



# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** ACKER

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JAMES

W.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

63RD ORDNANCE COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist 3rd Class James W. Acker served 17 months of foreign service in Germany

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

James W. Acker passed away on 14 January 2020

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



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**Name:** **AHRENS SR.**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**CURTIS J.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

919TH AVIATION MAINTENANCE COMPANY

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COLD WAR SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY HONORABLE SERVICE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Curtis J. Ahrens, Sr. served with the 919th Aviation Maintenance Company as a Wheeled Vehicle Repairmen during his 12 month assignment in Korea

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Curtis Ahrens went to work at the Ford Stamping Plant in Woodlawn, retiring after 34 years of service / Curtis J. Ahrens, Sr. passed away on 15 February 2023 at the age of 92 years old

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



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

The Cold War Service Medal Act authorizes a service medal for those in the military between September 1945 and December 1991 who served on active duty for 24 consecutive months during the Cold War; were deployed outside of the continental U.S. for a period of at least 30 days during the Cold War; or were a member of a reserve unit called to active duty to participate in exercises or operations directly related to the Cold War

The United States Army Commemorative Ribbon is intended to recognize those who have carried out honorable service in the U.S. Army / The medal features the Army Coat of Arms surrounded by green enamel and an inscription reading "UNITED STATES ARMY"

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**Name:** AMITRANO SR.

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

LOUIS A.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1948

**Year Discharged:** 1952

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 3rd Class Louis A. Amitrano, Sr. served as an Electronics Technician (ETN) while stationed with the 15th Naval District, Balboa, Panama, Canal Zone

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Louis Amitrano received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy on 26 August 1952 / After his tour of duty, Amitrano was employed by Bethlehem Steel Corp. for 32 years before his retirement / Louis A. Amitrano, Sr. passed away on 6 March 2019

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ANDERSON**

**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 RIBBON

COMMENDATION RIBBON W/MEDAL PENDANT

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Russell J. Anderson 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, US 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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ANDRZEJEWSKI**

**Hometown:** WILLIAMSVILLE

**CASIMER J.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** SSGT

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

479TH SUPPLY SQUADRON, 479TH MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY GROUP, TACTICAL AIR COMMAND

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff Sergeant Casimer J. "Casey" Andrzejewski served with the 479th Supply Squadron, 479th Maintenance & Supply Group, Tactical Air Command

**Base Assignments:**

George Air Force Base, Victorville, California - George Air Force Base was a United States Air Force base located within the city limits, 8 miles northwest, of central Victorville, California, about 75 miles northeast of Los Angeles, California / Established by the United States Army Air Corps as an Advanced Flying School in June 1941, it was closed at the end of World War II / It was again activated as a training base by the United States Air Force with the outbreak of the Korean War in November 1950 / It remained a training base throughout the Cold War and in the immediate post-Cold War period, primarily for the Tactical Air Command (TAC) and later the Air Combat Command (ACC), training USAF, NATO and other Allied pilots and weapon systems officers in front-line fighter aircraft until being closed in 1993

**Miscellaneous:**

Casimer Andrzejewski was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 28 February 1956 / Casimer J. "Casey" Andrzejewski passed away at the age of 89 on 7 October 7, 2021

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



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**Name:** ANIBALDI

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

JOHN

V.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

1014TH REGIMENT, COMPANY "G", 8TH INFANTRY

**Medals / Citations:**

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL - GERMANY

NATIONAL DEFENSE RIBBON

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class John V. Anibaldi served in Berlin, Germany as part of the United States Occupation Force following the collapse of Germany, ending World War II

**Base Assignments:**

Fort Dix, New Jersey - Fort Dix, located approximately 16.1 miles south-southeast of Trenton, New Jersey, was established in 1917 and was named in honor of Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, and a former United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York / The fort served as a training and staging ground during the World War I and World War II and a demobilization center after World War II / On July 15, 1947, Fort Dix became a basic training center and the home of the 9th Infantry Division / In 1954, the 9th moved out and the 69th Infantry Division made the fort home until it was deactivated on March 16, 1956 / Since Vietnam, Fort Dix has sent soldiers to Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq / Fort Dix was an early casualty of the first Base Realignment and Closure process in the early 1990s, losing the basic-training mission that had introduced new recruits to military life since 1917 / Fort Dix became a major mobilization point for reserve and National Guard troops since the September 11 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C.

**Miscellaneous:**

Prior to joining the Army, John Anibaldi worked as an auto mechanic / After his honorable discharge in 1954, Anibaldi was employed at the Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna / While working at the steel plant, Anibaldi attended Erie Community College, earning his Engineering Degree / Anibaldi left Bethlehem and joined DuPont Textiles Chemicals in Niagara Falls, then went to work for the New York Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) / John Anibaldi remained at the NYSDOT for 24 years until his retirement in 1992

Upon the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, the victorious Allies asserted their joint authority and sovereignty over 'Germany as a whole', defined as all territories of the former German Reich which lay west of the Oder-Neisse line, having





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declared the extinction of Nazi Germany at the death of Adolf Hitler / The four powers divided 'Germany as a whole' into four occupation zones for administrative purposes, under the United States, United Kingdom, France and the Soviet Union respectively; creating what became collectively known as Allied-occupied Germany / The four zones were as agreed in February 1945 by the United States, United Kingdom and Soviet Union meeting at the Yalta Conference / While located wholly within the Soviet zone, because of its symbolic importance as the nation's capital and seat of the former Nazi government, the city of Berlin was jointly occupied by the Allied powers and subdivided into four sectors. Berlin was not considered to be part of the Soviet zone / In 1949, the occupying powers in both East and West Germany replaced their military governors with civilian leaders, and the occupations ended officially in the mid-1950s



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **ARNOLD**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**JOHN**

**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:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

John Arnold retired from Westinghouse Electric Corporation as a Master Electrician / John A. Arnold passed away on 4 April 2023 at the age of 91 years old