

**Learning more about
Gloversville's**

Hometown

Heroes



PFC Mario M. Albanese

U.S. Army

1943-1946

On December 17, 1943, he was sworn into military service, having served in H Company of the 315th Regiment of the 79th Army Infantry Division of the 7th Army, known as the Lorraine Cross. He was an infantryman and mortar man No. 1607 and at the mere age of 22, he served to defend our country primarily in France and Germany on the harsh front lines of war. Among his various life's accomplishments, we are most proud of the French Legion Medal of Honor that was bestowed upon him on November 7, 2014, by French President Hollande, in recognition of his service to the French during World War II. He received the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Badge.



Tec5 Dominic Anadio

U.S. Army

1941 – 1945

He received the American Defense Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal. The newspaper from 1944 reported that “Dominic Anadio of 21 West Street, Gloversville, killed two Germans and captured two others while on a peaceful mission recently on the Fifth Army front in Italy. Anadio was driving his company commander, Capt. Dan Nelson, Missoula, Montana, of the First Armored Division, in search of a suitable bivouac area for their next move. They had located the area and started back, when they encountered the first German along the road. Anadio pulled alongside and motioned for the German to get into the jeep. The German refused and drew his pistol. Anadio was too quick for him, though, and killed him with a Tommy gun. A little further down the road the American encountered three more Germans, These, too, showed fight but surrendered after Anadio killed on of them.”



WT2 SV6 Delbert John Bradt

**U.S. Navy
1944 – 1946**

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II from June 6, 1944, to June 16, 1946. He served on the USS Butte APA 68 and they took the troops ashore on April 1, 1945, at Okinawa. Delbert earned the American Theater Medal, Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal 1 Star, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He returned home on a Sunday, and he met his loving wife, Kathryn Gray, the following Saturday.



1SG James C. Brown

U.S. Army/ARNG

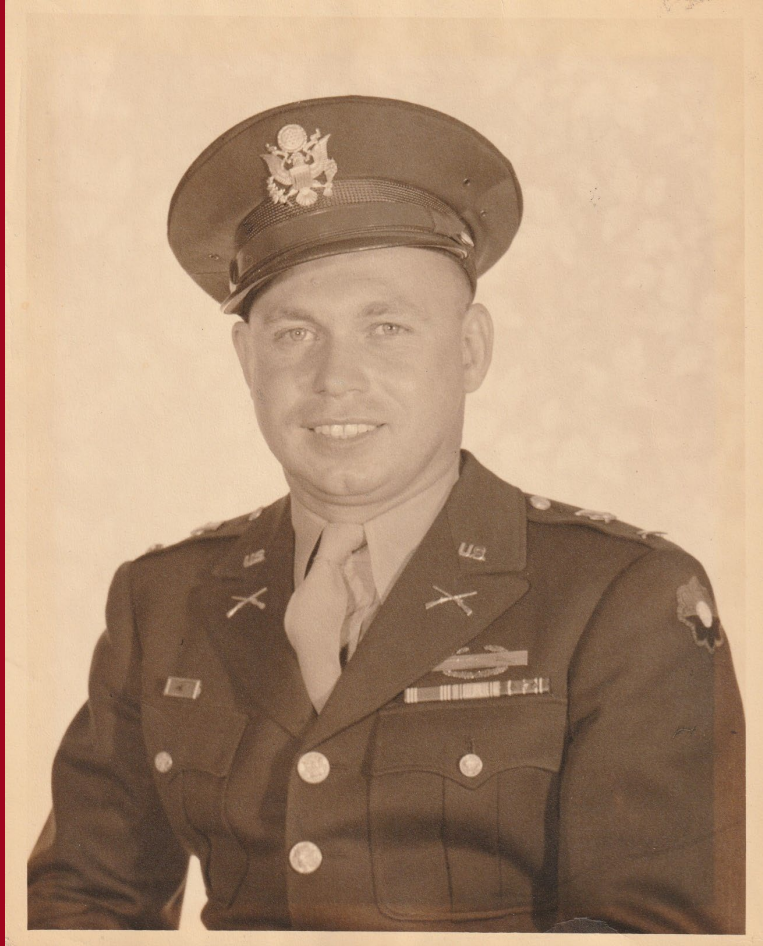
1953 – 1990

In 1953, Jim enlisted in the US Army and served in Panama, Germany, and Korea. He later enlisted in the New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) and served with the 10th Mountain Division, in Gloversville NY where he retired as the First Sergeant. Jim was passionate about the military and worked diligently to train his soldiers to be the best they could be, not only within the military but also within their daily lives.

