



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CAMPAS**

Hometown: TONAWANDA

THEODORE G.

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:

Theodore G. "Ted" Campas honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Theodore Campas graduated from Tonawanda High School in 1952 / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Campas owned and operated Culligan Water in Tonawanda / Theodore Campas also owned Fast Teddy's Restaurant in Tonawanda / Campas was a longtime member of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas / Theodore G. "Ted" Campas passed away on 22 September 2022 at the age of 88 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CANFIELD

Hometown: HAMBURG

JOSEPH 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:

Joseph L. Canfield honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Canfield joined the U.S. Army after graduating from high school / Canfield worked at St. Bernadette's RC Church and was a Union Carpenter / Joseph L. Canfield passed away on 27 August 2024 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery, Hamburg New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CAPPELLINO

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

FRANK

A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Frank A. Cappellino honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Frank Cappellino was originally from Rochester, New York and graduated from Brighton High School and the University of Rochester / After opening a successful car dealership in Medina, New York, Cappellino opened Towne Buick in Buffalo / Frank A. Cappellino passed away on 23 January 2025 at the age of 97 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CARLSON**

Hometown: EAST AURORA

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Carlson was a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #5861, Wales, New York / Robert A. Carlson passed away on 20 September 2024 at the age of 96 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CARNEVALE

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH 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:

Joseph A. Carnevale honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Carnevale was a talented piano player and performed with the United States Army Band

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Carnevale worked as a teacher/attendance officer for over 36 years in the Buffalo Public School System / Joseph A. Carnevale passed away on 17 March 2023



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June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CARR

Hometown: HAMBURG

DAVID L.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

157TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

David Leon Carr honorably served in the United States Army / David Carr graduated from the Army's Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia / David Carr was deployed to Korea and assigned to the Military Intelligence Service

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

Fort Carson, Colorado - Fort Carson is a United States Army post located directly south of Colorado Springs in El Paso, Pueblo, Fremont, and Huerfano counties, Colorado / Camp Carson was established in 1942, following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and was named in honor of the legendary Army scout, General Christopher "Kit" Carson, who explored much of the West in the 1800s / The 89th Infantry Division was the first major unit to be activated at Camp Carson / During World War II, over 100,000 soldiers trained at Camp Carson. Along with three other infantry divisions: the 71st Infantry Division, 104th Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division / More than 125 units were activated at Camp Carson and more than 100 others were transferred to the mountain post from other installations / Camp Carson was designated Fort Carson in 1954 / In the 1960s, mechanized units were assigned to the fort and it was expanded to the 137,000 acres / Throughout its history Fort Carson has been used for large force-on-force maneuver training / Comprehensive maneuver and live fire training also occurs downrange at Fort Carson / Exercises and deployments continually hone the skills of Fort Carson soldiers / In 2003, most Fort Carson units were deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom / Troops from the 984th Military Police CO, 759th Military Police Battalion were also sent in support of the guard mission at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:

David Carr was originally from Salamanca, New York and graduated from Randolph High School in 1949 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, David Carr began a career with the New York State Police and retired in 1976 as a Senior investigator with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation / After his retirement, Carr became a Corporate Security Consultant with the United Refinery Company in Warren, Pennsylvania / Carr was elected to the Westfield Village Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2001 and served as Mayor between 2005 and 2013 / David Carr was a member of the Interstate Ski Club / David Leon Carr passed away on 26 March 26, 2025 at the age of 92 years old

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders



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June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CASEY

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

GEORGE E.

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:

George E. Casey honorably served in the United States Navy / George Casey was a member of the Navy Seabees

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George Casey was born in Long Island, New York / George Casey was a retired self-employed accountant / Casey was a member of the Grand Island Lion's Club for over forty years, including past NYS Chairman & past District Governor / George Casey was involved GI Little League for 17 years, including being a player agent for several years / Casey had been a Grand Island school board trustee for six years and a member of NYS School Board Association, Erie County Association of School Board, WNY Education Service Council and Grand Island's voting delegate at annual conventions of the NYS School Board Association since 2004 / George E. Casey passed away on 7 May 2010 at the age of 77 years old and is interred at Saint Stephens Roman Catholic Cemetery, Grand Island, New York

