

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ACKER

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JAMES

W.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1954

**Year Discharged:** 1957

**Unit / Squadron:**

63RD ORDNANCE COMPANY, US ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 3rd Class James W. Acker honorably served in the United States Army / SP3 James Acker was deployed to Korea and served 17 months of foreign service in Germany

SP3 James Acker was Honorably Discharged from the US Army on 1 June 1957

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Acker was a longtime member of West Seneca Seniors / James W. Acker passed away on 14 January 2020 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps mission was to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility material during World War II to provide combat power to the U.S. Army

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ANDERSON

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

RUSSELL J

**Address:** 122 BULLIS ROAD

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1953

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS, 8TH ARMY, G3 SECTION

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

COMMENDATION RIBBON W/MEDAL PENDANT

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Russell J. Anderson honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Russell Anderson was deployed to Korea and assisted in the reorganization of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army

**Base Assignments:**

Camp Breckinridge, Kentucky - Built in 1942, the camp was named for John C. Breckinridge, U.S. Vice President, 1856-60; Confederate Secretary of War, 1865 / The camp was created as infantry training center for up to 40,000 men / During World War II, the camp was used as a prisoner of war camp / During the Korean War, Camp Breckinridge was the headquarters of the 506th Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and was used for the conduct of basic training of newly inducted U.S. Army recruits

**Miscellaneous:**

Russell Anderson graduated from West Seneca Central High School and graduated from Bryant & Stratton College / Prior to joining the Army in 1953, Anderson worked for the Erie Railroad / After his honorable discharge in 1954, Russell Anderson joined the West Seneca Police Department, retiring after 34 years of service / Russell Anderson was a member of the East Seneca Fire Department / Russell J. Anderson passed away on 14 June 2024

G3 military operations is a concept and application of military science that involves planning the operations for the projected maneuvering forces' provisions, services, training, and administrative functions

The Eighth Army was officially activated at Memphis, Tennessee, on June 10, 1944 and deployed to the Southwest Pacific / The Eighth Army methodically eliminated the last fanatical enemy resistance remaining on New Guinea and New Britain / From 26 December 1944 until 15 August 1945, Eighth Army was actively engaged in the reconquest of the Philippines, the largest joint campaign of the War in the Pacific / Eighth Army has transformed multiple times since its establishment /

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

During World War II, it fought in the Pacific Theater of Operations as a field army / In the immediate post-World War II era, Eighth Army served in Japan as an Army of Occupation / At the outbreak of the Korean War, the Eighth Army was sent into Inchon, Korea / The Eighth Army was decisively defeated at the Battle of the Chongchon River and forced to retreat all the way back to South Korea / The defeat of the U.S. Eighth Army resulted in the longest retreat of any U.S. military unit in history / The overstretched Eighth Army suffered heavily with the Chinese offensive, who were able to benefit from shorter lines of communication and with rather casually deployed enemy forces / The Chinese broke through the U.S. defenses despite U.S. air supremacy and the Eighth Army and U.N. forces retreated hastily to avoid encirclement. / A reformed Eighth Army returned to combat effectiveness over several months / Eighth Army slowed and ultimately halted the Chinese advance at the battles of Chipyeong-ni and Wonju / It then counter-attacked the Chinese, retook Seoul, and drove to the 38th parallel, where the front stabilized / During the aftermath of the Korean War, the Eighth Army remained in South Korea / During the Korea War, the Eighth Army served as both a field army and theater army and throughout the preponderance of the Cold War, it remained primarily a theater army / On November 20, 1954, it was merged with US Army Forces Far East (AFFE) as the major Army command in the region / The Eighth Army is a U.S. field army which commands all United States Army forces in South Korea. It is headquartered at the Camp Humphreys in the Anjeong-ri of Pyeongtaek, South Korea

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 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 Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BAPST**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**ROBERT J.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert J. Bapst honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert J. Bapst passed away on 11 November 2022 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BARREN**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**JAMES N.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS WYOMING (BB-32)

USS WISCONSIN (BB-64)

**Medals / Citations:**

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL "S"

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

James N. Barren honorably served in the United States Navy / James Barren served twice in the Navy, the first being at the tail end of World War II in 1945-1946, including duty aboard the battleship, USS Wyoming (BB-32) / He was Honorably Discharged with the rating of Seaman 2nd Class and earned the World War II Victory medal

On his second tour with the Navy, Gunners Mate Seaman James N. Barren served on the battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64) during the Korean War

James Barren was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 27 November 1954

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James N. Barren passed away on 20 January 2019 and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The USS Wyoming (BB-32) was the lead ship of her class of dreadnought battleships and was the third ship named Wyoming / The Wyoming was commissioned on 25 September 1912 and served in World War I as part of Battleship Division One, primarily patrolling the North Sea and escorting convoys to Norway / During World War II, the Wyoming was stationed in the Chesapeake Bay area as a gunnery ship training thousands of anti-aircraft gunners / The Wyoming was decommissioned on 1 August 1947 and sold for scrap

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

The USS Wisconsin (BB-64) was an Iowa-class battleship and the second ship named in honor of the state of Wisconsin / She was commissioned on 16 April 1944 and served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, where she shelled Japanese fortifications and screened aircraft carriers / During the Korean War, the Wisconsin shelled North Korean targets in support of United Nations and South Korean ground operations / The Wisconsin was decommissioned on 30 September 1991 and donated to the City of Norfolk, Virginia for a museum ship

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 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 Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BARTH, JR.

