



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BAETZHOLD

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

WILLIAM R.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

511TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal William R. Baetzhold honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Baetzhold graduated from Burgard Vocational High School in 1952 and enlisted in the Army / Baetzhold was a mechanic for many years with Cope/Bestway Express and then Room For Rent Equipment Leasing, Inc. / William R. Baetzhold passed away on 17 April 2022 at the age of 88 years old and is interred at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BAGAR

Hometown: BUFFALO

JACK

R.

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:

Jack R. Bagar honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Jack Bagar was a graduate of Canisus College, earning an Accounting Degree in Business Administration / Bagar started his own accounting firm and also taught Accounting at various local colleges / At the age of 50, Bagar moved to Pittsburg, California and served as the Accounting Manager for the city Water Department / After his retirement from accounting, Jack Bagar continue to help small businesses with accounting practices and ended his 60 year career at Highland Wholesale Foods / Jack R. Bagar passed away on 19 August 2023 at the age of 90 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BAKER

Hometown: CLARENCE CENTER

BOB

C.

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:**

Service Notes:

Bob C. Baker honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Bob Baker served the United States Government as the postmaster of Clarence center until his retirement in 1986 / Bob C. Baker passed away on 8 January 2024 at the age of 92 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BALL

Hometown: CLARENCE CENTER

RICHARD J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard J. Ball honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Ball graduated from Kensington High School where he was an outstanding Left Halfback for the Kensington Football team / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Richard Ball attended the University of Buffalo, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education and completing his Master's Degree in 1979 / After graduation, Ball taught physical education and summer driver training at Cleveland Hill High School / Ball also taught driver instruction courses at Amherst Central School, Maryvale High School and Sacred Heart Academy / Richard Ball retired in 1988 as Athletic Director of Cleveland High School / At the time of his retirement, Richard Ball was Cleveland High School's winningest Baseball Coach / Richard J. Ball passed away on 28 July 2023 at the age of 94 years old

Air Defense Command is a military organization / The USASMDM develops and provides global space, missile defense, and high altitude capabilities to the Army, joint force, and allies and partners / The AAMDC is the Army Forces and Joint Force Land Component Commanders' organization that performs critical theater air and missile defense planning, integration, coordination, and execution functions



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BALL, SR.

Hometown: CLARENCE CENTER

RICHARD J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard J. Ball Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Ball was a Gym Teacher at Cleveland Hill School / Richard J. Ball Sr. passed away on 28 July 2023



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BANASIAK

Hometown: ELMA

FLORIAN E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS HARRY F. BAUER (DM-26)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Florian Edward "Ed" Banasiak honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Florian Banasiak joined the US Navy at the age of 17 years old / Banasiak was a lifelong member of American Legion Post 735 and Pvt Leonard Post Jr. VFW Post #6251 / Florian Edward "Ed" Banasiak passed away on 20 June 2023 at the age of 88 years old

USS Harry F. Bauer (DD-738/DM-26/MMD-26) was a Robert H. Smith-class destroyer minelayer in the United States Navy / She was named for Lieutenant Commander Harry F. Bauer (1904–1942) who was killed aboard the USS Gregory during the Battle of Guadalcanal on 5 September 1942 / Harry Frederick Bauer was posthumously received the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, and promotion to Commander / Bauer was commissioned on 22 September 1944 and participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns during World War II / The Bauer was decommissioned 12 March 1956 at Charleston, entering the Atlantic Reserve Fleet, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania / Harry F. Bauer was struck from the Naval Vessel Register on 15 August 1971 and sold for scrap on 1 June 1974 / Harry F. Bauer received a Presidential Unit Citation for the Okinawan campaign and four battle stars for World War II service



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:

Kenneth A. Barber honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARBER**

Hometown: EAST AURORA

ROBERT

G.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR 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 honorably served in the United States Air Force / A2C Robert Barber was assigned as a Central Office Equipment Specialist during his 2 year deployment to Korea

A2C Robert Barber was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 5 October 1953

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 honorably served in the United States Navy / John Barnes served during World War II and stationed aboard the destroyer, U.S.S. Brister / With the outbreak of the Korean Conflict, Barnes was recalled to active duty where he handled general/clerical duties

John Barnes was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1946

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARNETT**

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

ROBERT E.

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:

Robert Earl Barnett honorably served in the United States Air Force / Robert Barnett served four years in the Air Force and was a Navigator and an Instructor in Waco, Texas

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Barnett was born in Independence, Iowa / Barnett graduated from Houghton College in 1952 and received his Master's Degree from Alfred University / Robert Barnett taught chemistry and physics at Forestville Central School before retiring in 1993 / Barnett was a New York State track official, a member of the Gideons and sang tenor with the Chapel Echoes Gospel Quartet / Barnett served as a mentor at the Buffalo City Mission / Robert Earl Barnett passed away on 18 October 2024 at the age of 94 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:** KOREA

Service Notes:

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

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

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on 15 December 1950 as the United Nations Service Medal / The decoration was the first international award ever created by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War / The United Nations Service Medal (Korea) is awarded to any military service member, of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954

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

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established November 8, 1950 by executive order of President Harry Truman / The Korean Service Medal is the primary US military award for service or participation in operations in the Korean area between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954 / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARREN**

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

NORMAN F.

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:

Norman F. "Mickey" Barren honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Norman F. "Mickey" Barren passed away on 20 March 2023 at the age of 94 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BARRY

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

WILLIAM C.

