



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BAETZOLD

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

WILLIAM R.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

511TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment was a parachute infantry unit of the United States Army first activated during World War II / It formed the parachute infantry element of the 11th Airborne Division / The regiment participated in the fight for Leyte and subsequently performed a combat jump on Tagaytay Ridge, Luzon / B Co, 511th PIR jumped again to liberate the Los Banos prison on 23 February 1945 / The 511th fought during the Battle of Manila and executed another combat jump at Aparri in Northern Luzon / Following the surrender of Japan, the regiment earned the distinction as the first Allied unit to land on Japan, by securing Atusgi Air Base for General MacArthur's arrival / It remained in Japan on occupation duty until February of 1949 / Men from the 511th were used to bring the 187th ARCT to full strength for its fight in Korea / In 1956 the entire Division was sent to Germany to replace the 5th ID / It remained there until the Division was deactivated in 1958

William R. Baetzhold was a mechanic for many years at Cope-Bestway Express and Room for Rent Equipment Leasing, Inc. / William R. Baetzhold passed away on 17 April 2022 at the age of 88 years old / William R. Baetzhold was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BAPST

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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert J. Bapst passed away on 11 November 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARBER**

Hometown: CLARENCE

KENNETH 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:

Kenneth Barber helped children with special needs, working as a Bus Aide for the Clarence School District / Kenneth A. Barber passed away on 14 October 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARBER**

Hometown: EAST AURORA

ROBERT G.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIOR FORCE

Rank: A2C

Year Entered: 1949

Year Discharged: 1953

Unit / Squadron:

6400TH WAREHOUSE SQUADRON

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Airman Second-Class Robert Gordon Barber served as a Central Office Equipment Specialist during his 2 year deployment to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Barber was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 5 October 1953 / Robert Gordon Barber passed away on 23 March 2006

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



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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BARNES

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOHN

Address: MILL ROAD

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E.

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1957

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

John E. Barnes served during World War II aboard the destroyer, U.S.S. Brister and had been Honorably Discharged in 1946 / With the outbreak of the Korean Conflict, Barnes was recalled to active duty where he handled general/clerical duties

Base Assignments:

Niagara Falls Naval Air Base, New York - Following the conclusion of World War II, Niagara became the home site for the original Camp Bell military installation / Along with this designation, Niagara also served as the home station for Bell Aerospace, who manufactured the Bell X-1A experimental aircraft / In 1947, General Chuck Yeager tested the Bell aircraft at Niagara before breaking the sound barrier at Edwards Air Force Base, California / Additionally, Niagara was home to the original Bell helicopter and the Bell rocket belt prototype.

Miscellaneous:

John E. Barnes enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 after graduating from Bishop Fallon High School / After his World War II naval service with a Honorable Discharge, Barnes attended Canisius College in 1950 / Barnes was recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict and was again Honorably Discharged from the Navy in 1958 / John Barnes was employed by Curtis Wright for 35 years where he sold extrusion parts to the military and commercial airlines until his retirement / Barnes was a life-long resident of West Seneca and a life member of the Harvey D. Morin Post, VFW Post 2940 / John (Jack) E. Barnes passed away on 8 July 2015



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARREN**

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:**

Service Notes:

James N. 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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Barren was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 27 November 1954 / James N. Barren passed away on 20 January 2019

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

The USS Wisconsin (BB-64) was an Iowa-class battleship and the second ship named in honor of the state of Wisconsin /



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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

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

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Name: **BARREN**

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

NORMAN F.

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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Norman F. "Mickey" Barren passed away on 20 March 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BARTOSZEK
FRANCIS

Hometown: BUFFALO

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:

Francis "Frank" Bartoszek passed away on 5 April 2023, after a brief illness



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BATTAGLIA**

Hometown:

MICHAEL C.

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:

Base Assignments:

Michael Battaglia was a retired Detective Sergeant with the Erie County Sheriff's Department / Michael C. "Mike" Battaglia passed away in December 2022

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BELLEVILLE

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

EUGENE

A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1956

Unit / Squadron:

29TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL.