United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, form the U.S. Naval Construction Force (NCF) / Naval Construction Battalions were conceived of as replacements for civilian construction companies in combat zones after the attack on Pearl Harbor / At the time civilian contractors had roughly 70,000 men working U.S. Navy contracts overseas / International law made it illegal for civilian workers to resist an attack and by doing so would classify them as guerrillas and could lead to summary execution / With roots dating back to World War II, the Seabees were formally established on 5 March 1942, to meet the Navy's growing need to construct bases, build airfields, conduct underwater construction and build roads, bridges and other support facilities while providing protection for themselves and those around them as part of the war effort / The Seabees were deployed to Vietnam twice in the 1950s to survey and map the roads / Seabee teams (501 and 502) arrived in January 1963 as the first Seabees of the Vietnam War / The last battalion withdrew late 1971 with the last Seabee teams out a year later / When it was over, 137 Seabee teams were sent to Vietnam and had built 15 CB camps and deployed 22 battalions / In the over seven decades since its founding, Seabees have gone on to serve in most major U.S. conflicts



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CASPER

Hometown: EAST AURORA

EDWARD A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1947

Year Discharged: 1951

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Edward A. Casper honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / CPL Edward Casper was assigned as a Basic Infantryman and was deployed to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean areas

On the day of his Honorable Discharge from his first enlistment, Corporal Casper reenlisted for another 2 years and served during the Korean War from 1950-51 / Cpl Casper served aboard four different vessels, as well as duty in Puerto Rico

Edward Casper received his active duty Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 8 December 1951

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward A. Casper passed away on 22 October 2019 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Buffalo Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CATALINA

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

CHARLES T.

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:

Charles T. Catalina honorably served in the United States Navy and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Cantalina and his wife, Angie, owned the Catalina Hair Stylists shop in Tonawanda / Charles Catalina was a life member and administrator for the Kenmore Veterans of Foreign (VFW) Post and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) / Charles T. Catalina passed away on 10 April 2024 at the age of 93 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CERASA

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

LARRY

A.

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:

Larry A. Cerasa honorably served in the United States Navy / Larry Cerasa was assigned as an Operating Room Technician

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Larry Cerasa was a 4th Degree with the Knights of Columbus and a 3rd Degree Mason / Larry Cerasa was a member of Musician Local #92 for more than 50 years having played bass in Chicago, Wilmington and locally with many bands and small groups /Cerasa worked in the insurance industry for more than 30 years, retiring from Met Life in 1996 / After his retirement, Larry Cerasa has been an independent Life Broker and a NY State Monitor offering continuing education to local insurance agents / Larry A. Cerasa passed away on 18 May 2025 at the age of 92 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CERTO

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

RUSSELL 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:

Russell L. Certo honorably served in the United States Army / Russell Certo was assigned to the Military Intelligence Service for 2 years

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Russell Certo was a graduate of SUNY Cortland and Canisius College / Russell Certo was an educator in the Kenmore-Tonawanda School District for 45 years and a swimming and football official throughout WNY for 30 years / Russell L. Certo passed away on 23 July 2025 at the age of 95 years old

Intelligence Specialists play a key role in ensuring that military operations are planned using the most accurate, current information about enemy forces and capabilities / They oversee efforts to collect, exploit, develop, analyze, and produce intelligence information for dissemination to key military leaders



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CHAMPAGNE, SR.

Hometown: BUFFALO

NORMAN C.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Norman C. Champagne, Sr. honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps, Norman Champagne went to work at the American Standard plant in Buffalo and attended Erie County Community College, earning his Business Certificate / Champagne later joined Hughes Industrial Products, Inc., where he served in several executive positions, retiring in 2001 / In 2010, Champagne worked Syracuse University in the development of the Korean War Legacy project to understand the outcomes of the Korean War and its rich legacy in promoting democracy and freedom in the world today / Champagne was a member of the Marine Corps League, Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 7290 in North Syracuse and the Korean War Veterans Association, serving two years as commander of the Central New York Chapter 105 / Norman C. Champagne, Sr. passed away on 11 November 2022 at the age of 90 years old



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June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CHECK

Hometown: BLASDELL

GEORGE

M.

