



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KALINOWSKI

Hometown: WEST SENECA

HENRY

A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

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

Service Notes:

Henry A. Kalinowski honorably served in the United States Army / Henry Kalinowski was deployed to Korea as a Combat Medic and was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions during hostile conditions

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Henry A. "Sarge" Kalinowski passed away on 1 October 2021 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at 14 Holy Helpers Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KANKIEWICZ

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

RICHARD A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS CORAL SEA

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Richard A. Kankiewicz honorably served in the United States Navy / Richard Kankiewicz served aboard the USS Coral Sea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Kankiewicz was born in Cheektowaga / Richard A. Kankiewicz passed away on 8 July 2023 in Savannah, Georgia at the age of 94 years old

USS Coral Sea (CV/CVB/CVA-43), a Midway-class aircraft carrier, was the third ship of the United States Navy to be named for the Battle of the Coral Sea / She earned the affectionate nickname "Ageless Warrior" through her long career / Initially classified as an aircraft carrier with hull classification symbol CV-43, she was reclassified as a "Large Aircraft Carrier" with hull classification symbol CVB-43 on 15 July 1943 / Coral Sea was one of the last U.S Navy carriers to be completed with a straight flight deck, with an angled flight deck added on during later modernizations / The Coral Sea operated in the Mediterranean for duty with the Sixth Fleet from 9 September 1950 to 1 February 1951 / Coral Sea was decommissioned at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on 24 May 1957 to receive a major conversion (SCB 110A) / Following the Gulf of Tonkin incident in August 1963, Coral Sea departed on 7 December 1964 for duty with the Seventh Fleet / On 7 February 1965, her aircraft, along with those from Ranger and Hancock, conducted Operation Flaming Dart against the military barracks and staging areas near Đồng Hới in the southern sector of North Vietnam / The raids were in retaliation for a damaging Viet Cong attack on installations around Pleiku in South Vietnam / On 26 March, the Seventh Fleet units began their participation in Operation Rolling Thunder, a systematic bombing of military targets throughout North Vietnam / Pilots from Coral Sea struck island and coastal radar stations in the vicinity of Vinh / On 3 April Vietnam People's Air Force MiG-17s attacked aircraft from Coral Sea and Hancock in the first United States aerial combat of the Vietnam conflict / On 12 to 14 May 1975, Coral Sea participated with other Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps forces in the Mayaguez incident, the recovery of the U.S. merchant ship SS Mayaguez and her 39 crew, illegally seized on 12 May in international waters by



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Khmer Rouge gunboats / On 25 March 1983, Coral Sea, having been reassigned to the Atlantic Fleet, left Alameda for her new homeport of Norfolk / The Navy sent the ship on a six-month around-the-world cruise, with ports of call in five countries / After nearly 43 years of service, the Coral Sea was decommissioned on 26 April 1990 and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register two days later / On 7 May 1993, she was sold for scrap, minus her electronics, weapons, and other usable equipment



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KASMER

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

JOHN

R.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPT

Year Entered: 1948

Year Discharged: 1972

Unit / Squadron:

101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/2 SERVICE STARS (3)

KOREA DEFENSE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS KOREA SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS (4)

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

AIR FORCE GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Captain John R. Kasmer honorably served in the United States Army / Captain John Kasmer was selected to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Dix / CPT Kasmer served in the Korean War as an Infantry Officer with the 101st Airborne Division and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service on the battlefield / Captain John Kasmer was selected to serve as a member of the "Old Guard" for 4 years at Arlington National Cemetery / Captain Kasmer become an inspector at Fort Bragg North Carolina for the remainder of his career in the Army

Captain John Kasmer later served in the US Air Force Reserve for a short time before finally retiring from military service in 1972

Captain Kasmer was a veteran of the Korean War, Cold War and Vietnam War Era

Base Assignments:

Fort Dix - Trenton, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established in 1917 and named for Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Civil War / Dix served as a training and staging ground during World War II and a demobilization center after the war / Ten divisions and many smaller units trained and staged here before entering the battlefields of World War II / At the end of the war, the reception center became the separation center, returning more than 1.2 million Soldiers to civilian life



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Fort Bragg, North Carolina - In 1918, Congress established Camp Bragg, an Army field artillery site named for the Confederate General Braxton Bragg / Camp Bragg became a permanent Army post renamed Fort Bragg / Various units trained at Fort Bragg during World War II, including the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Armored Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 100th Infantry Division, and various field artillery groups / In May 2022, the Naming Commission officially recommended that Bragg be renamed Fort Liberty / On 10 February 2025, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth issued a memorandum directing the Army to rename Fort Liberty back to Fort Bragg, but this time in honor of Private First Class Roland L. Bragg, a person other than the original namesake / Bragg was stationed at Fort Bragg during World War II and later fought with distinction in the European theater / He received the Silver Star for gallantry and the Purple Heart for wounds sustained, during the Battle of the Bulge / He was recognized for having saved a fellow soldier's life by commandeering an enemy ambulance

Miscellaneous:

John Kasmer worked as a mechanic for General Motors until his retirement in 1996 / John Kasmer was a member of the Thomas E. Tehan American Legion Post #1449, Blasdell, New York / John R. Kasmer passed away on 8 January 2024 at the age of 94 years old