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:

William C. Barry honorably served in the United States Army / William was assigned as a Military Police Officer during his tour of duty in Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William C. Barry passed away on 20 July 2023 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at St. Francis Chapel Columbarium, Tonawanda, New York

Military Police Branch performs law enforcement duties on Army installations or operations under combat conditions / Its focus is on ensuring that Army values are upheld, laws are enforced and providing security for Army personnel and property within the Army training environment



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BARTH, JR.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

GORDON P.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: SSGT

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BARTON**

Hometown: KENMORE

JAMES

W.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CV/CVA/CVS-39)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James W. Barton honorably served in the United States Navy / James Barton was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Lake Champlain

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Barton was a Science Teacher for 30 years in the Ken-Ton School System / James W. Barton passed away on 23 March 2024 at the age of 92 years old

USS Lake Champlain (CV/CVA/CVS-39) was one of 24 Essex-class aircraft carriers completed during or shortly after World War II for the United States Navy / She was the second US Navy ship to bear the name, and was named for the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812 and commissioned on 3 June 1945 / Lake Champlain did not participate in World War II, but did serve as a transport, bringing troops home from Europe as part of Operation Magic Carpet / Like many of her sister ships, she was decommissioned shortly after the end of the war, but was modernized and recommissioned in the early 1950s, and redesignated as an attack carrier (CVA) / She participated in the Korean War but spent the rest of her career in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Mediterranean / In the late 1950s, she was redesignated as an antisubmarine carrier (CVS) / As flagship of Carrier Task Force 77 (TF 77), the Champlain sailed from Yokosuka on 11 June 1953 and arrived off western Korea on 14 June 1953 / The carrier's air group immediately launched sorties cratering runways; assaulting enemy troops; attacking trenches, bunkers, gun positions; and giving close air support to hard pressed ground forces / Her planes also escorted B-29 Superfortress heavy bombers on their way to enemy targets / Lake Champlain continued to strike at the enemy until the truce was signed on 27 July 1953 / Relieved by Kearsarge on 11 October 1953, Lake Champlain headed toward the South China Sea arriving Singapore on 24 October / Bidding farewell to the Pacific Ocean on 27 October 1953, she steamed toward home, touching at Colombo, Port Said, Cannes, and Lisbon before arriving Mayport, Florida, on 4 December 1953 / Lake Champlain completed her last major duty on 29 August 1965 when she served as the primary recovery ship for Gemini 5 / Shortly afterward, she sailed to Philadelphia Navy Yard, where she



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

commenced inactivation / She was decommissioned on 2 May 1966 and was laid up in the Reserve Fleet / The 24-year-old Lake Champlain was stricken from the Navy List on 1 December 1969, and sold by the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) for scrapping on 28 April 1972

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:

Francis "Frank" Bartoszek honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Francis "Frank" Bartoszek passed away on 5 April 2023 at the age of 91 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BASIL**

Hometown: BUFFALO

DONALD J.

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:

Donald John Basil honorably served in the United States Army / Donald Basil was stationed at Fort Dix assigned as a Critical Specialist

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Basil had many jobs including paperboy for the Buffalo News and the Courier Express, delivery boy for a jewelry store, stock boy at Kobackers, draftsman at RG Wright Company and was employed as a mechanical engineer at several other businesses / Basil established his own industrial washing equipment company, Basil Equipment Corporation from 1977-1991 / After his retirement, Donald Basil moved to Venice, Florida / Donald John Basil passed away on 25 April 2025



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BASTIAN, SR.

Hometown: BOWMANSVILLE

NORMAN F.

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:

Norman F. Bastian, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Norman F. Bastian, Sr. passed away on 2 February 2025 at the age of 93 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BATTAGLIA**

Hometown:

MICHAEL C.

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:

Michael C. "Mike" Battaglia honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BAUER

Hometown: AMHERST

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:**

Service Notes:

Robert Albert "Bob" Bauer honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Bauer graduated from Canisius High School / Bauer was employed as an Insurance Auditor / Robert Bauer was a Deacon for 40 years at various parishes and as New York State Chaplain for JN Adam Developmental Center (Perrysburg, New York) and group homes / Deacon Robert Albert "Bob" Bauer passed away on 28 March 2025 at the age of 92 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BECKER, JR.

Hometown: BUFFALO

MAX

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: MSG

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS BATTERY 209, ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY GROUP

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Max Becker, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / MSG Max Becker trained at Camp Gordon, Camp Stewart and Indiantown Gap Military Reservation before being deployed to Korea with the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 209, Anti-aircraft Artillery Group

Max Becker was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army in August 1952

Base Assignments:

Fort Gordon, Georgia - Fort Gordon, formerly known as Camp Gordon, is a United States Army installation established in October 1941 and named after John Brown Gordon, a Major General in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War / Fort Gordon is located southwest of Augusta, Georgia / It is the current home of the United States Army Signal Corps, United States Army Cyber Command, and the Cyber Center of Excellence / It was once the home of The Provost Marshal General School and Civil Affairs School / The fort is one of the major components of the installation is Advanced Individual Training for Signal Corps military occupational specialties / Signals Intelligence has become more visible and comprises more and more of the fort's duties / During the Vietnam War, Fort Gordon was home to Camp Crockett, an area of the post conducting 9-week advance airborne infantry training courses for soldiers in line to attend the remaining 3 weeks of Airborne training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then be assigned to Airborne units in Vietnam / Between 1966 and 68, approximately 2,200 Signal Officers were trained at Fort Gordon's Signal Officer Candidate School (OCS) / Fort Gordon is one of the U.S. Army installations named for Confederate soldiers to be renamed by the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America

Fort Stewart, Georgia - Fort Stewart is a United States Army post in the U.S. state of Georgia / It is the largest Army installation east of the Mississippi River, covering 280,000 acres / Constructed in 1940 as an Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center, it was officially designated as Camp Stewart, in honor of Brigadier General Daniel Stewart, a native of Liberty County, who had fought with Francis Marion during the American Revolution, and who became one of the county's



