



2018 Hometown Heroes Banner Project

Guilderland Chamber of Commerce,
Guilderland, New York

ABLEMAN, PAUL – Corporal – US Army

Corporal Paul Ableman is a Korean War Combat Veteran, having served in active duty from January 1951 to January 1959. He was assigned to the Signal Corp of the 4th Battalion, 10th Division. In 1953 he was honorably discharged and returned to his previous employer, Niagara Mohawk Power Company, retiring in 1987 after forty years of service. On October 20, 1957, Paul and Arlene were married, and recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They raised four children and have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. An avid gardener, Paul is known for his delicious tomatoes and amazing strawberries and raspberries, sharing them with family and friends. Paul was also a Little League baseball coach. In recent years, he and Arlene spent the month of March in Sarasota, Florida to escape the cold Northeast. Now he spends his retirement time watching baseball on TV and enjoys family gatherings. Paul is a quiet, intelligent and kind man that enjoys a good laugh.

Sponsored by: Arlene Ableman



CAMADINE, JOHN – Seaman 1st Class – US Navy

In July 1943, John Camadine was sworn into the US Navy. He spent four weeks in Boot Camp and six weeks in Gunnery School where he earned the nickname: “GUNS CAMADINE.” John sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to England as a gunner aboard the SS Samuel Chase, whose primary mission was to protect merchant convoys against enemy submarine attacks. These convoys carried vital supplies for the War effort. Two of the three voyages John participated in also required him to assist British Police with off-shore patrols to protect civilians from enemy air strikes. During his third voyage he was assigned to bring equipment to Omaha Beach shortly after D-Day, falling prey to several enemy air strikes before Allied Air Forces could drive them away. John was later reassigned in a communications role aboard the USS Bremerton, a heavy cruiser headed to Shanghai. In 1946, John was discharged at Lido Beach on Long Island with the rank of Seaman 1st Class. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal for his service in England and on Omaha Beach. He was also awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Medal for his service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. John stated, “My Country called me to serve and I answered that call. I am so proud to have been able to serve my Country.”

Sponsored by:



CLARK, TODD J. – LTC – US Army

LTC Todd J. Clark was a Guilderland, NY resident, graduating in 1990 from Christian Brothers Academy. He continued his education, graduating from Texas A&M University (BS), Commissioned as an Armor/Cavalry Officer, graduated from US Army Armor Basic and Advanced Officer Courses, Naval Postgraduate School (Master's Degree), and Command and General Staff College (Master's Degree). He served in Kuwait and Bosnia with the 1st Cavalry Division with 2/12/CAV. As a troop commander, CPT Clark led Lightning Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in the attack on Iraq for his first combat tour. CPT Clark was an advisor to the Iraqi Special Police Commandoes for his second combat tour. During his third tour, CPT Clark was on Brigade Staff of the 10th Mountain Division in Iraq. Major Clark then served as the S3 with 1/71 Cavalry Squadron of the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan for his fourth tour. It was during this tour that he sustained IED injuries and spent eight months recuperating at Walter Reed Military Hospital, receiving his first Purple Heart. Todd then served as an XO with 1/89 Cavalry Squadron of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum and was promoted to LTC as a senior advisor to the Afghan National Army for his fifth and last combat tour. LTC Clark was born in Albany, son of Colonel RJ "Jack" Clark, US Army (Retired) and Kathleen Murphy Clark, brother of Kyle E. Clark, husband of Shelley Wuenstel Clark, and devoted father of Collin Thomas and Madison Elaine Clark. LTC Todd J. Clark, Cavalry, US Army, was killed during a "Green on Blue" attack on Saturday, June 8, 2013 in Afghanistan. Interment is in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas.