An Infantry Unit Commander is a senior infantry soldier who is responsible for the care of the squad's soldiers and everything the squad does or fails to do / A Unit Commander works at all levels of command and staff and executes mission command of infantry and combined arms forces in combat

The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) ("Screaming Eagles") is a light infantry division of the United States Army that specializes in air assault operations / It can plan, coordinate, and execute multiple battalion-size air assault operations to seize terrain / These operations can be conducted by mobile teams covering large distances, fighting behind enemy lines, and working in austere environments with limited or degraded infrastructure / Established in 1918, the 101st Division was first constituted as an airborne unit in 1942 / During World War II, it gained renown for its role in Operation Overlord (the D-Day landings and airborne landings on 6 June 1944, in Normandy, France); Operation Market Garden; the liberation of the Netherlands; and its action during the Battle of the Bulge / The 101st Airborne was allotted to the Regular Army in June 1948 and reactivated as a training unit at Camp Breckenridge, Kentucky the following July, only to be inactivated the next year / It was reactivated in 1950 following the outbreak of the Korean War, again to serve as a Training Center at Camp Breckenridge until inactivated in December 1953 / From 1965 to 1967, the 1st Brigade operated independently as sort of a fire brigade and earned the reputation as being called the "Nomads of Vietnam" / They fought in every area of South Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone up north all the way down the Central Highlands / The rest of the 101st was deployed to Vietnam in November 1967 and the 1st Brigade rejoined its parent division / The 101st was deployed in the northern I Corps region, operating against the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) infiltration routes through Laos and the A Shau Valley for most of the war / Notable among these were the Battle of Hamburger Hill in 1969 and Firebase Ripcord in 1970 / The division began withdrawing from South Vietnam on 15 May 1971 with the departure of the 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry / Most major units of the Division had redeployed by January 1972 / In the seven years that all or part of the division served in Vietnam, it suffered 4,011 killed and 18,259 wounded in action / The division, during this time, participated in 12 separate campaigns and 17 of the division's Medal of Honor recipients are from this period of time – all this giving the 101st Airborne Division a combat record unmatched by any other division

The U.S. Air Force Reserve (AFRC) is a federal reserve component of the United States Air Force / It has approximately 450 aircraft assigned for which it has sole control, as well as access to several hundred additional active-duty USAF aircraft via AFRC "Associate" wings that are collocated with active-duty Air Force wings / The AFRC is actively involved in operations around the world and contributes to the Air Force mission

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal

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 Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM) is a military service medal of the United States Armed Forces that was first created in 2002 when it was signed into law by President George W. Bush / The Korea Defense Service Medal is authorized for those members of the United States Armed Forces who have served duty in South Korea in support of the defense of the South Korean state after the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement / To qualify for the KDSM, a service member must have served at least thirty consecutive days in the South Korean theater / The medal is also granted for 60 non-consecutive days of service, which includes reservists on annual training in South Korea / Those awarded the medal are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) as well as the American Legion

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 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"

The Army Commendation Medal is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / Each branch of the United States Armed Forces issues its own version of the Commendation Medal, with a fifth version existing for acts of joint military service performed under the Department of Defense / The Commendation Medal was originally only a service ribbon and was first awarded by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard in 1943 / An Army Commendation Ribbon followed in 1945 and in 1949 the Navy, Coast Guard, and Army Commendation ribbons were renamed the "Commendation Ribbon with Metal Pendant" / By 1960 the Commendation Ribbons had been authorized as full medals and were subsequently referred to as Commendation Medals / Additional awards of the Army and Air and Space Commendation Medals are denoted by bronze and silver oak leaf clusters

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

of either an Infantry, Ranger or Special Forces unit, of brigade size or smaller, any time after 6 December 1941

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

Captain John R. Kasmer was also awarded the following Military honors:

ARMY MASTER PARACHUTIST BADGE

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL w/1 Service Star (2)

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

NEW YORK STATE CONSPICUOUS SERVICE CROSS AWARD

The NYS Conspicuous Service Cross may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or person who was a New York State citizen while serving on federal active duty; whose entire service was honorable subsequent to the time of receipt of the citation while serving in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or in the Army female nurse corps, and who has received a personal decoration issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters. The Conspicuous Service Cross may also be awarded to any citizen of New York State, who while serving with the allied forces, received a personal decoration published in order issued by a brigade or equivalent higher headquarters



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KAVANAGH**

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH P.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, 11 MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE RIBBON

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Joseph Paul Kavanagh honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Joseph Kavanagh was deployed to Korea as a Heavy Truck Driver

Base Assignments:

Camp Pendleton, California - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton is the major West Coast base of the United States Marine Corps and is one of the largest Marine Corps bases in the US. It is on the Southern California coast in San Diego County / The base was established in 1942 to train U.S. Marines for service in World War II / By October 1944, Camp Pendleton was declared a "permanent installation," and by 1946 it became the home of the 1st Marine Division / It was named after Major General Joseph Henry Pendleton (1860–1942), who had long advocated setting up a training base for the Marine Corps on the West Coast / Camp Pendleton trained the country's fighting force for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, approximately 200,000 Marines passed through the base on their way to the Far East

Miscellaneous:

1st Battalion 11th Marines (1/11) is an artillery battalion comprising four firing batteries and a Headquarters battery. The battalion is stationed at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in California. Its primary weapon system is the M777 lightweight howitzer

