



# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WAGNER**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**RICHARD F.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** S1C

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1954

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS BREMERTON (CA-130)

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Seaman 1st Class Richard Francis Wagner served on the USS Bremerton which was heavily involved off the coast of Korea with the 7th Fleet, providing heavy fire against the enemy

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Richard Francis Wagner passed away on 6 May 2019

USS Bremerton (CA-130), was a Baltimore-class heavy cruiser, named for the city of Bremerton in Washington state / She was commissioned on 29 April 1945 and served as flagship for the Atlantic Fleet / She joined the 7th Fleet for her first cruise of the Korean War zone / Her guns blasted enemy lines at Wonsan, Kojo, Chongjin, and Changjon Hang, Korea / On 13 September 1952 she was relieved and returned to Long Beach / On 5 April 1953 Bremerton again departed Long Beach for a tour with the 7th Fleet / Upon joining TF 77 her guns pounded enemy installations, troops, and railroads in Korea / Completing her tour in November 1953, Bremerton returned to Long Beach / From 1955 through 1957, the Bremerton was assigned to the Pacific fleet / Bremerton was decommissioned on 29 July 1960 after serving a total of 11.5 years in commissioned service / She lingered in the mothball fleet but was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 October 1973 / She was sold as scrap to Zidell Explorations Corp., Portland Oregon on 11 July 1974



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**Name:** **WAGNER**

**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 served 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 / Thomas Wagner is interred in the Forest Lawn Cemetery's Veterans Field of Valor

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 Silver Star Medal is awarded primarily to members of the United States Armed Forces for gallantry in action against an



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WAGNER**  
**WILLIAM**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:**

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** CORPORAL

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Corporal William Wagner was Killed in Action on 3 May 1951

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Corporal William Wagner was interred in Buffalo Cemetery



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WALKER JR.

**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. served as an Electrician 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

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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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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:** **WALSH**

*Hometown:*

**CHRISTOPHER P.**

*Address:*

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

*Service Branch:* ARMY

*Rank:* SGT

*Year Entered:* 1950

*Year Discharged:* 1952

*Unit / Squadron:*

24TH REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM (RCT)

548TH COMBAT ENGINEERS

*Medals / Citations:*

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

JAPANESE OCCUPATION MILITARY MEDAL

NEW YORK CONSPICUOUS SERVICE STAR

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

*Service Notes:*

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

Sergeant Christopher P. Walsh entered the United States Army in 1950 and was honorably discharged in 1952 / Christopher Walsh was elected to the West Seneca Town Board and served as Councilman during the 1990's



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WALTON**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**THOMAS E.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1955

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS VAN VALKENBURGH (DD-656)

**Medals / Citations:**

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer 3rd Class (E-4)

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Walton was a charter member and EMT with the Eden Emergency Squad / Walton was a 62-year member of the Hamburg American Legion Post 527, and a life member of the VFW Post 8647 in Mayville, NY / Thomas E. Walton passed away at the age of 91 years old on 10 May 2022

The USS Van Valkenburgh (DD-656), a Fletcher-class destroyer named for Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh, captain of the battleship Arizona when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor / The Van Valkenburgh was commissioned on 2 August 1944 / The destroyer participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II / In August 1950, two months after North Korea invaded South Korea, the Navy recommissioned Van Valkenburgh's at Charleston on 8 March 1951 / In August 1951, the destroyer commenced a period of operations in support of the I Corps, Republic of Korea (ROK) Army / Over the ensuing days, Van Valkenburgh expended over 2,400 rounds of ammunition against a variety of targets, ranging from houses to bunkers, artillery positions to sampans, trenches to tents and supply dumps, frequently using air spotters / She conducted her patrol operations in company with ROK YMS-5H / On one occasion, 9 August 1952, Van Valkenburgh duelled with a communist shore battery / Taking 10 rounds of 76-millimeter projectiles from Suwan Dan, the destroyer returned immediate counterbattery and slow destructive fire, using airspot, expending 51 rounds of 5-inch projectiles / After a week's upkeep at Subic Bay, from 10 to 17 October, Van Valkenburgh headed for the United States / Taken to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in August 1953, Van Valkenburgh remained in reserve at that port until she was decommissioned on 26 February 1954 / Van Valkenburgh won the Navy Unit Commendation for her service off Okinawa, was awarded three battle stars for her World War II duty and received one for Korean War operation





