



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **TENHAGEN**

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOHN G.

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:

John G. Tenhagen received a Purple Heart as a result of combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John G. Tenhagen passed away on 19 August 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: THOMPSON

Hometown: BUFFALO

KENNETH L.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1960

Unit / Squadron:

569TH ORDNANCE COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

ARMY OF OCCUPATION OF GERMANY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AMERICAN SPIRIT AWARD

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Kenneth L. Thompson was a Leadership Instructor at Aberdeen Proving Ground prior to serving in Germany as part of the Allied-Occupation Force

Base Assignments:

Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Aberdeen, Maryland - APG is the U.S. Army's oldest active proving ground, established on October 20, 1917 / Its location allowed design and testing of ordnance materiel to take place near contemporary industrial and shipping centers / At the peak of World War II, APG had billeting space for 2,348 officers and 24,189 enlisted personnel / Although civilian contractors produced the major portion of conventional munitions for World War I, the United States government built federally owned plants on Aberdeen Proving Ground for the manufacture of toxic gas / From 1917 to the present, the Edgewood area of Aberdeen conducted chemical research programs, manufactured chemical agents, and tested, stored, and disposed of toxic materials

Kornwestheim, Germany - Kornwestheim is a town in the district of Ludwigsburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany / It is situated about 6 miles north of Stuttgart, and 3 miles south of Ludwigsburg / On 21 April 1945, the United States military troops occupied the town as part of the Allied Occupation of Germany following the defeat of Nazi Germany / American troops were stationed at the Wilkin Barracks in Kornwestheim until 1993

Miscellaneous:

Kenneth L. Thompson graduated from Avon Park High School, Florida prior to joining the Army / Moving to Western New York after his Honorable Discharge, Thompson worked for Bethlehem Steel, General Motors and Toledo Scales / Thompson went to work for Erie County Weights and Measures, becoming the Department Director before retiring in 1991 / An avid sportsman, Thompson was a life member of Harvey D. Morin, VFW 2940 and American Legion Post 735 in West Seneca / Kenneth L. Thompson passed away on November 1, 2019 at the age of 90



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The 569th Ordnance Medium Automotive Maintenance (MAM) Company was activated on 18 June 1947 at Allach (Munich), Germany / The Company's mission at that time was to support, in conjunction with the 558th Ord MAM Co, wheeled vehicles and small arms in the Munich Military Post area / In addition to military personnel, the Company supervised, together with the 558th, approximately 1,500 German personnel in the maintenance, repair and supply of ordnance material / On 1 April 1953, the unit was reorganized and redesignated as the 569th Ordnance Company, Direct Automotive Support (DAS)



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TOMASIC

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

STEPHEN J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Stephen J. Tomasic served as an Aircraft Communication System Technician during his duty tour / Cpl Tomasic had been serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserves until he was called to active duty on 11 January 1953

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stephen Tomasic received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 10 January 1955 / Tomasic owned and operated the Ridge Maintenance Corporation in Blasdell, NY since 1960 and prior to that, was employed by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation for 32 years / Stephen J. Tomasic passed away on 22 August 2017

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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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TRZENSKI

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

WALTER J.

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:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Walter J. Trzenski passed away on 6 August 2022



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: TRZEPACZ

Hometown: LAKE VIEW

DANIEL J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

USS JAMES C. OWENS (DD-776)

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

NAVY OCCUPATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel J. Trzepacz served as a Machinist's Mate onboard the USS James C. Owens for over 38 months / While operating off Songjin, Korea on 7 May 1952, the James C. Owens engaged enemy shore batteries and silenced several of them, but sustained six direct hits / When his ship went to battle stations, Daniel Trzepacz, ran across the deck and an enemy shell landed at his feet / He proceeded to pick the shell up and throw it overboard / It exploded as he threw it and he suffered shrapnel injuries which remained in both his wrists until his death / He never sought any medical care outside of the corpsman on the ship or reported being injured when he returned to port as he felt he was just blessed to have survived when so many died

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel J. Trzepacz passed away on 21 July 2020

USS James C. Owens (DD-776), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, is the only ship of the United States Navy FRAM II class to be named for Lieutenant James C. Owens Jr., a member of Torpedo Squadron 8 on board USS Hornet / His entire squadron was lost in an attack against Japanese aircraft carriers 4 June during the Battle of Midway / Lt. Owens received the Navy Cross and the Presidential Unit Citation (US) posthumously / The James C. Owens was commissioned on 17 February 1945 / In June 1945, the Owens operated out of Okinawa until departing 20 September for Japan as part of the Wakayama Occupation Group / Arriving on 22 September, she supported occupation landings, patrolled off southern Japanese islands, and served as courier and escort ship / With the outbreak of war in Korea, the Owens arrived in the Western Pacific on 27 February 1950 for blockade and interdiction patrols along the Korean coast / While operating off Songjin 7 May 1950, she engaged enemy shore batteries and silenced several of them, but sustained six direct hits /



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Departing Korea 22 June, she steamed via the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean to Norfolk arriving on 19 August 1950 / She returned to Korean waters on 10 November 1953, and patrolled coastal waters to prevent violations of the armistice signed on 27 July 1953 / She remained on this important peace-keeping duty in the Far East until she departed Yokosuka, Japan, 11 March 1954 / For almost two years James C. Owens operated out of Norfolk and Guantanamo Bay on ASW and destroyer division maneuvers / While in the Caribbean during September 1955, she provided search and rescue assistance to the citizens of Puerto Rico after a destructive hurricane / The USS James C. Owens was decommissioned on 15 July 1973 and sold to Brazil and renamed Sergipe / She was finally scrapped in 1995 / The James C. Owens received two battle stars for World War II service and two for 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

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 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