



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LABEND

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

RICHARD D.

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 C. LaBend honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Richard C. LaBend passed away on 15 August 2024 at the age of 97 years old and is interred at St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LACKI

Hometown: ALDEN

STEPHEN

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/ 2 BRONZE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAR SERVICE MEDAL

COMBAT ACTION RIBBON

MARKSMANSHIP BADGE: RIFLE

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Stephen Lacki honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / PFC Stephen Lacki was deployed to Korea for 2 years / After serving his active duty enlistment, Stephen Lacki joined the Army National Guard

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Stephen Lacki spoke 5 languages and after the war, became active in the Big Brother program / Stephen Lacki Stephen was a member of the Korean War Veterans Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW / Stephen Lacki passed away on 8 March 2024 at the age of 91 years old and is interred at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Lockport, New York

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

The 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



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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" / Bronze service stars were awarded to all services for participation in designated campaigns

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 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

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

The 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: LAMONTE

Hometown: BUFFALO

NICHOLAS F.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: EM2

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Electrician's Mate Second-Class Nicholas Francis "Nick" LaMonte honorably served in the United States Navy / EM2 Nicholas LaMonte was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City

Miscellaneous:

Nicholas LaMonte graduated from Seneca Vocational High School where he learned the plumbing and electrical trade / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, LaMonte earned his Bachelor's Degree at Buffalo State Teacher's College and the University of Buffalo / Nicholas LaMonte received his Master's Degree at Canisius College in New York / LaMonte worked for the New York State United Teachers both in Buffalo, New York and Grand Island, New York / Nicholas LaMonte worked for the New York State Parks & Recreation Department serving as a Manager of Beaver Island State Park in Grand Island / After his retirement, LaMonte moved to Las Vegas, Nevada / Nicholas Francis "Nick" LaMonte passed away on 8 December 2019 at the age of 83 years old and is interred at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Boulder City, Nevada

Electrician's Mates are responsible for the operation and repair of a ship's or station's electrical power plant and electrical equipment / They also maintain and repair power and lighting circuits, distribution switchboards, generators, motors and other electrical equipment / Specially qualified electrician's mates are employed onboard nuclear-powered ships to maintain the control subsystems in nuclear reactors



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LARUSSA

Hometown: ARMY

DONALD J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: M

Year Entered: 1948

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SERVICE STARS

REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Donald J. LaRussa honorably served in the United States Army / SGT Donald LaRussa was deployed to Korea for 27 months and was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in combat action

SGT Donald LaRussa received his Honorable Discharge from the United States Army on 7 May 1952

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald J. LaRussa passed away on 24 October 2019 at the age of 88 years old

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 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 Army Commendation Medal, created in 1945, is a mid-level United States military decoration presented for sustained



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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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LASKER

Hometown: CLARENCE

ALBERT

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:

Albert F. Lasker honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Albert Lasker was a member of American Legion Post #838 and a member of the Holy Name Society at Our Lady of Peace Church / Albert F. Lasker passed away on 13 August 2024 at the age of 93 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAUB

Hometown: BUFFALO

GEORGE

W.

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:

George W. Laub honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George Laub attended the Elmwood Franklin School and the Nicholas School / Laub completed high school at the Deerfield Academy / George Laub attended Trinity College, followed by the Harvard Business School where he earned his MBA / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army, George Laub worked for Niagara Share Corporation, managing a portfolio of technology and growth stocks / Laub founded George W. Laub & Associates, a Registered Investment Advisory firm, working for 30 years / George W. Laub passed away on 1 May 2024 at the age of 96 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAURIA

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

CHARLES 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:** KOREA

Service Notes:

Charles T. "Chick" Lauria honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Charles T. "Chick" Lauria passed away on 16 December 2025



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAVENTURE

Hometown: LANCASTER

ALLEN J.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Private First-Class Allen John Edgar LaVenture honorably served in the United States Army / PFC Allen LaVenture was deployed to Korea and assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Allen LaVenture was a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post #6251 / Allen John Edgar LaVenture passed away on 16 May 2023 at the age of 85 years old and is interred at the Western New York National Cemetery, Corfu, New York