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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WALTON**

**Hometown:** HAMBURG

**THOMAS E.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-4

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1955

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS VAN VALKENBURGH (DD-656)

**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:**

Petty Officer 3rd-Class Thomas E. Walton served as a Boatswain's Mate aboard the USS Van Valkenburgh PO# Walton served on the USS Van Valkenburgh for 45 months

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Thomas Walton received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy on 19 April 1955 / Walton was a charter member and EMT with the Eden Emergency Squad / Thomas Walton was a 62-year member of the Hamburg American Legion Post 527, and a life member of the VFW Post 8647 in Mayville, New York / Thomas E. Walton passed away on 10 May 2022

USS Van Valkenburgh (DD-656) was a Fletcher-class destroyer of the United States Navy, named for Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh (1888–1941), captain of the battleship Arizona when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor / The Van Valkenburgh was commissioned on 2 August 1944 and operated out of Pearl Harbor, engaging in an intensive slate of training activities making practice torpedo runs, antiaircraft firings, and shore bombardments / In February 1945, the Van Valkenburgh participated in the bombardment and transport of Marines for the Battle of Iwo Jima / The Van Valkenburgh also participated in the Battle of Okinawa / In August 1951, the Van Valkenburgh commenced a period of operations in support of the I Corps, Republic of Korea (ROK) Army / Over the ensuing days, Van Valkenburgh expended over 2,400 rounds of ammunition against a variety of targets, ranging from houses to bunkers, artillery positions to sampans, trenches to tents and supply dumps, frequently using air spotters / On one occasion, 9 August 1952, Van Valkenburgh duelled with a communist shore battery / Taking 10 rounds of 76-millimeter projectiles from Suwan Dan, the destroyer returned immediate counterbattery and slow destructive fire, using air spotters, expending 51 rounds of 5-inch projectiles / The Van Valkenburgh was decommissioned on 26 February 1954 and transferred on loan to the Government



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of Turkey on 28 February 1967, Van Valkenburgh became TCG İzmir (D 341) and operated with the Turkish Navy into the early 1970s / Struck from the U.S. Navy List on 1 February 1973, the destroyer was returned to the United States on 15 February but was simultaneously sold to Turkey / The Van Valkenburgh won the Navy Unit Commendation for her service off Okinawa, was awarded three battle stars for her World War II duty and received one for Korean War operations

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"

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 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:** WARNER

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

RALPH E.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

7TH BASE POST OFFICE

**Medals / Citations:**

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

**Service Notes:**

Private Ralph Edward Warner served as a Post office Clerk

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Ralph Edward Warner was employed by Bethlehem Steel Corporation prior to induction into the U.S. Army on 22 May 1951 / Ralph Warner was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WEBB**

*Hometown:*

**CLYDE E.**

*Address:*

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

*Service Branch:* NAVY

*Rank:*

*Year Entered:* 1948

*Year Discharged:* 1952

*Unit / Squadron:*

USS CABOT (CVL-28)

*Medals / Citations:*

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

*Service Notes:*

Clyde E. Webb served aboard the USS Cabot as a Fireman, Machinists Mate Striker (MMFM) / Webb had 3 1/2 years of sea duty

*Base Assignments:*

*Miscellaneous:*

Clyde Webb was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 16 July 1952 / Clyde E. Webb passed away on 22 September 2021

