

Born in Lublin, Poland in 1927, George Basinski grew up during WWII and experienced all the horror of war. After the war and finishing college, he chose to immigrate to the United States for a better life. He immediately joined the U.S. Air Force in Nov. 1950. He was stationed at Nellis A.F.B., Nevada, then spent most of his time in Sonderstrom A.F.B., in Greenland (North Pole) as a radio operator. He finished his tour at Bryant A.F.B., Texas and then SAC Travis A.F.B., San Francisco, California. After serving his newly adopted country, he settled in the Chicago area to raise his family with Barbara. He continued to serve 6 more years in the active reserves at O'Hare Air Force Base. He has been a resident of Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates since 1972. He has fond memories of his time in the U.S. Air Force.

WAR STORIES 'The Chicago Kid'

by Linda Grisolia

Anthony Belli was born in a taxicab in Chicago. While a senior at Lane Tech High School, he enlisted in the Air Force. The recruiter said he would not be called for at least six months and stated "quite possibly the war would be over by then."

Two months later, Belli received a telegram to report for duty. He completed basic training and went on to flight school. Two years after boot camp, Belli, a second lieutenant, flew his new B-17 to Newfoundland on submarine patrol, searching the freezing Atlantic for U-boats.

Then, Belli received orders to report to Italy and arrived in Amendola in March 1945, assigned to the 97th Bomb Group, 340th Squadron.

Belli's first two missions were as co-pilot. He said the commanding officer wanted to "check your mettle when you could do the least harm to your crew." The first mission was an oil refinery in Vienna, Austria.

Belli went on to pilot 12 successful missions over Germany, Italy and Austria from March 24, 1945, until April 25, 1945. He flew in a squadron of seven, four squadrons flying together in tight formation as a group of 28 airplanes. He said, "Bombing missions were an exercise in complexity and efficiency."

Once in the air, Belli concentrated on maintaining his position in the formation. He remembered, "I could clearly see the eyeballs of the ball turret gunner in the lead ship and the bombs leaving the lead ship were just clear of the nose of my plane." Flak was a big concern, coming from nowhere. Each little shard of metal could pierce flesh, fuel tanks, oxygen tanks and bombs

on board the plane.

Belli said, "Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death." As a 20-year-old pilot, he lived by this creed for the safety of his crew. For Belli, a mission started the evening before, when the pilots' names were posted. Then, he wrote a final letter to his mother and family and left personal documents on his desk in case he did not return. A million scenarios filled his brain as he tried to sleep.

A typical mission would find Belli waking at



"Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death." As a 20-year-old pilot, Anthony Belli lived by this creed for the safety of his crew.

3:30 a.m., eating breakfast and learning of his target assignment and formation position. After confirming the flying condition of his aircraft with the ground and flight crews and a final briefing, Belli awaited his turn to takeoff in the "Chicago Kid." His group then met other groups and headed to the target.

Belli recalled his first mission as a pilot. Flak rocked his plane as he flew in formation to the target in Berlin. As bombs were released, the B-17 jumped 20 feet vertically. Belli rolled to the right, almost on his back for a quick exit from the area and as he left the heavy flak, ME-262 jet fighters waited for a chance to down some of the crippled B-17s. Nine planes did not return. The successful mission destroyed the Daimler-Benz tank works and the Berlin rail complex. Belli's plane received minor holes and he returned to base thinking of home, family and his loved ones.

A highlight of his time in Italy was in June 1945. Belli traveled for four days before locating relatives in the town of Selci.

Another highlight was a private visit with Padre Pio, a Capuchin priest who suffered the five wounds of the crucifixion. Belli interpreted the interview for the "Stars and Stripes," a G.I. newspaper. Belli said the meeting was "an unforgettable experience."

Belli returned to Chicago in October 1945 as first lieutenant. He received an Air Medal, two Oak Leaf Clusters and four Bronze Stars.

As a young pilot, Belli recited the Lord's Prayer into the intercom while flying through flak and dropping bombs. Afterwards, he thought of his family. His thoughts are still on his family as he and his wife eagerly await the birth of their fifth great-grandchild.

Raymond V. Biliskov

HONOR BEFORE DISHONOR
KOREA 1953

The Veteran we are honoring at Veterans Gateway Park is my husband Sgt. Raymond V. Biliskov, US55264813.

Raymond was drafted into the United States Army in August, 1952 and was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas for Basic Training. After Basic Training he attended Field Wire School.

Ray was shipped to Korea in December of 1952. Upon his arriving in Korea he was assigned to Headquarters Co. of the 31st Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division. His final assignment was to run phone lines with rifle companies on night patrols. When not running patrols, Ray and his Squad would run phone lines from Headquarters Co. to the rifle companies. On April 16th 1953 there was a strong assault from the North Koreans and Chinese on Pork Chop Hill. It was one of Ray's teams responsibilities to maintain the phone lines. During the attack all communications were out. Ray and his crew were sent out to find and repair the communication lines. When they arrived at a test terminal at the base of Pork Chop Hill, all wires, trees, and brush were on fire.

Mortar rounds were coming in on them and the Infantry troops around them so they dove into a culvert for protection. Some time had passed and all was quiet he crawled out to the terminal nearby to try any good lines to Pork Chop Hill. Suddenly all hell broke loose and the rounds started coming in again.

Ray was blown off his feet and suffered wounds to the back of his neck, serious enough to send him to a hospital in Pusan for 4 weeks. After two surgeries he returned to his outfit where he received the Purple Heart.



Earl W. Bless

A/1C Earl W. Bless enlisted in the U.S. Air Force January 28, 1952. After basic training he went to air craft maintenance school where he specialized in air craft propeller repair. After finishing this course at Chanute Field, IL, he was assigned to the 43rd Air Sea Rescue squadron located at McChord Air Force base, Tacoma, Washington, where he stayed till discharged in January 1956.



James W. Blum

James W. Blum enlisted in the Army October 14, 1942. He trained at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO at Signal Corps School. He served with a signal unit under General Douglas MacArthur in the Pacific Theatre of Operation. He was in New Hebrides and then went to New Caledonia where he ran into his brother who was in the Marines. He was in a combat area in the Philippines where he received a Bronze Star in August 1945. He was sent to Occupational Japan when the 1st atomic bombs were dropped in Tokyo. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945 and the armistice was signed on September 2, 1945, which is his VJ Day.



SGT. Christopher J. Bonar

Born September 11, 1981. Grew up in Schaumburg, IL. He always wanted to be a soldier. The terrorists' attacks of September 11, 2001 awakened his deep sense of patriotism. Christopher left for boot camp at Fort Benning, GA on January 7, 2002. He went to AIT at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama and became an electronics technician. Christopher, then went to jump school at Fort Benning, GA and became a paratrooper.

He is currently stationed at Fort Bragg, home of the 82nd Airborne Division, NC where he earned his Sergeant stripes. He served in Iraq during the war. He recently reenlisted and will be stationed at Scofield Barracks in HI. He states "As long as I am alive I will stop anyone who wants to harm my family, my town, my state, or my country."



Richard J. Bonitzer

Richard J. Bonitzer served in the Navy during Viet Nam. He was the ships Barber to his crewmates. After the War Rich opened a Barber Shop in the original Town Square Shopping center. For thirty plus years He owned and operated his Business in Schaumburg until He succumbed to cancer in 2004. He is a dear friend missed.

Walter J. Borla

Prior to enlisting in the Army Air Corps on September 27, 1942, Wally attended Lindbloom High School. His first military assignment was Aircraft Maintenance at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas where his interest in aviation began. He successfully passed the required exams and physical and was assigned to the West Coast Training Command, graduating in the Class 44F.



After receiving his wings, Wally was assigned to the Troop Carrier Command, beginning his C-47 Aircraft Flight training at Lawrence Field, Illinois. After completing his transition training, he was ordered to Bear Field, Indiana, where a C-47 was waiting for him to be flown overseas to Karachi, India by way of the British West Indies, South America, the Ascension Islands, the Gold Coast of Africa, and arriving in Karachi. He was then sent to Tulihal, India and was assigned to the 3rd Squadron 1st Combat Cargo Group. Wally's next major move was to Myitkyna, Burma, he then flew over the Himalayan Mountains (known as the HUMP) to Kunming, China transporting troops, equipment, and supplies to Kunming.

After the missions over the HUMP were completed, the Squadron was transferred to Kunming. IT was then that they flew to many airstrips in China transporting equipment and supplies, often picking up our troops for return to the U.S.A.

Wally flew one of the squadron's last five C-47's to Peking, China by way of Shanghai, turning them over to the Chinese Government on December 5, 1945, when his tour of duty was completed.

He returned to the U.S.A. on January 15, 1946, and was discharged on February 15, 1946. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster and an Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

Wally started employment with American Airlines on April 22, 1946 at Midway Airport. At the same time, he began taking evening classes at Illinois Institute of Technology until December of 1948. It was then that his Flight Engineer career began, and he retired in November of 1986 with 40 years plus of service with American Airlines.

Wally is proud and grateful for the privilege of sharing many memorable experiences with those who served in the CBI



Donald Boschan

MSgt. Donald Boschan, U.S.A.F., now retired after 27 years of service at the 928th Airlift Unit at O'Hare. Donald was a Crew Chief on the C-130 aircraft and served in the Gulf War in 1991.



Paul Boschan

SSgt. Paul Boschan, U.S.A.F., son of Donald & Judith Boschan of Schaumburg, a 1985 graduate of Schaumburg High School, is stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama and is currently serving his 2nd tour in Iraq at a forward base. Paul is a Crew Chief on the C-130 Assault Aircraft.



Lt. Colonel Charles Brownlee

I never met Charles, but I have had a special bond with him for the past 36 years. In 1969 I received his MIA/POW Bracelet; he is still missing in action. Richard was an Air Force pilot from Alamosa, Colorado. He was shot down over Laos on December 24, 1968. Last year I located a family member and was able to return the bracelet to his family.

I want to keep his memory alive for bravely serving our country.

Kathy Greenstein



Charles A. Bromund

Charles was drafted into the Army on April 7, 1944. He was sent to Camp Fanning, Texas, for basic training. He was then shipped overseas on October 1, 1944, and was assigned to the 109th Infantry as an army scout. He fought in France and Belgium and on December 23, 1944, he was reported as "missing in action" in Luxembourg, during the Battle of the Bulge. On December 31, 1944, he was able to find his way back to the American lines. On August 1, 1945, he returned to the United States Station Hospital, at Camp Kilmer, New Brunswick, New Jersey. He was honorably discharged on January 24, 1946.



Mickey W. Bromund

Mickey was drafted into the Army in 1963. His basic training was at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and was then sent to Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, for advanced infantry training. He was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, and was assigned to the 5th Infantry Mechanized Division. Mickey was honorably discharged in 1965.



Robin G. Bromund

Robin entered the Army in 1965. His basic training was at Fort Hood, Texas. He attained the rank of E-5 and his job was as an armored reconnaissance scout with the 1st Armored Division, 1st Cavalry, A-Troop. He landed in Viet Nam at Da-Nang and was then sent to Chu-Lai. Robin earned the Purple Heart in Chu-Lai when a vehicle he was in took a direct hit killing all others aboard and wounding him. Robin was honorably discharged in 1968.

Renzo Cascioni

The thing that sticks in my mind the most was the "Crossing of the Equator." The event and the show that was put on by "shell back." You're a "pollywade" before crossing and a "shell back" once you crossed.

Here's my summons:

The Royal High Court of the Raging Main will convene on board the good ship GAILLARD on the day of Jan. at Longitude Secret that we hereby summoned and command you Renzo J. Cascioni 52C USNR to appear before the Royal High Court.

Charge I & II for that you are guilty of aspiring to be a ships cook and heaving in the Coffee also of burning the water, and Impersonating a Sailor. The whole event was something I will never forget.

Richard E. Christy
US-55107614

Feb. 1951 – Basic Training (16 weeks)
Heavy Weapons Infantry at Camp
Breckinridge with the 101st Airborne
Training Unit.

Then going overseas on a troop ship (28
days) from San Francisco to Yokohama,
Japan.

Corporal Christy served 19 and a half
months overseas as an investigator in the
Central Identification Unit (C.I.U.) of the
American Graves Registration Service
Group (A.G.R.S.).

The Korean Service Medal and the United
Nation Service Medals were awarded.

After being discharged at Camp Carson, Colorado Service of 5 years in the
5 Army Area Reserves in the Chicago Area.





Deborah Joyce Cicerchia

Air Force Communication Center Specialist ending rank Sergeant. Served 1970-1974 during the Vietnam campaign. Stationed Lackland & Sheppard AFB TX, Clark Air Base Republic of the Philippines, Castle AFB Calif, and Sembach AB Germany. Awards: Airman of the Quarter and several Communicator of the Month Awards. Enjoyed military life and camaraderie living overseas.



George V. Cimbalo

My brick was purchased for my husband, George V. Cimbalo. Shortly after graduating from Northwestern University, George was drafted into the U.S. Army. George served honorably for 8 months in the United States, and 13 months in Vietnam.



John H. Cleaveland

USS Hornet CV 8

John H. Cleaveland proudly served on carriers in both the Atlantic and Pacific.

John was a survivor of the USS Hornet which was sunk in the Battle of Santa Cruz on October 26th, 1942.

The USS Hornet received a Presidential Unit Citation for its defense of Guadalcanal.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Paul Salvatore Colecchi

Born September 30, 1926
Scontron, Italy

4th Infantry Regiment

Army of the United States

Date entered: 02/03/1945

Date discharged: 11/30/1946 with an Honorable Discharge from Camp Beale, CA.

Class: Private First Class

Basic training: Macon, Georgia – Furlough – then onto California and shipped to the Philippine Islands

He was a Message Center Chief

He received an: Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, W.W.II Victory Medal

Our father married our mother, Lorraine in October, 1951. They had 6 children, five girls, one boy, and were loving grandparents of 6 grandchildren. He worked as a Mechanical Engineer and alter as a Product Manager for A.B.Dick/Video Jet. After he retired, he co-developed the EZ JET Nozzle as co-owner of Sphere Technologies LLC.

He died on April 25, 2003.

He had led a full, yet humble life and was always proud to be an AMERICAN.

Submitted by:

Lorraine Colecchi

Paula and Cyril Gaul

Teresa and Ronald Staup

Patricia and James Fenn

Jane Billings

Nancy and Art Lewis

Robert and Martha Colecchi

Edward Condon

Civilian Occupation: Retired Marketing Executive

Connection to Schaumburg High School:

Father of Teacher (Ms. Sack, Nancy)

Date of Service Entry/Discharge: 4-4-42/5-22-46 (US Naval Reserve until 10-1-56)

Home Town: Chicago, Illinois

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy
Units Served with: USS LCT (5) Flot 7
USS LCT (6) Flot 14
Vanadis Detail, Newport, R.I.
USS Vanadis (AKA-49)

Service Schools Completed: U.S. Midshipmen School (Columbia University, NY)
CIC Newport, Watch and Division,
Communications, Newport, RI.

Highest Rank Achieved: Lieutenant Senior Grade

Military Occupation Specialty (MOS): Officer-in-Charge LCT 87
Deck Officer, Communications
Officer, Senior Watch

Compaings/Operations: S.W. Pacific landings in New Guinea at Finchaven, Alexishaven, and Hollandia Islands. Service to the US fleet in Pelilau, and the Ulithi Atoll in the Central Pacific: Atlantic theater, East Coast sea duty on the US Vanadis AKA 49: training crew, commissioning ship, shakedown and outfitting ship for sea. Finally, decommissioning ship in Boston, MA.

Awards/Commendations: Victory Ribbon WWII, American Area Campaign Ribbon, and Asiatic-Pacific – 2 stars.

Anecdotes: A privilege to have served my country.