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Eugene A. "Geno" Belleville served as a Master Gunner, Antiaircraft (Gun) and as a Mechanic during his 14 months of foreign service at Grafenmohr Airfield, Germany

Base Assignments:

Grafenmohr Airfield, Germany - Grafenwöhr Army Airfield is a military airport near Grafenwöhr, a small town in Bavaria, Germany. It is located adjacent to the Grafenwöhr Training Area, for which it acts as an air assault zone

Miscellaneous:

Eugene Belleville received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 22 June 1956 / Eugene A. "Geno" Belleville passed away on 14 May 2022

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces

he 29th Field Artillery Regiment is a field artillery regiment of the United States Army, first constituted in 1918 in the National Army / The Regiment's Battery G was one of the last two combat units to serve in the Vietnam War

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BENNETT

Hometown: WEST SENECA

RODNEY 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:**

Service Notes:

Rodney E. Bennett served as a paratrooper and truck driver

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After graduating from Grover Cleveland High School, Rodney Bennett joined the U.S. Army / After his honorable Discharge, Bennett went to work for Westvaco where he retired in 1994 as the Administrative Manager after 36 years at Westvaco / Bennett was a lifetime member of the West Seneca Lions Club and a lifetime blood donor / Rodney E. Bennett passed away at the age of 87 on August 18, 2020



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BEST

Hometown: EAST AURORA

ROBERT J

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: MM2

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1956

Unit / Squadron:

USS PARICUTIN (AE-18)

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Robert Joseph Best sailed 3 years and 7 months aboard the USS Paricutin (AE-18)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Joseph Best passed away on 9 December 2016

USS Paricutin (AE-18) was a Wrangler Class ammunition ship, launched 30 January 1945 / After shakedown she joined the Pacific Fleet and was engaged in the transfer of excess ammunition from the forward areas in the Pacific to Bangor, Washington, and Port Chicago, California until 20 November 1947 when she was ordered to Mare Island Naval Shipyard for inactivation / On 30 April 1948, Paricutin was placed out of commission in reserve and berthed with the San Francisco Group of the Pacific Reserve Fleet / Reactivated 24 June 1950, due to the Korean War, Paricutin recommissioned 28 July 1950 and was assigned to Service Squadron 1 / She sailed for the Far East 8 October and arrived Japan 24 October / Operating from U.S. Fleet Activities Sasebo, she rearmed the carrier task forces off both coasts of Korea, surface bombardment and blockading forces, and shore based Marine air groups / Paricutin spent 18 months servicing combat units before returning to the States in March 1952 / On 31 July she sailed again for operations off Korea, this time spending nearly seven months on the line rearming warships / She returned to San Francisco 19 March 1953 and was stateside when the Korean Armistice Agreement was announced in July 1953 / The USS Paricutin was commissioned on 3 March 1945 and decommissioned on 30 April 1948 / The Paricutin was stricken on 1 June 1973

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BLAIR, JR.**

Hometown: LANCASTER

ERVIN

W.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: EXPERT (RIFLE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ervin Blair, Jr. served 50 years as a registered Boy Scout Leader in the greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts / Ervin Blair was the owner of Blair's Hardware and Plumbing in Lancaster, NY / Blair was a member of the Patriot Guard Riders of New York and the American Legion Riders / Ervin William "Vintage Bill" Blair, Jr. passed away on 6 July 2018



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOGOLD JR**

Hometown: ANGOLA

GEORGE J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1953

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George J. Bogold, Jr. passed away on 17 February 2021



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BONAFEDE JR**

Hometown: BUFFALO

LEONARD L.

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:

Leonard L. Bonafede, Jr. passed away on 11 December 2019



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BONIFACE**
HAROLD

Hometown: EAST AURORA

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:**

Service Notes:

Harold Boniface was stationed in Germany during his service in the Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Harold Boniface graduated from Buffalo State receiving his Teaching Credentials / Harold Boniface taught mathematics at East Aurora High School until his retirement in 1990 / Boniface was active with the Boy Scouts and volunteered for many years with Habitat for Humanity / Harold Boniface passed away on 11 February 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BORKOWSKY

Hometown: NEW YORK CITY

MELVIN

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:**

Service Notes:

Private First Class Melvin Borkowsky served 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 / Borkowsky is a resident of the Seneca Health Care Center in West Seneca / Melvin Borkowsky is an active member of the American Legion Post 735



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOROWICZ**

Hometown: BUFFALO

ADRIAN J.