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 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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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: KAZMIERCZAK

Hometown: DEPEW

RICHARD 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:

Richard E. Kazmierczak honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Richard Kazmierczak was employed by Sears for 43 years / Kazmierczak was a Commodore of the Tonawanda Island Launch Club / Richard C. Kazmierczak passed away on 5 October 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: **KELLEY**

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JAMES T.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: PO2

Year Entered: 1944

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

USS LCS (L)(3)

USS KLEINSMITH (APD-134)

Medals / Citations:

AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ 1 BATTLE STAR

PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Petty Officer 2nd Class James T. Kelley honorably served in the United States Navy / PO2 James Kelley served 8 1/2 years in the Navy with the rating of Electrician's Mate (EM) and Electrician's Mate - Power & Light (EMP) / During World War II, Kelley served aboard the landing craft support ship USS LCS (L-3), participating in the Battle of Okinawa and the liberation of the Philippine Islands / During the Korean War, Kelley served aboard the high-speed transport USS Kleinsmith (APD-134)

PO2 James T. Kelly received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy on 7 October 1952

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

James Kelley retired from a career as a Buffalo Firefighter / James T. Kelley passed away on 1 February 2020 at the age of 94 years old

USS LCS (L)(3) was a 1 Class Landing Craft Support ship built during World War II / She saw brief action in World War II during the Battle of Okinawa / After the war, the USS LCS served in the Japanese Sea / The USS LCS was commissioned on 17 February 1945 and reclassified and transferred to Thailand, renamed the HTMS Nakha / She was returned to the United States in 2007 and became a museum ship in Vallejo, California / The USS LCS (L)(3) earned one Battle Star

The USS Kleinsmith (APD-134) was a Crosley-class high speed transport, named for Chief Watertender Charles Kleinsmith



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

(1904-1942), who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his heroism during the Battle of Midway / The Kleinsmith was commissioned on 12 June 1945 and her primary role was to land raiding parties on enemy beaches / In 1946 she patrolled the waters between Okinawa and Japan, returning to the Caribbean in 1951 / During the 1950's, the Kleinsmith deployed four times to the Mediterranean Sea / The USS Kleinsmith was decommissioned on 16 May 1960 and transferred to the Nationalist Government of the Republic of China

The American Campaign Medal/Ribbon (also known as the (ATO) American Theater of Operations Ribbon) was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on November 6, 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The ribbon was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the American Theater of Operations during World War II / The requirements for the American Campaign Ribbon were for service within the American Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The American Campaign Medal was issued as a service ribbon only for the entirety of the Second World War, and was only made a full-sized medal in 1947

The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon" / By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal / The medal commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945 / The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal awarded Bronze service stars to all services for participation in designated campaigns and a bronze arrowhead device was awarded for participation in designated Army amphibious and airborne combat assaults

The Philippine Liberation Medal was a military award of the Republic of the Philippines presented to any service member, of both Philippine Commonwealth and allied militaries, who participated in the liberation of the Philippine Islands between the dates of 17 October 1944 and 2 September 1945 / The Philippine Liberation Medal is intended to recognize military service in the last days of World War II when the military of Japan was driven from the Philippines and then to eventually surrender in September 1945 / To be awarded the medal, a service member must have served in the Philippines for at least thirty days during the eligible time period

The National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. The medal 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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KELLY, SR.

Hometown: WEST SENECA

THOMAS

M.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank: A1C

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

6550TH OPERATIONS SQUADRON, AIR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMMAND

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Airman First-Class Thomas M. Kelly, Sr. honorably served in the United States Air Force / A1C Thomas Kelley was stationed with the 6550th Operations Squadron, Air Research & Development Command

A1C Thomas Kelly, Sr. was Honorably Discharged from the United States Air Force on 17 May 1955

Base Assignments:

Patrick Air Force Base, Florida - Patrick Space Force Base is a United States Space Force installation located between Satellite Beach and Cocoa Beach, in Brevard County, Florida, United States / It was named in honor of Major General Mason Patrick, USAAC / It is home to Space Launch Delta 45 (SLD 45), known as the 45th Space Wing (45 SW) when it was part of the Air Force / In addition to its "host wing" responsibilities at Patrick SFB, the 45 SW controls and operates Cape Canaveral Space Force Station (CCSFS) and the Eastern Range / It was originally opened and operated from 1940 to 1947 as Naval Air Station Banana River, a U.S. Navy airfield / It was then deactivated as a naval installation in 1947 and placed in caretaker status until it was transferred to the Air Force in late 1948 / The facility was renamed Patrick Space Force Base in December 2020

Miscellaneous:

Thomas Kelly graduated from Seneca Vocational / Thomas Kelly was a Route Milkman for Fairmont Dairy and a car mechanic at Falkners Auto Repair / Kelly worked for South Buffalo Railway as a Welder, then advancing to a Class A Welder at Bethlehem Steel Plant for 19 years / Thomas Kelly became a Chief Boilermaker and took a position at Steuben Foods in 1984 / Kelly became a Knight of St. John in 1963 and achieved the rank Lieutenant Colonel, and a Noble in 1981 / Thomas Kelly opened Kelly's Cafe in Elma in 1990 / Thomas M. Kelly, Sr. passed away on 17 September 2021 at the age of 90 years old on 17 September 2021