2LT Wallace Edward Burr

U.S. Army

1941 – 1945



He joined the U.S. Army, at age 23, and went for active duty at Fort Six, N.J., on Jan. 11, 1941, later transferring to Fort Braff, N.C., with a 19.5-hour train ride. He served in Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment in the 9th Infantry Division. With this unit, Wally served 33 months overseas. He fought in the North-African Campaign (Algeria; French Morocco, Tunisia) and in Sicily, before going to England for training for the Normandy Invasion. Four days after D-Day, on June 10, 1944, he landed in Normandy where he came ashore at Utah Beach and fought in the Central Europe Campaigns in France, Belgium, and Germany. He was transferred to Company G on Jan. 23, 1945. In the more than 400 letters that he wrote to his mom, dad, and sister, he was more concerned about his family back home than he was about himself. He always ended his letters with “Don’t worry about anything because I am getting along fine.” It is difficult to imagine how he felt sailing to North Africa not being exactly sure where he was going. The 9th Division had such fierce fighting in 3 previous campaigns before D-Day, it was decided that the 9th would not land on the beaches on D-Day but on D-Day +4, on June 10 so that their expertise of previous combat could be used to clean up the previous battles and to play a big part in the cutting off of the Cotentin Peninsula. The 9th Division took Cherbourg and St. Lo, where Wally was interviewed on the radio and heard by friends in his hometown of Gloversville. From France he went through Belgium and went into Germy. After crossing the Siegfried Line, he took part in the heavy fighting in the Hurtgen Forest.



Sgt. Frank Colistra

U.S. Army

1943 – 1945

Soon after graduation, in 1942, Frank was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving in the 235th Combat Engineers and earning the rank of Sergeant. His World War II tour of duty took him from Fort Upton, N.Y. to North Africa (Oran and Algeria), Italy (Bonnalia, Foggia, Naples, Rome, Arno, North Apennine's and Po Valley), and Manila, returning through Fort Dix. He received an honorable discharged in 1945. Frank was proud of his service to the country that he served admirably. Family rumor has it that Frank tried to enlist right after his older brothers Joe and Hank left for active duty, which was in Frank's senior year in High School. Once again, taking full advantage of his mother's inability to speak clean English, he brought his enlistment papers home for her to sign, because he was underage. Bless her soul, she knew what her sweet Frankie was up to, scolded him, threw the papers out and Frank had to wait to enlist until he was 18.



T-5 Cpl. Vito T. D'Errico

U.S. Army

1943 – 1946

Peter took great pride in being a World War II veteran. He served his country from March 27, 1943, to January 23, 1946. He was a T-5 Corporal of the Army 710th Tank Battalion. It was truly an honor for him to serve and he proudly wore clothes labeled with his World War II service daily.



Cpl. Ralph DeSantis

**U.S. Army
1942 – 1946**

With the American entry into the Second World War in 1941, he enlisted in the US Army, and served in the European theater of war.

Sgt. John Alfred Di Scioscia

U.S. Army

1958 – 1964



Our father and our hero, John Alfred Di Scioscia, served two tours and a total of six years in the United States Army. He was especially proud of his service as a Military Policeman. As a MP, he served a tour in the late summer of 1961 at Spandau Prison, located in West Berlin, Germany, guarding imprisoned Nazi Rudolf Hess, who was incarcerated at Spandau following conviction at the Nuremberg Trials in 1946. A lengthy article, published in The Leader-Herald on August 21, 1987, recounted SGT Di Scioscia's experience at Spandau. SGT Di Scioscia also served as a Fire Team Leader, controlling the movement of his fire team, keeping track of weapons and equipment, and making sure his fire team operated as a cohesive unit. He was twice awarded the Army of Occupation Medal. He was also awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. His medals were earned during his service in Berlin. He served from October 27, 1958 to January 19, 1961 and then immediately reenlisted, serving from January 20, 1961 to January 19, 1964. SGT Di Scioscia was always profoundly proud of his service to our great nation. He passed on January 22, 2020, leaving two children, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, all of whom remain in awe of his legacy and service to America.