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

GORDON P.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Gordon P. "Phil" Barth, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / SSGT Gordon Barth was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Gordon P. "Phil" Barth, Jr. passed away on 13 April 2013

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BORKOWSKY

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

MELVIN W.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1950

**Year Discharged:** 1952

**Unit / Squadron:**

SPECIAL SERVICE COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Melvin W. Borkowsky honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Melvin Borkowsky was assigned as a bandsman, playing the drums in the Special Service Company

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his honorable discharge, Melvin Borkowsky continued playing the drums on a professional level in the Dave Cheskin Orchestra / Borkowsky also performed at Carnegie Hall and Madison Square Garden / Taking up permanent residence in West Seneca, Borkowsky spent 27 years at the Buffalo News as a printer before retiring / Borkowsky served the community as an Inspector for the West Seneca Auxiliary Police Department, putting nearly 40 years into the organization before the unit was retired / Melvin Borkowsky was an active member of the American Legion Post #735 / Borkowsky was a resident of the Seneca Health Care Center in West Seneca / Melvin W. Borkowsky passed away on 24 October 2020 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at St. Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURDICK**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**LARRY**

**M.**

**Address:** MAIN STREET

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1953

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

7TH DIVISION, HQ COMPANY 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Larry M. Burdick honorably served in the United States Army

Larry Burdick entered the Army in January 1953 / After an Honorable Discharge in December 1954, Burdick transferred to the Army Reserve to complete eight years of service / Larry Burdick received the Korean War Service Medal on the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War / PFC Burdick spent 17 months on overseas duty

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Larry M. "Bird" Burdick passed away on 1 November 2024 at the age of 91 years old and is interred at the St. Matthew's Cemetery Field of Valor, West Seneca, New York

The 31st Infantry Division, also known as the "Dixie Division," was an infantry division of the United States Army National Guard / It was active almost continuously from 1917 to 1968 / The division saw service in both World War I and World War II, and was mobilized during the Korean War, although it was not sent overseas / The division was organized in 1917 during World War I from the national guardsmen of Alabama, Florida, and Georgia, and deployed to France in September 1918, arriving weeks before the Armistice of 11 November that ended the war / It was mobilized in 1940 during World War II, and spent several years training in the United States In 1944 it was sent to the South-West Pacific Area, fighting in the New Guinea campaign and in the Battle of Mindanao / After the end of the war, the division was demobilized in December 1945 / Mobilized during the Korean War, the division served stateside at Camp Atterbury and Camp Carson / The 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 9th Inf Division served in Vietnam from 8 April 1968 until departure on 12 October 1970

The United States Army Reserve (USAR) is a reserve force of the United States Army / Together, the Army Reserve and



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

the Army National Guard constitute the Army element of the reserve components of the United States Armed Forces / Army Reserve Soldiers receive the same training as active-duty Soldiers / Army Reserve Soldiers combine civilian experience with military training to provide specialized skills for military missions around the world / The reserve components of the United States Armed Forces are military organizations whose members generally perform a minimum of 39 days of military duty per year and who augment the active duty military when necessary

Korean War Service Medal: The medal marked the 50th anniversary of the Korean War / The blue boxes for the medal from South Korea has written in English, "Korean War Service Medal", the reverse side of the enclosed medal is inscribed in Korean writing, "6.25 Incident Participation Medal"

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 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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BURGER**

**ROBERT**

**A.**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert A. "Bob" Burger honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Burger was a member of the West Seneca Lions Club / Robert A. "Bob" Burger passed away on 2 March 2023 at the age of 93 years old

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** CONMY

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JAMES

M.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

74TH ENGINEER HEAVY EQUIPMENT COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal James M. Conmy honorably served in the United States Army / CPL James Conny was assigned as a Welder with the 74th Engineer Heavy Equipment Company while stationed in Korea for eighteen months

CPL James Conny was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 10 July 1953

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James Conmy was a member of Msgr. Nash Knights of Columbus #3875 and St. Ambrose Seniors Club / James M. Conny passed away on 10 June 2019 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The 74th Engineer Company was constituted in the Regular Army on 1 October 1933 / The company was redesignated as the 74th Engineer Heavy Equipment Company on 19 August 1949 / The Company received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation in 1950-1951 while serving in Korea

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



**West Seneca**

Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **DAILY**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**RALPH G.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Ralph G. Daily honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Ralph Daily was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ralph Daily retired from the Transparent Bag Company where he had been employed as a Graphics Art Coordinator / Daily also served as a longtime volunteer at Buffalo Mercy Hospital / Ralph G. Daily passed away at the age of 91 years old on 2 September 2022 and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



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

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name: DOHERTY**

**JOHN**

**V.**

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

John V. Doherty honorably served in the United States Army / John Doherty was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Doherty retired as a Firefighter from the Buffalo Fire Department after 32 years / John V. Doherty passed away on 6 April 2024



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** DONAHUE

JOSEPH

P.

Killed in Action

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Joseph P. Donahue honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Donahue was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

---

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** DROZDOWSKI

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

RICHARD B.

**Address:** 768 MILL ROAD

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SSG

**Year Entered:** 1948

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

PURPLE HEART (2)

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Richard B. Drozdowski honorably served in the United States Army / SSG Richard Drozdowski was a veteran of World War II, enlisting in the United States Army in 1940 at the age of 17 years old / Private Drozdowski was deployed to Africa with the 2nd Army Infantry Division, later being promoted to Sergeant / During the North African Invasion, Richard Drozdowski was wounded and taken as a Prisoner of War (POW) at Casserine Pass (a gap in the Grand Dorsal chain of the Atlas Mountains in west central Tunisia), and sent to an Italian POW Camp in Sicily / Sergeant Drozdowski was later transferred to Stalag 2B Hammerstein in West Prussia / Drozdowski was a Prisoner of War for more than two years before he managed to escape / Russian Armed Forces advancing towards Germany from the East, found Sergeant Richard Drozdowski and returned him to the American lines / Sergeant Richard B Drozdowski was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions during battlefield combat and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action / The bullet and shrapnel he received from his wounding were never removed

When the Korean War broke out, our nation once again called upon Richard Drozdowski to serve his country, drafting him in 1948 / Promoted to Staff Sergeant, Drozdowski was deployed to Korea / SSG Drozdowski was wounded during combat operations and taken by Communist forces as a Prisoner of War and sent to a POW camp / SSG Drozdowski managed to escape his captors and with the aid of an Australian soldier, found his way back to the American lines and returned to duty / SSG Drozdowski was awarded his second Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat.