The 6550th Support Wing (Range) was designated and organized on 1 April 1962 to replace the Air



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Base Group as the administrative and logistical support unit for the Air Force Missile Test Center (AFMTC) and was discontinued 1 March 1964 / The 6550th Air Base Group was separated from the Air Force Eastern Test Range (AFETR) when the latter was inactivated on 1 February 1977 / The 6550th subsequently operated as the 6550th Air Base Wing and served as Patrick's host unit until the Eastern Space & Missile Center was organized and activated on 1 October 1979

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: **KENNEY**

Hometown: DERBY

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 Leo Kenney honorably served in the U.S. Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Joseph Kenney went to work for General Mills where he was employed as a Millwright / Kenney worked for General Mills for 40 years / Kenney was a competitive drag car racer at Empire, Niagara, Cayuga and Lancaster drag strips until his retirement / Joseph Leo Kenney passed away on 1 December 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: **KENNGOTT**
KEITH

Hometown: WEST FALLS

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:

Keith Kenngott honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Keith Kenngott was a member of the Colden Fire Company for over 20 years / Kenngott was a Lifetime member of the Leonard Pos, Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #6251 and a member of the Colden Trail Riders / Keith Kenngott passed away on 8 October 2023



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KENT

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

STEPHEN J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-5

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY C, 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/ SERVICE STAR

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL-KOREA

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

COMBAT INFANTRY BADGE

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Stephen J. Kent honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Stephen Kent was assigned to the Infantry and served 15 months in Korea

SGT Stephen J. Kent was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 11 September 1954

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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

The 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers" during the Korean War for the original Taíno Indian name for Puerto Rico (Borinquen), is a Puerto Rican regiment of the United States Army / The regiment's motto is Honor et Fidelitas, Latin for Honor and Fidelity / The Army Appropriation Bill created by an act of Congress on 2 March 1899, authorized the creation of the first body of native troops in Puerto Rico / On 30 June 1901, the "Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry" was organized / On 1 July 1908, Congress incorporated the regiment into the Regular Army as the Puerto Rico Regiment of Infantry, United States Army / On 14 May 1917, the regiment was activated and additional men were assigned, with the unit being sent to serve at Panama / On 4 June 1920, the regiment was renamed 65th Infantry / During World War II, the regiment saw action throughout Europe, especially France and Germany, participating in Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and Rhine / Several Purple Hearts were awarded posthumously to members of the 65th Regiment /



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

The 65th Infantry Regiment participated in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Global War on Terrorism / The men of the 65th, now attached to the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, were among the first infantrymen to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Korea / After November 1950, they fought daily against units of the Chinese People's Liberation Army after the Chinese entered the war on the North Korean side / In April 1951, the regiment participated in the Uijonbu Corridor drives and in June 1951, the 65th was the third regiment to cross the Han Ton River / The 65th took and held Chorwon and they were also instrumental in breaking the Iron Triangle of Hill 717 in July 1951 / In November 1951, the regiment fought off an attack by two regimental size enemy units / Many non-Puerto Rican Hispanics served in the 65th Infantry during the war / Among those who distinguished themselves in combat and who served in the conflict as a member of the 65th Infantry was a young first lieutenant of Mexican American descent whose name is Richard Edward Cavazos / Cavazos entered the military in Texas and served as company commander of Company E of the 2d Battalion / Cavazos, who in 1982, became the first Hispanic to become a four-star general in the United States Army, was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal / On 10 June 2014, the 65th Infantry was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal

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 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 Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service / A "V" device distinguishes an award for heroism or valor in combat instead of for meritorious service or achievement

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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: **KESTER**

Hometown: BUFFALO

MARTIN

A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1953

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

188TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (PORT)

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Martin Allen Kester honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Martin Kester was employed as a Draftsman for the Popp & Sommer Company prior to being inducted into the U.S. Army on 19 January 1953 / Martin Kester was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars VFW Post #2940 / Martin Allen Kester passed away on 13 January 1999 at the age of 71 years old and is interred at Hillcrest Cemetery and Mausoleum, Hamburg, New York

Motor transport companies provide for the transport of personnel and a variety of commodities, including petroleum products, bulk cargo, and containers / They normally operate as part of a transportation battalion, a Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) or Division Sustainment Support Battalion (DSSB)

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: KETTERER

Hometown: EAST AURORA

MILTON A.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Milton A. Ketterer honorably served in the United States Army / Milton Ketterer was assigned to the U.S. Army Medical Services

Milton A. Ketterer was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Army on 18 September 1952

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Milton Ketterer graduated from Springville High School / Ketterer worked at Moog Inc for 39 years in the Aeronautic Division as an experimental model maker / Milton A. Ketterer passed away on 1 September 2021 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at Griffins Mills Cemetery, Griffins Mills, New York