1Sgt. Claude Dingman

**U.S. Army
1941 – 1945**

**He was wounded on Saipon and
brought his men out from behind
enemy lines the next morning.**

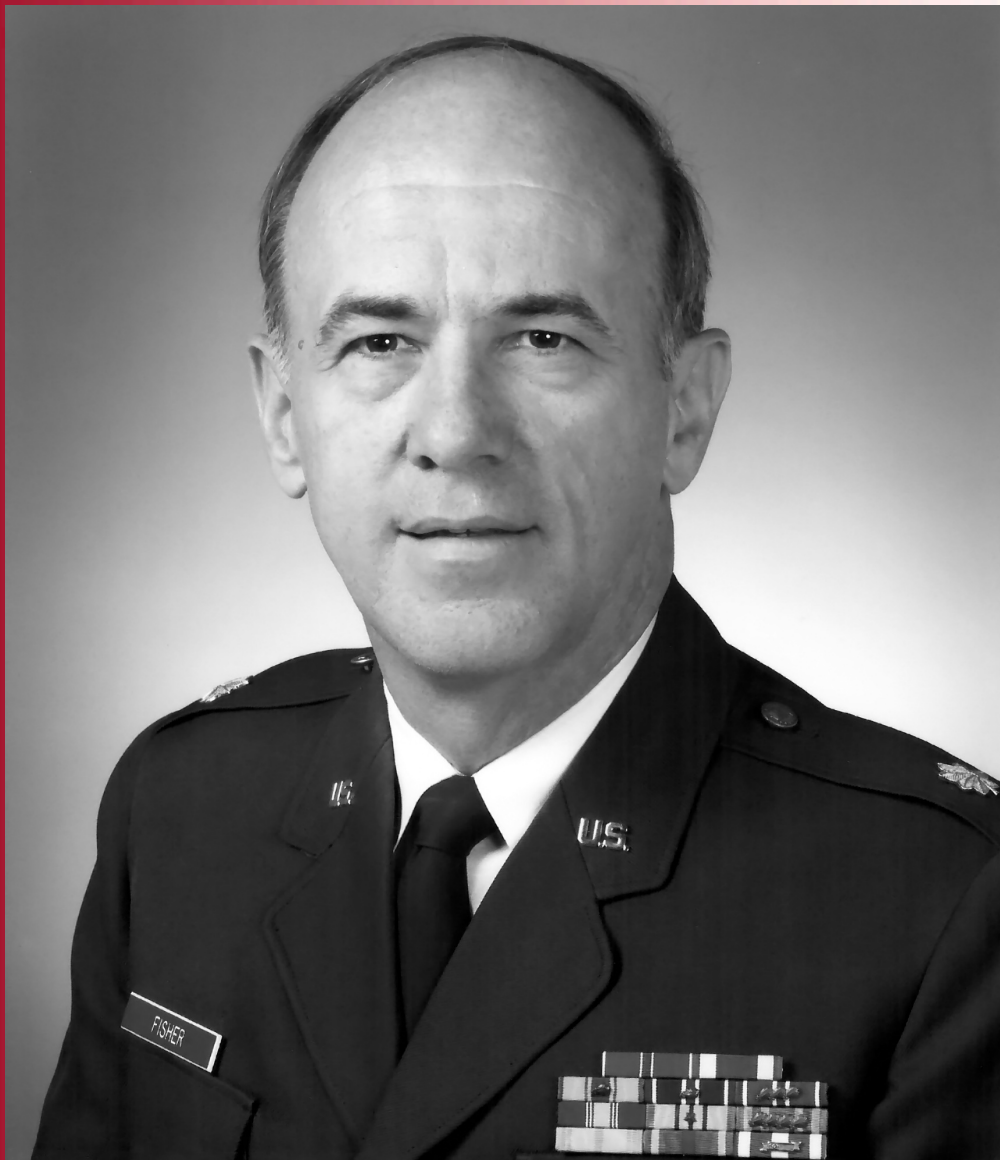
LCpl. Alan C. Donnelly

U.S. Marines

1967 – 1968



Alan C. Donnelly grew up in Gloversville and graduated from Bishop Burke High School in 1966. He was an honor student and a standout athlete. In 1967, he enlisted in the Marines and was sent to Vietnam. "On November 12th, 1968, he advised his platoon commander to establish an immediate defensive position and fearlessly volunteered to inspect the area for hostile explosive devices. Disregarding his own safety, he unhesitatingly moved across the hazardous terrain and was bravely conducting his self-assigned mission when he detonated an enemy mine and was mortally wounded. His heroic and timely actions inspired all who observed him and were instrumental in preventing serious injury or possible death to other Marines. By his courage, resolute determination and steadfast devotion to duty, Lance Corporal Donnelly upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country." (From the citation for the awarding of the Silver Star) He was posthumously awarded a Purple Heart, a Silver Star and a NYS Conspicuous Service Medal. Alan was much loved by his family and friends. He approached life with high expectations and incredible energy. He exemplified hard work, dedication and sacrifice and was a true American hero.