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is an engineer formation of the United States Army that has three primary mission areas: Engineer Regiment, military construction, and civil works / The day-to-day activities of the three mission areas are administered by a lieutenant general known as the commanding general-chief of engineers / The chief of engineers commands the Engineer Regiment, comprising combat engineer, rescue, construction, dive, and other specialty units, and answers directly to the Chief of Staff of the Army / Combat engineers, sometimes called sappers, form an integral part of the Army's combined arms team and are found in all Army service components: Regular Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve / Their duties are to breach obstacles; construct fighting positions, fixed/floating bridges, and obstacles and defensive positions; place and detonate explosives; conduct route clearance operations; emplace and detect landmines; and fight as provisional infantry when require / For the military construction mission, the commanding general is directed and supervised by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for installations, environment, and energy, whom the President appoints and the Senate confirms / Military construction relates to construction on military bases and worldwide installations



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAVOCAT

Hometown: EAST AMHERST

EDWARD F.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1952

Year Discharged: 1953

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

KOREAN SERVICE MEDAL W/3 BRONZE STARS

UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Edward F. Lavocat honorably served in the United States Army / Edward Lavocat was deployed to Korea for 1 year and 20 days

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Edward F. Lavocat passed away on 17 May 2024 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Locport, New York

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



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The 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



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LAWN**

Hometown: LAKE VIEW

BERNARD C.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Bernard Clyde Lawn honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Bernard Lawn retired from Bell Telephone (Ma Bell) of Western New York as a Telephone-Line Repairman / Lawn was a long time volunteer at Beaver Meadows Audubon Center / Bernard "Bunzie" Clyde Lawn passed away on 26 January 2023



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LAZAROS

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DONALD J.

Address: COVINGTON DRIVE

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1953

Unit / Squadron:

1ST MARINE CORPS DIVISION, DOG COMPANY

Medals / Citations:

PURPLE HEART

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Donald J. Lazaros honorably served in the United States Marine Corps / SGT Donald Lazaros was deployed to Korea and awarded the Purple Heart for wounds suffered during combat action in Korea

Base Assignments:

Camp Lejune, North Carolina - Constructed in May 1941, Camp LeJeune is a Marine Corps. amphibious assault training facility located in Jacksonville, North Carolina / The base is named in honor of the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune / The camps is also the home of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces in Readiness

Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia - Established in 1917, MCB Quantico is a Marine Corps installation located near Triangle, Virginia / Used primarily for training purposes, MCB Quantico is known as the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps"

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (commonly referred to as MCRD) is a United States Marine Corps military installation in San Diego, California / The main mission of MCRD San Diego is the initial training of enlisted male recruits living west of the Mississippi River / Over 21,000 recruits are trained each year / The Depot also is the home to the Marine Corps' Recruiter School and Western Recruiting Region's Drill Instructors School.

Miscellaneous:

Donald Lazaros moved to Florida / Donald Lazaros was a long time employee of Gold Coast Fire Equipment in Riviera Beach, Florida / Donald J. Lazaros passed away on 18 January 2013 at the age of 81 years old

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: LEDWIN

Hometown: WEST SENECA

DONALD T.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered: 1950

Year Discharged: 1952

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Donald T. Ledwin honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Donald Ledwin was born in Buffalo and was a 1950 graduate of Canisius High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps, Donald Ledwin graduated from the University of Buffalo School of Pharmacy / Ledwin worked 38 years as a Retail Pharmacist in Western New York / Donald T. Ledwin passed away on 14 March 2024 at the age of 91 years old and had his body donated to the Anatomical Gift Program at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LEGOFF

Hometown: WILLIAMSVILLE

ROGER

W.