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

military heroes / During World War II, Camp Stewart's training programs continued to provide well-trained soldiers for duty in the European, Mediterranean, North African, and Pacific Theaters / By late 1943, Camp Stewart assumed a new responsibility, as one of many holding areas designated in the United States for German and Italian prisoners of war (POWs), who had fallen into Allied hands during fighting in North Africa / Closed after World War II, Camp Stewart was reopened with the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in June 1950 / On 28 December 1950, Camp Stewart was redesignated as the 3rd Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Center where intensive training of soldiers destined for service in Korea began / Camp Stewart's role changed from solely antiaircraft training to include armor and tank firing / On 21 March 1956, Camp Stewart was redesignated as Fort Stewart / In 1959, Fort Stewart was redesignated as an Armor and Artillery Firing Center, since its old antiaircraft ranges and impact areas were better suited for this purpose in the new age of missiles / In 1966 during the Vietnam War, Fort Stewart became the U.S. Army helicopter pilot training and helicopter gunnery center and Fort Stewart's new mission

Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania - Fort Indiantown Gap, also referred to as "The Gap" is a National Guard Training Center located in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania / The name Indiantown Gap was fashioned from the Native American presence and geography. "Indiantown" is derived from the many Native American villages that existed in the vicinity of the installation, and "Gap" refers to the separation in the Blue Mountains through which the creek known as Indiantown Run flows / The current post was originally developed by Pennsylvania, on the recommendation of General Edward Martin, as a National Guard training site in 1931 / Over the years, the installation has served as home to the Pennsylvania National Guard as well as active units of the United States Army / In 1941, the post was officially named Indiantown Gap Military Reservation (IGMR) / From 1951 to 1953, during the Korean War, the Gap again had a strategic role as the home of the 5th Infantry Division, whose mission was to train 32,000 troops as replacements for assignment to Korea / During the late 1960s and early 1970s, during the Vietnam War, Fort Indiantown Gap served as one of the largest Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) summer camps for the U.S. Army / In 1975, after the US left Vietnam, the Gap served as a refugee camp for southeast Asian refugees / For eight months, more than 32,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees were resettled through the installation / In 1976, a section of Fort Indiantown Gap was selected as the new national cemetery for the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, and West Virginia / The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania donated the land for the site to the Veterans Administration / In 1980, the Gap again became a refugee camp when over 19,000 Cuban aliens were brought there for processing and sponsorship after the Mariel boatlift / In 1990, the Gap served as a mobilization and embarkation center for active, reserve, and guard units deploying to the first Persian Gulf War / In July 1995, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommended closing Fort Indiantown Gap, except for minimum essential ranges, facilities, and training areas used by reserve components / Today, Fort Indiantown Gap is one of the busiest National Guard training centers in the country, with more than 100,000 personnel training there annually, including reserve-component and active-duty service members and law-enforcement officers

Miscellaneous:

Max Becker attended Nichols School and graduated from Phillips Andover Academy / Becker graduated from Amherst College in 1950 and joined his father at the Buffalo real estate and insurance firm Gurney Becker & Bourne / After leaving the Army, Max Becker rejoined resumed his employment with Gurney Becker & Bourne, and his career in real estate and general insurance / Until his retirement in November 2025, Max Becker had worked for Gurney Becker & Bourne for 70 years, and had served as President and Chairman / Becker was a past president of the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) local chapter and a national district vice president and director, as well as a member of the SIOR Legacy Circle / Max Becker won many awards, including the New York State Commercial Association of Realtors Lifetime Achievement Award and Buffalo's annual Business First Lifetime Achievement "Brick by Brick" Award / Becker and his wife were the first husband and wife team to lead the United Way Employee Division In 1964 / From 1963 to 1993, Max Becker served on the Board of Directors of Millard Fillmore Hospital / Max Becker was a lifetime members of the Saturn Club, the Country Club of Buffalo and the Garret Club / Becker also served as a Deacon for over a decade at Westminster



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Church / ax Becker, Jr. passed away on 22 January 2026 at the age of 97 years old

With much of modern wars fought in the air, anti-aircraft weapons were weapons that could specifically direct their offense against air targets / The mission of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery units were to detect hostile aircraft and destroy them / Radar aided anti-aircraft gunners by providing accurate information about the range, speed, and altitude of incoming enemy planes

In United States Army units, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) is a company-sized military unit, found at the battalion level and higher / Considered one unit, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company is essentially two elements within one company / In identifying a specific headquarters unit, it is usually referred to by its abbreviation as an HHC / While a regular line company is formed of three or four platoons, an HHC is made up of the headquarters staff and headquarters support personnel of a battalion, brigade, division, or higher level unit / The Headquarters and Headquarters Company provides command, staff, administrative, supply and maintenance, communication, engineer, and medical support for the battle group



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Eugene Belleville was as a Master Gunner, Antiaircraft (Gun) and as a Mechanic during his 14 months of foreign service at Grafenmohr Airfield, Germany

PFC Eugene Belleville received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 22 June 1956

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 retired from New York Telephone and was a former member of the Amherst Police Auxiliary Police / Eugene A. "Geno" Belleville passed away on 14 May 2022 at the age of 88 years old

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

The 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

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 honorably served in the United States Army / Rodney Bennett was 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 on 18 August 2020 at the age 87 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BENSON**

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

RALPH

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: BMG-3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Boatswain's Mate (Shipboard) Third-Class Ralph Benson honorably served in the United States Navy / BMC-3
Ralph Benson was deployed to Korea / BMG-3 Benson also served in the Navy during World War II

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ralph Benson was a Brother of the Masonic Lodge for 65 years / Ralph Benson passed away on 14 October 2019 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, Pendleton, New York

A Boatswain's Mate (BM) in the U.S. Navy is a vital role responsible for a wide range of duties, including supervising the maintenance of the ship, managing deck operations, and ensuring the safety of the crew / BMs are trained in seamanship, navigation, and shipboard safety, and they play a key role in the daily operations of a naval vessel / This position is known for its rich history and honored traditions within the Navy



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BERST**

Hometown: BUFFALO

EDWARD R.