Lt. Col. David R. Fisher

**U.S. Air Force
1966 – 1993**

Lt. Colonel Fisher served as an intelligence officer at Langley AFB, Virginia and Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base, Saigon, Vietnam during his active duty. While in the Air Force Reserve he served as a Liaison Officer Commander for the Air Force Academy and as a Historian for the Air Combat Command.



2Lt. Alfred V. Garguilo

U.S. Army

1942 – 1945

When America entered WW II, Al volunteered and served as a Second Lieutenant. He was injured and spent 18 months at Walter Reed Hospital.



Capt. Richard Earl Hathaway

U.S. Air Force

1941 – 1945

He served as a B17 bomber pilot (known as the Flying Fortress) in the U.S. Air Corp, flying 23 missions from Polebrook, England, into Europe. Upon returning from a mission and running out of gas with no alternative, he ditched the plane into the English Channel. All members of the crew exited safely into the rafts. Several hours later they were picked up by the British and upon returning to land, the ship's captain explained their very good luck as the plane ditched in the middle of a mine field. He and his crew never experienced tragedy during their assignment and returned home safely. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on two occasions, the air medal and three oak leaf clusters for his service.



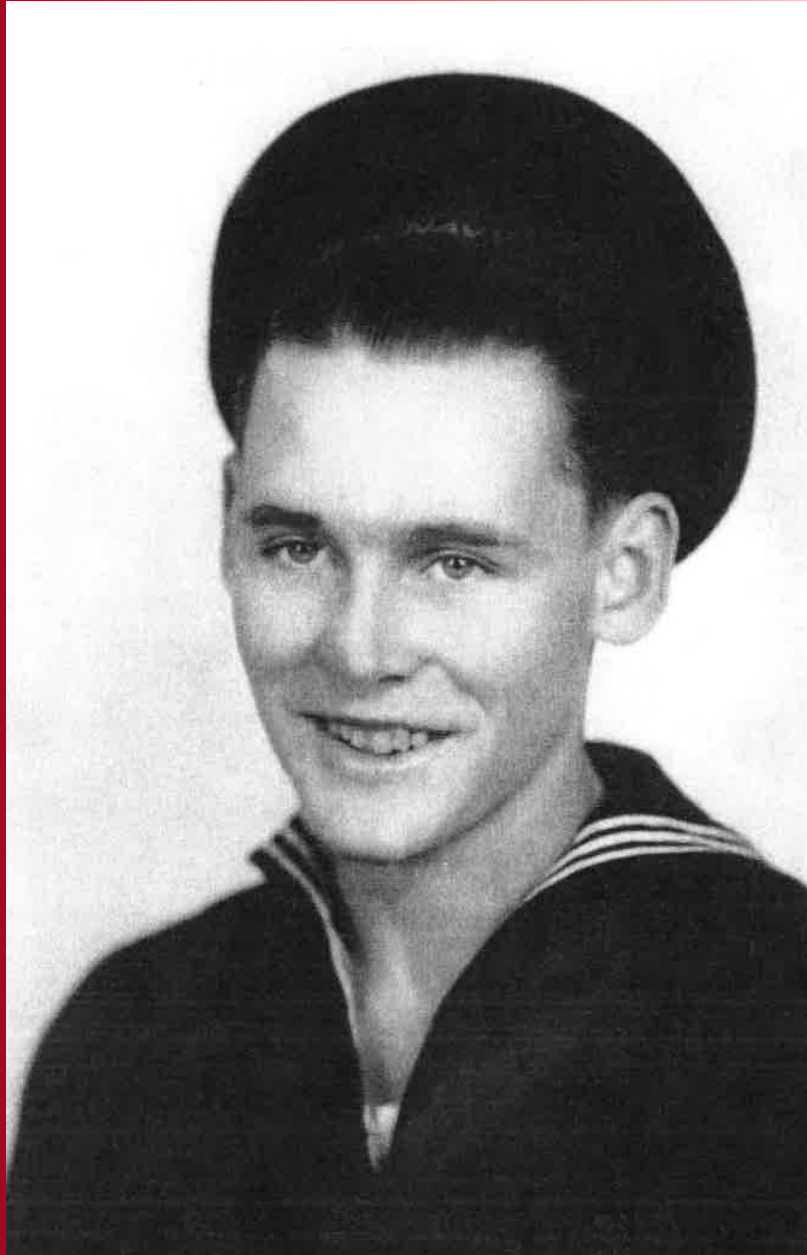
PVT. Theodore E.