The Army Medical Department of the U.S. Army (AMEDD), formerly known as the Army Medical Service (AMS), encompasses the Army's six medical Special Branches (or "Corps") / It was established as the "Army Hospital" in July of 1775 to coordinate the medical care required by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War / Both the AMEDD and the Army Medical Corps trace their origins back to 27 July 1775, when the Continental Congress established the "Army Hospital", which was at that time overseen by the "Director General and Chief Physician" / Congress provided an Army medical organization only in times of war or emergency until 1818, at which point it created a permanent "Medical Department" / The Army Nurse Corps originated in 1901, the Dental Corps began in 1911, the Veterinary Corps in 1916, the Medical Service Corps emerged in 1917 (during WW I the Sanitary Corps was created as a temporary organization to relieve U.S. Army physicians from a variety of duties), and the Army Medical Specialist Corps came into existence in 1947 / The Army Organization Act of 1950 renamed the Medical Department to "Army Medical Service" and on 4 June 1968 / The Army Medical Service was renamed the Army Medical Department



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KILMER**

Hometown: BUFFALO

JOSEPH

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

8225 MASH

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Joseph Kilmer honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Kilmer was attached to the 8225 Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in Korea as a Pharmacy Technician

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Kilmer earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education at Buffalo State College / Kilmer became a Teacher at the Orchard Park High School, teaching for decades until his retirement in 1983 / Joseph Kilmer passed away on 30 December 2022

The 9225 Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) was a U.S. Army field hospital units conceptualized in 1946 as replacements for the World War II-era Auxiliary Surgical Group hospital units / MASH Units were in operation from the Korean War to the Gulf War before being phased out in the early 2000s / Each MASH unit had 60 beds, as well as surgical, nursing, and other enlisted and officer staff available at all times / MASH units filled a vital role in military medicine by providing support to army units upwards of 10,000 to 20,000 soldiers / The 8225 MASH unit was responsible for providing medical assistance for both US soldiers and injured Allied Forces, as well as Korean civilians / During the Korean War, a seriously wounded soldier who made it to a MASH unit alive had a greater than 97% chance of survival once he received treatment / MASH units often took 24 hours to setup at new locations once moved with armored units, trucks and airmobile / Airmobile or the early stages of what we now call helicopters was crucial to the war effort as they were fast traveling units that could pickup casualties and deliver them effectively back to MASH units / With mountainous terrain in Korea this was crucial as ground transport could compromise the patients lives and would take longer to arrive to MASH units / In 1997, the last MASH unit in South Korea was deactivated



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KILMER**

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

WILTON E.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Wilton E. Kilmer honorably served in the United States Army / Wilton Kilmer was deployed to Korea and was awarded the Bronze Star Metal for heroic service during combat action

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Wilton E. Kilmer passed away on 12 February 2019 at the age of 91 years old

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KINSELLA

Hometown: WEST SENECA

EDWARD 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:

Edward L. Kinsella honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward L. "Ted" Kinsella passed away on 11 September 2020 at the age of 87 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KLEIN**

Hometown: EDEN

RAYMOND 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:

Raymond Charles Klein honorably served in the United States Army / Raymond Klein was deployed to Korea and assigned as a Radio Operator / Raymond Klien was also stationed at Fort Hood, Texas

Base Assignments:

Fort Hood is a United States Army post located near Killeen, Texas and was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood / The post is the headquarters of III Corps and First Army Division West and is home to the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment / During the late 1960s, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the divisions / In 1971, the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division came to Fort Hood from Vietnam / On May 24, 2022, 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 recommended the fort be renamed to Fort Cavazos, named after Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a native Texan and the US Army's first Hispanic four-star general

Miscellaneous:

Raymond Klein was Co-Owner of the Ray-Lee Barbershop and served as Vice President of the Eden Agency Inc. / Klein was a member of the Eden Corn Festival Committee / Raymond Klein was an active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gowanda Country Club, Eden Chamber of Commerce, and the Sons of the American Legion / Raymond Charles Klein passed away on 19 July 2025 at the age of 91 years old and is interred at Evergreen Cemetery, Eden, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KMIDOWSKI**
HENRY

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1953

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY A, 13TH ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION BATTALION, US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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 Henry Kmidowski honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Henry Kmidowski was deployed to Korea for 15 months

CPL Henry Kmidowski received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 24 April 1953

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Henry Kmidowski passed away on 23 August 2017

The mission of the 13th Engineer Construction Battalion was to deploy worldwide and, as directed, conduct general engineering operations in support of military operations

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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: **KNAISCH**

Hometown: ORCHARD PARK

GEORGE F.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: 1LT

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: 1953

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

First Lieutenant George F. Knaisch honorably served in the United States Army / 1ST LT George Knaisch was assigned as a Combat Engineer in Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the US Army, George Knaisch served as a Master Carpenter and belonged to the Carpenter's Union, retiring in 1990 / Knaisch served as an Orchard Park Village Trustee and later, as Mayor of the Village of Orchard Park from 1981-1953 / George Knaisch also served on the Orchard Park Zoning Board of Appeals, Ethics Committee and Past President of the Erie County Village Officials Association / Knaisch was a Master Carpenter and belonged to the Carpenter's Union, retiring in 1990 / George Knaisch was a life member of the Orchard Park Fire Company / Knaisch served as Post Commander for Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #6247 / George F. Knaisch passed away on 14 September 2023 at the age of 95 years old