As you know, three of my brothers....Bill, Harvey, and Mel were also in the Navy, but only Harvey, then a Lieutenant Commander USN, was able to attend the ceremony in St. John the Devine Church in New York. Bill served as a Chief Petty Officer in the Seabees, and Mel as a Motor Mac in Okinawa. Harvey subsequently became Executive Officer on an LST and saw Pacific duty also, but the four of us never met overseas, and so only got together again when the war was over.

SSG Ray F. DeCola

Our dad, SSG Ray F. DeCola enlisted in the United States Army in 1944 during WWII. He served in the 905th Ordnance Heavy Auto Maintenance Company in Germany before being honorably discharged in 1946. Before his death in 1999, our parents had celebrated sixty-three years of marriage and were the proud parents of three children, thirteen grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.



SP5 Robert F. DeCola

Our brother, SP5 Robert F. DeCola was inducted into the United States Army in 1967. He served in Rach Kien, Vietnam in the 46th Combat Engineers as a member of Task Force Builder receiving the Army Medal of Commendation before being honorably discharged in 1969. He is happily married, living in Florida, is the proud father of five, and grandfather of thirteen.





Private First Class (SP4) Jerry Eugene East

U.S. Army - July 1957 to July 1959

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1934. Jerry East grew up in Wood River, IL. After graduating from Blackburn College and marrying Alice, he dutifully enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Eielson A.F.B., Alaska in the engineering company as a radio operator. While in the service, he missed the birth of his first son. After serving his country, he settled in the Chicago suburbs. He has been a resident of the Schaumburg/Hoffman Estates area since 1968.



Kenn Ellis

My husband, Kenn Ellis, served honorably as a jet aircraft mechanic in the U.S. Air Force, during the Vietnam War. He did not wait to be drafted but enlisted shortly after graduating from high school. Kenn was based in Thailand maintaining and repairing military aircraft. This brick recognizes and honors Kenn for his service and sacrifice. This G.I.'s of the Vietnam era did not get "welcome back" parades. I would honor each Vietnam Veteran with a brick if I could.

Thank you,
Mary Ellis

ROBERT ELLITHORPE

Robert Ellithorpe's parents gave him permission to join the United States Marine Corps in 1942 when he was seventeen years old. He went to "boot camp" at San Diego where his drill instructor was one PFC Krampe who later changed his name and became well-known television actor, Hugh O'Brien.

Bob received training in shoe and textile repair at Camp Elliott. On liberty one night in Los Angeles, he went to the Stage Door Canteen and met popular actress, Bette Davis, who was there passing out doughnuts to service men. On Christmas Day, 1943 he was promoted to the rank of corporal, and on New Year's Day, 1944 he traveled to Pearl Harbor on the aircraft carrier, Natoma Bay. He spent time on the big island of Hawaii at the Second Marine Division camp called Tarawa in Kamuela. There he encountered battle-hardened veterans who had returned from combat on Tarawa.

In July of 1944 he sailed to Eniwetok aboard a merchant marine vessel called the SS Sea Flyer. From there he left for Saipan aboard the Kenmore, a World War I "liberty" ship. On Saipan he lived and worked at "Camp Paradise" where he contracted dengue fever. In September of 1944 he volunteered to go to Tinian, the island already secured by American forces. That location was the "launching strip" for the B-29's bombing Japan. (The crew of the Enola Gay which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima took off from Tinian.) On this island Bob served as an equipment officer, salvaging and re-issuing equipment. On October 29 he returned to Saipan where he served as a canvas and tent repair man responsible for making jeep covers.

In April of 1945 he sailed to Okinawa on the USS Pickens as part of the Second Marine Division. His outfit witnessed the initial part of the invasion and some of the Japanese kamikaze activity. Soon thereafter he sailed through a serious storm in the China Sea back to Saipan. There he worked on large pyramid tents for another five months. He remembers visits from Betty Hutton and Joe E. Brown who came to entertain the troops.

On September 23, 1945 his outfit became the first occupation force on the Japanese home island of Kyushu. He was posted to Nagasaki for three months where he encountered injured and fearful Japanese citizens. There he also saw a former American prisoner of war camp where the inmates had been forced to labor in the Japanese coal mines. He was invited one night to the home of a Japanese jeweler where he purchased some cultured pearls he sent to his mother.

For a brief time Bob served as a "turn key" at the Second Marine Division Brig established at the Japanese Naval Training Camp Ainoura at Sasebo, Japan. Ultimately he returned to the United States on the USS Riverside. He arrived back on the west coast exactly two years after he'd departed—January 1, 1946.

Shortly after the war Bob married Shirley Brewer and was her devoted husband until she passed away in the fall of 2004. The Ellithorpes were blessed with five children—Jon, Clark, Virginia (Newberry), Chris, and Susan (Larson). Bob served as an industrial education teacher in Chicago suburban schools and as an accomplished carpenter. He also served as a very active layman in the Presbyterian Church. He has lived in Hoffman Estates since the inception of the village in the late 1950's.



Robert Ferris Everson

Robert Ferris Everson (born in Chicago,Il.) enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1972. He served in: San Antonio TX , Biloxi MS, Altus OK, Danang, VietNam , Osan, South Korea and Glasgow MT. He became a certified Air Traffic Controller in 1973 and was awarded "Airman of the Year" in 1974.While serving in Korea he obtained a Blackbelt in Tang So Do. Robert was Honorably Discharged in 1976.

Denise Everson

General Douglas J. Ewing

In 1979, Douglas J. Ewing, a 50 year-old successful businessman, trained with the Army's 101st Airborne Division, leaping from a helicopter into a net suspended in a treetop.

"That was one of his biggest accomplishments. He was the oldest soldier ever to complete that [training]," said his son David.

The accomplishment was indicative of Mr. Ewing, who made the military a lifelong passion and who insisted on succeeding at whatever he attempted, his son said.

Mr. Ewing, 75, formerly of Oak Brook, died Friday, October 22nd, in his Lake Geneva, Wisconsin home after a brief illness.

"He was a very strong person, and when he became determined to do something, he wouldn't let anything get in his way," his son said. That determination helped Mr. Ewing excel in business and the military.

Mr. Ewing was president of Ewing-Doherty Mechanical, Inc., a Bensenville based commercial and residential plumbing firm that won contracts for the United Center and the Sears complex in Hoffman Estates.

Mr. Ewing ascended the ranks of the Army Reserve, becoming a brigadier general before retiring in 1989.

"He was quite a humble guy," said Rev. David Gagnon of Grace Church in Walworth, WI where Mr. Ewing was a member for 18 years.

Mr. Ewing was introduced to the military as a student at the Northwestern Military and Naval Academy in Lake Geneva, where he graduated in 1947. He attended the Virginia Military Institute and served a short stint in the active military before joining the Army Reserve, his family said.

David Ewing said he and his father used to exchange "little half-salutes when we came and went. He was very military-oriented," he said.

At the same time Mr. Ewing was building his military career, he also was building the plumbing business his father had started on Chicago's West Side.

Mr. Ewing also supported plumbers unions and some of their charities. "He cared about the basic bread-and-potatoes plumbers," Gagnon said.

Mr. Ewing also served on the board of the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago.

Mr. Ewing also is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Janet, Laurie Finn and Bonnie Bulger; 10 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



James T. Falat

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Rank: SP4

Service Dates: 1962 – 1966

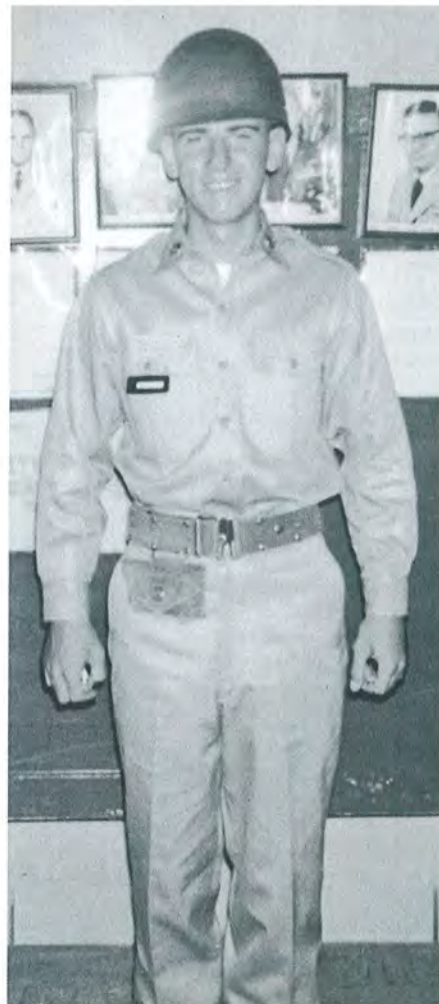
Conflict: Vietnam

Service Details:

James spent his first year of service stationed in Homewood, Illinois. During this time, he made many trips to the Brigade Headquarters of Missile Master for the Midwest, which was located in Arlington Heights, Illinois. James also attended training in Fort Bliss, Texas where he mastered the skill of launching high-explosive warheads.

During Vietnam, James was stationed in Wackernheim, Germany to serve as a specialist crewman in the Nike Hercules Missile Battalion. This battalion was prepared to launch missiles with a nuclear or high-explosive warhead at a moments notice.

James separated from the U.S. Army in 1965 and enlisted with the Illinois Army National Guard for an additional year of active duty. During his final year of service, James was assigned to the same base and company where he began his military career in Homewood, Illinois.





Ronald E. Filak

Ronald E. Filak (1945 -) He and his wife Gloria have been residents of Schaumburg since 1976. Ron is a veteran of the Vietnam War, serving 3½ years on the destroyer USS George K. Mac Kenzie DD-836 and attaining the rank of EM2 (electricians mate). The Mac Kenzie acted as escort for many of the aircraft carriers operating off Vietnam and carried out shore bombardment on targets in north and south Vietnam. While on escort duty off Vietnam the USS Mac Kenzie and her sister ship USS Reputis DD-851 played a major role in fighting fires and explosions that broke out on the USS Forrestal CVA 59 on July 29, 1967 killing 129 crew members.

In the 1980's USS Mac Kenzie was stripped down, cleaned up and sunk off the coast of Australia to become an artificial reef for the marine life.

Daniel J. Flynn

On 21 January 1989, at the 2D Marine Expeditionary Brigade Command Post at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Sergeant Major Daniel J. Flynn ended a career which spanned more than 32 years of service in the active and reserve components of the United States Marine Corps.

In the years between his first enlistment in 1956, and his retirement in 1989, the Sergeant Major has served in many capacities in both the ground and aviation forces, including service as a rifleman, machine gunner, squad leader, platoon sergeant, communicator, technician, training NCO, recruiter, career planner, avionics chief, maintenance chief, administration chief and the senior enlisted billets of 1stSgt and SgtMaj. As a Marine, he has had the opportunity to serve Corps and Country in many "climes and places", which include most of the 50 States, Europe and the Mid-East, the Caribbean, Japan, Okinawa, and Vietnam.

At the time of his retirement, (which became effective 1 February 1989), he was serving as the Brigade Sergeant Major of the 2D Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic.

Sgt Maj. and Mrs. Flynn, the former LilyMarlene Fisher, of Opelika, Alabama (a Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy), have four daughters; Jeanette, Suzanne, Rhia, and Erin, and one son; Steven. The Flynns reside in Des Plains.

Among the Sergeant Major's awards and decorations are:
The Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation (2), Meritorious Unit Commendation (3), Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, and various campaign service awards.

Joseph P. Flavin

Joseph P. Flavin entered the Air Force on January 5, 1954. He graduated basic training from Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois as an Aircraft Reciprocating Engine Mechanic. Then in September he was sent to Ashiya Air Force Base in Japan until August of 1956. While in Japan the Korean War ended. So, besides working on the aircraft he played all the sports he could, including baseball, football and basketball. He also was able to enjoy visiting many of the surrounding Islands. When he returned to the States he was stationed at George Air Force Base in Victorville, California where he had the spectacular job of being the Lifeguard at the Officers Pool. Needless to say Joe truly enjoyed his tour of duty in the Air Force. He was Honorably Discharged in January 4, 1958.

In June of 1960 he married Mary Joan Kenney and went on to have four children, Maripat, Colleen, Timothy and Michael. In October of 1968 the family moved to Schaumburg or what was then known as "THE BOONIES"!!! He was active in the community as one of the early coaches of the Schaumburg Kings Hockey Team and SAA Girls Baseball. Also he was a member and past president of the Holy Name Club at St. Marcelline Catholic Church, as well as, a member of the VFW and the Elks Club. Joe loved the community and the many friends he met throughout his life and died prematurely on August 19, 1994 of a massive heart attack.

He will always be remembered by friends and family, for his love of life, spontaneous humor and great jokes.

TSgt Alex P. Fontecchio

Alex P. Fontecchio was as a radio operator on B-17s of the 91st Bombardment Group based at Basingbourn, England. On December 31, 1943 he agreed to fill in for another airman on a daylight mission to the sub pens at Bordeaux. Since Bordeaux was obscured by clouds and smoke, the formation headed for the airfield at Cognac/Chateaubernard. Before they could get over the new target, German fighters attacked. The Oklahoma Okie (DF-Z) was hit from nose to tail. Flames soon engulfed one engine, and a fire broke out in the bomb bay, forcing Alex from the radio room. With both pilots dead, the plane made two 360-degree turns while Alex and one of the waist gunners struggled to open the crew door. Just as the gunner got his shoulders out past the door, the plane exploded at about 8,000 feet. Alex managed to parachute to safety but his leg was severely injured. Captured by the Germans, he was taken to a hospital in Paris where doctors operated on the leg. He was then taken to a POW camp where he remained until the end of the war.

Friendship Village of Schaumburg

Senior Veterans Post No 1 Friendship Village was established by Edward Witz, a Veteran and current resident of Friendship Village for over 9 years in conjunction with other Veterans residing here as follows on March 2004:

Waldon Swenson	Vice Commander and Secretary
Dean Eklund	Finance Officer
Robert Kucera	Chaplain
Wells Farnsworth	Adjutant
Kenneth Poole	Quartermaster

Currently there are about 70 WWII Veterans in residence here.

We are not able to conduct Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances as well as other patriotic events such as posting our new America flag on our Friendship Village campus in 2004.

The purpose of the post is to:

- Provide a forum for Veterans to share their traumatic experiences.
- Make new friends and enhance old friendships within the community.
- Serve and participate wherever possible in the general community of Schaumburg.
- Serve our country whenever and however needed.

Blaine A Fuhrmann, ADRC (Ret)

Blaine joined the United States Navy In August 13, 1952 and attended Boot Camp in San Diego, CA. After Boot Camp he attended Airmen Preparatory School and Aviation Machinist Mate Class "A" School in Norman, Oklahoma where he graduated 2nd in a class of 209. He then was transferred to the Naval Air Station in Agana, Guam in the Marianas Islands where he was a crew member on a Transport Aircraft. He was stationed there for 2 years.

Upon returning to the United States He served at the Naval Air Station in San Diego in FASRON 4, a Fleet Service Squadron that provided support to the Pacific Fleet. He was discharged from active service in the fall of 1956 and joined the Naval Air Reserves at the United States Naval Air Station in Glenview, Illinois. There he served in several Air Units, VR-723 & VR-724, as a Flight Engineer on C-54 Transport Aircraft. In November, 1970 he was transferred to VR-51 where he was a Plank Owner, one who joins a Unit when it is commissioned. There he served as a Flight Engineer on the C-118 Aircraft. Later he served as a Natops Instructor in the C-118 and was given a Letter of Commendation for developing a Training Guide for C-118 Flight Engineers. His efforts in this field helped the Squadron earn the Navy "E" Award of Safety.