Hoyer Jr.

U.S. Army

1943 – 1946

During World War II, he served throughout Europe with the 80th Infantry Division of the Third Army. He was awarded two Purple Hearts and five campaign medals.



S1 James C. Hynd Sr.

U.S. Navy

1942 – 1945

He enlisted a month after the bombing at Pearl Harbor. A frogman, he was trained in scuba diving or swimming underwater in a tactical capacity. He defused mines and brought bodies back from ships that sank.



Maj. Salvatore D. Landrio

U.S. Air Force

1941 – 1978

He was drafted into the Army in 1941. Upon graduating from Officers Candidate School, he became an instructor for new recruits. After his discharge in 1945, he served in the Army Air Force Reserves until 1978, retiring as a major.



Sgt. Samuel S. Passero

U.S. Army

1942 – 1946

He was awarded the American Service Medal, a World War II Victory Medal and a Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Passero did his training as an Air Traffic Controller.



2LT William Robert Peck

U.S. Army

1944 – 1945

Two days before he turned twenty, Bill Peck enlisted in the United States Army Air Force in Boston, Massachusetts. His basic training took him to Georgia, attending service schools for: Pre-Flight, Primary, Basic Advanced, B-24 Co-Pilot and B-24 Transition Training. His uniform was complete except for his footwear. He spoke of beginning his basic training in civilian shoes until the USAAF could find shoes his size. Each night he made fresh cardboard inserts for those size 13's. He achieved the rank of Second Lieutenant, served honorably in England and came safely home. He answered his country's call.



Pfc. Elmer Perham

U.S. Army

1944 – 1945

**He fought in the “Battle of the Bulge”
in the Ardennes and was in one of the
first tanks to cross the Rhine into
Germany.**



Cpl. Robert E. Perrella

U.S. Army

1945 – 1946

As with many men of that generation, as soon as he turned 18, he enlisted in the armed services as part of the Army Air Corps. He understood the importance of the freedom he so dearly enjoyed each day and when that freedom was challenged, he wanted to do his part to protect it. During his time in the Philippines, he was greatly moved by their abject poverty and living conditions from the effects of the war. His recollection of these events was shared with his children to remind them of the blessings they had here in the United States, and they have never forgotten it.



SSG. Arthur W. Poling

U.S. Army

1942 – 1945

He was carrying ammunition in a jeep during a counterattack in the Siegfried line when the enemy started an artillery barrage. The jeep was struck, and he was hit by shrapnel. He was awarded the Purple Heart when recovering from a shoulder wound at the 107th General Hospital in England.

SSG Robert J. Porter

U.S. Army

1942 – 1946



Along with 2,000 others, he boarded on to a converted, 40-year-old cruise ship named the HMT Rohna, a jointly owned British and Indian ship pressed into service to ferry troops. The ship was barely seaworthy, many of the lifeboats were frozen to their housings with rust, and there were inadequate medical supplies, food and life jackets on board. On November 24, 1943, the Rohna and her twin sister ship, the Rajula departed Oran to join up with the convoy KMF-26 heading east through the Mediterranean Sea. They were attacked by German fighter planes and short-range bombers. A bomb hit the Rohna amid ships and blew a hole in her large enough to drive several trucks through. The ship was taking on water rapidly. Unfortunately, only one half of the available lifeboats ever made it into the sea that afternoon. For those who had successfully cleared the ship, they now had to avoid German fighter planes strafing the swimmers with machine gun fire. Hundreds died from this murderous barrage and more died when they employed their flotation devices that forced many of them under water, headfirst. By the end of the day, 1,015 lost their lives on the Rohna, along with 38 British and Indian Crew, and a handful of International Red Cross workers. After two weeks in a British field hospital in Tunisia, he was once again deemed “fit for duty.” Thankfully, he was to see no more combat during the war, as his job as Master Telegrapher, kept him behind the battle lines.