A combat engineer (also called pioneer or sapper) is a type of soldier who performs military engineering tasks in support of land forces combat operations / Combat engineers perform a variety of military engineering, tunnel and mine warfare tasks, as well as construction and demolition duties in and out of combat zones / Combat engineers facilitate the mobility of friendly forces while impeding that of the enemy / They also work to assure the survivability of friendly forces, building fighting positions, fortifications, and roads / They conduct demolition missions and clear minefields manually or through use of specialized vehicles / Common combat engineer missions include construction and breaching of trenches, tank traps and other obstacles and fortifications; obstacle emplacement and bunker construction; route clearance and reconnaissance; bridge and road construction or destruction; emplacement and clearance of land mines; and combined arms breaching / Typically, combat engineers are also trained in infantry tactics and, when required, serve as provisional infantry



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KNOBLAUCH**
EDWIN

Hometown: LANCASTER

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:

Edwin Knoblauch honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edwin Knoblauch was the owner and operator of the Knoblauch Dental Ceramics from 1955 to 2016 / Knoblauch was a member of the Buffalo Dental Lab Association / Edwin Knoblauch passed away on 26 October 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: KOENIG

Hometown: EDEN

ROBERT

D.

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 D. Koenig honorably served in the United States Air Force / Robert Koenig was stationed in Alaska during the Korean War

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Koenig graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Rochester / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Air Force, Robert Koenig became a New York State Trooper and was later promoted to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation / Koenig was a factory representative selling ski equipment throughout New England and later sold recreational vehicles in Western New York and the North East / Robert Koenig was a skiing instructor at Kissing Bridge for many years / Robert D. Koenig passed away on 28 February 2025 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

Name: KOLIS

Hometown: WEST SENECA

PETER

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:

Peter Kolis honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter Kolis was a member of the Knights of Columbus and American Legion Post #1620 / Peter Kolis passed away on 23 December 2024



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KONOPA**

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

DANIEL S.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered: Navy

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Daniel S. Konopa honorably served in the United States Navy / Daniel Konopa retired from the U.S. Navy after a distinguished career

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Konopa passed away on 26 September 2024 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery, Williamsville, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KONOPKA**

Hometown: DEPEW

EDWARD

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:

Edward F. Konopka honorably served in the United States Army and served in Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Konopa was born in Avoca, Pennsylvania / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, Edward Konopka worked as a Manager at the Neisner Brothers Department Store in Buffalo / After leaving Neisner's, Konopka went to work in new home sales for Helenbrook Homes, Inc / Konopka later formed and owned his own general contracting company, Konopka-Crescent Homes, Inc. which built dozens of homes in the greater Buffalo area / Konopka retired in 1997 and later moved to Southwest Michigan / Edward F. Konopka passed away on 6 October 2023 at the age of 93 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: KOPP

Hometown: EAST AURORA

CARL

G.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

7TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/1 SERVICE STAR

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL (KOREA)

KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Corporal Carl G. Kopp honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Carl Kopp was deployed to Korea for 16 months and received multiple wounds in combat action against the enemy on 10 July 1953 / Corporal Kopp was awarded the Purple Heart Medal

Carl Kopp was Honorably Discharged from the United States Army on 29 September 1954

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Carl Kopp Kopp graduated from East Aurora High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University at Buffalo, then continued his education at Ohio State University / Carl G. Kopp passed away on 16 April 2023 at the age of 90 years old

The 7th Infantry Regiment is an infantry regiment in the United States Army / In its 200-year history it has participated in 12 wars, been awarded 78 campaign streamers, and 14 unit decorations / The regiment has served in more campaigns than any other infantry unit in the United States Army / The 7th Regiment was the last unit off of Pink Beach at Hungnam and withdrew by sea on 24 December 1950; they moved into position north of Seoul as part of the Eighth U.S. Army's defensive line participating in the PVA April 1951 spring offensive / During the next two years, the regiment supported 3rd Division's combat operations in the Chorwon-Kumwha area, fought at the Battle of Jackson Heights and Arrowhead outposts, and blocked a PVA push in the Kumsong Area in July 1953 / During eight campaigns on the Korean battlefield, the elements of the 7th Infantry were awarded Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations and the Third Battalion for



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

bravery at Segok

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

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

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

The 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"

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: **KORDASIEWICZ**

Hometown: LAKE VIEW

RICHARD 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:** KOREA

Service Notes:

Richard J. Kordasiewicz honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard Kordasiewicz retired from the Erie County Water Authority after 32 years of employment / Richard J. Kordasiewicz passed away on 23 December 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: KORTA

Hometown: TONAWANDA

VICTOR

P.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

19TH INFANTRY BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

ARMY OCCUPATION MEDAL (GERMANY)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Victor P. Korta honorably served in the United States Army / Victor Korta was stationed in Augsburg, Germany for 14 months with the 19th Infantry Battalion / Korta served 4 years with the Army Reserve

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Victor P. Korta passed away on 27 November 2023 at the age of 89 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, 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 19th Infantry Regiment ("Rock of Chickamauga") is a United States Army infantry regiment which is assigned to the US Army Training and Doctrine Command, with the assignment of conducting Basic and Advanced Infantry Training / 2nd Battalion, 19th Regiment was part of the 24th Infantry Division and fought in the Geum River line during the Korean War / Withdrawn 1989-06-16 from the Combat Arms Regimental System, reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System, transferred to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, and assigned to Basic and Advanced Infantry Training duty at Fort Moore (then Fort Benning), Georgia