While serving in VR-51 he served in Vietnam flying troops and supplies around. Blaine retired from the Naval Air Reserves on 30 June 1983 after some 32 years of service as a Chief Petty Officer and allowed to wear Gold Insignia on his uniform for his service in the Navy. On 4 October 1994 he was fully retired from the Navy and placed on the retired pay list.

(ADRC, Aviation Machinist Mate
Reciprocating Engines, Chief Petty Officer)



Lambro G. Galanes

My name is Lambro G. Galanes and I am a resident of Schaumburg.

I am a Korean War Veteran and I arrived in Korea in early May 1953 and was stationed at Wonju, Korea with the 11th Evac-Hospital almost as similar to Mash Hospital on T.V.

I was a Medical Laboratory Technician and a Greek interpreter for the 8th Army. We had quite a few UN Forces helping us flight the North Koreans and the Chinese.



One day during the war twelve Greek soldiers came to our Hospital for medical help so I was able to interpret from Greek to English to the Medical Officer about their ailment and from then on we became friends, especially when they found out I could speak Greek.

When the war was over in July 1953 we were notified by the War Department in Washington to process every American prisoner whom the North Korean and Chinese released to us in exchanged we released North Koreans and Chinese prisoners to them. We also received the Presidential Unit Citation.

So we set up large tents near the 38th parallel and the village where this took place was called Freedom Village and my job was to process every American prisoner by taking a drop of blood on a glass slide for checking their blood.

We met dignitaries from Washington VIP and I met the highest captured officer Major General Dean who was captured. What an experience I will never forget and I am proud as my other buddies are that we served our country with honor.



John Garbacz

John's mother wasn't thrilled when his father helped their 16 year old enlist in the Coast Guard in July 1945, but it was a patriotic time, and it was what he wanted to do. After nine months duty on the great lakes, John enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving on four vessels including the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Philippine Sea. Somehow this guy who had been known to get seasick on Lake Michigan as a kid managed 32 months at sea from off the Florida coast to the Mediterranean Sea within the next three years. But that wasn't the end of his military career – his next hitch was in the Air Force, where his duties took him from New Mexico to Japan with the post-war occupation forces. John left service in 1954 with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

In civilian life he worked as a draftsman for Western Electric, and after moving to Schaumburg, as a letter carrier in Hoffman Estates. To his family he was a beloved son, brother and uncle – a guy who joined the Navy and saw the world, and always said his years in the service were among the best in his life.



Mario Gioiosa

U.S. Army

Induction: August 4, 1942

Discharged: January 14, 1946

Served his country proudly in U.S. and Philippines.

Received the following awards:

- Overseas Service Bar
- Service Stripe
- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon
- Bronze Battle Star
- Philippine Liberation Ribbon
- Good Conduct Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Instructor 970 Medal
- Lapel Button Issued
- ASR Score

Robert Charles Gregorio

United States Navy 1951-1955

Robert Charles Gregorio, formerly of Elmwood Park and now residing in Barrington, Illinois is married with three children, nine grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Military Experience:

In 1951, at the age of 20, he enlisted into the United States Navy and completed his training at the Great Lakes Naval Center. He was then assigned aboard a Destroyer, U.S.S. Bausell, DD-845 out of San Diego, California. When training was completed, he was sent to Korea for a tour of duty as part of the 7th Fleet operating in the Pacific. During his tour of duty, he visited many ports including Pearl Harbor, Japan, Midway, Guam, Formosa, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.

In 1953, his ship returned to San Francisco for repairs. At that time he was transferred into the Seabees and was assigned to MB5 (Mobil Construction Battalion #5) and sent to the Philippines to a place called Cubi Point, which was near the Subic Bay Naval Station. This was where he finished his tour of duty. He returned Stateside in 1955, where he was discharged from Treasure Island, in California.



Todd M Grischow

Todd M Grischow was born in Arlington Heights in 1980, the youngest of three sons. Todd graduated from Schaumburg High School in 1998, a year early to enlist in the Marine Corps. Todd joined the Marines in September, 1998. After completing basic training in San Diego and avionics electronics training in Pensacola, FL, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton where he served as an Avionics Technician at MALS-39. During his five years in the Corps, he served in several locations repairing avionics equipment on Marine helicopters, including two tours in Okinawa, Japan.

During his second tour in Okinawa, Todd served aboard the USS Essex and visited Hong Kong, South Korea, and Saebøe, Japan. In January, 2003, Todd was deployed to Iraq where in support of the Marine Helicopter crews at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After serving five months in the Iraqi desert, Todd returned home to Camp Pendleton in June. In September, 2003 after achieving the rank of Corporal, Todd was honorably discharged from the Corps. The Veterans Gateway Park Commemorative Brick is placed in Todd's honor by his parents, James and Deborah.



Raymond Groell

Raymond Groell was drafted into the Army during the Korean War in May, 1951. He went to Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland where he went to several fire control schools. After finishing school he was assigned to a small detachment that studied ballistics on the new atomic cannons. Then, off to Pittsburgh to repair a 90mm anti-aircraft gun which was damaged in a road accident. After that, he stayed in Pittsburgh and repaired 90 mm and 120 mm cannons until he was discharged in 1953.

Eugene Frank Haefner

Eugene Frank Haefner was born on January 28, 1918 in the quaint town of Esslingen, Germany. His father, Franz, came to America in 1929 to make a better life for his family. Once established in Elmhurst, his mother Anna brought her children Eugene, Paul and Elizabeth to join her husband.

Embracing their new heritage, both Eugene and his brother Paul served in World War II. His commitment to the Army spanned from 1941-1945, primarily serving in the Asiatic Pacific.

After his return from service, he met his devoted wife of 54 years, Mildred. Eugene is now widowed and resides in Lombard, his town of residence for the past 53 years.

His loving daughters Kathy and Carol, and his sister Fran have dedicated the memorial in honor of the years he so humbly and proudly served his country, the United States of America.



Larry Heckelsmiller

Larry Heckelsmiller MM1 (ss) joined the U.S. Navy on November 2, 1960 in Framingham, Mass. He was sent to Great Lakes for Boot Camp. He graduated from Machinist Mate A School and was then sent to Groton Base Submarine School. Upon completing Submarine School he was attached to the USS Piper SS409 where he received his Dolphins. He also served on the USS Grouper AGSS214 and the U.S.S. BLENNY SS324. He then spent a tour on shore duty at Great Lakes Naval Station and was then attached to the 204th MP Company in Chicago. During this time he married Susan. Upon completion of shore duty he was assigned to the nuclear power submarine Henry L. Stimson SBN655 where he ended his 8 year tour of duty. Shortly after they moved to Schaumburg and raised their family and is where they still live today.

Sgt. Kenneth A. Heinrich

4/24/1919—10/26/1992

Kenneth was born in Chicago Il. He was drafted in 1941, studied radio and became a tank radio operator Company B 192nd tank battalion. After training the company was sent to the Philippine Islands at Manila.

On December 7, 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the Philippine Islands including destroying the Army Air Core at Clark Field.

Nearly 10,000 Americans plus the Filipino Army bravely fought the numerically superior Imperial Japanese Army from 12-7-1941. They fought without re-supply, fresh food or reinforcements. General King and Wainwright surrendered the forces in Bataan on 4-9-1942.

The Americans became known as the battling bastards of Bataan, no mother no father and no "Uncle Sam".

What followed was a sad chapter in American history known as the Bataan death march. A march of some 80 miles in steamy jungle heat with virtually little food or water. For a portion of the march the prisoners were crammed into hot metal boxcars where many men died on their feet. At the discretion of the Jap guards many men were shot along the way or bayoneted and some were beheaded.

In the first Japanese prison "Camp O'Donnell 50 plus Americans died per day from the ravages of multiple jungle diseases and malnutrition. Of the 10,000 Americans taken prisoner at Bataan between 6,000 and 7,000 died in Japanese prison camps during almost 3 1/2 years of captivity.

Japan did not recognize the Geneva convention and informed the prisoners that under the Japanese system surrender was a dishonor. The Japanese Army would give death to the Americans as they saw fit. Kenneth A. Heinrich was a prisoner at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, and finally liberated from Bilibid prison in February 1945..

In 1965 a joint house resolution #165 authorized the President to declare the second Sunday of each September as Bataan day. I am blessed to have also known this American hero as my father.....Kenneth W. Heinrich

Ken Heinrich



Edward Held

In March 1993, our son, Edward Held, enlisted in the Navy. He went to submarine school in Groton Connecticut, training as a machinist mate. He received multiple certificates of achievement from all the schools he attended. Then, he was off to Pearl Harbor where he was stationed aboard the U.S.S. William H. Bates, a fast attack submarine. Edward remained in Hawaii until his discharge in 1997. Our son is a very proud American and was pleased to serve his country.

Louis S. Hirakawa

Louis S. Hirakawa was born October 21, 1921 in Gallup, New Mexico. He grew up in Gallup with his parents and four siblings. Louis attended college in San Francisco, California earning a degree in mechanical engineering. During World War II, he served in the United States Army as a Staff Sergeant stationed in the Aleutian Islands. After his service to his country was completed, he moved to Chicago, Illinois and began his engineering career.

In Chicago, he met the love of his life Ruby S. Uyemura. They were married March 8, 1953 and soon became the proud parents of four wonderful daughters. Ruby, Louis and the four girls resided in Morton Grove, Illinois for 25 years. During those years, Louis was totally dedicated to his adoring wife, beautiful daughters, the Chicago Cubs and Bears. He was the epitome of a "die-hard" Chicago sports fan.

After retiring in 1985, Louis and Ruby moved to Roselle, Illinois. Their leisurely retirement days were spent traveling, spending time with their eleven grandchildren, exercising at the CRC and golfing with the Schaumburg seniors. Together, they also enjoyed attending Our Saviour's United Methodist Church. Late in his life, Louis suffered many debilitating strokes. None the less, he tried to be optimistic and be grateful for the many blessings that he had.

Louis S. Hirakawa passed on January 28, 2000 though his loving memory lives on through his loving wife, appreciative daughters and cherished grandchildren.

Joseph F. Holakovsky

U.S. Naval Reserve, Seaman 2C V-6 Joseph F. Holakovsky will always be loved and remembered by his family. He enlisted at the age of 17 in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was transferred to the 60th Naval Construction Battalion for duty in Camp Rousseau in Port Hueneme, California. Later he was transferred to the S.S. President Monroe for destination of Acorn Five Base and the mission was a "Military Secret"/qualified as "Shellback". Seaman 2C V-6 Holakovsky was involved in the Pacific War Zone, Solomon Islands and the Guadalcanal where he and his fellow seamen were the first on the island to protect and serve. On November 01, 1943 he was blown out of a fox hole with serious injuries. He was taken to the Hawaiian Islands on the U.S. Naval Mobile Hospital Nine and then later transferred to USNH in Mare Island, California for further treatment. The treatment was then continued at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Great Lakes, Illinois. On February 18, 1944 Seaman 2C V-6 Holakovsky was given a medical discharge from the U.S. Naval Reserve.

We are all very happy to have had him come home.

Joanne P. Witczak

Kermit O. Hotvedt

In February of 1941, with the winds of war blowing across Europe and the Sea of Japan, the USNR received a new recruit. At the age of 19 he had served his country by gaining experience in the Citizens Military Training Camps at Camp Harry McHenry in Fort Des Moines, IA and later, in college, by participating in the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) where he learned to fly Taylorcraft airplanes.

Now at the age of 26 he wanted to become a pilot for the United States Navy and was accepted as a Cadet at Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL. Inspired by an instructor who admonished the class to "Learn this or you die!" he learned his lessons so well that he became #1 in his class. Time and again those lessons proved to be life saving.

His first assignment, received about two weeks before completing cadet training, was to become part of a Black Cat Squadron out of Cavite, Philippine Islands. But by the time of graduation, the U.S. was at war and Cavite was already in the hands of the Japanese, thus canceling those orders. Instead, he became a Flight Instructor at Pensacola NAS and spent many flight hours teaching future pilots to fly PBYS (a patrol bomber seaplane). He also instructed in "Yellow Perils" which, aptly named, was sometimes a perilous venture with new recruits but at least, he would say, the enemy wasn't shooting at him!

When the new squadron, VBP-16 was commissioned in December 1943, he was ordered to the position of Patrol Plane Commander of crew six. His experience with the PBY was a valuable asset in this group, as they received new equipment in the form of a more versatile aircraft, the PBM3D seaplane, known as Martin Mariners. They were headed to the Pacific and from their base in Hawaii, proceeded to the Mariana Islands where they began conducting anti-sub warfare, protecting the invading U.S. fleet at Saipan, Tinian and Guam. The USS Pocomoke was their seaplane tender, giving them shelter and assistance for all the repair work seaplanes needed due to the salt water and rough sea take-offs and landings. In November 1944, VPB-16 arrived in Kossol Passage, Palau and participated in that campaign. By late November of that year the squadron was ordered back to the mainland. The "Boomerang," as they had named their aircraft, and crew had flown 40+ missions, safely returning home.

For the duration of WWII, Lieutenant Commander Hotvedt was assigned to VPB Squadron 210, where he patrolled the Panama Canal area. He was officially released from active duty in December of 1945 and served in the Naval Reserves for 16 years thereafter.



Roger Innes – United States Navy

Roger was classified as MIA for 30 years. His plane was shot down early in the Viet Nam war. It was finally found with his remains in tact, by a fisherman in 30' of water. This was televised on National TV. He was buried with full honors in Arlington National cemetery. We are happy to finally have received him home. "Welcome home Roger".

Love Gordy



Joseph C. Jardine

1920 - 1998

U.S. Navy

Joe Jardine was born and raised in Chester, Pennsylvania. He dropped out of school to work in the family business. He was a U.S. Navy veteran having served in the Panama Canal in W.W.II. Joe was the father of Carl of Hagerstown, Maryland; Cynthia of Schaumburg, IL; Joseph of Bernville, PA and Nancy of Mohrsville, PA. In his later years Joe took pride in his self-appointed responsibility of raising and lowering the American flag in front of the senior citizens residence where he lived. He was a faithful member of American Legion Post 777 in Crum Lynn, PA.

Richard A. Johnson

Military Service, U.S. Army, 1 July 1943 -1 January 1967

Sworn into the service as Cadet U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY July 1, 1943. Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant. June 4, 1946.

Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA 1946.

Basic Officers Course, Fort Lee, VA 1946 -47.

European Command, Germany 1947-1950 with duty on the Berlin Airlift 1949. Advanced Officers' Course, Fort Lee, VA 1950 -1951.

Department of Army Staff, Washington, DC 1951- 1953 with duty in: Korea 1951-1952, Alaska 1952, and Germany 1953.

University of Pittsburg 1953 -1954 MS in Petroleum Engineering.

Army Language School, Monterey, CA 1954 -1955 (Farsi -Persian)

Strategic Intelligence School, Washington, DC 1955.

Assistant Army Attaché with US Embassy Tehran, Iran 1955 -1958.

Military Petroleum Supply Agency, Washington, DC 1958 -1960.

Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS 1960 -1961.

Headquarters 7th Logistical Command, Korea 1961 -1962.

Staff U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY 1962 -1965.

Chief Plans and Operations, G-4, Headquarters U.S. Army Vietnam 1965 -1966. Battalion Commander, Fort Lee, VA 1966.

Retired as Lieutenant Colonel January 1, 1967.

Peter J. Justen

Proudly Served
SFC U.S. Army Reserve
1957 to 1966

While attending the University of Iowa, Peter was in the basic Air Force R.O.T.C. program for two years. He participated in the Billy Mitchell Squadron Drill Team.

In January 1957 he transferred due to poor eyes to the Medical Company, 410th Infantry Regiment. Basic training was conducted at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. In 1959, he was transferred to the 328th Medical Battalion of the 103rd Infantry Regiment.