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:

George M. Check honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George Check was a member and past President of Knights of St. John Comm. #391 / Check was also a member of American Legion Hamburg Post #527 / George M. Check passed away on 27 July 2023 at the age of 90 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHESSON**

Hometown: BUFFALO

MATTHEW F.

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:

Matthew "Matt" Frank Chesson honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Matthew Chesson was employed as a Civil Engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT), retired after more than 30 years of employment / Chesson was a member of the American Legion for more than 62 years / Chesson later retired to The Villages in Lady Lake, Florida / Matthew "Matt" Frank Chesson passed away on 13 December 2023 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CHIODO**

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

FRANKLIN D.

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:

Franklin D. Chido honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Franklin Chido was a member of the South Buffalo-Lackawanna Lions Club / Franklin D. Chido passed away on 1 February 2025 at the age of 92 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: CHIRICO

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

ANTHONY T.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY H, 9TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Anthony T. Chirico honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Anthony Chirico was deployed to Korea for 16 months

CPL Anthony Chirico was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 17 July 1954

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Anthony Chirico was a member and past Commissioner of the U-Crest Fire Department / Anthony T. Chirico passed away on 26 September 2020 and is interred at Our Lady Help of Christians Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York

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

The 9th Infantry Regiment were organized in the United States Army in 1798 during the Quasi-War, in 1812 during the war of 1812, and in 1847 during the Mexican–American War / The 1812 regiment fought in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, and the 1847 regiment in the Battle for Mexico City / The regiment remained in the west during the American Civil War, garrisoning posts near San Francisco / After the end of the American Civil War the regiment continued its service through the final Indian Wars, then fought at the Battle of San Juan Hill during the Spanish–American War / During the Boxer Rebellion, the 9th Infantry was sent to China, where it earned the nickname "Manchu" / After the end of the rebellion the regiment saw duty in the Philippine–American War / In 1917 the regiment became part of the 2nd Infantry Division, with



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which it served during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War / When South Korea was invaded in 1950 the "Manchus" returned to the far east and the Korean Peninsula / Manchu troops were the first of the 2nd Infantry Division to engage North Korean forces, at Yongsan in August 1950, against numerically superior force / They were later successful at Bloody Ridge, Heartbreak Ridge, Old Baldy, Pork Chop Hill, and T-Bone Hill / During the Korean War, the regiment earned an additional Presidential Unit Citation for its gallant service at Hongchon, and six of its members received the Medal of Honor

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 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 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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CIECIEREGA

Hometown: LANCASTER

CHESTER

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:

Chester F. Ciecierega honorably served in the United States Army and Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Chester F. Ciecierega passed away on 25 May 2024 at the age of 91 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CLAFLIN**

Hometown: HAMBURG

MALCOLM L.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Malcolm L. Claflin honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Malcolm L. Claflin passed away on 9 May 2022 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: **CLAPPS**

Hometown: TONAWANDA TWP

MARCO

T

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:

Marco T. Clapps honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Marco Clapps retired from the United States Postal Service / Marco T. Clapps passed away on 21 December 2023 at the age of 95 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CLARK

Hometown: ANGOLA

WILLIAM

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

24TH RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY, 24TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

ARMY PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION RIBBON

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant William Clark honorably served in the United States Army / SGT William Clark was deployed to Korea for 16 months as a Tank Ammunition Section Chief, assigned to the 24th Reconnaissance Company, 24th Infantry Division

William Clark received his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army on 15 September 1954

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

William Clark worked for Wagner Box and then worked at Bethlehem Steel as a Locomotive Diesel Mechanic for 35 years / William Clark passed away on 12 December 2023 at the age of 91 years old

The 24th Infantry Division was an infantry division of the United States Army that was formed during World War II from the disbanding Hawaiian Division / The division saw action throughout the Pacific theater, first fighting in New Guinea before landing on the Philippine islands of Leyte and Luzon, driving Japanese forces from them / Following the end of the war, the division participated in occupation duties in Japan, and was the first division to respond at the outbreak of the Korean War / For the first 18 months of the war, the division was heavily engaged on the front lines with North Korean and Chinese forces, suffering over 10,000 casualties / It was withdrawn from the front lines to the reserve force for the remainder of the war after the second battle for Wonju, but returned to Korea for patrol duty at the end of major combat operations / After its deployment in the Korean War, the division was active in Europe and the United States during the Cold War / The 24th Infantry Division was inactivated in October 1996