Staff Sergeant Richard Drozdowski continued to serve in the U.S. Army for 20 years.

**Base Assignments:**



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

## Miscellaneous:

Richard Drozdowski was born in Buffalo and attended Lackawanna High School / Richard Drozdowski worked for Moog for 20 years as an Auditor until his retirement / After his retirement, Drozdowski continued to work as an Auditor for the U.S. Government Audit System / Richard Drozdowski was a member of Matthew Glab Post #1477; American Legion, in Lackawanna and was an officer in the Ex-POW Organization / Richard B. Drozdowski passed away on 27 October 1991 at the age of 68 years old and is interred at St. John's Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

The 2nd Infantry Division was first constituted on 21 September 1917 in the Regular Army and organized on 26 October 1917 at Bourmont, Haute Marne, France / During World War I and World War II, The 2nd Infantry Division won many hard-fought victories / With the outbreak of hostilities in Korea on 25 June 1950, the 2nd Infantry Division was quickly alerted for movement to the Far East Command and assignment to the Eighth United States Army / The division arrived in Korea on 23 July 1950, becoming the first unit to reach Korea directly from the United States / Relieving the 24th Infantry Division at the Naktong River Line, the North Korean Korean People's Army (KPA) struck in a human wave attack on the night of 31 August 1950 / In the 16-day battle that followed, the division's clerks, bandsmen, technical and supply personnel joined in the fight to defend against the attackers / In August 1951, the division was on the offensive once again, ordered to attack a series of ridges that had been designated threats to the Eighth Army's line / These actions would devolve into the battles of Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge / The division would not receive relief until October 1951, with its infantry regiments having suffered heavy losses / After the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed on 27 July 1953, the 2nd Infantry Division withdrew to positions south of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / The 2nd Infantry Division was redeployed to the United States in 1954

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ERHARDT

HAROLD

E.

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name: ERNST**

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**RICHARD                      A.**

**Address:**

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard A. Ernst honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Ernst was the owner of Ernst Press in Buffalo / Richard A. Ernst passed away on 27 December 2023 at the age of 91 years old

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** FORTH SR

LEONARD

P.

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

518TH ORDNANCE COMPANY (DIRECT SUPPORT)

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Leonard P. Forth, Sr. served 15 months in Korea with the 518th Ordnance Company

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Leonard Forth, Sr. was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 17 July 1954 / Forth was a member and past Commander of the Francis J. Donovan American Legion Post 1626 in Cheektowaga / Leonard P. Forth, Sr. passed away on 11 February 2019

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps mission was to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility material during the Korean War to provide combat power to the U.S. Army

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



**West Seneca**

Town of West Seneca, New York

1954

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **FRANK, SR.**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**DONALD E.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Donald E. Frank, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Frank was a member of the Harvey D. Moran, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #2940 in West Seneca, New York / Donald E. Frank, Sr. passed away on 7 June 2020 and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **FRONTERA, JR.**  
**THOMAS**

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Thomas Frontera, Jr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Frontera was a member of Union Fire Company, Fire Dist. #2 West Seneca / Thomas Frontera, Jr. passed away on 17 February 2020 at the age of 88 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery in the Veteran's Field of Valor, West Seneca, New York

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **GENTRY**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**BILL** **E.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1950

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

BRONZE SERVICE STAR

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Bill Earl Gentry honorably served in the United States Air Force / PFC Bill Gentry was deployed to Korea and assigned as a Telephone and Telegraph Equipment Repairman

**Base Assignments:**

Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming - shortened as F.E. Warren AFB is a United States Air Force base (AFB) located approximately 3 miles west of Cheyenne, Wyoming / It is one of three strategic-missile bases in the U.S. / It was named in honor of Francis E. Warren in 1930 / Warren AFB is home of the 90th Missile Wing (90 MW), assigned to the Twentieth Air Force, Air Force Global Strike Command / The 90 MW operates the LGM-30G Minuteman III ICBM. It is also the home of Twentieth Air Force, which commands all U.S. Air Force ICBMs / Warren AFB is the oldest continuously active military installation within the Air Force, established in 1867 by the United States Army as Fort David Allen Russell / The facility came under the control of the United States Army Air Forces on 1 June 1947, and then of the United States Air Force (USAF) on 18 September 1947 / The 389th Air Base Group was established on 1 February 1958 to take control of the former ATC facilities as part of the transfer to Strategic Air Command (SAC) / The provisional 4320th Strategic Missile Wing was established that date with responsibility for 24 Atlas missile sites under SAC / Although not the first designated missile wing, Warren became the first fully operational ICBM base in the Air Force

**Miscellaneous:**

Bill Gentry was a member of Harvey D. Morin, VFW Post #2940 and a member of the Color Guard / Gentry was an active member of the St. David's Episcopal Church in West Seneca / Bill Earl Gentry passed away on February 4, 2020 at the age of 89

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

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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 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

Bronze Service Stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** GRESCH

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

RICHARD W.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Richard W. Gresch honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Gresch was born on 20 October 1943 in Eyota, Minnesota / Gresch later moved to West Seneca and worked as a Social Worker at the West Seneca Developmental Center for 30 years / Richard W. Gresch passed away on 18 November 2020 at the age of 77 years old

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** HECK

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

CLARENCE A.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

38TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Clarence Arthur "Art" Heck honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Clarence Heck was deployed to Korea for 12 months and assigned to the 38th Infantry Regiment

CPL Clarence Heck received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 27 January 1954

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Clarence Heck served as a firefighter for the East Seneca Hose Fire Company for 69 years / Clarence Arthur "Art" Heck passed away on 8 April 2018 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Mt. Hope Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

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 Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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 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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **JOHNSON**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**RALPH T.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Ralph T. Johnson honorably served in the United States Army

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ralph T. Johnson passed away on 11 January 2021

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KALINOWSKI

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

HENRY

A.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR

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

**Service Notes:**

Henry A. Kalinowski honorably served in the United States Army / Henry Kalinowski was deployed to Korea as a Combat Medic and was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions during hostile conditions

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Henry A. "Sarge" Kalinowski passed away on 1 October 2021 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at 14 Holy Helpers Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** KINSELLA

EDWARD L.