- The many awards and decorations bestowed upon him include:
- Bronze Star Medal (x4)
- Purple Heart Medal (x2)
- Meritorious Service Medal (x3)
- Army Commendation Medal (x4)
- Army Achievement Medal (x3)

Sponsored by:



CLIKEMAN, KENNETH H. – Staff Sergeant – US Army

SSgt. Kenneth Howard Clikeman served in the US Army for 21-years until his honorable discharge in 1974. Kenny served during both the Korean War and Vietnam War. He was an expert in radar and satellite communications. Kenny was a lifelong Guilderland Center resident and in his later years could often be spotted jogging to and from the Guilderland Public Library, his favorite place to visit. Kenny passed away on May 8, 2017, and was interred at the Gerald B.H. Solomon National Cemetery with full military honors.

Sponsored by:



D'AMELIA, GERALD D. – SP4 – US Army

SP4 Gerald D. D'Amelia served with Headquarters Detachment, 6th Transportation Battalion while in the United States and overseas from 1961 through 1964. Gerald was born on April 6, 1942 in Albany, New York. He graduated from St. Joseph's Academy in Albany in 1960, and Excelsior College in 1974. He married Marilyn Koreman in 1963. They are the parents of seven children and grandparents to fourteen grandchildren.

Sponsored by: The Family of Gerald D'Amelia



DiMURA, JOSEPH – Staff Sergeant – US Army

Staff Sergeant Joseph DiMura Jr. was inducted into the US Army on October 26, 1950, and was assigned to the 40th Infantry Division, 140th AAA (Anti-Aircraft Artillery) AW Battalion. Known as the “Sunshine Division,” the 40th was a guard unit in Camp Cooke, California that was dramatically expanded by draftees like Joe for deployment to Korea. Joe was shipped to Japan in March 1951 and spent the next ten months training, including live artillery fire. In January 1952, the 40th landed in Inchon in the bitter cold and was moved directly to the front lines in the Kumwah Valley near the 38th parallel. Joe spent the next nine months in a frontline combat position. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant, leading a five man squad on a “Half-Track” vehicle armed with four 50-caliber machine guns. In October 1952, Joe was transferred to the Army Reserves and was honorably discharged in September 1956. Joe and all of his six brothers honorably served in the armed forces and returned home safely.

Sponsored by:



ELLIS, KYLE A. – DCFN – US Navy

Damage Controlman Fireman, surface warfare qualified (DCFN (SW)) Kyle A. Ellis, was born in Gloversville, New York and raised in Altamont, New York. He is a 2005 graduate of Guilderland Central High School. Shortly after graduation, he enlisted into the United States Navy in November 2005. He successfully completed an eight week training camp (Boot Camp) in January 2006 then proceeded to more extensive training at Naval Station Great Lakes. Shortly after graduation from Basic Engineering Common Core (BECC) in May 2006, DCFN (SW) Ellis reported to his first ship board command, the USS Winston S. Churchill DDG 81. The ship was in “dry dock”, reaping the mechanical benefits of repair and maintenance to recover from a lengthy deployment of the Northern Arabian Gulf. Spending ample hours and sleepless nights flooding his mind with all the new shipmate qualifications, DCFN (SW) Ellis obtained the highest acknowledgement for his extensive knowledge and adequate application of his studies as a shipboard firefighter and engineering support personnel. In November 2007, USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81) made voyage in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. DCFN (SW) Ellis was known to be one of the most highly trained firefighters aboard ship and was deemed responsible for the training and qualifications of all 323+ personnel aboard ship. Due to the small size of the vessel, all shipboard personnel were required to know basic firefighting techniques in order to provide support to the small number of firefighters on board. In displaying his exquisite knowledge of the firefighting systems on board the ship, DCFN (SW) Ellis was awarded a Flag Letter of Accommodation from Rear Admiral Gortney who was the Carrier Strike Group Commanding Officer. Later, DCFN (SW) Ellis was awarded another Flag Letter of Accommodation from Rear Admiral Fox, who was the Rear Admiral of the Carrier Strike group who took over command after Rear Admiral Harvey. During the 2007 – 2008 Deployment to the Northern Arabian Gulf in support of the War on Terrorism, DCFN (SW) Ellis was appointed to the on-scene leader for the crash and salvage team. This meant that if there were a mishap with the onboard helicopters that DCFN (SW) Ellis would lead a crew of highly trained firefighting personnel in the efforts to rescue the air crew and to jettison (dispose overboard) the damaged equipment including but not limited to the helicopters themselves. Though he served just shy of four years on active duty, he accomplished a great deal in that time and was considered a leader among the lower ranks. He was honorably discharged in August of 2009 at which point he pursued his commercial driver’s license and eventually moved back to Guilderland, New York in 2013 where he still resides.