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:

Edward R. Berst honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Berst was a Supervisor for Verizon / Edward R. Berst passed away on 16 May 2024 at the age of 91 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 honorably served in the United States Navy / MM2 Robert 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 at the age of 81 years old and is interred at Protection Cemetery, Protection, New York

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

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) is a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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: BIRT

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

DAVID

B.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CWO

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Chief Warrant Officer David Benner Birt honorably served in the United States Army / CWO David Birt later served in the US Army Reserve and the National Guard (Special Forces)

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

David Birt was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and graduated from Madison West High School in 1946 / David Birt was employed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a Community Planner in the Buffalo Office from 1970 to 1999 / Birt spent over fifty years with the Boy Scouts of America, earning his Eagle Scout rank and being awarded the Silver Beaver / David Birt was a member of American Legion Post #1346 on Grand Island, and the Grand Island Disabled American Veterans / David Benner Birt passed away on 11 March 2014 at the age of 85 years old

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

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BLACHOWICZ**

Hometown: ALDEN

MICHAEL S.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS HOWARD W. GILMORE (AS-16)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Michael Stanley Blachowicz honorably served in the United States Navy / Michael Blachowicz was assigned as a Radio Mechanic and served aboard the USS Howard W. Gilmore

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After graduating from High School Michael Blachowicz opened an electronics repair store / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Blachowicz went to work at Sylvania Electric as Electrical Engineer / Blachowicz also served a Plant Manager and Engineering Management / Michael Blachowicz left Sylvania to join an electronics company in Alabama, becoming Vice President / After his retirement, Blachowicz designed and built a cabin cruiser and moved to North Carolina, eventually returning to Western New York / Blachowicz held the position of Secretary at the USS Howard W. Gilmore Association for three years / Michael Stanley Blachowicz passed away on 29 May 2024 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at St. Joseph's Cemetery

A Radio Mechanic understands the organization, purpose and function of Naval Communications / Mechanic learns and operates radiotelegraph and radiotelephone equipment as well as knowing and understanding radio waves / Radio Mechanic must be proficient in Morse Code and teletypewriter procedures

USS Howard W. Gilmore (AS-16) was a Fulton-class submarine tender in service with the United States Navy from 1944 to 1980 / She was named after Navy Commander Howard W. Gilmore, who was the first member of the United States Submarine Force to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor during WW II and was commissioned on 24 May 1944/ After her shakedown cruise, the Howard W. Gilmore arrived at Majuro Atoll on 19 September 1944 and began her vital tending duties / In the four following months she made voyage repairs on submarines, replenished them, and helped in training both crewmen and repairmen / These tasks contributed to the attacks on Japanese shipping which hastened the end of the war / The ship also provided repairs and parts for surface ships when necessary / Assigned to Key West in



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

January 1946, the Gilmore served Submarine Squadron 4 / The USS Gilmore stayed in Florida for the greater part of the next 13 years, serving submarines on their training and readiness duties / The ship occasionally tended submarines at Norfolk, Virginia and deployed to the Caribbean twice during this period, notably for Operation Springboard, a fleet exercise in the Caribbean in 1958 / In October 1962 the introduction of offensive missiles into Cuba brought a strong response from the American President and people, a naval quarantine of the island / The Howard W. Gilmore's crew worked around the clock servicing two squadrons of submarines for Caribbean operations / From 1963 into 1967, the veteran tender continued to serve submarines from her home port, Charleston, making short cruises for training off the South Carolina coast and in the Caribbean / From 1973 until shortly before being decommissioned, the ship's home port was La Maddalena, Sardinia / Howard W. Gilmore returned to Norfolk, Virginia, and was decommissioned on September 30, 1980 and scrapped in March 2006



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BLACK

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

ROBERT S.

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 S. Black honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Robert Black received a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering from Syracuse University / Black's business and industry experiences took him around the country and around the world / Robert Black was a member of the Buffalo Launch Club / Robert S. Black passed away on 2 January 2026 at the age of 93 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BLAIR, JR.**

Hometown: LANCASTER

ERVIN

W.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

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:

Corporal Ervin William "Vintage Bill" Blair, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

CPL Ervin Blair was Honorably Discharged from U.S. Army active duty and reserves in 1960

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 / Ervin Blair was a member of the Town Line Fire Company / 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 at the age of 84 years old

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) was a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established November 8, 1950, by executive order of President Harry Truman / The Korean Service Medal is the primary US military award for service or participation in operations in the Korean area during the Korean War between 27 June 1950, and 27 July 1954

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on 15 December 1950 as the United Nations Service Medal / The decoration was the first international award ever created by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War / The United Nations Service Medal (Korea) is awarded to any military service member, of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

The Presidential Unit Citation, originally called the Distinguished Unit Citation, is awarded to units of the United States Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy on or after 7 December 1941

A Marksmanship Badge is a U.S. military badge or a civilian badge which is awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course (known as marksmanship qualification badges) or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition (known as marksmanship competition badges) / The U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps are the only military services that award marksmanship qualification badges / The U.S. military marksmanship qualification badges are awarded in three grades (highest to lowest): expert, sharpshooter, and marksman while their marksmanship competition badges are awarded in three to four grades (highest to lowest): distinguished, silver, and bronze for the U.S. Army and distinguished, gold, silver, and bronze for the Marine Corps

The 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: **BLASIO**

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

RALPH

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:

Ralph Blasio honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Ralph Blasio retired from the Ford Stamping Plant / Blasio was a member of Big Timers Club / Ralph Blasio passed away on 5 April 2026 at the age of 98 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:

George J. Bogold, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George J. Bogold, Jr. passed away on 17 February 2021 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:

Leonard L. Bonafede, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Leonard L. Bonafede, Jr. passed away on 11 December 2019 and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 honorably served in the United States Army / 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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BORKOWSKY