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Edward L. Kinsella honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward L. "Ted" Kinsella passed away on 11 September 2020 at the age of 87 years old



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOLIS**

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**PETER**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Peter Kolis honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Peter Kolis was a member of the Knights of Columbus and American Legion Post #1620 / Peter Kolis passed away on 23 December 2024



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **KOSZELA**

**EDWARD**

**F.**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Edward F. Koszela honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Edward Koszela belonged to the Leo and Ed's Sportsman Club / Edward F. Koszela passed away on 10 June 2024 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** LAZAROS

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

DONALD J.

**Address:** COVINGTON DRIVE

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

1ST MARINE CORPS DIVISION, DOG COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Donald J. Lazaros honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Donald Lazaros was deployed to Korea and awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during combat action in Korea

**Base Assignments:**

Camp Lejune, 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 camp is also the home of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces in Readiness

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia - Established in 1917, MCB Quantico is a Marine Corps installation located near Triangle, Virginia / Used primarily for training purposes, MCB Quantico is known as the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps"

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (commonly referred to as MCRD) is a United States Marine Corps military installation in San Diego, California / The main mission of MCRD San Diego is the initial training of enlisted male recruits living west of the Mississippi River / Over 21,000 recruits are trained each year / The Depot also is the home to the Marine Corps' Recruiter School and Western Recruiting Region's Drill Instructors School.

**Miscellaneous:**

Donald Lazaros moved to Florida / Donald Lazaros was a long time employee of Gold Coast Fire Equipment in Riviera Beach, Florida / Donald J. Lazaros passed away on 18 January 2013 at the age of 81 years old

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **LIEBLER**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**ROBERT H.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Robert H. "Bob" Liebler honorably served in the Military and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Liebler had a career with Bell's Supermarkets / Robert H. "Bob" Liebler passed away on 5 September 2025 at the age of 92 and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** LUDWIG

JAMES

E.

Killed in Action

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP3

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Third-Class James E. Ludwig honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

James E. Ludwig passed away on 23 April 2009 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Fourteen Holy Helpers, Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

**Miscellaneous:**

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** MARTS

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

CHARLES W.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Charles William "Bill" Marts honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Charles Marts was deployed to Korea

Charles William Marts also served in combat action during World War II

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Marts co-founded the Marine Corps League of Lackawanna / Marts was a member of the West Seneca Auxiliary Police and a retired Bethlehem Steel Worker / Charles William "Bill" Marts passed away on 26 November 2023 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **MARTS**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**CHARLES W.**

**Address:**

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Charles William "Bill" Marts honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Charles Marts also served in World War II

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles Marts co-founded the Marine Corps League of Lackawanna and a member of the West Seneca Auxiliary Police / Charles Marts was a retired Bethlehem Steel Worker / Charles William "Bill" Marts passed away on 26 November 2013 at the age of 86 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **MASSET**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**WILLIAM J.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant William J. Masset honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SSGT William Masset was deployed to Korea / SSGT William Masset served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

---

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**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

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** MENDOLIA, SR.

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JOHN J.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR (2)

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal John J. Mendolia, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL John Mendolia was deployed to Korea with the 2nd Infantry

CPL Mendolia was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat action / Corporal Mendolia was awarded 2 Bronze Star Medals for bravery during combat operations

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Mendolia was born in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania / Mendolia earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Buffalo in 1959 / John Mendolia was an Engineer and Director of Technical Services for Danaher, owner of American Precision Industries / Mendolia worked for the company for 40 years / Mendolia was a member of the West Seneca Historical Society and had published several articles in engineering journals and was a member of East Aurora Country Club / John Mendolia was a member of Harvey D. Morin Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #2940 / John J. Mendolia, Sr. passed away on 8 December 2004 at the age of 74 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

The 2nd Infantry Division (2ID, 2nd ID) ("Indianhead") is a formation of the United States Army / Its current primary mission is the pre-emptive defense of South Korea in the event of an invasion from North Korea / There are approximately 17,000 soldiers in the 2nd Infantry Division, with 10,000 of them stationed in South Korea / The 2nd Infantry Division arrived in Korea, via Pusan on 23 July 1950, becoming the first unit to reach Korea directly from the United States / The first big test for the 2nd Infantry came when the North Korean Korean People's Army (KPA) struck in a human wave attack on the night of 31 August 1950 / In the 16-day battle that followed, the division's clerks, bandsmen, technical and supply personnel joined in the fight to defend against the attackers / The division was the first unit to break

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

out of the Pusan Perimeter starting on 16 September 1950 and Eighth Army then began a general offensive northward against crumbling KPA opposition to establish contact with forces of the 7th Infantry Division driving southward from the Inchon beachhead / The 2nd Infantry Division was within 50 miles of the Manchurian border when the Chinese People's Volunteer Army (PVA) launched their Second Phase Offensive on 25 November 1950 / During the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River, soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division were given the mission of protecting the rear and right flank of the Eighth Army as it retired to the south / After this battle, while surrounded and outgunned, the division had to fight its way south through what was to become known as "The Gauntlet" - a PVA roadblock 6 miles long where the 23rd Infantry Regiment fired off its stock of 3,206 artillery shells within 20 minutes, a massive barrage that prevented PVA troops from following the regiment / The 2nd Infantry suffered 4,037 casualties, and lost most of its artillery pieces, 40 percent of its signal equipment, 45 percent of its crew-served weapons and 30 percent of its vehicles were lost during the battle / In August 1951, the division was on the offensive once again, ordered to attack a series of ridges that had been designated threats to the Eighth Army's line / These actions would devolve into the battles of Bloody Ridge and Heartbreak Ridge / The division would not receive relief until October, with its infantry regiments having suffered heavy losses / The 2nd Division was withdrawn after possessing both Bloody and Heartbreak Ridges, and the damage they inflicted upon the PVA/KPA (North Korean Korean People's Army) that held the ridges was estimated at 25,000 casualties / After the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed on 27 July 1953, the 2nd Infantry Division withdrew to positions south of the Korean Demilitarized Zone / After the armistice, the division remained in Korea until 1954, when it was reduced to near zero strength, the colors were transferred to Fort Lewis, Washington, Georgia and, in October 1954, the 44th Infantry Division was reflagged as the Second / The 2nd Infantry Division formally returned to South Korea in July 1965