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:

Roger William LeGoff honorably served in the United States Army / Roger LeGoff was deployed to Korea on special assignment with the Engineering / Aviation at the Group Headquarters

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Roger LeGoff earned his Engineering Degree after 8 years of night school / Roger LeGoff was employed at Moog and Valve, now Moog Inc. from 1956 to 1992, working in Design and Engineering with the Research Division of Moog Inc. in Paramus, New Jersey / LeGoff was transferred back to Western New York at the H.P. Division as a Material Manager / In 1984, Roger LeGoff became Vice President of Operations of a Moog spin-off, M.H.P. Machines / Roger LeGoff formed his own company, Value Analysis and Associates, a company that resolved production problems / After retirement, LeGoff worked many years at the Audubon Golf Course as a starter / Roger LeGoff was a member of AMVETS Post #49, George F. Lamm Post, and St. Gregory the Great Senior organizations / Roger William LeGoff passed away on 17 March 2026 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Skinnersville Cemetery, Getzville, New York



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Name: LEITTEN

Hometown: CLARENCE

EUGENE

F.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

BRONZE STAR MEDAL (2)

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

Service Notes:

Eugene F. Leitten honorably served in the United States Army / Eugene Leitten served in Korea as a Medic, earning two Bronze Star Medals for heroic action in a combat zone / At the age of 17 years old, Eugene Leitten enlisted in the Merchant Marine prior to entering the U.S. Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Eugene Leitten graduated from Arcade Central School in 1944 / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Army graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) under the GI Bill / Leitten worked for FMC as a Research Chemist / Eugene Leitten was one of the founding members of the SOS Summer Camps, one of the first ever formed camps for children with disabilities / Eugene F. Leitten passed away on 22 March 2025 at the age of 97 years old

The United States Merchant Marine (USMM) is an organization composed of U.S. civilian mariners and merchant vessels / It is managed by the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration and includes privately-owned and federally owned, U.S.-registered merchant ships that provide waterborne transportation for passengers and cargo in domestic and international commerce / Some of these ships may also be called into military service

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



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Name: LEMAK

Hometown: AMHERST

PETER R.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

USS STRONG (DD-758)

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Peter R. Lemak honorably served in the United States Navy

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Peter Lemak was a member of the Gaslight Sportsmen's Club, Queen City Jazz Society, the USS Strong Association, American Legion Post 1322 and Frontiersmen Post 7545 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) / Peter R. Lemak passed away on 21 October 2023 at the age of 91 years old and is interred at Acacia Park Cemetery, North Tonawanda, New York

USS Strong (DD-758), an Allen M. Sumner-class destroyer, was the second ship of the United States Navy to be named for James H. Strong, a naval commander for Union forces during the American Civil War / At the Battle of Mobile Bay, he was the first to ram the Confederate ironclad Tennessee and received high commendation for his initiative and valor / The Strong was commissioned on 8 March 1945 and departed for the Hawaiian Islands for training exercises, later beginning escort duty for convoys between the Marshall and Caroline Islands / Strong sailed from Yokosuka on 19 June 1952 for Korean waters and was attached to Task Force (TF) 77 which launched the first attacks against the hydroelectric plants on the Yalu River five days later / The destroyer was in Japan from 9 July to 13 September 1952 and returned to Korean waters where she operated until 9 October 1952 / During her tour in Korea, she conducted gun strikes up and down the east coast; served with the United Nations Blockade and Escort Group on the west coast; and was at Pusan, Songjin, and Wonsan / Strong sailed from Subic Bay, Philippines, on 15 December 1967 as screen for the aircraft carrier Coral Sea en route to her first assignment in Vietnam, Operation "Sea Dragon" / From 18 December 1967 to 2 January 1968, she was on the gunline conducting harassment and interdiction missions against North Vietnamese water borne logistic craft / From 3 January to 5 February 1968, she operated at "Yankee Station" / Strong was ordered to the Sea of Japan from 23 February 1968 to 6 March 1968 after the North Koreans seized the USS Pueblo / She was back off Vietnam on 2 April 1968 and assigned to duties in the III Corps Tactical Zone and Rung Sat Special Zone / During the first two weeks, she sank 20 enemy sampans as well as providing fire support / From 22 April to 1 May 1968, Strong served as II Corps naval gunfire



