

Honoring Our Korean Military Killed In Action



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **DIXON**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

PAUL A.

Address: 23 GREENFIELD AVENUE

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY G, 3RD BATTALION, 1ST MARINES

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS KOREA SERVICE MEDAL

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** KOREA

Service Notes:

Corporal Paul Augustus Dixon honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Paul Dixon was Killed in Action on 25 July 1953 during the Battle of Boulder City on Hill 119, the last ground battle of the Korean War / Corporal Dixon's remains were never recovered

Base Assignments:

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina - Constructed in May 1941, Camp LeJeune is a Marine Corps. amphibious assault training facility located in Jacksonville, North Carolina / The base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / The camps is also the home of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces in Readiness

Camp Pendleton, California - The camp was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / In October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation" and by 1946, it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / The camp was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the west coast.

Miscellaneous:

The last ground action fought by the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War was the Battle of Boulder City on 23-27 July 1953 near the 38th parallel, 30 miles north of Seoul. Approximately 3,000 Chinese Communists launched an attack in the Berlin Complex ("Boulder City") area held by the 7th Marine regiments on Hill 111 and the 1st Marine regiments on Hill 119. With the peace talks in Panmunjom reaching a conclusion, the Chinese had been eager to gain a



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last-minute victory over the UN forces and the battle was the last of the war before the official signing of the Korean Armistice

During the action the Chinese had attempted to make a breakthrough to the Imjin River along the divisional boundary between the US 1st Marine Division and the 1st Commonwealth Division (Australian) in order to turn the Marine division's flank. The Marines had endured the brunt of the attack, repelling the Chinese onslaught with their infantry and artillery but suffering casualties in the process. Only a few hours later the Armistice Agreement was signed, ultimately ending the war

Corporal Paul Augustus Dixon is memorialized at the Honolulu Memorial on the "Courts of the Missing" along with more than 8,000 other Americans Missing In Action from the Korean War / Corporal Dixon Paul is remembered at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington

Paul Augustus Dixon joined the United States Marine Corps in 1951 and was 19 years of age at the time of his death

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment

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The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

The Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon is awarded to any qualifying unit of the Navy or Marine Corps that distinguishes itself by outstanding heroism in combat against a hostile foreign force or for extremely meritorious service not involving combat but in support of military operations

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941



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The Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea" / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is a military unit award of the government of South Korea that may be presented to South Korean military units, and foreign military units for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea / It is awarded for exceptional meritorious service to South Korea / The citation may be presented to units that participated in the defense of South Korea as part of the U.N. forces during the Korean War

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on 15 December 1950 as the United Nations Service Medal / The decoration was the first international award ever created by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War / The United Nations Service Medal (Korea) is awarded to any military service member, of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses



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Name: ERHARDT

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

HAROLD E.

Address: 3448 CLINTON STREET

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

3 AAA (ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY) AW (AUTOMATIC WEAPONS) BN 3RD DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** KOREA

Service Notes:

Private Harold Erhardt honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Harold Erhardt was assigned as a Field Artillery Chief and stationed with the 3rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery (Automatic Weapons) Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division / PVT Erhardt was Killed in Action when seriously wounded on 12 June 1953 while fighting the enemy in North Korea and died of those wounds the next day / Private Harold Erhardt was posthumously award the Purple Heart for wounds suffered on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Harold E. Erhardt passed away on 12 June 1953 at the age of 20 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

Harold E. Erhardt is remembered at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington

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Name: **MCGRATH**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JAMES J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

38TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** KOREA

Service Notes:

Private First-Class James McGrath honorably served in the United States Army / PFC James McGrath was a Light Weapons Infantryman and assigned as a member of the 38th Infantry Division / Private First-Class James J. McGrath was Killed in Action on 12 February 1951 while fighting the enemy near Chipyeong-ni, South Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Private First Class James J. McGrath was 18 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

James McGrath is remembered at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