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 Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **MONGER**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**KENNETH R.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO2

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS MISSOURI (BB-63)

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

EUROPEAN OCCUPATION MEDAL

CHINA SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Second-Class Kenneth R. Monger honorably served in the United States Navy / PO2 Kenneth Monger was assigned as a Metalsmith, Welder 2nd Class while serving on the battleship USS Missouri (BB-63) for 40 months

Petty Officer Second-Class Kenneth Monger was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 10 January 1956

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Kenneth R. Monger passed away on 11 March 2018 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York

The USS Missouri (BB-63) is an Iowa-class battleship commissioned on 11 June 1944 and was the last battleship commissioned by the United States / The Missouri was assigned to the Pacific Theater during World War II, where she participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa / She shelled the Japanese home islands and her quarterdeck was the site of the surrender of the Empire of Japan, which ended World War II / Nicknamed the "Mighty Mo", she has been called the most historic battleship in the world / Missouri was the first American battleship to arrive in Korean waters and served as the flagship / She took part in numerous shore bombardment operations / The Missouri was decommissioned on 31 March 1992 and became a museum ship at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii as she watches over the remains of the Arizona and those interred within the Arizona's hull

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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 Navy Occupation Service Medal is a military award of the United States Navy which was "Awarded to commemorate the services of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel in the occupation of certain territories of the enemies of the U.S. during World War II" and recognized those personnel who participated in the European and Asian occupation forces during, and following World War II / The medal was also bestowed to personnel who performed duty in West Berlin between 1945 and 1990

The China Service Medal was a service medal awarded to U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel / The medal was instituted by Navy Department General Order No. 176 on 1 July 1942 / The medal recognized service in and around China before and after World War II

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **NELSON**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**DEVERE G.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

DeVere G. "Sonny" Nelson honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, DeVere Nelson worked for the B&O Railroad and retired from the Ford Stamping Plant / Nelson moved to DuBois, Pennsylvania after his retirement / DeVere G. "Sonny" Nelson passed away on 23 October 2022 at the age of 88 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **NICOSIA, JR.**

**EMANUEL**

**N.**

Killed in Action

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

**Served in War Zone**

**Theater of Operations / Assignment:** KOREA

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Emanuel N. Nicosia, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / PO Emanuel Nicosia was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Emanuel N. Nicosia, Jr. Passed away on 13 February 2024 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **RADTKE**

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**CARL**                      **R.**

**Address:**

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Carl R. Radtke honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carl R. Radtke passed away on 22 September 2013 and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** REESOR

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

ROLAND J.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Roland J. Reesor honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Roland J. Reesor passed away on 20 March 2025 at the age of 89 years old

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** RYAN, JR.

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JAMES                      F.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:** 1950

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

729TH AIR CONTROL WING (AC&W)

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class James Francis Ryan, Jr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / AIC James Ryan was assigned as a Senior Radio Intercept Operator / AIC Ryan was stationed in Korea, Japan and China

**Base Assignments:**

Air Force Training Center, Kessler Air Force Base -Biloxi, Mississippi - Kessler Air Force Base is part of the Air Education and Training Command, and its primary mission, since 1941, has been training / The emphasis is on high-technology training in a number of fields, primarily in the electronics specialties

Robins Air Force Base - A major United States Air Force installation, Robins AFB is located in Houston County, Georgia, just east of the city of Warner Robins / The base is named in honor of Brig Gen Augustine Warner Robins, the Air Force's "father of logistics" / The host unit at Robins AFB is the 78th Air Base Wing (78 ABW) which provides services and support for the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex and its tenant organizations

Robins AFB is the home of the Air Force Materiel Command's Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex (WR-ALC) (FLZ) which is the worldwide manager for a wide range of aircraft, engines, missiles, software and avionics and accessories components

**Miscellaneous:**

James Ryan attended Holy Family School and St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, James Ryan worked at Merchants Mutual Insurance Company / Ryan later formed his own insurance agency with two friends, forming Stanton, Dauer & Ryan / James Ryan retired in 1997 / James Ryan was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 and active with the Troop I Post and served as commander from 1999 to 2002 / James Francis Ryan, Jr. passed away on 8 February 2013 at the age of 83 years old



## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

A Radio Intercept Operator was tasked with monitoring, collecting and interpreting military voice and electronic signals from countries of interest

The 729th Air Control Squadron is a Control and Reporting Center (CRC) assigned to the 552d Air Control Group, 552d Air Control Wing / The 729th's mission is focused around providing air control (radar) services for combat air operations / Officially, the 729th provides a mobile, combat-rated, senior radar element of the Theater Air Control System for worldwide contingencies / Additionally the 729th provides combat and control of joint air operations by conducting surveillance identification, weapons control, Battle Management and theater communications data link

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 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 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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **SCHACK**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**HARRY N.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

71ST CHEMICAL COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREA SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Harry Norman Schack honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Harry Schack was deployed to Korea for 11 months with the 71st Chemical Company / CPL Schack participated in the infamous Battle of Pork Chop Hill / CPL Schack was also stationed in Okinawa

Harry Schack received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 1 August 1953