In October 1962 he was assigned to the XI USA Corps Con Group attached to the HQS and HQS Det. 345 Medical Battalion in Chicago. Soon after they returned for the Berlin Wall call up. Training was to Fort Lee, Virginia.

In 1963 he was promoted to Sgt. Major and participated in LOGEX 63 training. In 1964 training was at Fort Riley, Kansas.

In the fall of 1963 Pete was transferred to the 801 General Hospital in Chicago. In 1965, as part of the Fifth U.S. Army, he was assigned to the Ltr. Hq. 12th Special Forces Group (ABN) for Special Warfare training as the Medical Detachment – 801st General Hospital. They provided Dispensary and Nursing Services at Camp Guernsey, Wyoming. While on duty, he was authorized to Secret Security Information.

Returning to Chicago, training continued at Cook County Hospital until his discharge in 1966.

Ralph L. Karkow

Ralph enlisted in the Army Air Corps on the 28th of March 1942. He became a member of the 730th Bomb Squadron in the 452nd Bomb Group in October 1943. On March 4, 1944, while filling in for an ill officer, his plane was hit by enemy flak and the crew was forced to evacuate. Of the 10 men on board, 8 survived but were captured and made POWs. Ironically, the name of this plane was "Breaks of the Game". With the War ending in May 1945, a recovery mission was organized to return the POW's held in Barth, Germany and Ralph was among those rescued. While serving in the military he married his sweetheart, Jean, and they had one child, Karen. He returned to his family in Illinois and resided in Itasca for nearly 60 years in the home he built. During those years he enjoyed a life of both hard work and passionate hobbies, which included gardening, bowling, and golfing. Today, Ralph is enjoying retirement in Florida with his daughter and son-in-law. He also takes pleasure in visiting with his granddaughters, Lisa and Traci, and their families.

Ralph is a hero not only for serving his country in WWII, but on a more personal level, he is hero to his family for providing the guidelines to a fulfilling life. He always leads by his actions and his understated modesty, generosity and hard work are the cornerstones from which we built our own families on. We will always be grateful to him for that and we are proud to call him our father and grandfather.

Love— The Fandel,
Drawer, and Ryan
Families

Ralph also had a brother who served in WWII. Lt. Andrew C. Karkow was a member of the 342nd Bomb Squad. He was killed in action on April 02, 1944, and received an Air Medal and Purple Heart. Thanks to these men and all who have served before and after.



Ralph (standing second from left) with some members of his original aircrew in December 1943.



Charles L. Kaywood – U.S. Navy

Charles wasn't old enough to join the service. He lied about his age so he could serve in the armed forces like both his older brother and sister. Like many sailors his arms were adorned with tattoos he had gotten while on leave at ports in China like Shanghai. His ship was the U.S.S. Sabine

He lived from 1929-1998.

Charles E. Kempf

My husband, Charles E. Kempf served in the United States Army between 1966 and 1968, during the Vietnam War. In keeping with the manner in which he has faced so many challenges throughout his life, he served honorably, judiciously, hopefully, and conscientiously.





Sgt. George C. Kissamis

Born: August 24, 1920, La Salle, IL
Died: January 7, 1970, Arlington Heights, IL
Widow: Lorraine
Sons: Kevin & Kelly

Graduate of Crane Technical High School Chicago, IL

United States Army, 100th Infantry Division, 399th Infantry Regiment

Awarded: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medals

Serving in European Theater of Combat 1944-1945, seeing action in France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg



Capt Bernard Klotz

Capt Bernard Klotz served in the US Army Air Corp during World War 2. He was a bombardier/navigator on B-17 bombers over Europe. He served in the 8th Air Force, 401st Bomb Group. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and 8 Air Metals. He also served in the Korean Conflict as a bombardier/navigator on B-29 bombers in the 19th bomb group.

He will always be in our hearts,
Dean, Mark, Ronnie and Jennifer.

Richard A. Koepke

Richard A. Koepke was born December 30, 1921 in Oak Park, IL. He entered Military Service on April 10, 1940 as a member of the Illinois National Guard 33rd Infantry Division. He was inducted into the U.S. Army, March 5, 1941. Stationed at Camp Forrest, Tullahoma, Tenn. He was the Sgt. On duty, December 7, 1941.

From February 1942 to January 1943, he was Aviation Cadet with the Army Air Corps. He then was sent to the Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA, as an officer candidate. He was appointed a 2nd LT. Infantry, May, 1943 and transferred to 42nd Infantry Division, Camp Gruber, Muskogee, OKLA., until being sent to European Theatre of Operations, Ital, March, 1944.

May 26, 1944, he joined the 3rd Infantry Division on the Breakout from Anzio Beachhead. He was part of the Invasion of Southern France, August 15, 1944, the Rhone River Advance, crossing of the Vogues Mountains, the Liberation of Strasbourg, France, then on to the Colmar Pocket. The 3rd Division completed 183 days of continuous combat in February, 1945.

They then breached the Sigfried Line, crossed the Rhine River, captured the City of Nuremburg, crossed the Danube River into cities of Augsburg, Munich, Germany. Captured Salzburg, Austria and Berchtesgarden, when Germany surrendered May 9, 1944.

He returned to the United States, December 9, 1945. Honorably discharged February 15, 1946. Transferred to Army Reserve Corps. Rejoined National Guard. Retired as a Major from the Army Reserve Corps, July 25, 1960.

Medals:

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster
- French Fourragere with colors of the Croix de Gere
- American Defense Medal
- American Theatre of Operations Medal
- European Theatre of Operations medal with Bronze Arrowhead and 5 Campaign Battle Stars Victory Medal



John Korpalski
AKA Johnny "UPS"
Vietnam 1966-1968

Joined United States Army in July 1966
Basic training at Ft. Jackson, S.C.
AIT (Advanced Individual Training) at Ft. Leonardwood, MO
Infantry Training at Ft. Velvoir, VA

Arrived in Vietnam December 1966.
Extended tour of duty January 1967 for the TET Offensive

Sent to Vietnam with the 523rd Combat Engineers
Transferred to the 579th Combat Support Team
Transferred to the 1st Air Cavalry Division for the TET Offensive

Returned to the United States with the 202nd Military Police stationed at Ft. Sheridan, IL

Discharged from military in 1969

100% Disabled Vietnam Veteran

DARREN M. DEBOY



T. SGT Mitchell Kozma

1918-1994

Mitch spent 3 and a half years traversing the Mediterranean area of Africa, Mideast, Europe and the islands in between. He was a tall quiet gentleman who kept mute about his war experiences which merited him 3 bronze stars. He would on occasion show intense grief while watching documentaries about what he participated in. Mitch did however develop a keen interest in ancient history especially pertaining to cities he visited saying being in these remote places one only associated with history books made one more aware of how different that part of the old world and its cultures were.

Stanley Kryz

A family man who enlisted in the A.A.F. in 1943. Served as a "tail gunner" in a B-25 Mitchell Bomber and completed his 25 missions. After which he served as a "aerial combat photographer" until discharged in 1945. He was awarded the Air Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Asiatic Theater Ribbon with 1 Silver and 1 Bronze Star, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Bronze Star.

In the photo my Dad is in the center, bottom row of the picture.





David J. Latoria

David Joseph Latoria was born on May 18, 1949. One of six children, he graduated from East Leyden High School in 1967 and went on to proudly serve his country in the United States Army. On May 15, 1968, David made the supreme sacrifice, perishing under the most hostile circumstances during a firefight in Vietnam.

Forever his name will serve as inspiration to us all, exemplifying the heroism and valor that have made our country so proud.

Fran McCarron
(David's sister)

Ronald Edward Leonard

SP4 Ronald Edward Leonard – 173rd Airborne Brigade was born in Chicago on September 16, 1943. He attended Steinmetz High School, Wright Jr. College, and Southern Illinois University, where he received his BS Degree in 1967. Ron was inducted into the army in November, 1968. After basic training, he volunteered for active duty in Vietnam. At the age of 26, Ron was thought of as the "old man" of his unit. On June 2nd, 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam he was severely wounded. Under heavy fire, Ron risked his own life and because of his quick decisions, he saved many lives. Ron received the Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for Valor, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Purple Heart.

In February of 1971 Ron married his wife of 34 years, Christine. Ron and Chris had two daughters, Samantha and Nicole respectively. Samantha married David King in 1998 and has since had two daughters, Alissa and Emilie. Nicole married Bradley Teschner in 1999 and recently had granddaughter number three, Charley Jane.

Ron has lived in Schaumburg for over eighteen years. He belongs to the VFW Post #2202. Reading books on history is his passion. He also enjoys a good glass of red wine and most of all Italian cooked food. Ron is a die-hard Chicago Bear and Cub fan. Upon retirement he plans to travel the country.

He is our Hero!

Love, Christine, Samantha, Nicole, David, Bradley, Alissa, Emilie, and Charley

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE
APO San Francisco 96250

dle

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 2269

23 August 1970

AWARD OF THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR HEROISM

TO 439. The following AWARD is announced.

LEONARD, RONALD E., 325-36-1817 SPECIALIST FOUR UNITED STATES ARMY,
Company C (Supply and Service) 173d Support Battalion W-ARL-CO-A

Awarded: Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

Date of service: 2 June 1970

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Authority: By direction of the Secretary of the Army under provisions of
AR 672-5-1 and USARV message 16695, AVA-S, 1 July 1966.

Reason: For heroism in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist Leonard distinguished himself by valorous actions on 2 June 1970, while serving as a driver with Company C (Supply and Service) 173d Support Battalion (Airborne). The Airborne Express, truck convoy from Company C (Supply and Service), were enroute from Cha Rang Valley to Landing Zone Uplift, Republic of Vietnam. Approximately 1½ miles south of Landing Zone Uplift at 0805 hours, the convoy was ambushed receiving rockets and light weapons fire. Specialist Leonard's five ton truck was damaged by rockets and he received multiple wounds in the face and legs. His truck was the third leading truck on the convoy with five others following. Still under heavy fire from the enemy and his truck badly damaged, Specialist Leonard struggled and risked his life to maneuver his truck in order not to block the path of the other trucks that followed. Disregarding his own safety and the 5,000 gallons of mogas that he was hauling, he managed to move his truck from the road so the other trucks could keep moving away from the kill zone. His quick decision saved many lives and minimized damage to the remaining trucks. Specialist Four Leonard's personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



PFC James 'Jim' Linke

United States Army

Jim Linke enlisted in the Army in January of 2004 and requested assignment to the Army Corps of Engineers. Jim's request was accepted and he was assigned to the Combat Engineer training facility at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Upon completion of his training, Jim was assigned to the 4th Brigade, 64th Armor Regiment, 464th Tuskers' of the 3rd Infantry Division, known as the 3rd ID stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia. In January of 2005, Jim, along with the entire division was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq. Jim plans to remain in the Army as a career.



Walter (Lucky) C. Lorge

Walter (Lucky) C. Lorge (1925 - 1994) served our nation for 30 years. He and his wife Lillian had no children of the own but together raised Walt's younger half brother Ronald Filak. Walter was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. During World War II he was an air crew gunner. After the war he went into the aircraft maintenance group. He attended aviation schools run by some of the leading aircraft manufacturers and became an aviation instructor at N.A.S. Memphis, Tennessee and N.A.S. Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida.

Wrote tests for aircraft mechanics grade advancement at Great Lakes. Walter was the first line chief aboard the USS Enterprise. He was considered for Master Chief to the Navy, a liaison position for handling enlisted personnel problems and the Navy Department. Retired from the Navy in 1976.



Jerry K. Losch
United States Army

My dad was proud to be an American. He encouraged our family (7 children) to exercise our right to vote. I never took that privilege. Now my dad has passed and for the first time, I went to the voting booths. I will remember Dad's "special logic" on the ballot.

I love and miss you, Daddy,
The "Buggs Kid"



Jerry K. Losch (Willy)

United States Marine Corp

My brother is most deserving of this commemorative brick. He was in actual combat in the Viet Nam war. My father had a map of Viet Nam and we would gather around for him to show us where "Willy" was. He would use pushpins in the map so we could see my brother's movement. My dad would help us so that we could send him letters and care packages. Willy is the "Hero" in our family, as well as a "Hero" for the United States.

Love to you Willy,
Moogey

Major Omen J. "Jim" Luber USAF

Major Omen J. "Jim" Luber USAF (Ret.) was born September 3, 1923, in Pocahtonas, Illinois, and made his "last flight" August 17, 2000. He joined the US Army Air Corp in early 1943 and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. and B-29 Navigator 13 months later. Major Luber proudly served in the Reserve Corp for 28 years and retired in 1987.

Jim's military experience provided a springboard for a lifetime in aviation. After WWII he earned his commercial pilot license, flight instructor rating, and aircraft and engine mechanic license at the St. Louis School of Aeronautics, Kratz Field, in 1946. Together with his wife Jane, Jim owned and managed one of the last independently-owned fixed base operations in Illinois (Highland-Winet Airport, Highland, IL) for 51 years.

Jim was greatly inspired by Charles Lindbergh in his book "WE", encouraging all his flight students to read this tome of early aviation. Fond memories for Jim included lunching with Jimmy Doolittle of Tokyo raid fame and meeting most of the Apollo program astronauts.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Luber Gayton, Major Luber's only child and a Schaumburg resident.



Dale Alan Luster



Dale Alan Luster was born in Chicago, IL on January 21, 1941, to Mr. and Mrs. Wayman Luster. He grew up in Northbrook, IL until his family moved to the northwest side of Chicago in 1955. He attended Taft High School where he joined the ROTC and attained the rank of Major, graduating in June of 1958. Dale was also attached to a local Civil Air Patrol unit.

He then attended Northwestern University on the Naval ROTC Scholarship Program selecting the Marine Corps option after his sophomore year. He attained the rank of Battalion Commander. In his senior year, he received the Frank Knox Sword award for displaying the highest leadership qualities for the four year course.

Upon graduation in 1962, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He then completed Basic Jet and Advanced Flight Training and was awarded his Wings of Gold.

In December of 1963, Dale was united in marriage to Mary O'Hare in a military ceremony. They met during high school and continued to see one another through college and early military service.

Dale's first tour of duty in Vietnam was from February, 1965 through April, 1966, where he was stationed at Chu Lai. He flew the A4C and later the A4E fighter planes. Near the end of his service commitment, he extended his service contract and volunteered to return for a second tour in Vietnam.

His second tour started in October, 1967, and this time he was assigned to Marine Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group Twelve, First Marine Aircraft Wing at Chu Lai where he flew the A4E Skyhawk. During this tour, Dale was also assigned temporary duty as the Air Liaison Officer for the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment headquartered in Hue Phu Bai. During Dale's time with the 2/3, the battalion operated just south of the DMZ from Khe Sanh to Dang Ha and Con Thien.

Dale completed his tour with 2/3 early in September and returned to Chu Lai to resume flying duties. On September 26, 1968 Dale and his wingman were providing close air support for a U.S. Army unit which was under heavy attack by a numerically superior enemy force. This engagement occurred during Operation Wheeler Wallowa near Tam Ky in the Quang Ngai province of South Vietnam. The Army soldiers were pinned down and had sustained numerous casualties. Dale made several runs dropping his ordnance within 30 meters of the friendly forces. On one of these runs, just at ordnance release, his wingman saw his aircraft roll sharply to the left and impact the ground in a nose low attitude, having been hit by intense hostile fire. There was no evidence of ejection. As a result of his superior airmanship, the Army unit was able to withdraw from an untenable position.

Dale flew 200 missions during his two tours in Vietnam and had served six years in the United States Marine Corps.

He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.
Photo attached.