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



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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 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

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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COHEN

Hometown: BUFFALO

LAWRENCE 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:

Lawrence E. "Larry" Cohen honorably served in the United States Air Force / Lawrence Cohen was assigned as a Communications Specialist with the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Air Force, Lawrence Cohen started a career serving on Great Lakes freighters / Cohen went to work for the American Steamship Company and became the Captain of the freighter, "The American Republic" / Lawrence E. "Larry" Cohen passed away on 20 February 2023 at the age of 94 years of age



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COLERN

Hometown: LACKAWANNA

THOMAS E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Thomas E. Colern honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Thomas Colern was deployed to Korea for 14 1/2 months as a Lineman (Radio Communications)

Thomas Colern received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps on 12 February 1954

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thomas E. Colern passed away on 27 July 2017 at the age of 84 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

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

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

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service award of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 / The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) was first intended to be a "blanket



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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CONMY

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JAMES

M.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1953

Unit / Squadron:

74TH ENGINEER HEAVY EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal James M. Conmy honorably served in the United States Army / CPL James Conny was assigned as a Welder with the 74th Engineer Heavy Equipment Company whiled stationed in Korea for eighteen months

CPL James Conmy was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 10 July 1953

Base Assignments:

Miscelleaneous:

James Commywas a member of Msgr. Nash Knights of Columbus #3875 and St. Ambrose Seniors Club / James M. Conmy passed away on 10 June 2019 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Saint Matthews Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

The 74th Engineer Company was constituted in the Regular Army on 1 October 1933 / The company was redesignated as the 74th Engineer Heavy Equipment Company on 19 August 1949 / The Company received the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation in 1950-1951 while serving in Korea

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CONNELLY

Hometown: DEPEW

JAMES

M.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

James M. Connelly honorably served in the U.S. Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Connelly graduated from Depew Central Schools and attended St. Bonaventure University and Canisius College / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Connelly worked for Gould National Battery and was transferred to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1958 / In 1975, Connelly went to work for Saft Industries, another battery Company, in Valdosta, Georgia / James M. Connelly passed away on 6 February 2024 at the age of 92 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CONNOR

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

DONALD J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Donald J. Connor honorably served in the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONNORS**

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PATRICK E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS BRISTOL (DD-857)

Medals / Citations:

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL (EUROPEAN CLASP)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Patrick E. Connors honorably served in the United States Navy / Patrick Connors served 2 years and 5 months as a Deck Engineer on the USS Bristol (DD-857)

Patrick Connors was Honorably Discharged at Naval Station Newport, Rhode Island on 28 June 1954, with reserve obligation concluding 7 January 1960

Base Assignments:

Naval Station, Newport, Rhode Island - The Naval Station Newport (NAVSTA Newport) is a United States Navy base located in the city of Newport and the town of Middletown, Rhode Island / Naval Station Newport is home to the Naval War College and the Naval Justice School / The Newport Training Station was founded in 1883 and was intended to provide education for young men and boys for a ten month period / Naval Station Newport hosts approximately 50 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and US Army Reserve commands and activities; it is one of the Navy's most important stateside training facilities and includes Officer Training School

Miscellaneous:

Patrick Connors was born in Dunkirk, New York / Patrick E. Connors passed away on 11 March 2025 at the age of 90 years old

The Deck Engineer assists the Craft Engineer in the operation, preventive and corrective maintenance of aircraft aboard ship

USS Bristol (DD-857), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for Rear Admiral Mark Lambert Bristol, who served as Commander-in-Chief North Atlantic Fleet from 1901 to 1903 / The Bristol was commissioned on 17 March 1945 and joined Task Group 30.8 in Guam / In April 1946, Bristol proceeded to the