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support ship, firing against Viet Cong targets in the Phan Thiet area / On 1 May 1968, she sailed for the East Coast, via Okinawa, Japan, Midway, Hawaii, California, Mexico, and the Panama Canal, and arrived at Charleston on 4 August 1968 / On 16 November 1971, she was transferred to the Naval Reserve Force and became a unit of DesRon 34 / The USS Strong operated as a Naval Reserve training ship until September 1973 when she entered a standdown period at Charleston / USS Strong was decommissioned and struck from the Navy list on 31 October 1973. She was transferred to the government of Brazil the same day as Rio Grande do Norte (D-37) and served until 1996 / The USS Strong received one battle star for Korean service and three battle stars for service in Vietnam

Name: **LEO**

Hometown: DEPEW

SALVATORE J.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Salvatore J. "Sam" Leo honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Salvatore J. "Sam" Leo passed away on 26 April 2026 at the age of 84 years old



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Name: **LESNIAK**

Hometown:

THADDEUS W.

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:

Thaddeus W. "Teddy" Lesniak honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Thaddeus Lesniak graduated from Pine Hill High School / Lesniak received his education at SUNY Brockport and the University at Buffalo / Thaddeus Lesniak was an Earth Science Teacher in the Maryvale School District for more than three decades, from the mid-1950s until the early 1990s / After his retirement, Lesniak moved to Indian Shores, Florida / Thaddeus W. "Teddy" Lesniak passed away on 22 April 2022 at the age of 89 years old



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LESSER

Hometown: WEST SENECA

GEORGE

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:

George F. Lesser honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

George F. Lesser passed away on 24 October 2024 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Buffalo, New York



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LIBERATORE, SR.
VICTOR

Hometown: BUFFALO

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Victor "Vittorio" Liberatore, Sr. honorably served in the United States Army

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Victor "Vittorio" Liberatore, Sr. passed away on 11 February 2025 at the age of 91 years old and is interred at Mt. Calvary 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: **LIEBLER**

Hometown: WEST SENECA

ROBERT

H.

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:

Robert H. "Bob" Liebler honorably served in the Military and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Liebler had a career with Bell's Supermarkets / Robert H. "Bob" Liebler passed away on 5 September 2025 at the age of 92 and is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery, Orchard Park, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LIEBLER, JR.**

Hometown: BUFFALO

WALTER I.

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:

Walter I. Liebler, Jr. honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Walter Liebler retired as a Letter Press Operator from Artcraft Burow Printing in Buffalo / Walter I. Liebler, Jr. passed away on 19 August 2023 and is interred at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LIPCZYNSKI

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JOSEPH R.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: SGT

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Sergeant Joseph R. "Pete" Lipczynski honorably served in the United States Marine Corps

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Joseph R. "Pete" Lipczynski passed away on 10 November 2020 at the age of 86 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LIS

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

ROBERT M.

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

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Robert Lis joined the Cheektowaga Police Department in 1957 / Lis was appointed Chief of Police in 1987 and retired in 1990 / Chief Robert Lis taught Defensive Driving courses for the Buffalo Niagara Frontier Safety Council for over 25 years / Robert M. Lis passed away on 29 August 2023 at the age of 94 years old and is interred at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga, NY



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LISIECKI

Hometown: CHEEKTOWAGA

BENEDICT E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Benedict E. "Benny" Lisiecki honorably served in the United States Army / Benedict Lisiecki was assigned to an Airborne Combat Unit

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Benedict E. "Benny" Lisiecki passed away on 15 May 2025 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: **LOBBETT**

Hometown: GRAND ISLAND

MELVIN

G.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1955

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Melvin G. Lobbett honorably served in the United States Navy / Melvin Lobbett spent much of his four-year military career serving in Japan

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Melvin Lobbett graduated from Riverside High School / After his Honorable Discharge from the U.S. Navy, Melvin Lobbett earned a two-year degree in criminal justice from Erie County Technical Institute, now known as Erie County Community College / Melvin Lobbett joined the Buffalo Police Force serving from 1961 until 1993 / Melvin Lobbett became a Detective with the Buffalo Homicide Squad for 20 years investigating hundreds of homicide cases / Melvin Lobbett passed away on 9 October 2025 at the age of 94 years old