Hometown: WEST SENECA

MELVIN W.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

SPECIAL SERVICE COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Adrian J. Borowicz honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Adrian Borowicz was assigned 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 / Adrian J. Borowicz passed away on 16 January 2002 at the age of 69 years old and is interred at Saint Adalberts Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

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

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)

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 Korean Service Medal (KSM) was a military award for service in the United States Armed Forces and was established November 8, 1950, by executive order of President Harry Truman / The Korean Service Medal is the primary US military award for service or participation in operations in the Korean area during the Korean War between 27 June 1950, and 27 July 1954

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

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military award / The badge is awarded to infantrymen and Special Forces soldiers in the rank of colonel and below, who fought in active ground combat while assigned as members of either an Infantry, Ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:

PURPLE HEART (2)

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

Service Notes:

Robert Bowen honorably served in the United Staes Army / Robert Bowen was deployed to Korea and was awarded two Purple Hearts for injuries suffered on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

Miscelleaneous:

Robert Bowen passed away on 9 March 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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BOYLE**

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

JAMES

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:

James Thomas Boyle honorably served in the United States Air Force as a Flight Mechanic

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, James Boyle went to work at Calspan (formerly Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory), retiring after a 40 year career / James Thomas "Jim" Boyle passed away on 3 November 2024 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery, Hamburg, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRAUN, JR.

Hometown: AMHERST

EDWIN 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:**

Service Notes:

Edwin J. Braun, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edwin Braun was the Owner and Operator of Goetz Floral Shop / Edwin J. Braun, Jr. passed away on 21 March 2024 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at St. John Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BREGE

Hometown: HAMBURG

DONALD A.

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:

Donald A. Brege honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Brege was a member of the Teamsters Local #264, Hamburg Moose Lodge #992 and the Orchard Park American Legion Post #567 / Donald A. Brege passed away on 21 May 2024 at the age of 85 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRETON

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

DALE

C.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

82ND AIRBORNE

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Dale C. Breton honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Dale Breton was employed by New York State Gas & Electric (NYSEG) for 37 years / Breton was a member of the Lancaster Flying Club / Dale C. Breton passed away on 14 April 2026 at the age of 95 years old

The 82nd Airborne Division is an airborne infantry division of the United States Army specializing in parachute assault operations into hostile areas with a U.S. Department of Defense mandate to be "on-call to fight anytime, anywhere" at "the knife's edge of technology and readiness / Primarily based at Fort Liberty, North Carolina, the 82nd Airborne Division is part of the XVIII Airborne Corps / The 82nd Airborne Division is the U.S. Army's most strategically mobile division / The division was organized on 25 August 1917, at Camp Gordon, Georgia and later served with distinction on the Western Front in the final months of World War I / Since its initial members came from all 48 states, the division acquired the nickname All-American, which is the basis for its "AA" on the shoulder patch / The division later served in World War II where, in August 1942, it was reconstituted as the first airborne division of the U.S. Army and fought in numerous campaigns during the war / In April 1965, the "All-Americans" invaded the Dominican Republic / Spearheaded by the 3rd Brigade, the 82nd deployed in Operation Power Pack / During the Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which swept across South Vietnam in January/February 1968, the 3rd Brigade was enroute to Chu Lai within 24 hours of receiving its orders / The 3rd Brigade performed combat duties in the Hue – Phu Bai area of the I Corps sector / Later the brigade moved south to Saigon, and fought in the Mekong Delta, the Iron Triangle and along the Cambodian border, serving nearly 22 months



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROCONIER, JR.**

Hometown: WEST SENECA

WILL

H.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "F", 3RD ARMY

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Will Henry Broconier, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Will Broconier was assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman

Will Broconier was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 12 January 1955 and transferred to the Army Reserve for 8 years service

Base Assignments:

Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. - Fort Lesley J. McNair, also historically known as the Washington Arsenal, is a United States Army post located on the tip of Buzzard Point, the peninsula that lies at the confluence of the Potomac River and the Anacostia River in Washington, D.C. / The fort has been an army post for more than 200 years, third in length of service, after the United States Military Academy at West Point and the Carlisle Barracks / The fort is named for General Lesley James McNair, who was killed in action by friendly fire in Normandy, France during World War II / The military reservation was established in 1791, as a significant site for the capital defense and site of the first two United States arsenals / During the Civil War, women worked in an ammunition factory at the Washington Arsenal as it served the Union and wounded Civil War soldiers were also treated at the Arsenal in a hospital next to the penitentiary that was built prior to the war in 1857 / The Army Industrial College was founded at McNair in 1924 to prepare officers for high-level posts in Army supply organizations and study industrial mobilization / Fort McNair has been the headquarters of the Military District of Washington since 1966 / Fort McNair is part of the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, the headquarters of the Army's Military District of Washington, and serves as home to the National Defense University, as well as the official residence of the Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army

Miscellaneous:

Will Broconier worked as a Machinist Apprentice at Bethlehem Steel in Lackawanna prior to induction into the Army / Will Henry Broconier, Jr. passed away on 30 September 2025 at the age of 92 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Light Weapons Infantryman lack heavy weapons and armor or with a reduced vehicle footprint / Light infantry units lack the greater firepower, operational mobility and protection of mechanized or armored units, but possess greater tactical mobility and the ability to execute missions in severely restrictive terrain and in areas where weather makes vehicular mobility difficult / Light infantry forces typically rely on their ability to operate under restrictive conditions, surprise, violence of action, training, stealth, field craft, and fitness levels of the individual soldiers to compensate for their reduced lethality / Despite the usage of the term "light", forces in a light unit must carry everything they require to fight, survive and win due to lack of vehicles