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east coast and reported to the Atlantic Fleet / She operated along the east coast until February 1947, when she steamed to England for a cruise in European waters that lasted until August 1947 / Between August 1947 and September 1948, she conducted local operations in the Atlantic and, from September 1948 until January 1949, made a second tour of Europe / Upon return, she was designated as a Reserve training ship and operated for the next 18 months out of New Orleans, Louisiana / During the summer and fall of 1950, Bristol visited several Caribbean ports, with interim periods of training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba / On 2 October 1951, she commenced a round-the-world cruise which took her first to Korea where she served from 31 October 1951 to 27 February 1952 / She then returned to Newport via the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean, arriving 21 April 1952 / On 21 November 1969, the ship was decommissioned and stricken / She was later loaned to Republic of China (renamed ROCS Hua Yang (DD-3)) on 9 December 1969 / The Republic of China decommissioned the former USS Bristol on 25 April 1994 and sold for scrap / The USS Bristol received one battle star for her World War II service and two battle stars for her Korean service

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



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Name: **CONSCHAFTER**

Hometown: AMHERST

ROBERT L.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: LT.

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

I CORPS ARTILLERY, 159TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Lieutenant Robert L. Conschafter honorably served in the United States Army / LT Robert Conschafter was assigned as an Intelligence Officer in I Corps Artillery with the 159th Artillery Battalion while stationed in Korea / Conschafter received his commission after graduating from Bowling Green University

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Conschafter graduated from Amherst High School in 1948 where he played drums in the school's Marching Band and also played Right Tackle on Amherst's undefeated football year during his Senior year / He enrolled in Bowling Green State University in Ohio, earning a degree in 1952 / Conschafter also played in the ROTC Marching Band at Bowling Green / After his Honorable Discharge from the US Army, Robert Conschafter enrolled at Palmer Chiropractic College in Davenport, Iowa, receiving his Doctorate / After graduation, Dr. Conschafter worked as an associate in his father's chiropractic clinic / Dr. Conschafter was a former Vice Chairman of the Board of New York State Chiropractic College and a member of the New York State Chiropractic Association, District 17 and the New York State Chiropractic Council, District 8 / In 1997, Dr. Conschafter received an outstanding service award from the regents of the State Board of Chiropractic and was honored as the Chiropractor of the Year in 1994 / Dr. Conschafter received the Pioneer Award in 2013 for his service to his profession / Dr. Conschafter was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo / Dr. Conschafter continued seeing his patients until the age of 90 years old Dr. Robert L. Conschafter passed away on 6 July 2023 at the age of 92 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CONTRINO**
CHARLES

Hometown: TONAWANDA

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:

Charles "Frenchie" Contrino honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles Contrino was a life member of the Ellwood Volunteer Fire Company and the Tonawanda Senior Center / Charles "Frenchie" Contrino passed away on 9 January 2024 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COONEY, JR.

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 2ND LT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Second Lieutenant Robert E. Cooney, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / Robert Cooney was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant after graduating from the ROTC Training program at Syracuse University

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Cooney graduated from St. Mark School and St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute / Cooney graduated from Syracuse University prior to entering the military / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Robert Cooney joined the family business of Cooney Air Conditioning, running the business his father started in 1929 / Cooney was a member of the Rotary Club of Buffalo / After retirement, Robert Cooney moved to Naples, Florida / Robert E. Cooney, Jr. passed away on 26 February 2025 at the age of 93 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COOPER

Hometown: BUFFALO

GLENN

J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

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

Service Notes:

Glenn J. Cooper honorably served in the United States Army / Glenn Cooper was deployed to Korea and was awarded the Purple Heart medal for wounds suffered on the battlefield

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Glenn Cooper was born in Andover, New York and moved to Buffalo after his military enlistment / Glenn Cooper worked for the A.B. Dick Company until his retirement in 1992 and moving to Cuba, New York / Cooper was a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Frontiersmen Post #7545 in the City of Tonawanda, New York and served as Post Commander / Glenn Cooper served as the Erie County council quartermaster for over two decades and contributed significantly to District 6 of the VFW / Cooper also played a key role in the founding of the Sons of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #7545 / Glenn J. Cooper passed away on 12 December 2025 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda

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

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **COPPOLA**

DONALD

Hometown:

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

UNITED STATES ARMY FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION BAND

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Donald Coppola honorably served in the United States Army / Donald Coppola served with the United States Army Fifth Infantry Division Band at Fort Knox, Kentucky

Base Assignments:

Fort Knox, Kentucky - Fort Knox is a United States Army installation in Kentucky, south of Louisville and north of Elizabethtown / It is adjacent to the United States Bullion Depository (also known as Fort Knox), which is used to house a large portion of the United States' official gold reserves / It is named in honor of Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery in the American Revolutionary War and the first United States Secretary of War / A new Armored Force was established in July 1940 with its headquarters at Fort Knox with the 7th Cavalry Brigade becoming the 1st Armored Division / The Armored Force School and the Armored Force Replacement Center were also sited at Fort Knox in October 1940, and their successors remained there until 2010, when the Armor School moved to Fort Benning, Georgia / Fort Knox was the home of the U.S. Army Armor Center and School, and was used by both the Army and the Marine Corps to train crews on the American tanks of the day; the last was the M1 Abrams main battle tank / In 2011, the U.S. Army Armor School moved to Fort Moore, Georgia, where the Infantry School is also based

Miscellaneous:

Donald Coppola attended Kensington High School and graduated from Buffalo State Teachers College earning a B.S. in Art Education / Coppola completed his Master of Arts at the University of Buffalo in 1960 and studied Music at Fredonia State College / Donald Coppola began his career in 1956, teaching elementary instrumental music at Academy School, North Forest Elementary and Dodge Elementary in Williamsville, retiring in 1988 / Coppola was a well known jazz pianist and arranger earning the nickname "the Oscar Peterson of Western New York" / Donald Coppola passed away on 5 February 2026 at the age of 95 years old

The 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) - nicknamed the "Red Diamond", or the "Red Devils", was an infantry division of the United States Army that served in World War I, World War II and the Vietnam War, and with NATO and the U.S. Army



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III Corps / The 5th Division was organized in December 1917 from Regular Army troops as a part of the program for the expansion of the armed forces for service in World War I / In 1968 the division was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, as a mechanized formation / 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division was dispatched to South Vietnam after the Tet Offensive to replace a U.S. Marine Corps unit / The brigade, consisting of one battalion each of infantry, mechanized infantry and armor, served there from July 1968 until 1971 defending the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in northern Quảng Trị Province / It was inactivated on 24 November 1992 and reflagged as the 2nd Armored Division

Name: COSTA

Hometown: DEPEW

JAMES

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:

James Costa honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: COUCHE

Hometown: BLASDELL

ROBERT

W.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

3RD DIVISION, 7TH REGIMENT, "F" COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Robert W. Couche honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert W. Couche passed away on 19 July 2022 at the age of 91 years old

The 3rd Infantry Division (nicknamed Rock of the Marne) is a combined arms division of the United States Army based at Fort Stewart, Georgia / It is a direct subordinate unit of the XVIII Airborne Corps and U.S. Army Forces Command / The division has a distinguished history, having seen active service in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam 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 / 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 / During the Korean War, the division was known as the "Fire Brigade" for its rapid response to crisis / The division served in Korea from 1951 until 1953 and received ten Battle Stars / During the Korean War, the division had 2,160 killed in action and 7,939 wounded



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CRAIG

Hometown: BUFFALO

ALEXANDER

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:

Alexander Craig honorably served in the United States Army / Craig was stationed in Germany during the Korean War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alexander Craig graduated from Pleasantville High School in 1949 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Alexander Craig attended Buffalo State College, graduating in 1958 with a Bachelors of Special Education, later receiving a Master's degree / Craig taught Fifth Grade for 9 years at Philip Sheridan Elementary School in Kenmore, New York / Alexander Craig began a career as an Elementary Administrator in the West Seneca School District for over 20 years / Alexander Craig was a member of the Masons Lodge #1111, Ismailia Shriners and American Legion Post #567 / Craig was part of a musical trio, "The Educators", playing keyboard at various retirement homes / Alexander "Alex" Craig passed away on 9 December 2024 at the age of 93 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CRAVOTTA

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

JOSEPH

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:

Joseph A. Cravotta honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph A. Cravotta passed away on 15 February 2026 at the age of 90 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CROSSLEY

Hometown: HAMBURG

LEROY

G.