Address: 71 PERSON STREET

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY 1, 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

Medals / Citations:

UNITED NATIONS KOREA SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

BRONZE SERVICE STARS (2)

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Adrian J. Borowicz served as a rifleman

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Adrian J. Borowicz married his longtime sweetheart in 1957 / Borowicz worked at the General Motors Plant (Saginaw Division) on East Delavan in Buffalo until his retirement in 1996 and retiring to Greensboro, North Carolina / Taps were sounded for Adrian J. Borowicz on 16 January 2002

The 15th United States Infantry Regiment is a parent regiment in the United States Army and has a lineage tracing back to the American Civil War / During the Korean War, the 15th Infantry covered the withdrawal of X Corps from Chosin Reservoir in 1950, fought north to the 38th parallel in 1951, and fought in the Kumsong sector until the armistice was signed in 1953 / At the time of the truce, the regiment had seen action in eight major campaigns and added three more Medal of Honor recipients, Emory L. Bennett (24 June 1951), Ola L. Mize (10 June and 11 June 1953) and Charles F. Pendleton (16 July and 17 July 1953)



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOWEN**

Hometown:

ROBERT

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 Bowen was awarded two Purple Hearts for injuries suffered on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Bowen passed away on 9 March 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRUCE JR.

Hometown: KENMORE

HOWARD H.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

USS PURDY (DD-734)

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION AWARD

NAVY CHINA SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 3rd-Class Howard H. Bruce, Jr. served as a Boiler Technician aboard the USS Purdy / Petty Officer Bruce circumnavigated the world twice and the Purdy provided fire support during the Korean War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard Bruce received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy on 27 April 1955 / Bruce was a member of the American Legion Tonawandas' Post #264, Greater Niagara Chapter of American Legion Riders and the UAW Local 424 / Howard H. Bruce, Jr. passed away on 10 March 2022

USS Purdy (DD-734), was an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer of the United States Navy and was named after Frederick Warren Purdy, who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor aboard the USS California, and was lost at sea while rescuing fellow sailors on the USS Strong / The USS Purdy participated in World War II, the Korean War and the Cold War / The Purdy was commissioned on 18 July 1944/ The Purdy was decommissioned in 1973 and scrapped / the USS Purdy earned one battle star during World War II and 3 during the Korean War

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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 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 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 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 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 and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRUNETTI

Hometown: BUFFALO

GUIDO

J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS HORNET

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Guido J. Brunetti went to work for the Customs and Border Department until his retirement / Brunetti moved to Ashburn, Virginia after his retirement / Guido J. Brunetti passed away on 12 October 2022

USS Hornet (CV/CVA/CVS-12) is an Essex-class aircraft carrier built for the United States Navy (USN) during World War II / Commissioned on 29 November 1943, the ship was assigned to the Fast Carrier Task Force (variously designated as Task Force 38 or 58) in the Pacific Ocean, the navy's primary offensive force during the Pacific War / In early 1944, she participated in attacks on Japanese installations in New Guinea, Palau and Truk among others / The Hornet then took part in the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign and most of the subsidiary operations, most notably the Battle of the Philippine Sea in June that was nicknamed the "Great Marianas Turkey Shoot" for the disproportionate losses inflicted upon the Japanese / The ship then participated in the Philippines Campaign in late 1944, and the Volcano and Ryukyu Islands campaign in the first half of 1945 / She was badly damaged by a typhoon in June and had to return to the United States for repairs / After the war she took part in Operation Magic Carpet, returning troops to the U.S. and was then placed in reserve in 1946 / Hornet was reactivated during the Korean War of 1950–1953, but spent the rest of the war being modernized to allow her to operate jet-propelled aircraft / The ship was modernized again in the late 1950s for service as an anti-submarine carrier / She played a minor role in the Vietnam War during the 1960s and in the Apollo program, recovering the Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 astronauts when they returned from the Moon / The Hornet was decommissioned on 26 June 1970 / She was eventually designated as both a National Historic Landmark and a California Historical Landmark, and she opened to the public as the USS Hornet Museum in Alameda, California, in 1998



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BUCHOLTZ

Hometown: BUFFALO

FRANK L.

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:

Frank Bucholtz was a retired employee of the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) / Bucholtz was a member of the American Legion Post #1041 and a member of Amalgamated Transit Union #1342 / Frank L. Bucholtz passed away on 29 April 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURDICK**

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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Larry Burdick entered the Army in January 1953 / After an Honorable Discharge in December 1954, Burdick transferred to the Army Reserves 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

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".