The Battle of Pork Chop Hill was a series of two battles during the spring and summer of 1953 / They occurred while the United Nations, North Korea and China were working on the Korean Armistice Agreement / While those forces under the UN command won the first battle, the second was lost to the People's Volunteer Army (PVA) of China / The second battle involved many more troops on both sides and was bitterly contested for five days, when the UN conceded the hill to the Chinese by withdrawing behind the main battle line/ The battle is also known as Battle of Seokhyeon-dong Northern Hill in China

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Army service, Harry Schack attended the University of Buffalo, receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Chemistry in 1959 / Following his nine years as a polymer chemist at Lucidol, Harry Schack served as Chief Chemist in several malt houses until his retirement / Schack was a member and past Commander of the Harvey D. Morin, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Post #2940 / Harry Norman Schack passed away on 14 May 2018 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 71st Chemical Company was constituted on 16 May 1942 and participated in the Third Korean Winter Campaign and the Korean Summer 1953 Campaign / The Company was awarded the Army Meritorious Commendation in 1953

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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 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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** SCHMITT

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

RICHARD A.

**Address:** 2 BOURBON COURT

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1953

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

COMPANY "G", 350TH INFANTRY

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Richard A. Schmitt honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Richard Schmitt developed food poisoning on the way to the Korean front and was treated on the medical ship, USS Repose (AH-16) before continuing to his station in South Korea / Schmitt was a Browning Automatic Rifleman (BAR) while stationed on Hill 555 in South Korea

Following his tour in Korea, Coporal Schmitt was reassigned to Mannheim, Germany where he was stationed for one-and-a-half years before being discharged from active duty

**Base Assignments:**

Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania - Authorized in 1929, Indiantown Gap, the installation was used by the National Guard until 1940 when the reservation was leased to the Federal government / Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the post was used to train soldiers for combat / Over 250,000 soldiers passed through the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation on the way to the European battlefront / At the end of the war, Indiantown Gap converted from a staging center to a Separation Center for GIs from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan / During the Korean War, the Fifth Infantry was quartered at the Gap and trained replacement troops for assignment to Korea / During the Vietnam War and its aftermath, Indiantown Gap hosted summer camps for the Reserve Officer Training Corps, and twice served as a Refugee Resettlement Camp / In 1975, the year the Reservation officially became Fort Indiantown Gap, its barracks sheltered over 32,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees while they were processed and waiting for sponsorship / In 1980 it housed some 19,000 Cubans until they were placed with sponsors / Ownership of the Indiantown Gap Military Reservation reverted back to the commonwealth of in 1998

Fort Devens, Massachusetts - Camp Devens was established on 5 September 1917 and was named after jurist and Civil War general Charles Devens / At the onset of World War II, Fort Devens was designated a reception center for all men in

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

New England who would serve one year as draftees / Devens also housed a prisoner of war camp for German and Italian prisoners from 1944 to 1946 / The 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division was located at Fort Devens from 1946 to 1950 / A battalion from Fort Devens was redesignated as the Third Battalion, Eighth Cavalry Regiment, and sent to Korea to join the 1st Cavalry Division / In the 1950s or 1960s the fort was home to the 56th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, part of 1st Region, Army Air Defense Command / Fort Devens was the home of the 10th Special Forces Group (Mountain), less 1st Battalion based in (West) Germany, from 1968 until the Group's move to Fort Carson, Colorado in 1995 / It was also the home of the 39th Engineer Battalion (CBT) until the 39th was inactivated in 1992 / The U.S. Army post which resided at Fort Devens was officially closed in 1996 after 79 years of service

Fort Carson, Colorado - Fort Carson is a United States Army installation located near the city of Colorado Springs and was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor / Camp Carson was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / During World War II, over 100,000 soldiers trained at Camp Carson / Nurses, cooks, mule packers, tank battalions, a Greek infantry battalion, and an Italian ordnance company trained at Camp Carson during the war years / Camp Carson was also home to nearly 9,000 Axis prisoners of war – mostly Italians and Germans / Camp Carson was designated Fort Carson in 1954 and in the 1960s, mechanized units were assigned to the fort

### Miscellaneous:

Richard Schmitt attended Kensington High School in Buffalo prior to enlisting in the Army / After receiving a Honorable Discharge, Schmitt worked for Sahlen's Meat Packing Company in Buffalo, New York where he retired as a supervisor after 33 years of employment / Richard Schmitt is a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #8113 and American Legion Post #735

The Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) is a family of American automatic rifles and machine guns used by the United States and designed by John Browning in 1917 / The BAR was designed to be carried by infantrymen during an assault advance while supported by the sling over the shoulder, or to be fired from the hip / The BAR was used as a light machine gun, often fired from a bipod (introduced on models after 1938) / Although the weapon did see some action in World War I, the BAR did not become standard issue in the US Army until 1938, when it was issued to squads as a portable light machine gun / The BAR saw extensive service in both World War II and the Korean War and saw limited service in the Vietnam War / The US Army began phasing out the BAR in the late 1950s

The 350th Infantry Regiment was constituted in the National Army on 5 August 1917 and assigned to the 88th Division

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"

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



**West Seneca**

Town of West Seneca, New York

Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces

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

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** SCHULTZ

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

THOMAS J.