USS Cabot (CVL-28/AVT-3) was an Independence-class light aircraft carrier in the United States Navy, the second ship to carry the name / Cabot was commissioned in 24 July 1943 and served until 1947 / During World War II, the Cabot participated in the battles of Palaus, Yap, Ulithi, and Woleai at the close of March 1944 / The Cabot and its Air Group 31 pounded Japanese bases on Iwo Jima, Pagan, Rota, Guam, Yap and Ulithi as the carrier continued her support of the Marianas operation until 9 August 1944 / She was recommissioned as a training carrier from 1948 to 1955 / From 1967 to 1989, she served in Spain as Dédalo / After attempts to preserve her failed, the Cabot was scrapped in 2002 / The USS Cabot earned nine Battle Stars during 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



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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:** WEISER

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

RAYMOND R.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PVT

**Year Entered:**

**Year Discharged:**

**Unit / Squadron:**

187TH AIRBORNE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Raymond R. Weiser was wounded during combat action in Korea and was awarded the Purple Heart

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Raymond R. Weiser passed away at the age of 90 years old on 1 September 2022

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WHITNEY**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**HARVEY**

**G.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:**

**Year Entered:** 1947

**Year Discharged:** 1952

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS LEYTE (CV-32)

USS CURTISS (AV-4)

**Medals / Citations:**

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Fireman, Interior Communications Electrician Striker Harvey G. Whitney served aboard the USS Leyte for 33 months and the USS Curtiss for 5 months

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Harvey Whitney was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 11 February 1952 / Whitney was a member of the Patriot Guard Riders / Harvey G. Whitney passed away on 21 July 2020

USS Leyte (CV/CVA/CVS-32, AVT-10) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers built during and shortly after World War II for the United States Navy / The ship was the third US Navy ship to bear the name / Leyte was commissioned on 11 April 1946, too late to serve in World War II / She spent most of her career in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Mediterranean, but also saw service in the Korean War, in which she earned two battle stars / She was reclassified in the early 1950s as an attack carrier (CVA), then as an Antisubmarine Aircraft Carrier (CVS), and finally (after inactivation) as an aircraft transport (AVT) / She was redesignated AVT-10 and decommissioned on 15 May 1959, and was assigned to the Philadelphia group of the Atlantic Reserve Fleet, where she remained until sold for scrap in September 1970

USS Curtiss (AV-4) was the first purpose-built seaplane tender constructed for the United States Navy / She was named for Glenn Curtiss, an American naval aviation pioneer that designed the Curtiss NC-4, the first aircraft to fly across the Atlantic Ocean / The Curtiss was commissioned on 15 November 1940 / Curtiss operated out of Norfolk, Virginia, and in the Caribbean for training and in fleet exercises through the spring of 1941 / On 26 May 1941, she got underway for Pearl Harbor, from which she served as local guard ship, as well as tending two patrol bomber squadrons / When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on 7 December, Curtiss was able to get underway and returned fire at the attacking Japanese



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aircraft / At 08:36, she sighted the periscope of a Japanese Midget Submarine and opened fire / A torpedo from this submarine missed Curtiss, running over and into a dock at Pearl City / Four minutes later, the same submarine surfaced and was further damaged by gunfire before diving again, after which the destroyer Monaghan sank the submarine with a ram and depth charge attack / After repairs the Curtiss returned to the Pacific and participated in the battles of Noumea, the Solomons and Okinawa / On 21 June 1945 while in Okinawa to serve as flagship for Commander, Fleet Air Wing 1, a kamikaze and its bomb ripped two holes in her hull and detonated on the third deck, killing 35 and wounding 21 of her crew / Damage control kept her afloat and four days later she was underway for an overhaul at Mare Island Navy Yard / Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, the Curtiss sailed from San Diego, to join the 7th Fleet in July 1950, on patrol in the Korea Strait / Sailing out of Iwakuni and Kure, she tended two Martin PBM Mariner squadrons and a squadron of British Short Sunderlands operating over Korean territory / The USS Curtiss was decommissioned on 24 September 1957 / The Curtiss was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 1 July 1963, and was sold for scrapping in February 1972