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **LUCCA**

Hometown: TONAWANDA

FRANCIS S.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: E-4

Year Entered: 1949

Year Discharged: 1951

Unit / Squadron:

859TH ATTACK SQUADRON, NAVY RESERVE STATION, NIAGARA FALLS, NY, HEADQUARTERS, 3RD NAVAL STATION DISTRICT, NEW YORK

Medals / Citations:

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL

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

Service Notes:

Radioman (Navigation) Petty Officer 3rd Class Francis S. Lucca honorably served in the United States Navy Reserve / RMPO3 Francis Lucca served 17 months attached to the 859th Attack Squadron, Navy Reserve Station, Niagara Falls, NY, Headquarters, 3rd Naval Station District, New York

RMPO3 Lucca was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Naval Reserve on 4 January 1951

Francis S. Lucca also served during World War II aboard the USS Burrows, a destroyer escort ship

Base Assignments:

Navy Reserve Station, Niagara Falls, New York - The Naval Air Station Niagara Falls was established in 1946 and the installation was expanded / The jurisdiction of the airport returned to a civilian agency later in 1946 (a USAF joint-use agreement was made for Air Force Reserve and NYANG use of the airport)

Miscellaneous:

Francis Lucca graduated from Annunciation High School and enlisted in the Navy in 1943 / Lucca graduated from Canisius College, earning a degree in Journalism / As a Journalist, Francis Lucca wrote stories for the former Buffalo Beacon community newspaper, United Press International, The Buffalo News, WBEN radio and television channels 4, 7 and 17 before retiring around 2000 / Francis Lucca won awards for documentaries on the Love Canal environmental crisis in Niagara Falls (NY), concerns about nuclear waste in West Valley (NY), violent crime in Buffalo, gun control, school funding and problems faced by veterans / Lucca wrote several books during his '80s and '90s / Francis Lucca was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame / Francis S. Lucca passed away on 20 December 2025 at the age of 100 years old and is interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Kenmore, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Navy Radioman (RM) was a rating for United States Navy and United States Coast Guard enlisted personnel, specializing in communications technology / The Radiomen of the US Navy were responsible for transmitting and receiving radio signals, and processing all forms of telecommunications through various transmission media aboard ships, aircraft and at shore facilities / Their duties also included message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages that were handled based on message priority and handling procedures / They were also responsible for the proper handling and destruction of classified material / Radiomen were also responsible for periodic maintenance of the communications equipment, to include transmitters, receivers and antennas

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



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUDWIG

Hometown: WEST SENECA

JAMES

E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SP3

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Specialist Third-Class James E. Ludwig honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

James E. Ludwig passed away on 23 April 2009 at the age of 75 years old and is interred at Fourteen Holy Helpers, Cemetery, West Seneca, New York

Miscellaneous:



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUTZ

Hometown: TONAWANDA

HOWARD W.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Howard W. Lutz honorably served in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Howard Lutz was a Machinist by trade / Howard W. Lutz passed away on 16 July 2025 at the age of 93 years old and is interred at Hillside Cemetery, Cambria, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LUTZ

Hometown: WEST FALLS

WALTER E.

Address:

Korean Era

Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: AIR FORCE

Rank:

Year Entered: 1951

Year Discharged: 1954

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Walter E. Lutz honorably served in the United States Air Force

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Walter E. Lutz passed away on 23 October 2024 at the age of 92 years old and is interred at Griffins Mills Cemetery, Aurora, New York



Honoring Our Korean War and Korean Era Veterans



June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: LYONS

Hometown: EAST AURORA

GERALD R.

Address:

- Korean Era
- Korean War Veteran

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Year Entered:

Year Discharged:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

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

Service Notes:

Gerald R. "Roger" Lyons honorably served in the United States Army and was deployed to Korea

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Gerald Lyons was a longtime baseball and basketball coach and a High School teacher and DECA Coordinator at Orchard Park / Gerald R. "Roger" Lyons passed away on 5 December 2021 at the age of 89 years old