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURGER**

Hometown: EAST AURORA

NORBERT A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank: SP2

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1956

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Specialist 2nd Class Norbert A. Burger served as a Field Radio Repairman while stationed at Yukon Command, Ladd Air Force Base (Fort Wainwright), in Fairbanks, Alaska

Base Assignments:

Ladd Air Force Base (Fort Wainwright), Fairbanks, Alaska - Ladd Army Airfield is the military airfield located at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks, Alaska / It was originally called Fairbanks Air Base, but was renamed Ladd Field on 1 December 1939, in honor of Major Arthur K. Ladd, a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps who died in a plane crash near Dale, South Carolina on 13 December 1935 / The major use of Ladd Field was primarily cold-weather testing of aircraft and equipment / Only Interior Alaska offered the consistently cold temperatures needed for testing / By the end of World War II, 7,926 aircraft were ferried though Ladd Field with the last aircraft transited the airfield on 1 September 1945 / When the Air Force was made a separate branch in 1947 the name was changed to Ladd Air Force Base / From the late 1940s into the 1950s, Ladd AFB served as the northern hub for Air Force activities in Alaska / As headquarters first of the Northern Sector of the Alaskan Air Command and later of the 11th Air Division, Ladd was centrally involved in the Cold War missions of the Alaskan Command and in the transient missions of other military units, including the Strategic Air Command (SAC) / On 1 January 1961, the Army formally took over the installation and renamed it Fort Wainwright with the airfield facility renamed Ladd Field / The airfield was later renamed as Ladd Army Airfield (Ladd AAF)

Miscellaneous:

Norbert Burger was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 18 November 1956 / Norbert A. Burger passed away on 5 February 2017

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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

Name: **BURGER**

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

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:

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURGWARDT JR**

Hometown: HAMBURG

LESTER C

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1943

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lester C. Burgwardt Jr. enlisted in the navy in October 1942 / Burgwardt started his tour of duty at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, attending the Naval Aviation Program / In January 1944, Burgwardt entered Naval Boot Camp at Cambridge, Maryland, eventually becoming a rear facing gunner in a Grumman TBM Avenger during World War II, stationed at Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii / After his Honorable Discharge from active duty, Burgwardt continued his tour of duty in the Navy Reserve at Buckley Field in Denver, Colorado while attending Colorado A&M (renamed University of Northern Colorado) / While attending college, Burgwardt was recalled to active duty but received a deferral until he received his Bachelors Degree in Horticulture / Reporting for active duty, Burgwardt was stationed at Naval Air Station Seattle, Washington and Farragut Naval Training Station, Sandpoint, Idaho / Burgwardt later served in the Army Reserve with the rank of Master Sergeant (E-8)

Base Assignments:

Naval Air Station Seattle, Washington - Throughout the duration of World War II, Naval Air Station Seattle served as the premier center coordinating naval aviation activities within the Thirteenth Naval District

Farragut Naval Training Station, Sandpoint, Idaho - Farragut Naval Training Station was a U.S. Navy training center during World War II in the Western United States / It was located in Northern Idaho at the south end of Lake Pend Oreille at Bayview, between Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint / The base was named after David Farragut (1801–1870), the first admiral in the U.S. Navy and the leading naval officer during the Civil War / The site became Farragut State Park in 1966

Miscellaneous:

Lester Burgwardt began his teaching career in the Henderson School District in Nevada, eventually teaching in other school districts / After his retirement, Burgwardt was a tour guide at Hoover Dam, outside Las Vegas, Nevada / Lester C. Burgwardt Jr. passed away on 13 November 2022 at the age of 95 years old

The Grumman TBF Avenger (designated TBM for aircraft manufactured by General Motors) is an American World War II-era torpedo bomber developed initially for the United States Navy and Marine Corps, and eventually used by several air



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and naval aviation services around the world / The Avenger entered U.S. service in 1942, and first saw action during the Battle of Midway / Despite the loss of five of the six Avengers on its combat debut, it survived in service to become the most effective and widely-used torpedo bomber of World War II, sharing credit for sinking the super-battleships Yamato and Musashi (the only ships of that type sunk exclusively by American aircraft while under way) and being credited for sinking 30 submarines / Greatly modified after the war, it remained in use until the 1960s



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BUSALACHI**

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

FRANCIS C.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

917TH ENGINEER AVIATION TOPOGRAPHIC DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Francis "Frank" C. Busalachi served a combination of Active and Reserve Army from 1951-1954, including 1 1/2 years of Active Duty with the 917th Engineer Aviation Topographic Detachment of the Corps of Engineers

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis Busalachi received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army (Regular) on 21 September 1953 and his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army Reserve on 5 April 1954 / Busalachi worked as a Carpet Installer for 40 years until his retirement / Francis "Frank" C. Busalachi passed away on 29 August 2017

The 917th Engineer Aviation Topographic Detachment conducted geospatial engineering missions and assumed all geospatial assets (information that describes objects, events or other features with a location on or near the surface of the earth) in the Theater of Operations / The Detachment also conducted terrain analysis operations, map production operations and conducted survey operations

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