SMSGT Edward John Quinn

U.S. Air Force

1991 – 2014

In the wake of the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he signed up for the delayed-enlistment program and entered the Air Force on Feb. 7, 1991. He has been deployed on numerous occasions, including Operations Restore Hope, Southern Watch, Joint Guard and Enduring Freedom. His service has supported millions in construction projects for Afghanistan. He also served as a liaison to German forces, as well as supporting the Women for Afghan Women organization by procuring blankets for a youth shelter. He completed technical training as a Production Control Specialist, also known as “Triple Nickel,” now known as Operation Management.



TECH4 Donald D. Robbins

U.S. Army

1944 – 1946

He served in World War II in the 314th Infantry, 79th Division, serving in the campaigns of Normandy, northern France and the Rhineland. He received a Purple Heart for wounds sustained in the Battle of the Bulge.



Col. Frank Angelo Scafariello

U.S. Army

1943 – 1945

His service includes time in the Philippines during World War II, and 35 years with the National Guard. During his time in the Philippines, he received the rank of First Lieutenant. Returning home, he was honorably discharged from federal service. He then joined the National Guard where he served for 35 years and obtained the rank of full Colonel.



PFC Harold Riley Simonds

U.S. Marine Corps

1968 – 1969

He gave his life for his country during his service in the Vietnam War. He is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington D.C. and his name is inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 25w, Line 55.



Sgt. Raymond Earl Smith

U.S. Army

1945 – 1948

Ray joined the Army in 1945 and served in the occupation of Berlin Germany. His post war peace keeping efforts led him to the love of his life. He finished his service stateside and was honorably discharged in 1948.



Col. Robert John Smullen

U.S. Marines

1990 – 2015

After September 11, 2001, he participated in operation Enduring Freedom, conducting Combat Operations in Southern Afghanistan. He returned to Afghanistan as a combat advisor to the Afghan Army in 2006 – 2007 and served again in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2011 – 2012. He is a distinguished graduate at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.



Pvt. George Svolos

U.S. Army

1944 – 1946

He was proud to have served his country in the war. He left Johnstown High School during his senior year to enlist. He was honored by the school who graduated him in absentia. He was also very troubled by the impact of the war on the children who were living in the areas he served. While there he authored many poems expression his concern and compassion for the plight of all children of war.



T-5 William F. Sweeney

**U.S. Army
1943 – 1946**

He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Valor for heroism at Port Moresby, New Guinea, on January 26, 1944. He was connected with the Quartermaster Corps.



SSG Don Weiss

U.S. Army

1944 – 1945

Serving under General Patton, he was in Company F 377th Infantry. He carried the phone line across enemy lines. He was shot carrying the line, ensured the line to its destination.



SP6 Charles J. Williams

U.S. Army

1964 – 1970

He honorably served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, serving in Korea, Germany and Vietnam. He was a computer instructor in Germany for STRATCOM. He served as a radio operator in the Vietnam War.



Amn. Verle G. Willis

U.S. Air Force

1952 – 1956

He didn't talk much about his military experience as his years in Korea were dreadful and traumatic. After Korea, he was stationed in Montana. It was there that he met and married the love of his life, Janet, and they raised four children. Later in life he was employed by the USA Govt. working on airplane communication.



Cpl. Donald Edward Yeates

U.S. Army

1943 – 1945

He was the radio guy for his unit and one night, he was speaking with an officer from another unit. The officer was ordering his unit to shoot down an approaching airplane because there had been no communication with it. He had a love for airplanes ever since he was a kid and he could tell by the sound of the airplane that it was one of ours. He convinced the officer to not give the order and sure enough, he was right and saved the lives of everyone on board. He earned his corporal stripes for it.