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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIATROWSKI**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**VICTOR E.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:**

**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 served in Korea for 15 months with the 27th Infantry regiment

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

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# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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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

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# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WICHER**  
**NORBERT**

**Hometown:** BLASDELL

**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:**

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Norbert Wicher passed away on 19 May 2022 and interred at Lakeside Memorial Cemetery



# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WILKES**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**KENNETH R.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Private First-Class Kenneth R. Wilkes served with the US Army Signal Corps in Korea for 18 months

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Kenneth Wilkes received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 3 April 1953 / Kenneth R. Wilkes passed away on 27 January 2020

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The United States Army Signal Corps was established in 1860 and was used in World War II to coordinate swift and accurate communication for air, ground, and naval units required more sophisticated technology and service /The Signal Corps develops, tests, provides, and manages communications and information systems support for the command and control of combined arms forces / The Signal Corps pioneered in the development of radar to detect approaching aircraft



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as well as mobile communications and deciphering machines / In addition to its primary role in military transmissions, the unit also played a key role in producing training films for army and civilian personnel, and documenting combat missions / During World War II, noted Hollywood producers, directors, and photographers (such as Darryl Zanuck, Frank Capra, John Huston, and George Stevens) all served in the Signal 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

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# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WILLIAMS

**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 Williams entered into the service in October 1952 and was honorably discharged in March 1954 / PFC Williams was trained as a Basic Armament Repairman and trained on the 50 caliber Machinegun

**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:**

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

Clarence Williams graduated from West Seneca High School / Prior to his military service, Williams worked at Bethlehem Steel Corporation and was a fireman with the Union Fire Company

After being discharged from the military, Clarence Williams worked for the West Seneca Highway Department until his retirement in 1990





# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WIRTH**

**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:**

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL (JAPAN)

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS KOREA SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

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

**Service Notes:**

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

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

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

Corporal Raymond E. Wirth was 22 years of age at the time of his death



# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** WISCHMAN

**Hometown:** ELMA

ROBERT C.

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** E-5

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

2ND SIGNAL COMPANY, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant Robert C. Wischman served 17th months in Korea with the 2nd Signal Company, 2nd Infantry Division

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Robert Wischman was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 5 August 1953 / Robert C. Wischman passed away on 12 October 2018

The 2nd Infantry Division/ROK-US Combined Division is the last remaining permanently forward-stationed division in the U.S. Army / The 2nd Infantry Division deters aggression and maintains peace on the Korean Peninsula; and if deterrence fails, "Fight Tonight" in support of the U.S-Republic of Korea Alliance

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June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WOHLFEIL**

**Hometown:** BUFFALO

**HAROLD C.**

**Address:** 116 GREENFIELD AVENUE

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1955

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

7TH DIVISION, C COMPANY, HEADQUATERS PLATOON  
73RD TANK BATTALION

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN OCCUPATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Specialist Fourth-Class Harold C. Wohlfiel was trained as a tank mechanic at Fort Knox, Kentucky / While stationed in Korea, SP4 Wohlfiel worked on the M46 and M47 Patton Tanks

**Base Assignments:**

Dongducheon - Located in Gyeonggi Province, South Korea, Dongducheon was strategically important for the defense of Seoul, the South Korean capital

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Located south of Louisville, Fort Knox was named after Henry Knox, the Continental Army's chief of artillery during the Revolutionary War and the country's first Secretary of War / Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and the U.S. Army Armor School / It was responsible for establishing armored formations, doctrine, and training in the use of armored vehicles

Camp Carson, Colorado - Home of the nation's oldest Army armor unit, Camp Carson is located near Colorado Springs and was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor / Between 1942 and 1956, pack mules were a common sight at Camp Carson and were used by Field Artillery (Pack) battalions to carry equipment, weapons and supplies over mountainous terrain