Matthew Mariscal

What can you say about Matt? My son, my second born, never out of my heart or thoughts. He had a very strong love and devotion to his family, as well as friends. He was mischievous, adventurous, daring, a jokester, laughed at his own jokes so much he could barely talk. He loved kids, and was thrilled when he bother Jose and his wife Lisa had two baby boys, who will know Matt through the stories we tell them. And oh that smile, it went on forever. He was truly someone every body loved. You could not stay mad at Matt. Our hearts will always ache, and we will miss him forever. We love and miss you Matt. Love Mom and Dad.

(Wanda & Humberto- Parents)

My brother was my best friend. We could drive each other nuts in an instant and be laughing and hugging the next. He enjoyed life so much, never looking back and always living for the moment. It is with my brother's memory that I continue to live and enjoy life. He served his county honorable as a U.S. Marine, following the tradition of many family member, past and present. I miss him dearly and I will always be proud of him.

(Jose- Brother)

Matthew....my big brother...you were my hero here on earth...now you are my angel in heaven...in my heart you will stay...until we meet again someday...

(Jackie- Sister)

Matthew was more than just my brother, he was my hero, my confidante, and my best friend. I love you Matt, and I'll be missing you always.

(Jessie- Sister)

Loving, caring, and a prankster; A free spirit always in Matthew we will find; Laughing, mischievous, happy and wild; Forever remembered in our hearts and mind. (Lisa - Sister in law and heart)

Matthew was a beloved Uncle to me. I thought of him as more than a friend- a friend that would play with me. I love him very much and will always remember him in my heart.

(Eddie- Nephew)

I miss you. You were the best uncle in the world. It is not easy without you being here.

Love Lauren

(Lauren- Niece)

I like Matthew. We played games. He was cool. Love Jordan

(Jordan- Nephew)

To our uncle- we knew you for such a short time, but we will cherish I always. We know that you watch over us as we grow and learn, quietly whispering all the troublesome little things you planned to teach us that would drive our parents nuts. We will see you again, but first we will grow into men and enjoy life always remembering you In our hearts. We love you Uncle.

(Anthony & Joseph- Nephews 16 months)

Howard W. Martin

My grandfather, Howard W. Martin, Staff Sergeant, Company A, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division of the Army actively served from October 1943-October 1945. He was awarded a Silver Star, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts and a Combat Infantry Badge. He was part of the 1st wave at Utah Beach of the Normandy invasion.

During a furlough, he married my grandmother in August of 1945 and together raised her eight year old daughter and four year old son (my father). They spent most of their years in Chicago and moved to Schaumburg in 1976, near our family. My grandfather received many awards in the military and if awards were given to grandfathers he would have received many of those too. Unfortunately, my grandfather will only be with us in spirit on Veterans' Day. He passed away in November of 2000, eight years after my grandmother.

I am extremely proud of my father and grandfather, not only for their service to this country, but for their dedication to their families. I'm grateful that I have an opportunity, such as this, to express my appreciation. I again would like to thank you and the other employees that work for Schaumburg, who continue to do wonderful things in Schaumburg. I truly couldn't think of a better community to live in.



John J. Matuch

John J. Matuch (1916-2001) was married to his wife Albina for 61 years and had 2 children, 3 grand children and 3 great grand children. Veteran of World War II attaining the rank of second class seamen. Served on the USS Farragut and USS Cleveland. Participated in the Philippine invasions of Leyte, Corregidor and the Mariveles.



Airman First Class Michael T. McEvilly

In March, 1949 Michael immigrated from County Mayo, Ireland. He joined the U.S Air Force in April, 1951. His basic training was at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He served for two and a half years in Japan in the Food Service Squadron and then returned to Altus Air Force Base in Altus, Oklahoma. He was honorably discharged in April 1955.



Francis M McEnerney

Francis McEnerney joined the U.S. Army in 1943, and spent most of his time in England training in the use of 105 mm howitzers for D-Day. His outfit, the 224th Field Artillery Battalion, was part of the 29th Infantry Division. They went in on Omaha Beach on June 7, 1944. From the beachhead, the 29th played a key role in the Normandy breakout, (Operation Cobra), the liberation of Brest, the Rhineland campaign in Holland and Germany, and the final defeat of the German Army east of the Rhine River. At the end of the war, soldiers were allowed to come home based on a system of points, so uncle had to wait his turn. When he finally did get home, he had plans to become an accountant and CPA. Uncle Mac, you left us much too soon, and we've missed you all these years.

Sgt. James P. McNally

Sgt. James P. McNally was a veteran of World War I. He served with the 75th Royal Muenster Fuselages, 1st Brigade in the British Army. James and his three brothers were all in the army. When James came home on leave after two years in action, he was told by his Dad that his three brothers were all killed in action. James returned to his unit and was wounded and was taken a prisoner of war for 18 months until the war ended.



Sgt. Robert E. McNally **(Son of James P. McNally)**

Robert enlisted into the U.S. Army in December 1963. Took basic training at Fort Knox and advanced training at Fort Sill. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion 35th Artillery in Germany in September 1964. Robert was now a PFC and was working with fire direction center and special weapons. He became chief of section of special weapons and was made Spe. 4 in March 1965. He took added training for airborne in January 1966 and was promoted to Sergeant in May 1966. In being made the rank of Sergeant he has carried on a family tradition going back to the Civil War of no one being less in rank than a Sergeant.



Gerald P. Minarcik (Jerry)

Gerald Minarcik served in the United States Army from February 19, 1954 to November 18, 1955.

His basic training was completed at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, after which he was sent to Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey for further training in radar and ballistic meteorology. He was then transferred to Ft. Huachuca, Arizona where he served for the remainder of his tour of duty.

While serving in Arizona he was fortunate to make friends with some interesting "buddies" (a physicist, an engineer, a mathematician, etc.), who influenced his life and encouraged him, upon discharge, to return to school and continue his education towards becoming an electrical engineer. While stationed in the desert, he and his friends purchased equipment and spent many weekends in the mountains prospecting for uranium, seeing many interesting sites and meeting many interesting people.

Jerry applied for an early discharge in November of 1955, in order to return to school and continue his education at the University of Illinois – Navy Pier. He was discharged into an eight-year reserve status at the rating of Specialist/3c. He married Patricia Patt in 1956. They moved to Champaign, Illinois and Jerry graduated from the U of I in 1960 with a BS in Electrical Engineering. They lived and raised 2 daughters and a son in the Chicagoland area before moving to Schaumburg in 1963. Jerry passed away in 1999, at the age of 66.



Robert E Moll Sr.

Robert E Moll Sr. started his navy career by enlisting shortly after his 18th birthday while in high school in Wallingford Pennsylvania. He left for Great Lakes Navel Base in Illinois in July of 1968 for boot camp. After boot camp, he attended an electronics school at Great Lakes after which he was deployed to the USS Solely out of South Carolina. His dream was to go into nuclear submarines. After schooling in Maryland and New York, he accomplished his goals and he was assigned to the USS Thomas Jefferson, Gold Crew out of Rhoda Spain. He was on a three month out, three month in rotation with a tour of 6 years in the Navy.

He was awarded the good conduct award, National Defenses service medal, Enlisted Submarine Brest Insignia, and the SSBN Deterrent patrol pin with 4 gold stars. His greatest accomplishment was having the honor of proudly serving his country. He was discharged in July of 1974 settling in Schaumburg where his wife, children and grandson still reside.

Kim Lukowski & Pamela Moll



Holger J. Mortensen

Holger J. Mortensen was an army Sgt. in WW II. He loved to talk about His Army days. His most revered moment was fighting in and surviving The Battle of The Bulge. After the War Holger was a carpenter by trade. He spent his later years living in Schaumburg with His wife Mary, so they could be close to family. He was a wonderful Grandfather.

Mark A. Mueller

Mark entered the service on Oct. 10. 1995 at cape Mai NJ from there he was transferred to Kodiak Island Alaska to serve on the USCGC Ironwood. After two years of service he was transferred to Point Rey in Patoluma Ca where he served at a Coast Guard station. This was followed by Service at both Ice breakers the USCG Polar-sea and respectively USGC Polar-star.

At the time of Mark`s death his unit was scuba diving off the coast of Oahu in Weinea Ha. Mark loved what he was doing, while serving his country. He was looking forward to become chief as is next advancement in the Coast Guard. He was very proud to talk about his experience at the South Pole where he was just about to departure on his fourth trip.

At the time of his death Mark he had the rank of an Petty Off. IT1, and he was in charge of the ships computer system. Mark is going to be remembered as a very helpful person to his shipmates as well to his family and friends at home. His hobby included making picture scrapbooks and calendars from the trip to Antarctica. As I can see it Mark had a lot left to do in his life, and therefore, the loss was at times to great to bear. Mark will be missed by his family and shipmate as well.



SP4 Thomas P. Nallen

101ST Airborne

Vietnam War

Recipient of the C.I.B., he served with honor & pride

Michael & Linda Nallen

Norman R. Nenoff

My husband Norman R. Nenoff was in the Merchant Marines for (4 years) World War II – from 1942-1945. He was an Able Bodied Seaman. He was on the ship that rescued the nurses from Bataan, and lots of other action. He was also in the Atlantic War Zone and the Mediterranean War Zone.

We have lived in Hoffman Estates 48 years, and in business here for 23 years on the Corner of Higgins and Roselle Road. He has a television repair shop on that corner (Neff Television Repair Shop).

Mr. Nenoff passed away October 14, 1996.

Submitted by:
Carolyn Nenoff
(Mrs. Norman Nenoff)
545 Norridge Lane
Hoffman Estates, IL 60194



Joseph Nohava

Joseph Nohava served in the US Army in Rhineland and Central Europe as an artillery mechanic and combat infantryman in Cannon Company, 417th Infantry. He was wounded in action in Echternach, Germany on February 16, 1945, and was operated on by a doctor from New York, under poor lighting conditions. He was then sent to an English hospital.

Later, he was returned to his unit. Soon after that, the war ended and he returned home and saw his baby daughter for the first time. His decorations and citations include a European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two bronze battle stars, four overseas service bars, one service stripe, a Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal and American Theater Ribbon.



Henry "Hank" Odegaard

Born into earthly life September 1, 1920

Beginning eternal life February 11, 2003

Son - Brother - Nephew - Christian
Skier - U.S. Citizen - Veteran
Bike Rider - Photographer - Artist
Music Lover - Husband - Bible Reader
Cook - Shrimp Fanatic - Fresh Air Fiend
Avid Comics Reader - Bugler - Sunday School Teacher
Researcher on Everything and Anything
Father of Three - Brother-in-Law - Grandfather of Three
Chocolate Lover - United Methodist - Gardener
Supporter of Women's Rights - Canoeist - Innovator
Fixer-Upper - Ice Skater - Collector of Tools
M.Y.F. Counselor - Roller Skater - Environmentalist
Exceptional Fan of Dr. Seuss and Looney Tunes
Poster Maker - Member - Chicago Botanic Garden
Union Member - Lithographer - Bowler
Mug Collector - Cookie Baker - Traveler
Wood Carver - Neighbor - Friend
Family Driver Education Teacher
Forest Preserves Attendee
Cream of Broccoli Soup Maker Extraordinaire



PFC Billy Paige

In December of 1950, the 1st Marine Division attempted a breakout from the area around the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. The long column of marines and vehicles wound along a single-lane road, with the tanks at the very end, followed by a platoon from 1st Recon. At one point, a tank stalled and stopped, blocking the remaining nine in the column, while the rest of the column continued down the road. As civilians surged into the area around the last tanks, Chinese infiltrators opened fire, and Billy Paige was wounded. Others put him under a tank for cover, and it was everyone's intention to go back and get him. But soon machine guns opened fire, and the small group of Recon marines were in danger of being surrounded and destroyed. Their Lieutenant made the painful decision to order the platoon to head south. Badly wounded, PFC Billy Joe Paige was left behind. He is still listed as missing in action.

Ken Mauro



Orlando Parenti

Lando was a brave and dedicated man. He was so committed to serving his country in the Marines that he lied about his age so that he could serve during World War II. He so loved his country that anytime, anywhere the national anthem was played, it would bring him to tears. He carried on his dedication through his whole life being a wonderful husband, dad, and friend.

We love and miss him very much.

Carla Parenti-Sorich

George John Patt

George Patt served in the United States Navy from July 20, 1922 to July 1, 1926.

At the time of his enlistment, George was only 16 years of age and used his older brother's birth certificate in order to be accepted. He was discharged with a rating of Coxswain/Seaman/1c with a monthly rate of pay when discharged of \$60.00. He received a travel allowance of \$67.63 — .05 a mile from Brooklyn, New York to Chicago, Illinois.



George served on the U.S.S. Pittsburgh from October 2, 1922 to October 2, 1924, during which time 81 visits were made to 61 different foreign ports on a European cruise. The total distance steamed between ports, including target practices, was 32,617 knots, equivalent to 37,064.25 miles.

He loved the Navy, as was exhibited by a few tattoos he had acquired during his tour of duty. He married Alice Koscinski in 1928 and they lived in Chicago, Illinois, where they raised a family — 2 daughters and a son. George passed away in 1983, at the age of 77.



George L. Patt

U.S. Navy, Retired. Born in September 1931 in the city of Chicago, Illinois.

Enlisted in the U.S. Navy on August 17, 1950 and served on continuous active duty until September 1, 1970. He advanced in grade from Seaman Recruit to Commissioned Warrant Officer (W2).

During his naval career he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal (4th award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd award), Vietnam Service Medal, Navy Unit Citation Ribbon and the Navy Achievement Medal.

He was on the Recommissioning Detail for the USS Intrepid CVA11 and served as Ship's Company. He was also assigned to several aircraft squadrons (Fighter, All-weather Attack, Anti-Submarine) during his service and performed his Vietnam service as Ship's Secretary on board the USS Kitty Hawk CVA63.

George currently resides with his wife, Carol, in Flossmoor, Illinois.



Deyhle Pawlisch



"Join the Navy and See the World". These were the words that attracted Deyhle Pawlisch, 1st class engineman, to the U.S. military. After completing boot camp with his Fireman's designation, Mr. Pawlisch earned his Engineman's designation in San Diego and began a four year voyage aboard the U.S.S. Requisite in April 1952. Originally a World War II minesweeper, this 136' long and 39' wide vessel was converted to a geographical survey ship. Using Lorraine radio stations, the U.S.S. Requisite was one of the first U.S. Naval vessels to measure and chart the various oceans of the world using fathoms.



Deyhle's adventures aboard the U.S.S. Requisite began in Istanbul Turkey where he assisted in the oceanographic survey of the Black Sea. At the time, this was a very important mission since the Black Sea was the only route by which the U.S. could launch an amphibious assault against Russia. When complete, the ship and crew continued to survey the Mediterranean Sea. During this time, Deyhle visited such exotic ports as Haifa Israel, Crete, Genoa Italy, Gibraltar Spain, and Lisbon Portugal. These were places that he had only read about in school or dreamed of as a child. Now, he was there!

The Requisite's next assignment was worlds away from its earlier duties in the sunny Mediterranean. Due to its relatively small size, the U.S.S. Requisite had the unique ability to cross the Atlantic Ocean unassisted while still being able to squeeze through the Panama Canal. As a result, the ship and her crew were given orders to survey the Artic Sea! On their way to Panama, the ports and people of Greenland, Iceland, Labrador, Newfoundland, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Haiti, and Jamaica showed a young man the true diversity of the world. Better yet, the trip provided a young sailor with "Polywog" bragging rights! A designation bestowed only upon those sailors who have crossed the equator.

Upon exiting the Panama Canal, the U.S.S. Requisite sailed north towards the Artic Sea. During a brief stop in Nome Alaska, Deyhle along with his fellow sailors marched in the local Fourth of July parade. At the time, many of the townspeople commented that this was the first time they had seen American soldiers in their town. This would, however, not be the last time that Deyhle would see the look of amazement upon natives' faces. Upon entering the Artic Sea, many of the native Eskimos that the crew encountered had never before seen a steel hulled ship. One can only imagine what they must have thought upon seeing such an unusual vessel. As the U.S. Requisite continued to survey the sea farther north, the vessel required the assistance of a U.S. Coast Guard Ice Breaking ship to clear a channel through the heavy ice to continue their work. Undaunted, the ship and crew continued its survey operation beyond the Artic Circle. As a result, Deyhle received his second unofficial sailors' designation of trusty "Blue Nose" reserved only for those who venture above the Artic Circle.