**Address:** 268 INDIAN CHURCH ROAD

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

1745TH COMPANY "C", 35TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/1 BRONZE STAR

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Thomas Joseph Schultz honorably served in the United States Army / PVT Thomas Schultz was deployed to Korea and assigned as an Infantryman

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Schultz was a Millwright Helper for Bethlehem Steel prior to military service in the U.S. Army / Schultz was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940

Infantryman refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The 35th Infantry Regiment was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army / The Regiment's mission was the protection of the U.S. border with Mexico until 1919 / The 35th Regiment served in World War II at Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons and Luzon / At the end of World War II, the 35th Infantry Regiment initially took up occupation duties in the city of Nagoya and in January 1946 the 35th was transferred to the city of Otsu, where it conducted occupation duties until July 1950 / On 1 July 1950 the 24th Infantry Division was ordered to Korea / The 35th Infantry Regiment compiled a distinguished record as one of the best regiments in the Eighth Army, serving in all ten campaigns of the Korean War, receiving a Presidential Unit Citation and three Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

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

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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"

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 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

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** SCHWAB

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

LYLE

P.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1950

**Year Discharged:** 1952

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Lyle P. Schwab honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Lyle Schwab was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Camp Lejeune - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune is a 246-square-mile United States military training facility in Jacksonville, North Carolina / Its 14 miles of beaches make the base a major area for amphibious assault training, and its location between two deep-water ports (Wilmington and Morehead City) allows for fast deployments

**Miscellaneous:**

Lyle Philip Schwab was a Truck Driver for S.M. Flickinger Company prior to enlisting in the U.S. Marine Corps / Schwab was a Docent at the Buffalo Naval and Military Park for many years / Schwab was a member of Marine Corp. League Detachment #239, Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940 and American Legion Post #735 / Lyle P. Schwab passed away on 17 June 2023 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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 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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

1954

**Name:** SHANAHAN

WILLIAM

J.

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** SN

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Seaman William J. Shanahan honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

William Shanahan was a former Commander of American Legion Post #735, West Seneca / Shanahan was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus / William J. Shanahan passed away on 11 October 2024 at the age of 91 years old



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** SPERDUTI

Killed in Action    **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**JAMES V.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

James V. Sperduti honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James V. Sperduti passed away on 20 December 2021 at the age of 87 years old and his remains cremated

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** STACHOWICZ

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JAN

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

BRONZE STAR W/COMBAT "V"

KOREAN STAR MEDAL W/ 3 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL FOR KOREA

NAVY/MARINE COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Jan "John" Stachowicz honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Jan Stachowicz served as an Intelligence Specialist in Korea / Corporal Stachowicz was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions during hostile conditions while serving in Korea

Jan Stachowicz was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps on 7 December 1953

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Jan "John" Stachowicz passed away on 24 June 2022 at the age of 93 years old

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 Combat Action Ribbon 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 Combat Action Ribbon is awarded when there is evidence that the Sailor/Marine engaged the enemy, was under hostile fire, or was physically attacked by the enemy / The service member must have demonstrated satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** VASTOLA

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

CHARLES D.

**Address:** 76 INNES ROAD

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CPL

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

HEADQUARTERS, 105TH ASU

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal Charles Donald Vastola honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Charles Vastola was deployed to Korea and assigned as a Machinist

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Wadsworth, New York - Fort Wadsworth is a former United States military installation on Staten Island in New York City, situated on The Narrows which divide New York Bay into Upper and Lower halves, a natural point for defense of the Upper Bay and Manhattan beyond / Prior to closing in 1994 it claimed to be the longest continually garrisoned military installation in the United States / It comprises several fortifications, including Fort Tompkins and Battery Weed and was given its present name in 1865 to honor Brigadier General James Wadsworth, who had been killed in the Battle of the Wilderness during the Civil War / Fort Wadsworth is now part of the Staten Island Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area, maintained by the National Park Service.

**Miscellaneous:**

Charles D. Vastola was employed at Vanott Machine Company prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army / Charles Vastola was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 / Charles Donald Vastola passed away on 1 February 2012 at the age of 80 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn, Buffalo, New York

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  
KOREAN  
War

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WAGNER**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**RAYMOND L.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** BT-3

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS SHIELDS (DD-596)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Boilerman Third-Class Raymond L. "Bud" Wagner honorably served in the United States Navy / BT-3 Raymond Wagner was deployed to Korea and served aboard the USS Shields

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond Wagner retired in 1999 after a 44-year career with New York Telephone / Raymond Wagner was a past member of the Executive Board of the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Local No. 1122, serving as their president in the early 1970s / Raymond L. "Bud" Wagner passed away on 22 September 2012 at the age of 78 years old and is interred at Mount Hope Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

A Navy Boilerman is responsible for performing tests on boiler water, fuel, and lubricating oils, as well as operating and performing preventive maintenance on boilers and boiler auxiliary equipment / Boilerman also operate distilling plants, test and calibrate gauges, and exercise environmental control procedures / Additionally, they may repair and test Fireroom (boiler room) equipment, renew parts, repair boiler plates and brick-work of boilers, and check seams, rivets, welds, and fits pipes

USS Shields (DD-596), was a Fletcher-class destroyer of the United States Navy / The ship was named for Thomas Shields, who was born in New Castle, Delaware / He was appointed Midshipman on 2 January 1804 and served on the USS Congress and USS Constitution until 1807 / While aboard Constitution, Shields sustained an injury which rendered him physically incapable of performing all the duties required of a line officer / Requesting an appointment as Purser, which he received on 14 April 1809, Shields served on the USS Nautilus until March 1811 when he was ordered to the New Orleans Naval Station / On 18 January 1815, following the Battle of New Orleans, he led a small expedition to harass the retreating British / Shields and his party succeeded in capturing numerous prisoners and destroyed several vessels Thomas Shields remained at the New Orleans Naval Station until his death on 22 May 1827 / The USS Shields was



## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

commissioned on 8 February 1945 and her short period of combat service in World War II, 24 May-15 August 1945, consisted almost entirely of escort duty between and patrol duty around Eniwetok, Ulithi, Leyte, Okinawa, and Borneo / Shields saw actual combat only once during the war; she shelled Japanese shore installations at Miri, Borneo, in support of Australian ground forces, on 26 June 1945 / On 15 July 1950. Shields arrived in the Far East in September 1951 for the first of three Korean War tours / During this cruise, which lasted until February 1952, she patrolled the Korean coast in the area of the bomblines and Kojo, providing fire support for the First ROK Corps and the First Marine Division / She participated in the assault on Kojo and provided harassing and interdiction fire / Her second Korean War tour, commencing on 1 November 1952, found her again cruising off the Korean coast near the bomblines supporting the First ROK Corps and the Eighth Army / Later she took part in antisubmarine warfare exercises off the coasts of Japan and Okinawa and concluded the deployment training Chinese Nationalist naval forces at Taiwan / Stopping at Hong Kong and Japan, Shields returned to San Diego on 1 June 1953 / Between 18 July 1954 and 30 November 1963, Shields was deployed to WESTPAC seven times / On 30 November 1963, Shields ceased operations as an active fleet unit and was assigned as a Naval Reserve Training ship, part of Reserve Destroyer Squadron 27 / The USS Shields was decommissioned on 1 July 1972 and sold to the Brazilian Navy / Shields was awarded the Korean Presidential Unit Citation (Korea) and three battle stars for service in the Korean War