**Miscellaneous:**

Harold "Bud" Wohlfiel graduated from Burgard High School / Prior to enlisting in the Army in January 1955, Bud worked at Bliss & Laughlin (Cold Rolled Steel Mill) / After an Honorable Discharge in December 1956, Bud Wohlfiel joined the International Union Of Operating Engineers Local #17 in Buffalo and was a construction equipment operator and master mechanic for several companies, including F. Darling Contractors, Higgins Erector and Haulers, Sigfried Construction, and



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Town of West Seneca, New York

the JW Cowper Company / Wohlfiel retired after 40 years of working in the construction field / In 1995, Bud joined the West Seneca American Legion Post 735 and was appointed Post Secretary / Harold "Bud" Wohlfiel currently resides in Orchard Park, New York



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June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WOHLHUETER**

**Hometown:** EAST AURORA

**CARLTON C.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** AIR FORCE

**Rank:** A1C

**Year Entered:** 1951

**Year Discharged:** 1953

**Unit / Squadron:**

89TH FOOD SERVICE SQUADRON

**Medals / Citations:**

OCCUPATION MEDAL-GERMANY

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Airman First-Class Carlton C. "Carl" Wohlhueter served 29 months in Germany with the 89th Food Service Squadron as a Cook

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Carlton Wohlhueter was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 13 November 1953 / Wohlhueter served a 30-year career as a Law Enforcement Officer with the East Aurora Police Department / Carlton C. "Carl" Wohlhueter passed away on 31 May 2018

The Army of Occupation Medal is a military award of the United States military which was established by the United States War Department on 5 April 1946 / The medal was created in the aftermath of the Second World War to recognize those who had performed occupation service in either Germany, Italy, Austria, Japan or Korea / The original Army of Occupation Medal was intended only for members of the United States Army, but was expanded in 1948 to encompass the United States Air Force shortly after that service's creation / The Navy and Marine equivalent of the Army of Occupation Medal is the Navy Occupation Service Medal, which features the same ribbon with its own medallion and clasps

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Town of West Seneca, New York

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:** **WOLCOTT**

**Hometown:** AMHERST

**DAVID**

**P.**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS

**Rank:** E-6

**Year Entered:** 1948

**Year Discharged:** 1952

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Staff-Sergeant David Paul Wolcott served as a Cook while stationed in Korea

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island Depot, South Carolina - Parris Island Depot is a Marine military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina and consists of 8.095 acres of land, of which only 3,262 acres are habitable / The remaining acres are primarily marsh / On 1 November 1915, Parris Island was officially designated a Recruit Depot, and United States Marine Corps Recruit Training when enlisted male training began at Parris Island in November 1915 and enlisted female training began in February 1949 / Marines have trained at the Parris Island Depot during each major conflict of the 20th and 21st century / In World War I, 41,000 enlisted Marines trained at Parris Island, 205,000 during World War II and 138,000 Marines trained during the Korean War

**Miscellaneous:**

David P. Wolcott was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marines on 29 July 1952 / David Wolcott was a member of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940 / David Paul Wolcott passed away on 8 May 2022

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# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



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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 and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WOTHERSPOON**

**Hometown:** KENMORE

**BRUCE T.**

**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:**

**Service Notes:**

After his Air Force enlistment was completed, Bruce T. Wotherspoon joined the United States Air Force Reserve, retiring in 1991 following Operation Desert Storm

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

Bruce Wotherspoon joined the Buffalo Fire Department, retiring after 27 years of service / Bruce T. Wotherspoon passed away on 23 September 2022 at the age of 88 years old



# Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **WROBLEWSKI JR.**

**Hometown:** CHEEKTOWAGA

**FELIX**

**Address:**

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS.

**Rank:** SGT

**Year Entered:** 1952

**Year Discharged:** 1956

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/1 STAR

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

KOREAN PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

**Service Notes:**

Sergeant

**Base Assignments:**

**Miscellaneous:**

An Apprentice employed by New York Central Railroad, Felix Wroblewski enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 8 April 1952 / Felix Wroblewski Jr. was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post 2940

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