Deyhle's enlistment ended in April 1956. While his journey only lasted four years, the people and places he experienced along the way profoundly influenced his life. Better yet, he had truly seen the world!





Peter Perrone

Peter Perrone proudly served in W.W.II under the command of General Patton. He was a Technical Sergeant in the United States Army.

Our dad was an honest hardworking American who believed in our wonderful country. He came from Italian immigrant parents who struggled to make it in the United States. He taught his children and grandchildren to be thankful for what we have and to be proud of where we come from. We were and will always be grateful for the lessons he taught us and the life he gave us.



Thomas L Perrucci

Thomas L Perrucci, an Air Force veteran of WWII, served on B-17 & B-29 fighter planes.

Mr. Perrucci was a 'citizen- volunteer' in his home town of Scotch Plains, N.J.; he was a member of the American Legion & Veterans of Foreign Wars, he founded the Italian-American Mutual Benefit Society, and was a charter member of UNICO (United National Italian Cultural Organization).

He served on the WW 11 Memorial Committee, the Zoning Board, & the Republican Club.

He was a founding member of St Bartholomew church & school.

Frank B. Peters

Private Frank B. Peters enlisted in the Army in June of 1942. Frank served in Northern France and Rhineland, Germany with the 332nd Bomber Squadron during WWII. He was Honorably Discharged in June of 1945. In 1947 he married Delphine and over the years had 3 children; 8 grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Frank lived his life in Chicago and in 1986 at the age of 73 he passed away.



Wayne F. Peters

Sergeant Wayne F. Peters enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1967. Wayne served in Vietnam in An Khe, Song Be, Lia Khe, Saigon, and Cam Ranh Bay on temporary duty in 1967 and 1968 out of Okinawa in support of troop movements and ended his enlistment with a tour of duty in DaNang with the 15th Aerial Port Squadron (PACAF) in 1970.

In September of 1970 he was Honorably Discharged. He married in 1972 and is very proud of his 4 children and one grandchild. The Peters have lived in Hoffman Estates since 1977.





Donald Petersen

Don was born and raised in Chicago. He feared nothing and seemed to always go after the toughest challenges. That probably had something to do with him picking the Marines as his choice of U. S. military. On Sept. 10, 1967, at the age of 20 and being in Viet Nam less than 2 weeks, he was killed by a mortar rocket. With the passing of 38 years , and I having lived somewhat of a fulfilled life (wife, kids, & fun times - something he was deprived of), I feel I have this obligation to honor him in some way. I've been given so much, mainly because of the freedom that exists because of heroes like him. I give him back a little token of my everlasting gratitude in his commemorative brick. I salute him and all of my fellow comrades ! - Tom

Peter Petrillo

Like many World War II veterans my father never talked about the war and my sisters and I were too young to take interest and ask questions before he died in 1969 at age 45. The following information was gleaned from his discharge papers, from the book Sky Riders by McDonough and Gardiner and WWII historical web sites. I found that although there have been many books and movies about World War II and its battles, the glidermen have always been overshadowed by the paratroopers. The 401/327 Glider Infantry Regiments were the too often neglected "step-children" of the airborne forces.

Peter Petrillo was born in Chicago, Illinois on 7 Jan 1924. He was inducted into the Army in December of 1942 and was sent to Ft. Bragg, N.C. for training as a glider infantryman, assigned to the 401st Glider Infantry Regiment (GIR), 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagle" Division. In preparation for D-day, the 401st set sail for England on 5 Sept 1943. Shortly thereafter, the 401st GIR was deactivated and the 1st battalion was provided as a temporary 3rd battalion to the 327th Glider Infantry Regiment. My father was part of this battalion.

On the afternoon of 6 June 1944, the battalion arrived onto Utah Beach by amphibious assault vehicles due to the lack of available aircraft to tow the gliders for a glider assault. Its mission was to move to Carentan to cut off the fleeing Germans. Casualties were high but the mission was accomplished and the Regiment moved back to England to await further orders.

The battalion then participated in Operation Market-Garden, the daring airborne invasion of Holland. On 18 Sept 1944, landing by gliders it moved to seize and defend portions of land between Eindhoven and St. Oldenrode to allow British armored units to advance toward the city of Arnhem. The Regiment, along with allied units, endured 73 days of continuous combat.

My father was wounded in action in Holland in Oct 1944. Due to his wounds, my father missed the Battle of the Bulge, the battalions bloodiest two months of combat.

On 1 Mar 1945, the 1st Battalion 401st GIR was formally disbanded and reconstituted as the 3rd Battalion 327th GIR. This was a change in name only, as the battalion had already fought across Europe with the 327th. The newly reconstituted 3rd battalion, 327th GIR saw action in the Rhineland and Berchtesgarden campaigns. On 8 May 1945, the war ended with the battalion in the vicinity of Hitler's famous "Eagle's Nest." It was later deactivated at Auxerre, France on 30 November 1945.

My father left the European Theatre of Operation on 15 Dec 1945. He separated from the Army with an honorable discharge on 31 Dec 1945 as a Private First Class.

During the war my father's military qualifications earned him the Combat Infantry Badge and the Glider Badge. His decorations included the Victory Medal, European, African, Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with Bronze Arrowhead and three Bronze Stars, Four Overseas Service Bars, One Service Stripe, Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, and the Militaire Wilhelms Ordre, presented by the Dutch Government.

My father married Calogera Lillian Dellutri in 1947 and they had and are survived by three daughters, Col. Naomi Behler, Retired USAF, Deborah Petrillo, the only one still in Illinois living in Schaumburg and Donna Gray, living in Valley Center California.



Orvilla Pupp

Orvilla Pupp was born and raised in Minocqua, Wisconsin. She received her nursing education at Presbyterian Hospital (now Rush Medical) and graduated in 1944. She received RN degree and entered the U.S. Army nursing Corp in 1945 and was stationed at Wakeman General Hospital, Camp Atterbury, Indiana for 13 months. The hospital specialized in orthopedic repair and plastic surgery.

After her discharge, she continued her nursing education at Columbia University in New York. She worked as a nurse for a total of 42 years, the last 30 at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital. She was married and raised four children and has seven grandchildren. She now lives at Friendship Village.



John R. Racana

Like many a married man in his thirties with two young sons' ages two and six John was drafted into the army on April 1, 1944. He was a rifleman and served in the European Theater. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and was wounded just weeks before the war ended. He was awarded the Purple Heart and was discharged on January 26, 1946.

Pat Racana

Philip Raferty

Personal

Date of Birth: 29 June 1913
Place of Birth: Glasgow, Scotland
Married: Genevieve E. Muell on 13 June 1942
Child: Philip J. born on 20 April 1943

Military Service

Drafted into the U.S. Army on 21 Sept 1942.
Selected for Officer Candidate School at Ft. Sill, Okla.
Graduated from O.C.S. and commissioned a 2ndLt on 29 April 1943.
Embarked on board USS GENERAL ANDERSON for overseas service on 25 November 1943.
Landed at Oran, Morocco on 5 December 1943.
Attended special training at The Battle School.
Sent to Italy for combat assignment.

Combat Chronicle

Joined the 36th U.S. Infantry Division on or about 15 January 1944.
Assigned to "C" Battery, 133rd Field Artillery Battalion as a Forward Observer.
Participated in the battle of the Rapido River. Fought in the battles at Cassino. Moved to the Anzio sector for the breakout from the beachhead on 23 May 1944. Fought in the decisive battle at Velletri. Among the first combat elements to enter Rome in the early morning hours of 4 June 1944. Served with distinction on the drive north of Rome. Awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action near Grosseto on 21 June 1944.

3rd, 36th, and 45th U.S. Infantry Divisions detached from 5th U.S. Army. Sent south to Naples for amphibious training and reassigned to 7th U.S. Army.

Invaded southern France on 15 August 1944. Attached to Task Force BUTLER for the breakout and pursuit of the enemy. Participated in the bitter fighting at Montelimar. Continued pursuit north up the Rhone River valley. Awarded the Bronze Star for heroism involved in the destruction of enemy forces at a roadblock near Loriol on 27-29 August 1944. Received battlefield promotion to 1stLt on 19 Sept 1944. Heavily engaged in combat operations in the Vosges Mountains area October-December 1944. Awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star on 17 October 1944 for heroism during a major offensive near Bruyeres. Conducted personal reconnaissance in vain attempt to locate Pvt Mike Muell (Brother-in-Law) of "B" Co., 142nd Inf Regt who was taken POW near Lemberg on or about 9 January 1945. Stormed through the "Siegfried Line" and entered Germany on 19 Mar 1945 near Wissembourg. Conducted numerous aerial observation missions. Assisted in the liberation of Dachau and Landsberg concentration camps. On the Front Line near Kitzbuhel on VE Day, 8 May 1945.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Most days on the Front Line of any officer of the 36th Inf Div
Wounded in action three times.
Captured (for a short period of time) once.
Reported killed in action once.
Never lost a man assigned to his Section.



S. Bryant Rickett

My father S. Bryant Rickett served honorably in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He served in the European Theater during WWII. My father volunteered the day after he turned 18 in 1942; ten months after Pearl Harbor.

If I had only one word to use to describe my dad it would be devoted. He was devoted to God, to the United States, and he was devoted to my mother and our family. This devotion motivated him over a lifetime of hard work and sacrifice. My dad and my mother are truly two of "the Greatest Generation."

Thank you,
Mary Ellis



Joseph A. Rippinger

1st Lt. Joseph A. Rippinger A.S.N.0776476

Joseph Rippinger flew as first pilot of B-24 aircraft on offensive missions against the Japanese occupied areas. He piloted aircraft, commanded crew, maintained flight records and reported observations made on missions.

He flew 413 hours of combat time on 58 combat missions while serving 12 months overseas with the 14th Air Force in China, 308th bomb group, 374th squadron. He had 988 hours flying in military aircraft.

Joseph received the American Air Medal with oak leaf clusters for China, India-Burma, Hump gas haul, Western Pacific, Rescue Sweep of South China Sea, Air Offensive of Japan and Philippines. He also received the Chinese Air Medal.

Joseph Rippinger currently resides in Aurora IL with his wife Helen who is also a WWII veteran.



Helen J. Rippinger
1st Lt. Helen Wilhelm Rippinger

Helen Wilhelm Rippinger joined the nurse corps of the Army Air Force in November, 1943, after graduating from St. Agnes School of Nursing in Fond du Lac WI.

Helen spent six weeks in Fresno, Ca. for basic training and from there was sent to March Field in Riverside, Ca. where she spent the next two years working in the base hospital caring for many of the Air Force veterans returning from overseas missions.

While at March Field, she met and married a B-24 pilot who had flown 58 combat missions in China flying "The Hump". In two months they will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary! Two of their five sons served as Navy pilots, one was killed in a mid-air collision one month before his discharge. A third pilot son is John Rippinger of Schaumburg, a pilot with the famous Lima Lima Flight Team.

Frank R. Robson

Branch Rating: AAF CMSgt

Dates of Service: 11-18-42 to 05-15-69

Enlisted AAF 11-18-42 at age 16 and received radio and gunnery training in B-24s. Assigned to ETO and stationed in England. Flew seven missions and wounded on 04-04-45. Hospitalized until 10-22-45 and discharged. Re-entered the service in the Air Force on 12-09-51 and stationed at Rapid City Air Force Base flying RB-36 aircraft as Radio/ECM/Gunner. These secret recon missions were the scariest of all. Flew Recon in Europe/South Pacific/North Pole area through 1957. Was tail gunner on the B-52 aircraft until 1958 at Elsworth AFB S.D. Medically grounded and transferred to Vandenburg AFB on the Thor, Atlas, Titan, and Minuteman weapons systems as Launch Control Operator. Promoted to Chief Master Sergeant and transferred to SAC Headquarters provisioning maintenance equipment for the Minuteman WS. Transferred to PACAF headquarters with duty on Okinawa. During the Pueblo crisis (1968) was sent to Korea on TDY to retrofit the fighters with conventional weapons. Was injured and sent back to Okinawa. Discharged in May 1969.

Received the Purple Heart with OLC, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, ETO Theater Medal, WWII Victory Medal.

Brother of John and Herbert Robson, Uncle of Michael.



Herbert W. Robson

Completed basic training and was schooled as a parachute rigger and repairman. Left the USA 12-19-44 and arrived in India 01-23-45. Stationed at Jorhat India until leaving 03-23-46 returning to the USA 04-19-46 and discharged at Ft. Dix, NJ on 04-27-46.

Medals earned: American Campaign, Asiatic Pacific Campaign, Good Conduct Medal WWII Victory Medal

Brother of John A. and Frank R. Robson

John A. Robson

Branch Rating: AAF Sgt

Dates of Service: 10-17-43 to 10-21-45

Theater of War: China Burma India

Received basic training at Jefferson Barracks Mo. and radio school at Sioux Falls S.D. Received overseas training at Casper WY, and shipped overseas from San Francisco Ca. 08-03-43 on USS Uruguay. Stops at Hobart Tasmania, Perth Australia, then on Sept. 19, 1943 debarked at Calcutta India. A train to Mohanbari, in the Assam Valley and to the nearby air base via 6x6 army vehicle. Assigned as Radio mechanic for short time then qualified for flight status as Flight Radio Operator. Completed over 100 flights over the "Hump" (Himalayan Mts.) delivering supplies to different air fields in China. The last flight made on 11-28-44 to Yunnan Yi, China a 5:30 hour round trip in C46 #6714. Departed India 12-13-44 via C47 headed west and after many stops including Natal Brazil to Jacksonville Florida and a train home 12-21-44 in time for Christmas holidays. Was stationed at Long Beach AFB, and ferried different types of aircraft to Australia and other overseas locations as radio operator until 10-21-45 when he received his discharge.

Medals: Distinguished Flying Cross 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic Pacific Ribbon, WWII Victory Medal, Sharp Shooter 45 cal. Pistol.

Father of Michael, brother of Herbert and Frank Robson.



Michael J. Robson Sr.

Branch Rating: E-5

Dates of Service: March 1967 – December 1970

Theater of War: Mediterranean USS Roosevelt CVA-42

Michael J. Robson Sr. enlisted March of 1967, trained at Great Lakes Naval Training Center as a Boilerman with the rank of Fireman (E5), and assigned to the USS Roosevelt CVS-42, which had its domestic home port at Jacksonville, FL and foreign home port in Naples, Italy. He made three cruises to the Mediterranean Sea and two shakedown cruises to the Caribbean and was discharged December 1970 with the rank of Petty Officer Second Class (E-5).

Son of John A. Robson. Nephew of Herbert and Frank Robson.

Edward Peter Ruhl A/B A/F

D.A.V. – Jet Engine Mechanic
April 25, 1934 – December 22, 2003

Quiet man, hard worker. Always happy to help family and friends. Faithful and loving husband of Patricia (Babe), loving and proud father of Michael (Chief), and Kathleen (Pooh). His face lit up when he saw his Grandchildren, Patrick and Jessica. And his dear daughter-in-law, Christine and his "favorite" son-in-law, Karl. Wounded on duty (gun shot to abdomen) caused pain and complications most days of his life since December 1957. He never complained. "Kids" thought it was neat their Pop's had two belly buttons! His little companion buddy kept him going every day. Ed and Buddy are together now with Hoosier and Peppy, his faithful dogs. He endured it all with dignity and strength, with a twinkle in his eye, we told him it was o.k. to go, and on December 22, 2003, 3 a.m. Always in our hears. Never to be forgotten.