Sponsored by: Cub Scout Pack 1083



ELLIS, KYLE A.

GREEN, HAROLD J. – Major General – US Army

Harold Green was born in Boston in 1959 and moved to Guilderland with his family in 1970. He graduated from Guilderland High School in 1977. He attended RPI and joined the ROTC program while there. He graduated from RPI with a bachelor's degree in Materials Engineering and was commissioned as an officer that year. He went on to receive a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering at RPI, and a master's degree in Materials Engineering from the University of Southern California (USC). In addition, he received a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from USC, and a Ph.D. in Materials Science, also from USC. He gained a reputation for giving 110% and always standing up for what he believed in. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 2009 and served as Deputy Commanding General of US Army Research, Development and Engineering at Aberdeen Proving Ground. Promoted to Major General in 2012, Greene was named Deputy Commander of Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan in January 2014 during Operation Enduring Freedom. Greene was killed in August 2014 in Kabul, Afghanistan during a routine visit to a training facility. Maj. Gen. Greene was the highest ranking American service member killed by hostile action since the Vietnam War. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Greene was married to Sue Myers, a doctor and retired colonel who worked as a professor at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. At the time of his death, she lived in Falls Church, Virginia. Greene had two children, a daughter, Amelia Greene, and a son, Matthew Greene, who is a U.S. Army Lieutenant. His father, Harold F. Greene, still resides in Guilderland, NY.

Sponsored by:



HALLORAN, CHRISTOPHER D. – Lance Corporal – US Marine Corp

Lance Corporal Christopher D. Halloran graduated Boot Camp at Parris Island, South Carolina on October 23, 2015. He is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

Sponsored by: Guilderland Elks BPOE 2480



HICKS, KEVIN R. Sr. – Sergeant – US Army

Sergeant Kevin R. Hicks, Sr., enlisted in the US Army on March 3, 1968. He completed basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey, assigned MOS 11 Bravo 10: Infantry. Advanced Individual Training at Fort Rucker, Alabama was next. He was later reassigned MOS 67 X-ray 20: Helicopter Rigger, CH 54 Skycrane Helicopter. Kevin's first duty station was Fort Sill, Oklahoma. His second duty station was Mainz, Germany as MOS 67 Bravo 20: Crew Chief, CH54 Skycrane Helicopter. His third duty station was in the Republic of Vietnam as Bravo Chief Rigger, CH 54 Skycrane Helicopter. While in Vietnam, Kevin was reassigned Door Gunner UH-1 Helicopter, 295th Aviation/1st Aviation Brigade – 167th Assault Aviation Co./First Cavalry Division. Sergeant Kevin R. Hicks Sr. was honorably discharged on January 8, 1971.

Sponsored by: The Hicks' Family



KIM, NANCY L. – Sergeant – US Marine Corp

Sergeant Nancy L. Kim served during the Korean War and was stationed at Cherry Point Marine Corps Base, North Carolina. Sergeant Kim worked in the Supply and Procurement Systems Division. Nancy lived in Guilderland since 1993 and worked at Guilderland Elementary School as a lunch monitor, volunteered at the Guilderland Community Caregivers program and helped orphan puppies. From 1960 to 1976 she worked at Voorheesville Post Office and was the Postmaster from 1973 to 1976. During this time, Nancy also served with the Voorheesville Woman's Auxiliary and was a founding member of *Women in Business* in Albany County. She took a job in Honolulu, Hawaii but retired from Hawaiian Telephone after 14-years to return to New York. Nancy has four daughters and eleven grandchildren that grew up in Guilderland. She was very active in their lives and never missed a baseball, softball or cheerleading event that they participated in; or a community event as well.