The Army of Occupation Medal is a military award of the United States military which was established by the United



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

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

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: KOSINSKI

Hometown: WEST SENECA

STANLEY R.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: QM

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1956

Unit / Squadron:

USS HYMAN (DD-732)

Medals / Citations:

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE MEDAL (EUROPE)

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Quartermaster Stanley R. Kosinski honorably served in the United States Navy / QM Stanley Kosinski served aboard the USS Hyman (DD-732) for 2 1/2 years

QM Stanley Kosinski was Honorably Discharged from the United States Navy on 6 March 1956

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stanley Kosinski was a retired Buffalo Police Officer with over 33 years of service and was a lifetime member of the Leonard Post Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post # 6251 / Stanley R. Kosinski passed away on 9 July 2020 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at St. Matthew's Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

USS Hyman (DD-732), was an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer of the United States Navy / The ship was named after Willford Milton Hyman and commissioned 16 June 1944 / Willford Milton Hyman first served on the battleship USS New Mexico and in the years before World War II, was assigned to many ships and a variety of shore stations, including the Office of Naval Operations / He assumed command of destroyer USS Sims on 6 October 1941 / After convoy escort duty in the Atlantic, Sims moved to the Pacific in early 1942 / In May 1942, as the Japanese attempted to extend their conquest to Port Moresby, the ship was operating with oiler USS Neosho in a fueling group for Admiral Frank Jack Fletcher's aircraft carriers / While the carrier fleets maneuvered for position, Japanese planes found Neosho and Sims in the Coral Sea; and, thinking they were carrier and escort, attacked in strength / After Lieutenant Commander Hyman fought his ship through 2 air raids, 36 Japanese planes attacked the 2 ships / Sims took three 500-lb. bomb hits in this third attack / From the time the first bomb that hit Sims had exploded to the time she was sunk was a total of 48 seconds, leaving only 13 survivors / Realizing that the destroyer was damaged beyond repair, Hyman ordered "abandon ship" but remained on the bridge, directing the evacuation until going down with his ship / The sacrifice of his ship and Neosho had



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

much to do with saving the Navy's carriers in the widely separated engagements known as the Battle of the Coral Sea / He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross / Through 1949 and 1950 the USS Hyman was assigned to reserve training duty out of Algiers, Louisiana, and on this duty she steamed for 2-week periods / With the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950, Hyman engaged in maneuvers and training in the Caribbean, ending her reserve duty in September / After another cruise to the Mediterranean from 6 March to 7 June 1951, she prepared for Korean duty, getting underway from Newport on 2 October 1951 / Hyman steamed with her division via the Panama Canal, San Diego, and Hawaii, arriving at Yokosuka on 31 October / With the ground war in Korea then in stalemate, fleet air power, and surface bombardment carried much of the fight to the enemy / Hyman arrived at Wonsan for shore bombardment on 6 November, remaining in the area until 19 November, when she moved farther out to sea as plane guard for Australian aircraft carrier Sydney / Returning to Wonsan Harbor the destroyer engaged in a gunnery duel with batteries on Kalmo Pando peninsula 24 November, sustaining minor shrapnel damage during the close-in exchange / She carried out search and rescue duties into December when she joined Task Force 77 in the Sea of Japan during interdiction strikes on North Korea / Hyman returned to Yokosuka on 22 February 1952 and soon afterward embarked on the long cruise home, completing her round the world voyage at Newport on 21 April after visiting Ceylon, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and France / USS The Hyman was decommissioned in November 1969 and was sold 13 October 1970 for scrap

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: KOSTUSIAK

Hometown: BUFFALO

GERALD J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gerald J. Kostusiak honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Gerald Kostusiak worked at AT&T for 35 years / Gerald Kostusiak was the owner of Sage General Contracting / Gerald J. Kostusiak passed away on 29 September 2023 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery Lackawanna, New York

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

Name: KOSZELA

Hometown: WEST SENECA

EDWARD

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:

Edward F. Koszela honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward Koszela belonged to the Leo and Ed's Sportsman Club / Edward F. Koszela passed away on 10 June 2024 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KOWALSKI

Hometown: BUFFALO

EDGAR 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:

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edgar Kowalski was a member of the Korean War Veterans Association and former Commander of Amvets Medallion Post #13 / Edgar S. Kowalski passed away on 15 December 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: KOZLOWSKI
DANIEL

Hometown: BUFFALO

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 Daniel Kozlowski honorably served in the United States Army / CPL Daniel Kozlowski was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Daniel Kozlowski was a member and Trustee of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #8113 / Daniel Kozlowski passed away on 19 January 2024



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KRAMER**

Hometown: AMHERST

EARL

E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: COL

Year Entered: 1943

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Colonel Earl E. Kramer honorably served in the United States Army

Earl Kramer was drafted into the United States Army in 1943 and was assigned to the European Theater of Operations / Kramer served as a Machine Gunner with the 2nd Armored Division and landed on Normandy Beach on D-Day +9 / Kramer served in a light tank during the Battle of the Bulge, and went on to serve in several campaigns across France, Belgium, Holland and Germany / He was wounded in April 1945 while on a recon mission in Magdeburg, Germany, and was with the first occupation forces in Berlin