Love you Pops,
Your Loving Family and Friends

Corporal Joseph 'Joe' Russo

United States Army

Joe was drafted into the Army in 1942. During this time, Joe volunteered for a new airborne division that the Army was creating for the war in Europe. This division was to become the 101st Airborne Division, 'Screaming Eagles'. Volunteers chose between Paratroop or Glider corps. Joe opted for the glider corp. Joe served with the division throughout the war in Europe. Beginning at Normandy, France, which for the 101st, began the evening of June 5th, 1944, landing behind enemy lines to defeat enemy positions prior to the beach landings on June 6th.

From Normandy to Holland in September, 1944 & Operation Market Garden, during which Joe was promoted to Corporal. Following Holland into Belgium in December, 1944 & the Battle of the Bulge, and the siege in Bastogne & the Ardennes where Joe was awarded the Bronze Star.

In the spring of 1945 comes Germany entering Burgess Garten. Hitler's 'private city'. Joe returned to civilian life after the way, marrying and raising a family. Joseph Russo passed away July 30th, 2005. He is proudly survived by his wife of 58 years, two daughters, and one son.



Norman W Schalk

Norman W Schalk was born in Chicago in 1927. Norman graduated from Luther Institute in 1944 and became a Private in the Army in July, 1945 during World War II. While he was in basic training in Texas, the bombing of Hiroshima occurred, extending basic training to 18 weeks. After basic training, Norman moved through bases in Virginia and New York before being sent to Italy in 1946. Completing a year of service in Italy, Norman was honorably discharged in 1947 after returning to the states. Norman married in 1950, and together with his wife, Loretta, raised their family in Chicago until November, 1965 when they relocated to Schaumburg. Proud grandfather of five, Norman's youngest grandson, Todd Grischow, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1998. The Veterans Gateway Park Commemorative Brick is placed in Norman's honor by his children, David, Deborah, Robert, and Barbara.



Bill Schnepel

Bill Schnepel served the USA as an Army Corporal in World War II. He served from 1942-1946 overseas in the countries of Manila, Japan, and New Guinea. After the war, he married and has 6 children. He still lives in the Chicago area.

Cpl. Gary Scholz

United States Army - Served in Korean War
1950-1951

January of 1949 I enlisted in the Army. At that time you could enlist for twenty-one months. My basic training was in Kentucky, Camp Breckinridge. After eight weeks of basic training and a short furlough, I was sent to Japan. I was stationed at Camp Shemmelpenning, Sendai, Japan. The camp had tryouts for the All Star Football Team that would play the Air Force All-Star Team in Tokyo on New Years Day. I was



fortunate to have been chosen. We played on January 2, 1950 at Diechi Stadium in Tokyo, Japan. The Army won, 21 to 7. What a thrill to play in the Rice Bowl, but the biggest thrill was when General McArthur came to the banquet and congratulated both teams.

In the spring of 1950 the Army gave you a choice of staying your tour of twenty- one months, or join the active reserves for early release. I took the release and was discharged in April 1950. Being home didn't last long. September of 1950 I received a letter from the government saying I had ten days to clear up my business and report to Camp Fort Hood in Waco, Texas. The Korean War, or what they called "Police Action" had started on June 25th. I was asked if I wanted to be assigned to my old company, Thirty Seventh Regiment of the Seventh Division. I came close and was assigned to the Thirty Second Regiment of the Seventh Division. After a short training period, our embarkation point was Camp Stone man, California.

After being stationed in Japan for a couple of weeks, we were shipped out to Upson, South Korea where trucks transported us to Soul Korea. Here I was able to join the Thirty Second Regiment; the other troops were up on the "Hill". I was assigned to a sixty mm mortar. After months of combat in the bitter cold and being fortunate to be alive, I ended up with frozen feet. I was flown out by helicopter, put aboard the Constellation Ship, and then flown to a hospital in Osaka, Japan. I had surgery on my feet and after rehabilitation I was told I was being sent back to Korea to rejoin my company. This was the beginning part of April 1951. They didn't waste any time getting me back on the front lines just north of the 38th Parallel. Again my prayers were answered and I survived. I was eligible to be Honorably Discharged in August of 1951. The Korean War lasted until July 27, 1953.

I came home and married my Steinmetz High School sweetheart, Ingo Moeller. We raised four children in Schaumburg, Illinois. I retired as Athletic Director from Schaumburg High School in June of 1989 and have the honor of the athletic field being named Gary Scholz Stadium after me. We will gratefully be associated with Schaumburg forever.

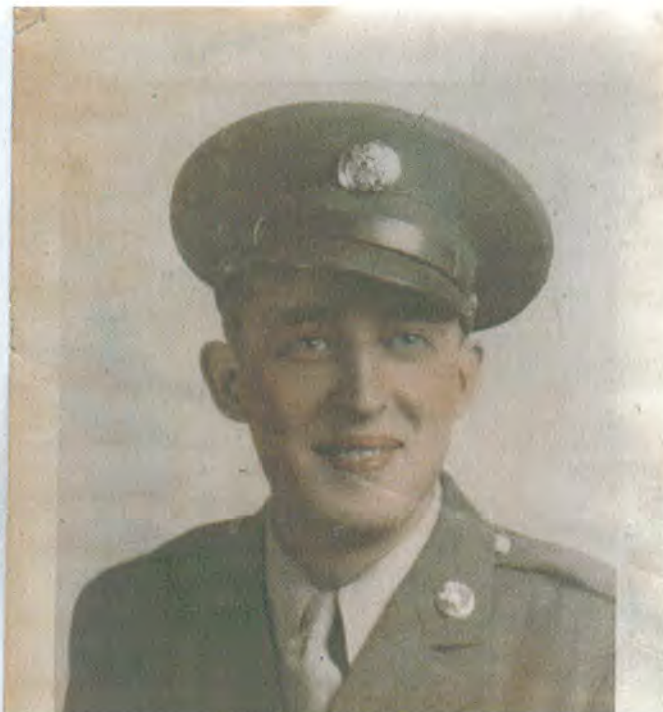
Carl W. Schultz

We would like to honor Private 1st Class Carl W. Schultz (our hero) who served in the 28th infantry, 2nd Division of the U.S. Army. Carl began basic training on December 8, 1943 at Camp Callan, San Diego, California.

He first saw action on August 23, 1944 when he disembarked from an L.C.I. Transport ship on Omaha Beach. On August 26th his company was 18 miles outside Brest, France when they had to make several attacks on German Pill Box Positions. His unit suffered numerous casualties. In December 1944, he saw action in the Battle of the Bulge where he was injured and was reported missing in action. February 1945, found him in an English Hospital in South Hampton recovering from his injuries. He came back to the states and was discharged in July 1945.

During his service he received the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and was decorated by the French Government.

Just before returning home the Chicago Tribune wrote an article with a sketch of him honoring his service to our country.





Ray Schwarz

Ray Schwarz was a very proud American. To him there was no better country in the world than the U.S.A. When his country asked him to serve, he volunteered for the Air Force branch of the United States Army (U.S.A.A.F.). There he served as a "Belly Gunner". When his service was up, he reenlisted and was sent to Italy as a "Radio Communications Specialist." There he met many friends, of which he remained in contact with for years to come. The U.S.A.A.F. gave Ray his life and love for his country. After the Service, he came back to United States and started a long career in Radio and Television. Then, later in life after he retired, Ray became a pilot and built two planes he was working on his third when he passed away. Ray always stood behind his country and it's leaders, supporting them in every way he could. The honor and respect he had for the U.S.A. was immeasurable.

Proud to have served, Ray Schwarz.

Lieutenant Colonel James F. Sculerati

Lieutenant Colonel James (Jamie) Sculerati was born in Inglewood, California in 1961. Upon graduation from Schaumburg High School in 1979, he accepted an Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship to attend the University of Illinois. After graduating with a degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1984.

Colonel Sculerati was initially assigned as a test engineer to NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, California, followed by 12 years in engineering and intelligence assignments, including three deployments supporting aerial reconnaissance operations in the Middle East and Europe. He transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 1996, and served in units in Japan, South Korea, and the U.S. He is currently recalled to active duty as an intelligence staff officer, assigned to the United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

Colonel Sculerati's decorations include the Air Force Commendation Award with one oak leaf cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

Jamie is the son of Meg and James Sculerati of Schaumburg, and the brother of Robin O'Connor of Elk Grove. He and his wife Jill have two children, Sam and Sophia.



William L. Shoemaker

My father, William L. Shoemaker, Private First Class began recruit training April of 1958 in San Diego. Following recruit training, he served in the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California until he was released from active duty on March 31, 1961. He continued to serve his country in the reserves until March of 1964. Even though he never saw action, he was a proud Marine and was ready, willing and able to serve his country. In fact, he tried to reenlist twice during the Vietnam War, but was refused due to his already having a family.

He married my mother on June 30, 1961 and within seven years they had three sons and one daughter (myself). In 1967, my parents decided to move from Des Plaines to raise their children in an unfamiliar town called Schaumburg. They still reside in Schaumburg today.



Louis J. Spetich, United States Air Force

Louis Spetich, born July 19, 1935 in Barberton, OH, proudly served his country from 1952 to 1956 in the United States Air Force. Louis an Airman 1st Class with the 62nd Fighter Squadron entered basic training at Sampson Air Force Base in New York. During his four year service Louis was stationed at Shephard Air Force Base in Texas, Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois, O'Hare Air Force Base in Illinois, Kinross Air Force Base in Michigan and Yuma Air Force Base in Arizona as an aircraft electrician for F86D planes. Louis was honorably discharged in July of 1956.

Now retired from Centel Business Systems of Des Plaines, Louis resides in Schaumburg with Janet his wife of 49 years. Louis is the proud father of 3 daughters and grandfather of 3 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.



George "Duke" Steenstrup

Duke enlisted in the Army during the Korean War. The time he served in the Armed Forces gave him a deep respect for all Veterans and an undying patriotism and pride for his country.

Marty Steenstrup

William A. Stevenson

William A. Stevenson is the father of Schaumburg Township Supervisor Mary Wroblewski. His company had a record with the highest number of consecutive combat days (315). The 752 Tank Battalion was the only separate Armored Battalion in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations to be cited by the President. His company fought across North Africa and up Italy after entering the country at Napoli. The tank that he was in was the tank that hit the power plant in Rome and put Rome into the dark.

He went through the entire war with an accordion tied on the back of his tank. Before the war he had been part of a band that had entertained in central Illinois. As a musician, he would entertain the men who were fighting around him. He had turned down an invitation to be in the USO because he wanted to fight with the men he had met in the Army.

He was injured near the end of the war and received the Purple Heart.

CPO Brian Stilwell

Brian is currently an active career U.S. Navy Special Forces, presently serving his country in Iraq. Brian also served in Desert Storm aboard the U.S.S. Peleliu. He is a Senior Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician with qualifications in H.A.L.O. (high altitude low opening) jumping and sonar-assisted underwater rescue. Additional training includes Mark XVI drive equipment for 400 foot depths and close quarter combat and survival training. Brian received the Joint Service Achievement Medal in 1999 for meritorious service.

Brian was involved with securing and containment of the Navy Seal's dolphins in San Diego during a bad storm. He was also part of the recovery team involving a helicopter crash off the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln. Also Brian was credited for finding the Flight Recorder for a commercial airliner that crashed in the water near Bahrain. These are just a few of the events that have occurred in his 18 years of service. After returning from Iraq, Brian is up for promotion to Senior Chief and hopes to finish his career state-side as an instructor.

Chestra and Larry Stilwell
Proud Parents
Schaumburg, Illinois
October, 2005



Roy E. Stilwell, CPL, U.S.A.A.F. WWII

Roy is a WWII Veteran. His service started at Jefferson Barracks and ended up in New Guinea and The Philippine Islands. While in this country and overseas, Roy served as a Drill instructor training men in fundamentals of drill, range procedures, and conditions found in jungle warfare. He also instructed men in groups and individually from procedures given in various army manuals. While in New Guinea, he also served in the Aviation division of the army. Planes involved were the P-51, P-38, and the B-25. Roy is an expert with the Springfield M1 carbine.

Decorations include 3 overseas service bars, 1 service stripe American campaign medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with 2 bronze battle stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 bronze star, Good conduct medal and World War II Victory Medal.

The Stilwell's
Proud Family
October 2005

Raymond Lamont Suender

Sergeant Army Air Force - World War II

Served: 12.23.1942 thru 10.25.1945
Stationed: Walwich England, Repaired Air Force Airplanes
Born: 6.23.1916 and raised in Chicago.
Fourth Generation (German Heritage) only child to Raymond Edward Suender and Francis (Paul) Suender.
Grandparents: Edward & Adelheid Suender, Great Grandfather: John Suender
Graduated: 1935 Roosevelt High School.
Married to: Betty Jane Piehr 7.14.1945
Daughter: Denise Lynn Suender, Born 10.19.1948, Grandson: Eric Raymond Suender, Born 1.23.1968, Great Grandson: Ryan Haven Suender, Born 3.21.2005

Career: Although he worked at several jobs over the years he enjoyed working for the Chicago Park District the most. As Chief Floriculturist at Garfield Park Conservatory he was responsible for several of the hot houses and gardens. For many years before he retired he was responsible for the rose gardens at Buckingham Fountain in Chicago at Lake Michigan. His favorite roses were Double Delight and Chrysler Imperial. He loved the outdoors including gardening, fishing and hunting. When he retired he and his wife built a home on 20 acres of land with a pond, apple trees, deer and many birds, in Marshfield, WI. When he passed on 5.25.2003 it was Memorial Day weekend. He was with his family who loved him dearly. It was 3:11PM on a beautiful sunny day and the lilacs were in full bloom.

All who knew Ray loved and respected him. He was proud of his Country and was active in the Democratic organization. He never lived in Schaumburg but he and his wife came to visit their Daughter and Grandson here often and enjoyed the community a lot. Although his Mother passed on Christmas Eve when he was 8 yrs old he always loved Christmas and made it special for his family. He was a hard working man who cared about others. He had a good sense of humor and loved to kid around. He was a good provider & devoted Husband, Father, and Grandfather. He truly loved his family unconditionally and he is deeply missed by them and all who new him. All who new him were better for having known him in their life.



Theodore A. Sutkus

Ted, a son of a WWII Veteran, was born in February 1949 and raised in Chicago, went to St. Alphonsus Grammar School and attended St. Michael's High School. Ted was drafted into the Army on March 1969, went to boot camp at Fort Polk, Louisiana, Served with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam from August 1969 to August 1970.

Ted was honorably discharged from the Army in 1971 as Specialist Four.

Married his wife Karen in 1974. They have a daughter Carrie born in 1982. Ted, along with his wife and 4 year old daughter, marched in the "Welcome Home" Vietnam Veterans Parade, held in Chicago, IL on June 13, 1986 to give tribute and recognition to those who served there.

He carried dog tags for a friend who could not attend that day, silently gave honor to those he served with and to the Missing in Action and Prisoners of War-You Are Not Forgotten.

As Ted's friends, we went to that Parade to welcome our Friend Home and to thank him for his service, an experience we will never forget.

Ted does not talk much about his time there. He does not feel he was a hero; he had no reservations about serving for this Country or serving his Tour of Duty in Vietnam. He feels others did so much more than he, many lost arms, legs, eyesight, were paralyzed for life, or were missing in action. Thousands died—the ultimate sacrifice. To him they are the Heroes

I know it shaped who he is today; He's all about his family and friends. Ted is Proud to be an American.





Pfc Raymond Thrash

PFC Raymond Thrash served in the US Army during World War 2. He was in the 3rd Army, 26th Division in Europe, serving under General George Patton. He was awarded The Purple Heart for injuries during combat. He will always be in our hearts,

Ruth, Randy, Tim and Ron.