Sponsored by: Barbara Darpino Leto



LaDUKE, ROY W. – Corporal – US Army

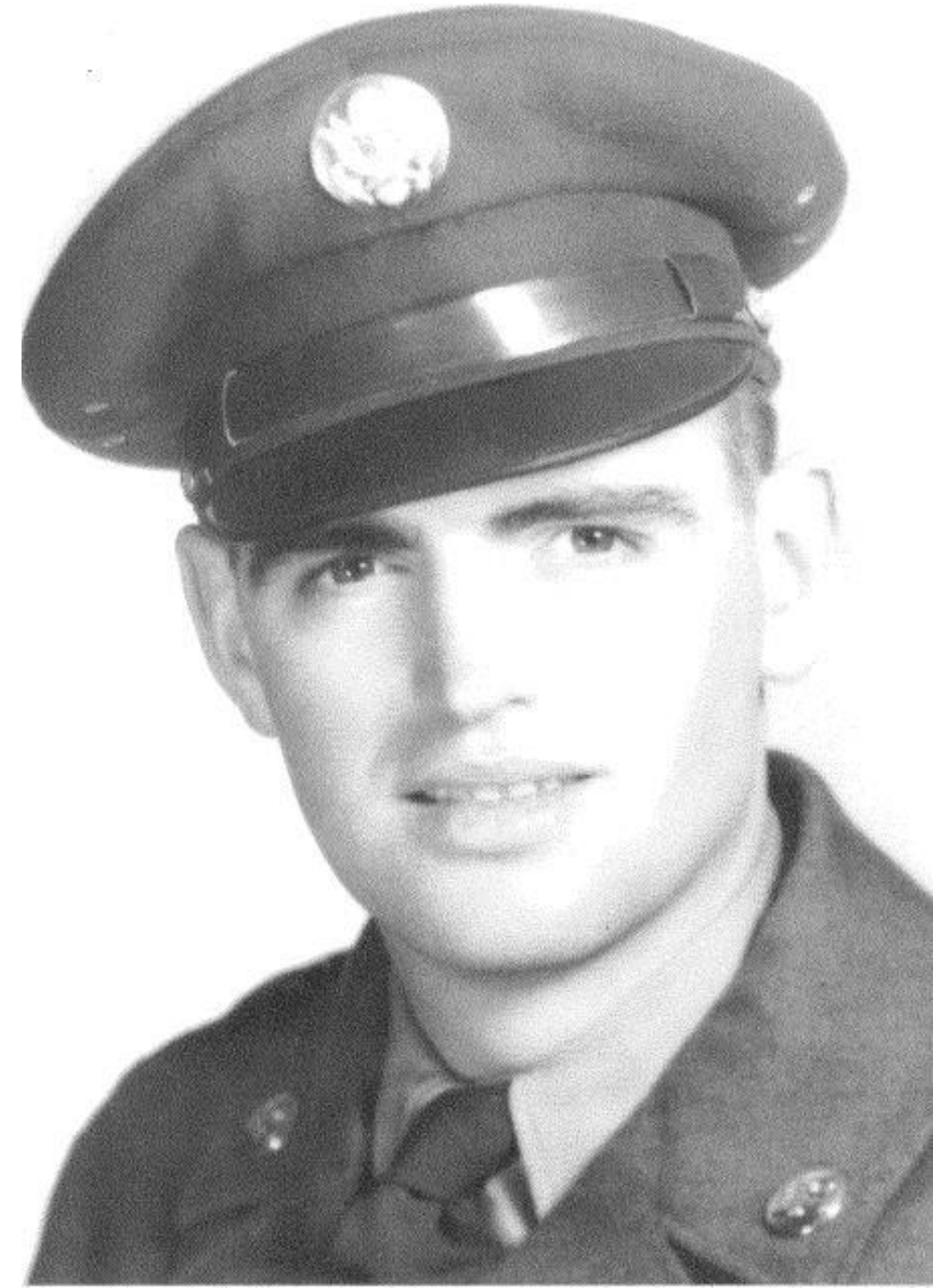
Corporal Roy W. LaDuke was a truck driver during the Korean War from 1952-1953. Roy lived in Altamont, NY from 1957-1959 and 1963-1978. He now resides in Colonie, NY.