At the end of World War II, Kramer was Honorably Discharged from Army with the rank of First Sergeant / In 1949, Kramer received a direct commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve and served 39 years, retiring with the rank of Colonel / Colonel Kramer also served during the Vietnam War Era

While in Military service, Earl Kramer earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and Master's Degree in Secondary School Administration from the University of Buffalo / He also graduated with honors from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., with the equivalent of a Master's Degree in Military Science

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Earl Kramer was a graduate of Buffalo Technical High School / Earl Kramer worked for 37 years at Bell Aerospace, retiring as the Manager of Management Development, Safety and Environmental affairs / Earl E Kramer passed away on 30 September 2017 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York

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

Name: KRENN

Hometown: EPEW

ALOIS

G.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch:

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Alois G. Krenn honorably served with the United States Army and deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Alois G. Krenn passed away on 26 March 2024 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

Name: KRETZ

Hometown: ELMA

JOSEPH A.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

AMERICAL DIVISION (23RD INFANTRY DIVISION)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Joseph A. Kretz honorably served in the United States Army / Joseph Kretz was stationed in Panama with the Americal Division

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph Kretz was Past Commander of the American Legion Post #735, member of American Legion Post #735 Color Guard and a member of the West Seneca Amvets Post #8113 / Joseph A. Kretz passed away on 27 December 2023 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at Saint Adalberts Cemetery, Lancaster, New York

The Americal Division was an infantry division of the United States Army during World War II and the Vietnam War / The division was activated 27 May 1942 on the island of New Caledonia / In the immediate emergency following Pearl Harbor, the United States had hurriedly sent a task force to defend New Caledonia against a feared Japanese attack / This division was the only division formed outside of United States territory during World War II / The new unit be known as the Americal Division—the name being a contraction of "American, New Caledonian Division" / This was unusual, as with the exception of the Philippine Division, all other U.S. divisions were known by a number / After World War II the Americal Division was officially re-designated as the 23rd Infantry Division, but was rarely referred to as such, even on official orders / During the Vietnam War the division had a mixed record / It combined participation in numerous battles and campaigns / The division suffered a tactical defeat in the early morning of 28 March 1971, when Vietcong sapper commandos successfully infiltrated FSB Mary Ann / The attack destroyed key infrastructure, as well as killing 33 and wounding 83 Americans / The division was deactivated following its withdrawal from South Vietnam in November 1971



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KRUEGER

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROY

G.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR

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

Service Notes:

Roy George Krueger honorably served with the United States Army / Roy Krueger was deployed to Korea and awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic action during combat operations

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army, Roy Krueger worked for the Bethlehem Steel Plant in Lackawanna and Athey products in Raleigh, North Carolina from 1984 to retirement / Krueger resided in Raleigh, North Carolina from 1984-2016 and in mid-retirement, moved back to Orchard Park, New York / Roy George Krueger passed away on 23 December 2022 at the age of 90 years old and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York

The Bronze Star Medal (BSM) is a is the fourth-highest individual military award and the ninth-highest by order of precedence in the United States Armed Forces / The Bronze Star is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone / When the medal is awarded by the Army and Air Force for acts of valor in combat, the "V" Device is authorized for wear on the medal



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: KURDZIEL

Hometown: BUFFALO

ROBERT B.

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:

Robert B. Kurdziel honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Kurdziel was retired from Republic Steel / Robert B. Kurdziel passed away on 3 December 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: KUTAS

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

BENJAMIN J.

Address: SN1

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:

Seaman First-Class Benjamin J. Kutas honorably served in the United States Navy / SN1 Benjamin Kutas was assigned to the Medical Corps and stationed at St. Albans Naval Hospital in Queens

Base Assignments:

St. Albans Naval Hospital, New York City – Located in the Borough of Queens in New York City, the hospital was an active-duty center aiding men and women currently in the service, as well as retired career soldiers and their dependents / In 1972, the hospital staff consisted of 140 military officers, including doctors and nurses, 300 enlisted personnel and 465 civilians / St. Albans ceased operations in June, 1974

Miscellaneous:

Benjamin Kutas attended Assumption Catholic School and graduated from Riverside High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the United States Navy, Benjamin Kutas worked for the Kobacker's Department Store and then for 37 years at the Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), retiring as the Administrator of Radiologic Services / Kutas was also Co-Director and Faculty Emeritus at the University of Buffalo (UB) Museum of Radiology and Medical Physics / Benjamin Kutas was a founding member of the Association of Radiologic Administrators and Supervisors of Western New York / Benjamin J. Kutas passed away on 16 August 2023 at the age of 92 years old

Navy Medical Corpsman were the enlisted medical specialists of the Navy and Marine Corps / Medical Corpsman are military enlisted person trained to give first aid and minor medical treatment / The Medical Corps consists of commissioned medical officers who are physicians / A combat medic is responsible for providing emergency medical treatment at a point of wounding in a combat or training environment / U.S. Army Medics and U.S. Navy Corpsmen were the enlisted "first responders"



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **KWIATKOWSKI
THADDEUS**

Hometown: BOWMANSVILLE

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:

Thaddeus "Ted" Kwiatkowski honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thaddeus Kwiatkowski was a retired Buffalo Police Officer / Thaddeus "Ted" Kwiatkowski passed away on 22 July 2025 at the age of 95 years old