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The Battle of Chipyeong-ni, also known as the Battle of Dipingli, was a decisive battle of the Korean War, that took place from 13–15 February 1951 between American and French units of the US 23rd Infantry Regiment and various units of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA) around the village of Chipyeong-ni / The result was a United Nations Command victory / Due to the ferocity of the Chinese attack and the heroism of the defenders, the battle has also been called, "...one of the greatest regimental defense actions in military history"

The 38th Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment of the United States Army and was established on 28 July 1866 / The 38th Infantry participated in the Korean Spring Offensive, the UN Summer-Fall Offensive, the Second Korean Winter Offensive, the Summer-Fall 1952 Offensive, the Third Korean Offensive and the Korean Summer Offensive of 1953 / Five members of the 38th Infantry Regiment were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions in the Korean War

The 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) ("Indianhead") is a formation of the United States Army / Since the 1960's, its primary mission has been the pre-emptive defense of South Korea in the event of an invasion from North Korea / Approximately 17,000 soldiers serve in the 2nd Infantry Division, with 10,000 stationed in South Korea, accounting for about 35% of the United States Forces Korea personnel / Known as the 2nd Infantry Division-ROK/U.S. Combined Division (2ID/RUCD), the division is bolstered by rotational Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs) from other U.S. Army divisions / The 2nd Infantry Division is unique as the only U.S. Army division to incorporate South Korean soldiers through the KATUSA (Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army) program, which began in 1950 with the agreement of South Korean President Syngman Rhee / By the end of the Korean War, around 27,000 KATUSAs had served with U.S. forces / As of May 2006, roughly 1,100 KATUSA soldiers are assigned to 2ID / Between 1950 and 1954, over 4,748 Dutch soldiers also served with the division

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) was a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established November 8, 1950, by executive order of President Harry Truman / The Korean Service Medal is the primary US military award for service or participation in operations in the Korean area during the Korean War between 27 June 1950, and 27 July 1954

The Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea" / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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1954

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military award / The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry, Ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

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Name: **WAGNER JR**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

WILLIAM

Address: ORCHARD PARK ROAD

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION, 32ND INFANTRY REGIMENT, 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** KOREA

Service Notes:

Corporal William Wagner honorably served in the United States Army / CPL William Wagner was deployed to Japan for 18 months before being re-deployed to Korea / CPL Wagner was declared a casualty of the Korean War when while warming himself next to a fire on 3 May 1951 near Inje, Korea, a grenade exploded, taking his life

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Wagner was a graduate of West Seneca High School and joined the Army in 1951 / William Wagner passed away on 3 May 1951 and is interred at the Buffalo Cemetery, Buffalo, New York / William Wagner is honored at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington

The 32nd Infantry Regiment is a battalion within the United States Army / The 32nd Regiment was first organized on 7 August 1916, on Oahu, Hawaii from elements of the 1st and 2nd Infantry Regiments / At its activation, it was known as "The Queen's Own" Regiment, a title bestowed by the last queen of Hawaii, Liliuokalani / In June 1950, the 32nd boarded troopships, departing for Inchon, Korea / The 32nd went ashore on 16 September 1950, and were immediately met by small arms, mortar, and tank fire from communist forces / The 32nd advanced north toward the Han River, the last natural barrier to Seoul / The "Buccaneers" of the 32nd, in the cold morning hours of 25 September, crossed the Han River under intense enemy fire and captured their first objective, a dominating hill mass outside Seoul / The regiment

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was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation for their actions in relieving pressure on the Marines Corps that were battling the enemy / The division was relieved of the responsibility for the Seoul area on 30 September 1950 and moved 350 miles overland, arriving in Pusan to begin training for another landing at Riwŏn and advancing to the Korean-Manchurian border / Landing at Riwŏn on the 29th of October, the regiment moved quickly northward with the 1st Battalion on the east coast of the Chosin Reservoir and the 2nd and 3rd in the Fusan Reservoir area / On 29 November 1950, when the full force of the Chinese attack struck the UN forces, the 2nd and 3rd Battalions stood their ground until UN elements further north moved to join the battle / Together all these UN elements made an orderly withdrawal from the Fusan area / The 1st Battalion on the east coast of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir was with elements of the 31st Infantry Regiment and the 1st Marines, who were cut off by Chinese forces / Only after long and bloody fighting did these forces work their way south to Koto-ri, and then to the Hungman perimeter / Elements of the regiment were among the units that participated in the Battle of Triangle Hill from October to November 1952 / With the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement and the end of the Korean war, the regiment began defensive preparations on the Korean peninsula, in case of a resumption of hostilities / The regiment was later reorganized and activated as the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment

The 7th Cavalry Regiment is a United States Army cavalry regiment formed in 1866 / Its official nickname is "Garryowen", after the Irish air "Garryowen" that was adopted as its march tune / The regiment participated in some of the largest battles of the Indian Wars, including its famous defeat at the Battle of Little Bighorn, where its commander Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer was killed / The 7th Cavalry became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in the 1920s, it went on to fight in the Pacific Theater of World War II and took part in the Admiralty Islands, Leyte and Luzon campaigns / It later participated several key battles of the Korean War / The unit later participated in the Vietnam War / The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 7th Cavalry fought in one of the first American engagements of the Vietnam War, the Battle of Ia Drang / Over the course of the war, seven men earned the Medal of Honor while serving with the 7th Cavalry in Vietnam / It distinguished itself in the Gulf War and in the Global War on Terror where its squadrons and battalions now serve as Combined Arms Battalions or as reconnaissance squadrons for Brigade Combat Teams in Iraq and Afghanistan

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The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to units of the United Nations Command for service in Korea during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1954 / In recognition of allied military service to South Korea during the Korean War, all United States military departments were authorized the unit award for that period

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Name: **WIRTH**

Killed in Action *Hometown:* WEST SENECA

RAYMOND E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CORPORAL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

21ST INFANTRY, 24TH DIVISION, "B" COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL KOREA

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL (JAPAN)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Served in War Zone *Theater of Operations / Assignment:* KOREA

Service Notes:

Corporal Raymond E. Wirth honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Raymond Wirth was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division / Corporal Raymond Wirth was Killed in Action while fighting during "Operation Ripper" near Seoul, Korea on 4 April 1951

Operation Ripper, also known as the Fourth Battle of Seoul, was a United Nations military operation / Launched on 6 March 1951, Operation Ripper had two primary objectives, destroying as many units as possible of the Chinese communist People's Volunteer Army and North Korean military around Seoul, Hongch'on and Ch'unch'on / The operation also aimed to bring UN troops to the 38th parallel / Preceded by the largest artillery bombardment of the Korean War, American infantry divisions liberated Seoul on 15 March 1951 forcing the Communists northward out of the capital city / By the end of March 1951, US forces reached the 38th parallel

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Raymond E. Wirth was Killed in Action on 4 April 1951 and was 22 years of age at the time of his death and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 21st Infantry Regiment was assigned to the 24th Infantry Division on 26 August 1941 / After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the regiment guarded the northern shore of Oahu from Japanese attacks / The division underwent combat training and departed for Australia in May 1943 / The regiment deployed to Australia with the 24th Infantry Division,



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where it trained for combat in the Pacific Theater and first engaged the Japanese at Tanahmerah Bay, New Guinea, on 22 April 1944 / The regiment fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as Operation Iraqi Freedom / Task Force Smith, the first American unit to see action in the Korean War, was derived from the regiment's 1st Battalion

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The United Nations Service Medal Korea (UNSMK) is an international military decoration established by the United Nations during the Korean War / It was awarded to military service members of allied forces who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954

The Army of Occupation Medal (AOM) was awarded to US Army and Air Force personnel who served 30 consecutive days in Japan between September 3, 1945, and April 27, 1952

The Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea" / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation was awarded to units of the United Nations Command for service in Korea during the Korean Conflict from 1950 to 1954 / In recognition of allied military service to South Korea during the Korean War, all United States military departments were authorized the unit award for that period

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military award / The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry, Ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The Navy Good Conduct Medal was established in 1869, the Marine Corps version in 1896, the Coast Guard version in 1923, the Army version in 1941, and the Air Force version in 1963 / The medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years of "honorable and faithful service" / Such service implies that a standard enlistment was completed without any non-judicial punishment, disciplinary infractions, or court martial offenses