Sponsored by:



DELAWARE ENGINEERING, D.P.C.

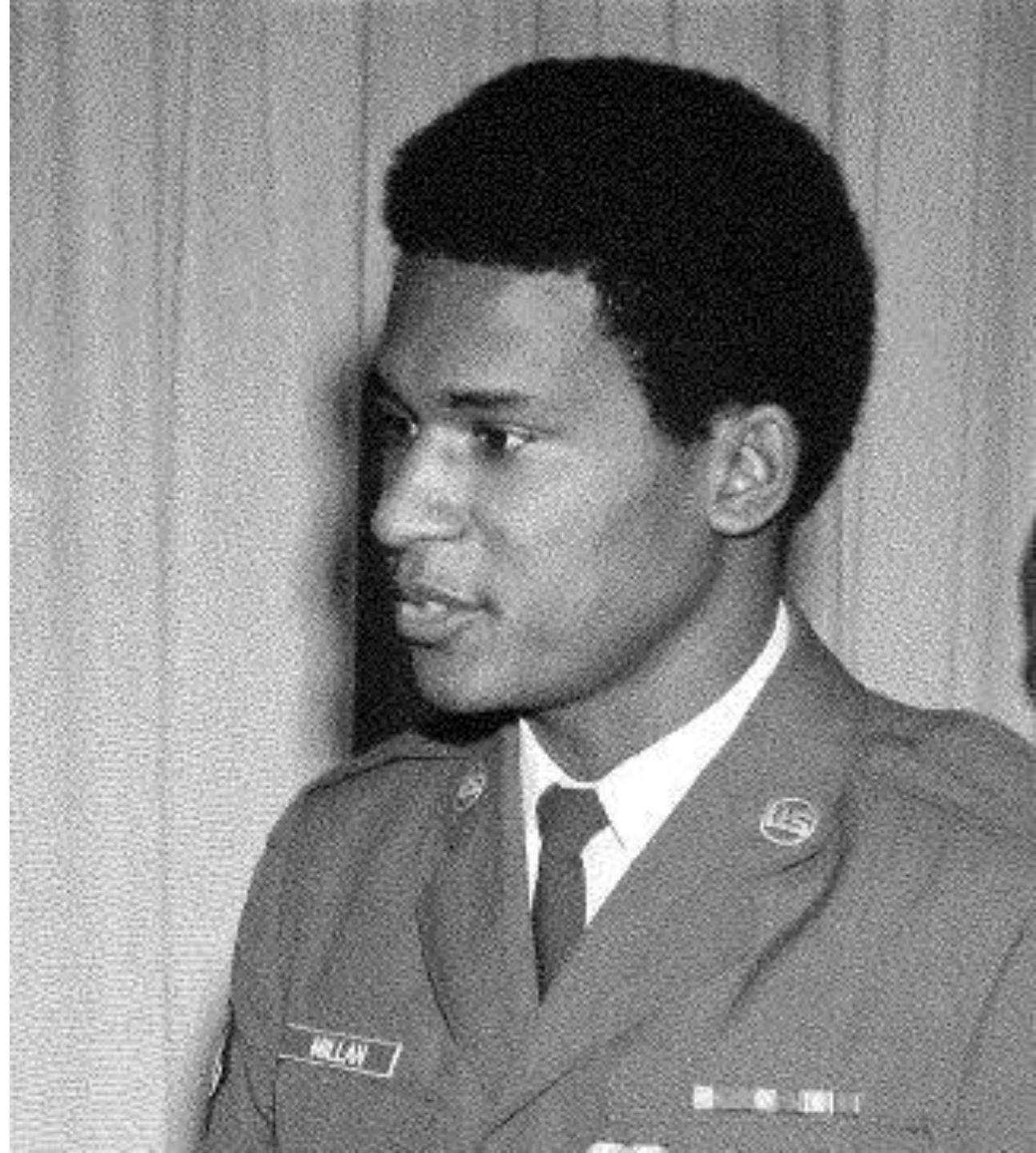
CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



MILLAN, HECTOR – Sergeant – US Air Force

Sergeant Hector Millan was in the US Air Force from 1969-1972. He served in Vietnam from 1970-1971.