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WAGNER**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**THOMAS J.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1948

**Year Discharged:** 1952

**Unit / Squadron:**

4TH BATTALION, 11TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

SILVER STAR MEDAL

PURPLE HEART

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Thomas "Beaver" J. Wagner honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Thomas Wagner was deployed to Korea and assigned as a Field Artillery Cannoneer and also served as a Machine Gunner while involved in several campaigns during the Korean War, including the infamous Chosin Reservoir battle

While attached to Battery K, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, on 29 November 1950 PFC Wagner performed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity during intense action against the enemy, earning him a Silver Star / The next day, he was wounded in action, earning him a Purple Heart

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Wagner received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 31 January 1952 / Wagner was a lifetime member of the International Union of Operating Engineers and worked out of Local 17, Buffalo for over 40 years / Thomas "Beaver" J. Wagner passed away on 17 March 2018 at the age of 87 years old is interred in the Forest Lawn Cemetery's "Veterans Field of Valor", Buffalo, New York

The 11th Marine Regiment is an artillery regiment of the Marine Corps and is known as the "Canon Cockers" / The 11th marine Regiment fought in many Korean combat actions from 1950 - 1952 / The 11th Marines left Korea in March 1955

The Silver Star Medal (SSM) is the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat / The

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States / The gallantry displayed must have taken place while in action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force

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) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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 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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WAGNER JR**

**WILLIAM**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**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

## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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"

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 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 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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 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

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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WALKER, JR.

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JOSEPH E.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** EN3

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS AMPERE (ADG-11)

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Engineman Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Edward Walker Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / EN3 Joseph Walker was assigned as an Electrician on the USS Ampere and trained in Atomic Defense Monitoring and Radioactive Instruments

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Joseph Walker, Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

USS Ampere (PCE-919/AM-359/YDG-11/ADG-11) was originally planned as a PCE-905-class patrol craft for the United States Navy, PCE-919, and laid down as an Admirable-class minesweeper, named Drake, for the male duck / Before she was commissioned, her name was cancelled and she was reclassified as a District Degaussing Vessel (the ship's hull, made of steel, acts like a large floating magnet surrounded by an even larger magnetic field / When the ship moves through the water, the magnetic field moves along with it and produces disturbance in the earth's magnetic field / She was later renamed Ampere, after the ampere, a unit of electric current, which takes its name from the French physicist André-Marie Ampère / Drake was laid down on 24 November 1943, at Portland, Oregon by the Willamette Iron and Steel Works, and launched on 12 August 1944 / On 20 April 1945, her name was canceled, and she was re-designated as a degaussing vessel, YDG-11 / The ship was placed in service on 15 August 1945, the day after the Japanese surrender

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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 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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIATROWSKI**

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**VICTOR E.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

27TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Victor E. Wiatrowski honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Victor Wiatrowski was deployed to Korea for 15 months with the 27th Infantry regiment

Victor Wiatrowski was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 22 June 1954

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Victor Wiatrowski was life member of Amvets Post #45 / Victor E. Wiatrowski passed away on 5 April 2017

The 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the "Wolfhounds", is a regiment of the United States Army established in 1901, that served in the Philippine–American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War / The 27th Infantry Regiment departed for Pusan, South Korea, in July, 1950 to assist in holding the Pusan perimeter at the onset of the Korean War / The unit saw heavy action throughout the war, where they were considered the "fire brigade" for the 25th Infantry Division, in essence, making first combat contact with enemy forces / The 27th saw significant fighting at Sandbag Castle, Korea that was a 96 day defense action from July-October 1952 / The 27th Infantry Regiment earned ten campaign streamers and three Presidential Unit Citations / Upon conclusion of hostilities in Korea, the unit returned to Schofield Barracks.

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is 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 between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

**West Seneca**



Town of West Seneca, New York

service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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 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 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

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WILLIAMS

Killed in Action **Hometown:** WEST SENECA

CLARENCE C.

**Address:** 4914 SENECA STREET

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First Class Clarence C. Williams honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Clarence Williams was trained as a Basic Armament Repairman and trained on the .50 caliber Machine Gun

**Base Assignments:**

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia - Established in 1917, MCB Quantico is a Marine Corps installation located near Triangle, Virginia / Used primarily for training purposes, MCB Quantico is known as the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps"

Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina - Parris Island is used for the training of enlisted Marines / Marines were first stationed on Parris Island in 1891 / During the Korean War, more than 138,000 recruits were trained at Parris Island / Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report here to receive their initial training

**Miscellaneous:**

Clarence Williams graduated from West Seneca Senior High School / Prior to his military service, Williams worked at Bethlehem Steel Corporation and was a fireman with the Union Fire Company / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps, from the military, Clarence Williams worked for the West Seneca Highway Department until his retirement in 1990

The .50 Caliber Machine Gun is also known as the M2 Browning. It is a heavy machine gun designed for use against aircraft and light armored vehicles / The prototype was developed by John M. Browning in 1918, right after WWI / It has since become one of the most widely used machine guns in the world

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



# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



**West Seneca**

Town of West Seneca, New York

July 1954

A Marksmanship Badge is a military badge of the United States Armed Forces presented to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high placement in an official marksmanship competition. The U.S. Military's Marksmanship Qualification Badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman

# Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

**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,



## Honoring Our Korean War Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955

West Seneca



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 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