The 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) (nicknamed Rock of the Marne), is a combined arms division of the United States Army based at Fort Stewart, Georgia / It is a subordinate unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps under U.S. Army Forces Command / Its current organization includes a division headquarters and headquarters battalion, two armored brigade combat teams, one aviation brigade, a division artillery, a sustainment brigade and a combat sustainment support battalion along with a maneuver enhancement brigade / The division has a distinguished history, having seen active service in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Global War on Terror / The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 61 members of the 3rd Infantry Division, making the division the most honored in the Army / The division fought in France in World War I and in World War II, it landed with General Patton's task force in a contested amphibious landing on the coast of Morocco, North Africa, overwhelming Vichy French defenders in November 1942 / In 1943, the division invaded Sicily in July, and invaded Italy at Salerno in September, before fighting in France and finally Germany. Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, featured in the Hollywood movie, "To Hell and Back," was a member / The division also served in the Korean War / From 1957 until 1996, the division was a major part of the United States Army's presence in the NATO alliance in West Germany

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Good Conduct Medal is one of the oldest military awards of the United States Armed Forces / The U.S. Navy's variant of the 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 Good Conduct 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: **BROWN**

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

COURTNEY 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:**

Service Notes:

Courtney L. Brown honorably served in the United States Army / Courtney Brown served for three years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Courtney Brown graduated from Riverside High School in 1947 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Courtney Brown graduated from the University of Buffalo Business School in 1958 / Courtney Brown was a buyer with the William Hengerer Co Department Store for 22 years and then worked for the US Postal Service until his retirement / Courtney L. Brown passed away on 18 November 2015 at the age of 85 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BROWN**

Hometown: HAMBURG

IRVIN

C.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: LT COL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Colonel Irvin C. Brown honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Irvin Brown graduated from Niagara University / Irvin C. Brown passed away on 7 March 2024 at the age of 94 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:** KOREA

Service Notes:

Petty Officer Third-Class Howard H. Bruce, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / PO3 Howard Bruce was assigned as a Boiler Technician aboard the USS Purdy / Petty Officer Bruce circumnavigated the world twice and the USS Purdy provided fire support during the Korean War

PO3 Howard Bruce received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy on 27 April 1955

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bruce was a member of the American Legion Tonawandas' Post #264, a charter member of the Greater Niagara Chapter of the Wheatfield American Legion Riders Post #1451 and the UAW Local #424 / Howard "Howie" H. Bruce, Jr. passed away on 10 March 2022 at the age of 90 years old

The Navy Boiler Technician operates and performs maintenance on marine boilers, pumps, and other fire room machinery / Technicians perform tests on boiler water, fuel, and lubricating oils; operates and performs preventive maintenance on boilers and boiler auxiliary equipment; operates distilling plants; tests and calibrates gauges; exercises environmental control procedures / Technicians do repair work; supervises oil spill containment and collecting; prepares environment pollution reports; conducts on-the-job training; monitors maintenance and handling of logs, records, accounts, and reports; prepares quarterly maintenance schedules / Boiler Technicians perform all basic fireman apprenticeship functions in engineering areas aboard ship, involving cleanliness, operation, maintenance, and preservation of main propulsion, auxiliary steam or diesel machinery, steam or diesel generators, various pumps



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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 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: BRUMMER, SR.

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

JOHN F.

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:

John F. Brummer, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Germany

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

John Brummer was a lifelong member of Bricklayer Local #3 / John F. Brummer, Sr. passed away on 10 February at the age of 92 years old

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:

Guido J. Brunetti honorably served in the United States Navy

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRUNO

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH J.

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:

Joseph J. Bruno honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Bruno worked for the United States Postal Service for 31 years and was a respected business owner in the Lovejoy community / Joseph J. Bruno passed away on 2 June 2025 at the age of 92 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BRUSINO

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

FRANK

B.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: BG

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

4TH BRIGADE, NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD

Medals / Citations:

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

OVERSEAS SERVICE RIBBON

MASTER PARACHUTIST BADGE

SPECIAL FORCES TAB

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

NYS MILITARY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NYS LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Brigadier General Frank B. Brusino honorably served in the United States Army / The military career of BG Frank Brusino spanned ROTC years at Niagara University 1950-54 with active duty following his commission in Germany and stateside to 1957 / BG Frank Brusino joined the U.S. Army Reserve after serving his active duty in the regular Army / Brigadier General Frank Brusino completed many military schools including, 11th Airborne Basic and Advanced Airborne Course (Jumpmaster), Infantry Officer Advanced Course, US Army JFK Center, Special Warfare Course, US Army Counter-Insurgency Course, Command and General Staff College all during the 1950's and 1960's / BG Frank Brusino became the Battalion Commander of 19th Special Forces Group out of White Plains, New York / Brigadier General Frank B. Brusino retired in 1991, joining the NYS Army National Guard / During the 1990's, BG Brusino became commander of Headquarters 4th Brigade, New York National Guard, achieving the rank of Brigadier General

As National Guard Commander, Brigadier General Frank Brusino was called to duty during the 1971 Attica Uprising

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank Brusino graduated from Bishop Duffy High School in 1950 / Brusino received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Niagara University in 1954 and his Master's Degree from Niagara University in 1958 / Frank Brusino also attended Florida State University, University of Delaware, University of Buffalo and Canisius College for certifications in Guidance and Administration / Frank was a teacher, counselor and Administrator at Niagara Wheatfield Central School District from 1958-1991, ending his Educational Career at Edward Town Middle School / Frank Brusino was a founding member of Grand Island's CERT Team (Citizens Emergency Response Team) and was awarded Excellence in Leadership Award for his work with CERT in 2005 and later in 2011 / In the early 2000's, Brusino traveled with the Friendship Airborne to China, Thailand, Cambodia and Mongolia earning jump wings from each country Frank Brusino was a member of the Special Forces Association, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 82nd Airborne Division, 11th Airborne Division and 1/174th Veterans / Frank B. Brusino passed away on 29 September 2013 at the age of 82 years old and is interred at Whitehaven Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