George C. Tourtelot

My father, George C. Tourtelot, was truly a member of the world's "greatest generation". He was born in 1914, went through the depression having to drop out of high school to support his brothers and sisters, and was drafted at the start of WW II. He served in the signal corps with the U.S. Army in the Philippines and never talked much about what went on over there. He embodied what made America the nation it is today; a loving husband and father, a hard worker (never having a missed a day of work) and a warrior who answered the call to arms.



John Trimpe

The brick dedicated to John Trimpe on behalf of his family is dedicated to a man who originally joined the Army Reserve for the college benefits, but during his tenure of service, both stateside and overseas, has endeared him to the Constitution and the ideals of freedom it represents.

The situation of the people in Afghanistan has made him appreciative of what he has in terms of these freedoms and the stability of our Democratic system of Government. The brick is also dedicated to those who still serve and those who have made the supreme sacrifice of their lives.

Thomas Miller Turner

Tom was in the Navy from 1957-1963. Some of that time was spent involved with the special forces in Vietnam, some of it on destroyers, some of it playing on the Rugby team in Australia during R&R. He was a plankowner on the USS Carpenter. It was a difficult time in his life, but he did all that was asked of him and was proud to serve his country. This experience gave him a great appreciation for life and taught him to live each day to the fullest.



Tom was a resident of Schaumburg, living in Timbercrest from 1965 until he died in 1998. What Tom loved most in life were his family, his friends, his dog, people and life itself. He coached his children and their teammates in ice hockey, SAA girls soccer, horseback riding and so many other things. His interests were endless: He was a biker(dirt and street), pilot, boater (he fished for everything from bait fish to tigersharks on the Lunker Lover in the Atlantic Ocean) , treasure hunter, scuba diver, game hunter, car enthusiast and collector, and lover of camping and the outdoors. He could fix anything and his children called him "McGiver". He shared his interests and his equipment and his knowledge with so many people--family, friends and strangers. One friend said that you were a better person for having known Tom Turner. Whatever he did, he did with others and he loved to laugh. He always said to never lose your sense of humor. He was also big on having a positive attitude. He believed that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react.

Tom was an accomplished bluegrass musician who played the banjo, mandolin, harmonica, dobro and other instruments in his band "The Rusty Rails". He played his banjo and sang in the choir in St. Matthew's Church and Church of the Holy Spirit for many years. He was also a crusader of seemingly hopeless causes. He fought long and hard against the Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin for the release of his orphaned Rocky Raccoon and beat the system, winning Rocky's release. His last great crusade was to preserve the old cemetery by the pumphouse on Cedarcrest Drive in Schaumburg that the Village wanted to sell as a homesite.

Tom would have given a stranger the shirt off his back. He was an indiscriminate, all-around loving guy--a friend to everyone. He loved to help people. If one were to look up the phrase "Good Samaritan", Tom Turner's picture would be in its place. He had a strong belief in God and a great love for his family which includes his wife, Betty, his children Scott, Carrie and Holly and his Grandchildren McKenna and Jaydon.

"Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others stay for a while leaving footprints on our hearts and we are never ever the same." Tom touched so many people and he helped make this world a better place. He is greatly missed.

God bless you, Tommy T. We love you.
Betty and Family

U.S.S. Enterprise CV-6

I am dedicating my brick to the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Enterprise CV-6, the most decorated ship in U.S. History; and to the many shipmates buried at sea.

She took twenty-nine bomb hits and one kamikaze suicide bomber in World War II. She has twenty battle stars, out of twenty-two battles.

I served aboard her from March 1942 until October 1945, and I earned the following medals:

- The Bronze Star medal
- The Presidential Unit Citation with one blue star
- The Navy Unit Commendation medal
- The American Campaign medal
- The Asiatic Pacific medal with sixteen battle stars
- The Victory medal of World War II
- The Philippine Liberation medal
- The Philippine Independence medal
- The Philippine Defense medal with two stars
- The Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

God Bless America –

Robert G. Terreberry, SF1/C



U.S.S. ENTERPRISE (CV-6)

- She was the first carrier to be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and the Navy Unit Commendation and was the only carrier to receive both.
- She was the only non-Royal Navy ship in history to be presented the Admiralty pennant by the British government.
- She was the "Most Decorated Ship" in the U.S. Navy.
- She was the only carrier in action during the entire period of war, 1941-1945.
- She participated in more battles than any other United States ship earning 20 out of a possible 22 battle stars. The next closest ship has 16 and the next carrier 13.

Bob Terreberry, SF1/C, WWII
4 Years on Board

Cpt. Stephen J. Valent

Stephen John Valent was born in Chicago, Illinois on 14 February 1971. He entered military service with the Illinois Army National Guard in November of 1993. He completed Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, SC and qualified as an Aviation Operations Specialist (93P) in April, 1994 at Ft. Rucker, Alabama. In October 1994, he entered the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Southern Illinois University and was commissioned in July 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. In May 1998, 2LT Valent reported to Fort Rucker to attend the initial Entry Rotary Wing training, the Aviation Officer Basic Course, and later the AH-64A Aviator Qualification course. Upon graduation, 2LT Valent was assigned as a Platoon Leader for Co A, 1-285th Aviation Battalion, Silverbell Army Heliport, Marana, Arizona. CPT Valent's most recent assignment was the Battalion Logistics Officer (S4) for the 1-285th Attack Helicopter Battalion.

His awards and decorations include the Arizona Service Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal, CPT Valent was qualified on the UH1H (Iroquois), OH58A (Kiowa Warrior), TH67 (Creek), AH64A (Apache) and AH64D (Long Bow) helicopters.



Forever, Desert Hawk!!

In Memoriam



CPT Stephen J. Valent

14 Feb 1971-12 Dec 2002



PFC Arthur B. Van Den Heuvel

Arthur was my Uncle. He served in the Southwest Pacific Area during World War II

Arthur was awarded the following medals:

- Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster
- Bronze Star Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Asiatic – Pacific Campaign Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars
- Good Conduct Medal
- WWII Victory Medal
- Honorable Service Lape Button WWII

Arthur was killed in action in March, 1945 at the age of 24 years old.

Mary Jane Bauer



Augustus G. Vasseur

Augustus G. Vasseur was born in Kentucky the oldest of ten children. He served as a Corporal in World War one. Well liked and respected by all that knew Him, He was a dedicated Husband, Father and Grandfather. He is missed by many who loved Him.

Jeffrey Raymond Vlcek

On June 5, 1974, Jeffrey Raymond Vlcek enlisted in the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS where he was stationed at Camp Pendleton., CA. While at Camp Pendleton he was assigned as the Personnel Clerk for 1st Lt., USMCR R.J. Cochran. Under 1stLt. Cochran, Jeffrey learned the discipline of being a United States Marine, received the National Defense Service Medal, as well as Good Conduct Medal.

After moving back home to Illinois and completing his education, B.A. Social Justice, Lewis University, along with his military experience he was prepared and excited to serve as a Trooper for the Illinois State Police, (ISP). During his twenty-six (26) years with the ISP, Jeff's career milestones included being ranked as a Master Sergeant, 18 years of investigative experience with cases ranging from white-collar crime to terrorist activity to homicide, 16 years supervisory experience in Patrol, Internal Affairs; Administration and Investigations, 9 years experience in multi-agency task forces, 3 years in Internal Affairs, and 2 years Chief of Staff; Division of Administration.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Jeff continued to study and attained his M.A. Public Service from Governors State University, and then was proud to attend and became a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, (FBI) National Academy Association, 171st Session, a member of the South Suburban Chiefs of Police Association, as well as one of the Founding Board Members of Professionals Against Confidence Crime.

On behalf of the State of Illinois, Jeffrey received a Department Commendation for combating the activities of domestic terrorists in Illinois, Department Unit Commendation for the investigation and apprehension of an armed burglary crew responsible for over 200 burglaries in a multi-county area, Department Unit Commendation for the conviction of individuals and a corporation for fraudulent activities against the State of Illinois, Division Recognition for the investigation and apprehension of an inter-state burglary crew, and Department Certificate of Recognition for distinguished service in the Gang Tactical Unit.

Jeffrey was a Police Officer, Marine and a Parent as the father of two, Amanda Ann Vlcek and Zachary John Vlcek, he found time to be close to his family and his other Public Service Positions included Homewood-Flossmoor High School District 233, where Jeffrey worked as Police Liaison/Supervisor, at his children's high school, along with Volunteer Experience with the Homewood, Illinois Baseball and Softball Leagues where he was a Coach of Girls Softball, Babe Ruth Baseball, an Umpire and League Commissioner, where his children played ball.

Jeffrey Raymond Vlcek was a Great American, who believed in truth, honor, and loyalty. He was the best friend that his wife, Terri-Linn Vlcek had, and he will be missed forever and ever.



Eliseo (Jay) Villarreal – United States Air Force

There's something to be said for 'everlasting friendship'. Not only did Jay and Gordon both in the Air Force (although years apart), have also become the best of friends. It's nice to listen to them share stories in regards to their time served. I dedicate this commemorative brick to my most devoted friend.

"I know"
M



Gordon R. Wait – United States Air Force

This dedication is to the love of my life. Although we married many years after he served, I'm proud to be married to a man who loves our country and supported us during Viet Nam. With my Dad and Brother who also supported the United States, it honors them to know that I have brought to the family another proud American.

Loving you Forever,
"Me the Wife"



Robert J. Wierzba

My husband Robert J. Wierzba (Sgt) is a proud U.S. Army veteran of eight years. He served this country traveling around the world, and fighting on many different front lines. During Operation Desert Storm after returning from Saudi Arabia, he rejoined his unit at The National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, Ca. who's job was to train the soldiers to deploy into a desert environment. Although he was never injured in combat, his heart and thoughts will always be with the people that were with him, and all the comrades who have fallen before him. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to honor him as well as all who served this country.

Laura Wierzba



Kaye Williams

Wife Kaye joined the U.S. Navy Jun 1957 and left Navy in 1959 in order to transfer from Memphis, Tn to Norfolk, Va with spouse.



Roger Williams SKCM, USN Retired

Joined Navy Dec 1953 and retired Sep 1974. Served aboard various types of ships from Ocean Going Tugs to Nuclear Aircraft Carrier out of Hawaii, Norfolk, VA and Charleston, SC. I served ashore at San Diego, Ca, Memphis, TN, Keflavik, Iceland, DaNang, Viet Nam, Gulfport, Ms and Great Lakes, IL. Served in Cuba during Bay of Pigs and In Viet Nam during the Tet Offensive in 1968. Retired at highest enlisted rate as Master Chief.



Sgt. Wally Wisniewski
is our Grandfather!
His given name is Walter Joseph Wisniewski

He was the best Grandfather anyone could ever have.

He was a tail gunner in World War II, who was shot down over the German/Swiss border and interned in the Swiss Underground for many months. He was even mentioned in a book named, "Hubert, Diary of an Airman", by Sabra G. Whatley.

For a long, long time he wouldn't talk about his war experiences in Europe. But, when any of us kids would ask questions for school, he would try to help us out and answer the best he could.

He was the kindest, gentlest man on this earth. The true definition of "**GENTLEMAN.**"

He past away on January 21, 2002, at the age of 85. We all miss him so much, and that's why we honor him with a brick at Veteran's Gateway Park.

We love you Grandpa!

Edward N. Witz

Although my husband Edward N. Witz had only one year left to obtain a law degree at DePaul University in Chicago. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on October 9, 1942. He enlisted as a Private and in one year was promoted to Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, and Technical Sergeant. In this latter capacity he was the top non-commissioned officer in charge of administration for a base camp of 10,000 airmen in transition. At the end of 1943 he was sent to Office Command School in Miami.

His military history is detailed further in this letter. This history also recorded in a book registered in the Library of Congress entitled "100 Years of Service". His final assignment was an adjutant. His squadron was scheduled twice for overseas duty and at the end of the war he was assigned for occupational duty to Japan. Upon his Honorable Discharge in 1946, he immediately enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and served until May 10, 1957 with a Honorable Discharge.

As a resident for nine and a half years at Friendship Village in Schaumburg, a retirement community, he initiated and organized several activities there as well as a Veterans Post in 2004 of which he became the first and current Commander. This post is known as "Senior Veterans Post No. 1 Friendship Village.

Upon return to civilian life, he established his own wholesale business selling products for the family including his own brand of ladies nylon hosiery known as "Mademoiselle".



PFC Rudolph Wodarski

My Uncle was the youngest of seven children. He loved his family especially his mother, his sister Jenny and his young nephew Bobby.

He had a real zest for life. He loved God and country and so joined the Army during WWII. He served his country in the infantry. He died in combat in France on September 11, 1944 and subsequently received the Purple Heart. Please remember him in your prayers.

Loretta J. Kosiek



Leonard Zielinski

Leonard Zielinski served in the Navy during World War II. He was on the aircraft carrier the USS Saratoga, and on the battleship the USS Idaho. His naval experiences will not be forgotten as he was at Pearl Harbor the day after it was bombed. He is a dedicated family man. He is proud to be married for 57 years, has 3 sons and 7 grandchildren.



CPL. F. J. Zubricky

US Army Air Corp
WWII

Asiatic Pacific Theatre Ribbon, 1 Bronze Battle Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, WWII Victory Medal & 4 Overseas Service Bars. Proudly, he served.

Michael & Linda Nallen

Henry S. Zych

Staff Sergeant Henry S. Zych served proudly in the US Army during WWII. He left a pregnant wife back in Chicago and went off for training at Camp Grant in 1942. He came home briefly to see his new daughter but then went off for more training in Pennsylvania and Alabama before shipping out for North Africa. He continued his service in Italy before shipping home from France at the end of the war.

His duties included working with the mail, something he had knowledge of from his job with the post office before the war. He ran the postal unit for his men and reveled in the fact that he could do an important job for the morale of the men. Once, a letter came with the name obliterated from the weather. He remembered the handwriting and which soldier he thought it belonged to, and he was right. Although in the midst of combat, his only one on one encounter with the enemy was someone attempting to steal the mail.

His biggest claim to fame were the letters he sent home to his dear "wifey", each one having a drawing on the outside envelope and usually some type of drawing inside. We have kept all of those cards and letters in a treasured album. Everyone who sees them, marvels at his talent and sentimentality, as well as the hardships suffered by all in the war of being so far away from loved ones.

He came home to his wife and 3 year old daughter, Carol Anne (who later died at 14 from leukemia). He and Mildred had two other daughters, Diane and Eileen. After the war, Henry continued his work for the Post Office as the singing mailman and rose through the ranks to be President of the Letter Carriers Union in Chicago and also a National Officer. When the mailmen went on an illegal strike against the government in 1970, it was Henry who led the members in Chicago back to work. His picture made all the national newscasts and he actually received phone calls from men he had proudly served with during the war who recognized him.

His daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were his pride and joy. Henry died in 2001 at 87 but he passed on his love of country and the military to two of his 4 grandchildren. His oldest grandson is a Major in the US Army, currently serving in Afghanistan and the youngest grandson is a captain in the Air Force.



Henry A. Zyrkowski

Henry A. Zyrkowski entered the service on Oct 6th in 1943 and joined the 2nd Ranger Battalion. He entered WWII , D Day plus 5 at Omaha Beach. He went through many military campaign's in France, Belgium and Germany. He was wounded on Dec. 21, 1944 in the Battle of the Bulge. He takes pride in his military service to his country and his family thanks him for his service.

Scrapbook compiled by the
Village of Schaumburg describ-
ing the military experiences of
those honored by the Com-
memorative Memorial Brick
Program and displayed at the
Veterans Gateway Park Dedic-
ation at Town Square on
November 11, 2005.



VILLAGE OF SCHAUMBURG