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:

Leroy G. Crossley honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Leroy Crossley retired from the Ford Motor Buffalo Stamping Plant / Leroy G. Crossley passed away on 24 July 2025 at the age of 96 years old



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Name: **CULKOWSKI**

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

MARIAN

B.

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:

Marian B. Culkowski honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Marian B. Culkowski (nee Verso) passed away on 31 July 2025 at the age of 98 years old and is interred at White Haven Memorial Park, Pittsford, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: CULLEN

Hometown: BUFFALO

JAMES

V.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PVT

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: KIA

Unit / Squadron:

1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARINE CORPS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

MARINE CORPS EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

MARINE CORPS GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private James Victor Cullen honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PVT James Cullen was deployed to Korea as a Flame Thrower Specialist / Private James Cullen was Killed in Action during combat operations on 7 September 1952

James V. Cullen is remembered at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Cullen attended St. Thomas Aquinas parochial school, Bishop Timon High School and South Park High School / James Cullen was employed as a Western Union Messenger and later worked for the Twin Coach Company prior to joining the U.S. Marine Corps / James Victor Cullen was 19 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna, New York

1st Battalion, 1st Marines (1/1) is an infantry battalion in the United States Marine Corps based out of Camp Pendleton, California, consisting of anywhere from 800 to 2,000 Marines and Sailors, but the number fluctuates depending on the battalion's mission / Falling under the command of the 1st Marine Regiment and the 1st Marine Division, they are commonly referred to as "The First of the First" / The battalion has been organized around fire and maneuver warfare in tropical, woodland, desert, or Arctic environments / 1/1 deployed to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam in August 1965 and



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were reassigned to the 3rd Marine Division / They remained in Vietnam until May 1971, serving in or around Da Nang, Dong Ha, Con Thien, Quảng Trị, Hue, Phu Bai and Khe Sanh / 1st Battalion, 1st Marines returned to Camp Pendleton, California, in May 1971

The 1st Marine Division (1st MARDIV) is a Marine division of the United States Marine Corps headquartered at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California / It is the ground combat element of the I Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF) / It is the oldest and largest active duty division in the United States Marine Corps, representing a combat-ready force of 22,000 personnel / It is one of three active duty divisions in the Marine Corps today and is a multi-role, expeditionary ground combat force. It is nicknamed "The Old Breed" / The division is employed as the ground combat element (GCE) of the I Marine Expeditionary Force or may provide task-organized forces for assault operations and such operations as may be directed / The 1st Marine Division must be able to provide the ground amphibious forcible entry capability to the naval expeditionary force (NEF) and to conduct subsequent land operations in any operational environment / In March 1966, the 1st Marine Division Headquarters was established at Chu Lai, South Vietnam / By June 1966, the entire division was in South Vietnam, its Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) was the southern two provinces of I Corps — Quang Tin and Quang Ngai / In August 1966 the division conducted Operation Colorado / Between March and October 1966 to May 1967, the division conducted 44 named operations and the division received its 7th Presidential Unit Citation for service from 29 March 1966 to 15 September 1967 / By April 1971, the Division was back in the United States / During combat actions in Vietnam, the 1st Marine Division lost 7,012 men killed in action / In 1975, the division supported the resettlement of South Vietnamese refugees by providing food and temporary shelter at Camp Pendleton for Vietnamese refugees as they arrived in the United States

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Korean Service Medal (KSM) 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 Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea" / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The United Nations Service Medal Korea (UNSMK) is an international military decoration established by the United Nations during the Korean War / It was awarded to military service members of allied forces who participated in the defense of South Korea from North Korea between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is a military unit award of the government of South Korea that may be presented to South Korean military units, and foreign military units for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea / It is awarded for exceptional meritorious service to South Korea / The citation may be presented to units that participated in the defense of South Korea as part of the U.N. forces during the Korean War

The Combat Action Ribbon (colloquially "CAR"), is a high precedence United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and United States Marine Corps military decoration awarded to United States sea service members "who have actively