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

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is an organized militia force and a federal military reserve force of the United States Army / It is simultaneously part of two different organizations: the Militia of the United States (consisting of the ARNG of each state, most territories, and the District of Columbia), as well as the federal ARNG, as part of the National Guard as a whole (which includes the Air National Guard) / It is divided into subordinate units stationed in each state or insular area, responsible to their respective governors or other head-of-government

The Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) is a military award presented to members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguished themselves by outstanding meritorious achievement or service to the United States in a designated combat theater / The meritorious acts or services rendered must be comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit but in a duty of lesser, though considerable, responsibility

The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) is a special type of recognition for service members / The Army Commendation Medal is considered a "mid-level" military decoration / The commendation is generally awarded for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / It's usually granted to U.S. Army personnel that are not general officers / All in all, there are Commendation Medals for each service branch (Army, Naval Service, Air and Space Forces, and U.S. Coast Guard)

The Army Achievement Medal (AAM) is the lesser of the U.S. military's meritorious service medals and was first introduced as a means to recognize the contributions of enlisted personnel and junior officers who were not qualified to receive the higher Commendation Medal or the Meritorious Service Medal / Additional awards are denoted by oak leaf clusters

An Overseas Service Ribbon is a service military award of the United States military which recognizes those service members who have performed military tours outside the borders of the United States of America / There are different versions of the Overseas Service Ribbons for the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard / Both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marines receive the Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon

The Master Parachutist Badge is a skill badge awarded by the US Army / It is an oxidized silver badge 1 13/64 inches in height and 1 1/2 inches in width, consisting of an open parachute on and over a pair of stylized wings displayed and curving inward / The badge requires 65 jumps, including 25 jumps with combat equipment, four night jumps, and



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

graduation from a Jumpmaster course / The badge is awarded to individuals rated excellent in character and efficiency

The Special Forces Tab is a service school qualification tab of the United States Army / It is awarded to any soldier completing either the Special Forces Qualification Course or the Special Forces Detachment Officer Qualification Course at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, North Carolina / Soldiers who are awarded the Special Forces Tab are authorized to wear it and the green beret for the remainder of their military careers, even when not serving in a Special Forces command

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / It is awarded to every member of the US Armed Forces who has served during any one of four specified periods of armed conflict or national emergency from 1950 to the present / Combat or "in theater" service is not a requirement for the award

The Military Commendation Medal is an award given to any member of the New York State Organized Militia who, while serving in any capacity, distinguished themselves by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service / Awards may be made to individuals who are members of the Armed Forces of the United States, but only under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of The Adjutant General / The medal is blue and in the shape of a shield with the outline of New York state in the center in yellow and text reading "MILITARY" on the upper portion and "COMMENDATION" on the lower portion / The ribbon features a dark blue central section flanked on either side by a yellow stripe / The Medal for Merit is another award that may be given to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty

New York National Guard Long and Faithful Service Medal is an award of the state of New York / This is given to all Military personnel who have completed the specified periods of honorable and satisfactory active service in the New York Army National Guard, New York Naval Militia and New York Guard



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:

Frank L. Bucholtz honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

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 at the age of 93 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: BUNCH

Hometown: HAMBURG

ETHRIDGE H.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "B", 47TH SIGNAL BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Ethridge Hoy Bunch honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Ethridge Bunch was trained as a Radio Repairman and assigned to Co. B, 47th Signal Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia

Corporal Ethridge Bunch was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 3 June 1955

Base Assignments:

Ft. Benning, Georgia - Fort Benning is a United States Army post straddling the Alabama–Georgia border next to Columbus, Georgia and is named after Henry L. Benning, a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War/ Fort Benning supports more than 120,000 active-duty military, family members, reserve component soldiers, retirees and civilian employees on a daily basis / Since 1909, Fort Benning has served as the Home of the Infantry / Fort Benning is one of ten U.S. Army installations named for former Confederate generals / The congressionally mandated Naming Commission has recommended it be renamed Fort Moore after Lieutenant General Hal and Julia Moore

Miscellaneous:

Ethridge Bunch was born in Cleveland, Ohio / Ethridge Hoy Bunch passed away on 27 June 2024 at the age of 90 years old

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 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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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:

Larry M. Burdick honorably served in the United States Army

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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

The United Nations Service Medal for Korea is an international military decoration established by the United Nations on 15 December 1950 as the United Nations Service Medal / The decoration was the first international award ever created by the United Nations and recognized the multi-national defense forces which participated in the Korean War / The United Nations Service Medal (Korea) is awarded to any military service member, of an Armed Force allied with South Korea, who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between the dates of 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict / It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates / Currently, the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medal (as opposed to decorations for particular achievements such as valor or meritorious service and Good Conduct Medals) currently awarded by all branches of the United States Armed Forces



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURGER**

Hometown: EAST AURORA

NORBERT A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

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 Second-Class Norbert A. Burger honorably served in the United States Army / SP2 Norbert Burger was assigned as a Field Radio Repairman while stationed at Yukon Command, Ladd Air Force Base (Fort Wainwright), in Fairbanks, Alaska

Norbert Burger was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 18 November 1956

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 a 1950 graduate of Seneca Vocational High School / Burger retired from Moog Inc. after 34 years of service / Norbert Burger was a lifelong member of the East Aurora Fish & Game Club / Norbert A. "Barney" Burger passed away on 5 February 2017 at the age of 84 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **BURGWARDT, JR.**

Hometown: HAMBURG

LESTER C

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: MSGT

Year Entered: 1942

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Master Sergeant Lester C. Burgwardt, Jr. honorably served in the United States Navy / Lester Burgwardt enlisted in the Navy in October 1942 / MSGT Burgwardt started his tour of duty at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, attending the Naval Aviation Program / In January 1944, Lester 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 during the outbreak of the Korean War 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 /Lester 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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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 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

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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 honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Francis 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

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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: **BUTTON**

Hometown: BUFFALO

HOWARD E.

Address: 379 OAK STREET

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

USS ALBUQUERQUE (PG-115/PF-7)

USS TOLEDO (CA-133)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Howard E. Button honorably served in the United States Navy and was stationed in Korea

After his separation from the Navy, Howard Button joined the United States Army in 1956 and served 16 years, with two tours of Vietnam

Sergeant First-Class Howard Earl Button was deployed to Vietnam on 2 December 1967 as an Infantryman and was Killed In Action on 31 January 1968 as a result of combat operations in Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard Earl Button was 33 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Paris, Tennessee

USS Albuquerque (PG-115/PF-7), a Tacoma-class patrol frigate in commission from 1943 to 1945 and from 1950 to 1953, was the first ship of the United States Navy to be named for C, New Mexico / Albuquerque, originally classified as a patrol gunboat, PG-115, but reclassified as a patrol frigate, PF-7, on 15 April 1943, was commissioned on 20 December 1943 / For the rest of 1944 and the first half of 1945, Albuquerque shepherded convoys between various Alaskan ports and conducted patrols around the Aleutian Islands and in the Bering Sea / Selected for transfer to the Soviet Navy in Project Hula, a secret program for the transfer of U.S. Navy ships to the Soviet Navy at Cold Bay, Alaska, in anticipation of the Soviet Union joining the war against Japan, she then proceeded to Cold Bay and began training her new Soviet crew / Following the completion of training for her Soviet crew, Albuquerque was decommissioned on 16 August 1945, at Cold Bay, and transferred to the Soviet Union under Lend-Lease immediately along with her sister ships Tacoma (PF-3), Sausalito (PF-4), Hoquiam (PF-5), Pasco (PF-6), and Everett (PF-8) / Commissioned into the Soviet Navy immediately, Albuquerque was designated as a storozhevoi korabl ("escort ship") and renamed EK-14 in Soviet service / She soon



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

departed Cold Bay, bound for Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky in the Soviet Union, where she served as a patrol vessel in the Soviet Far East / In February 1946, the United States began negotiations for the return of ships loaned to the Soviet Union for use during World War II / On 15 November 1949, the Soviet Union returned EK-14 (Albuquerque) to the US Navy at Yokosuka, Japan / Reverting to her former name, Albuquerque lay idle in the Pacific Reserve Fleet at Yokosuka until the outbreak of the Korean War / The Albuquerque spent a period of the Korean War on patrol and escort duties along the eastern coast of Korea / On 28 February 1953, she was decommissioned at Yokosuka, Japan / On 30 November 1953, the United States loaned the ship to Japan, and she was commissioned in the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force as JDS Tochi (PF-16) / The US Navy struck her from the Navy List on 1 December 1961, but she was returned briefly to US Navy custody on 28 August 1962, before the United States almost simultaneously transferred her back to Japan permanently / Reclassified as an "auxiliary stock craft" (YAC) and renamed YAC-15 on 31 March 1965, she was decommissioned on 31 March 1969, and returned to US custody on 9 July 1971, for disposal / Her final disposition is unknown / The US Navy awarded Albuquerque three battle stars for her Korean War service

USS Toledo (CA-133) was a Baltimore-class heavy cruiser of the United States Navy active during the Korean War / The Toledo was commissioned on 27 October 1946 with shakedown training in the West Indies / In July 1950, the cruiser took up station off the eastern coast of Korea a few miles north of Pohang, near Yongdok / She teamed up with Destroyer Division 91 to form one of the two alternating East Coast Support Elements of Task Group 95.5 / From 27 July to 30 July 1950, Toledo, Mansfield (DD-728), and Collett (DD-730) bombarded North Korean communication arteries which started at Yongdok and ran north between the mountains and the sea to the 38th parallel north / Toledo's next important mission was the landing at Inchon in mid-September 1950 / The heavily armed and fortified island of Wolmi-do – located in the harbor – threatened the success of the operation / Toledo and her previous consorts – augmented by Gurke (DD-783), De Haven (DD-727), and Royal Navy light cruisers, Jamaica (44) and Kenya (14) – entered the harbor to silence the island's guns on 13 September 1950 / The destroyers led the way through the mine-infested channel and moved in close to draw enemy fire while the cruisers stood off waiting for the North Koreans to betray their positions / By early afternoon, the artillery duel had begun / That evening, the cruisers and destroyers retired for the night / They returned the next day to finish the job / After two days of preparatory bombardment, Marines of the 3rd Battalion Landing Team, 5th Marines, stormed Wolmi-do's defenses / Meanwhile, Toledo redirected her fire to support the 1st Marines who were about to land on "Blue Beach" just south of Inchon proper / After reportedly destroying three gun emplacements and a number of machine gun nests, closing two tunnels, hitting trenches and mortar positions, Toledo retired / Toledo's tour of duty along the eastern coast of Korea lasted until late November 1951 / She bombarded Wonsan, Songjin, and Chongjin and rescued several downed pilots — one, from Boxer (CV-21), twice / Late in October 1951, her guns supported the 1st Marine Division in operations near Kansong / While conducting a shore bombardment on 11 November 1951, she again came under fire from an enemy shore battery which scored some close near misses / On 24 November 1951, Toledo completed her deployment to the western Pacific / On 5 January 1960, she entered Long Beach Naval Shipyard to begin inactivation overhaul / Toledo completed preparations and was placed out of commission at Long Beach on 21 May 1960 / She was moved to San Diego soon thereafter and remained there, in reserve, for the next 14 years / On 1 January 1974, her name was struck from the Navy List, and she was sold to the National Metal and Steel Corporation, Terminal Island, California, on 30 October 1974 for \$983,461.29 / The USS Toledo earned five battle stars for service during the Korean War.