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participated in ground or surface combat" / Coast Guardsmen, Navy sailors, and Marines active in clandestine, stealth or special operations are deemed eligible for consideration of the award / The CAR is awarded to members of the Navy and Marine Corps with a rank no higher than captain and colonel, respectively

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

The Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal is a military award of the United States Marine Corps / It was established on 8 May 1919 as the Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon / To be awarded the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, a Marine must have engaged in a landing on foreign territory, participated in combat operations against an opposing force, or participated in a designated operation for which no other service medal is authorized / After 1961, some commands permitted eligible personnel to choose between the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, depending on the nature of the operation in question

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: CURRY

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT

Address: 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

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 Curry honorably served in the United States Army

The brother of Robert Curry, Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. was an Army Platoon Leader who served in Vietnam and was Killed In Action on 15 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation (grenade) wounds suffered during combat action at Landing Zone X-ray Ia Drang Valley, Pleiku province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **CURRY, JR.**
WILBUR

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address: 154 PENNSYLVANIA STREET

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SSG

Year Entered: 1968

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL FOR KOREA

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

Service Notes:

Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army / SSG Wilbur Curry was deployed to Korea as an Infantryman / SSG Wilbur Curry was awarded the Purple Heart when wounded on 6 March 1953 while leading a patrol

Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1968

Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. also served served as a Light Weapons Infantryman in the Vietnam War / SSG Curry, Jr. was a Platoon Leader who was Killed In Action on 15 November 1965 from multiple fragmentation (grenade) wounds suffered during combat action at Landing Zone X-ray Ia Drang Valley, Pleiku province, South Vietnam

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wilbur Curry graduated from Hutchinson High School / Wilbur Curry, Jr. was 35 years old at the time of his passing and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York

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

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

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

The Korean War Service Medal, also known as the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, is a military award of South Korea which was first authorized in December 1950 / The Korean War Service Medal was first authorized to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950 / On 15 September 1951, President Syngman Rhee referred to and authorized the commander-in-chief of the United Nations Command to confer the award of the "Korean War Medal" and "Korean War Ribbon" ("Korean War Service Medal"), "to the brave and valiant members of the United Nations Command who have been, and are now, combating the communist aggressor in Korea"

The Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation is a military unit award of the government of South Korea that may be presented to South Korean military units, and foreign military units for outstanding performance in defense of the Republic of Korea / It is awarded for exceptional meritorious service to South Korea / The citation may be presented to units that participated in the defense of South Korea as part of the U.N. forces during the Korean War

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

As a Vietnam War veteran, Staff Sergeant Wilbur Curry, Jr. received the following honors while serving in South Vietnam:

The Purple Heart was instituted in 1782 by George Washington and is the first and oldest military American decoration / The Purple Heart is awarded to military service members wounded or killed in action, in the latter case posthumously

The Vietnam Service Medal is a military award of the United States Armed Forces established on 8 July 1965 by order of President Lyndon B. Johnson / The medal is awarded to recognize service during the Vietnam War by all members of the U.S. Armed Forces provided they meet the award requirements / Bronze Service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, also known as the Vietnam Campaign Medal is a South Vietnamese military campaign awarded during the Vietnam War (Second Indochina War), the South Vietnamese government awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960–) to members of the U.S. military for support of operations in Vietnam In May 1966 / The medal was awarded for two different periods of service in Vietnam / The first period for the award was from 8 March 1949 to 20 July 1954 / The second period was from 1 January 1960 to the end of the Vietnam War

The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) is a United States Army military decoration. 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 or Special Forces unit of brigade size or smaller at any time after 6 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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



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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 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

The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal, also known as the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross or Vietnam Cross of Gallantry is a military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) / The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and Armed Forces units and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy / Individuals who received the medal, ribbon, and a citation were personally cited at the Armed Forces, Corps, Division, Brigade or Regiment level / The United States military began authorizing the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in March 1968 with retroactive presentation of the decoration to 1961

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: CZAPLICKI

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

ROMAN

R.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Roman R. Czaplicki honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Roman Czaplicki was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Roman Czaplicki retired from the Erie County Clerk's Office / Roman R. Czaplicki passed away at the age of 89 years old on 26 October 2022