Sponsored by:



NARDOLILLO, WILLIAM P. – LCL – Tank Battalion, US Marine Corp

LCL William P. Nardolillo served with the 2nd & 3rd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. William has called McKownville his home for 42-years. He served as a coach for the Guilderland Little League and Babe Ruth teams, a coordinator for the Capital Region Toys for Tots, a life member in the Captain William Dale O'Brian Detachment of the Marine Corp League, a member of the Tri-County Vietnam Era Veterans, and a member of the American Legion Zaloga Post 241.

Sponsored by:



O' HANLON, THOMAS J. – Staff Sergeant – US Army

Staff Sergeant Thomas J. O'Hanlon joined the US Army in the spring of 1942 and served in Europe during WWII. His duties included being a Tank Commander with the 27th Tank Battalion and an Army instructor. Thomas was born in NYC, but lived most of his life in Albany and Guilderland. He owned and operated automobile service stations in Latham and Albany, NY. After retiring, he worked part time as a gardener for the Guilderland Parks and Recreation Department. Thomas passed away in the fall of 2003, but his legacy lives on in the memories of his family and friends.

Sponsored by: The Groat Family



OLIVARES, ALEXANDER – Lance Corporal – US Marine Corp

Lance Corporal Alexander Olivares grew up in the village of Altamont, NY. Alex always had a goal in life to be a Marine, so upon his graduation from Guilderland High School in 2013, he enlisted. Alex excelled in basic training and was promoted before completing Boot Camp. He is currently stationed at the Marine Corps AIR Station in Beaufort, South Carolina, serving as Military Police. Alex's family is very proud of his accomplishments and thanks the town of Guilderland for recognizing our Hometown Heroes in such a special way!

Sponsored by: Susan Olivares



OLIVER, STEVEN D. – EO2 – US Navy

EO2 Steven D. Oliver was born in 1961 to Peter and Georgianna Oliver of Guilderland, NY. After graduating from Berne-Knox-Westerlo High School in 1979, Steve joined the US Navy Seabees and was stationed in Port Hueneme, California. He was an EO2 (Equipment Operator) and his deployments included the Philippines, Sicily and Midway. He served active duty for seven years and three years in Naval Reserves. Steve married Leah King in 1983. He has three married daughters and ten grandchildren. Steve relocated to Guilderland in 1987 and secured a job with the Town of Guilderland Highway Department. He rose through the ranks and became Highway Superintendent, eventually retiring in 2018. His passion is being involved in the American Legion Post #977, Altamont, NY. He was a Charter Member of the American Legion Riders #977 and continues to serve as its president. Steve volunteers his time and efforts in the needs of the community and veterans.

Sponsored by:



ORSINI, MILLARD A. – Corporal – US Army

Millard Orsini was born in Knox, NY to Mary & Peter Orsini on May 2, 1919. He was one of 14 children. In his youth his family moved to Altamont, NY where he spent the rest of his life. Millard enlisted in the US Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was a combat engineer. He was one of seven brothers who served their country during WW II. He was captured by the Japanese early on in his overseas service. In April 1942, he was forced to participate in the 55 mile Bataan “death” march and survived. He then spent the next 39 months in a Japanese prison camp. During this time he secretly constructed an American flag from window shades and clothing dye. It took 3 years to make this flag, hiding it under the floor boards of his prison cell. The day he was liberated, he ran out, holding the flag over his head. Millard returned to Altamont following the war. He married Catherine Slachtovsky in September 1947. They had 4 children. He ran a gas station and was a partner in Orsini Brothers Construction Co. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, VFW, American Legion and an active member of his community. He died on June 3, 1978.

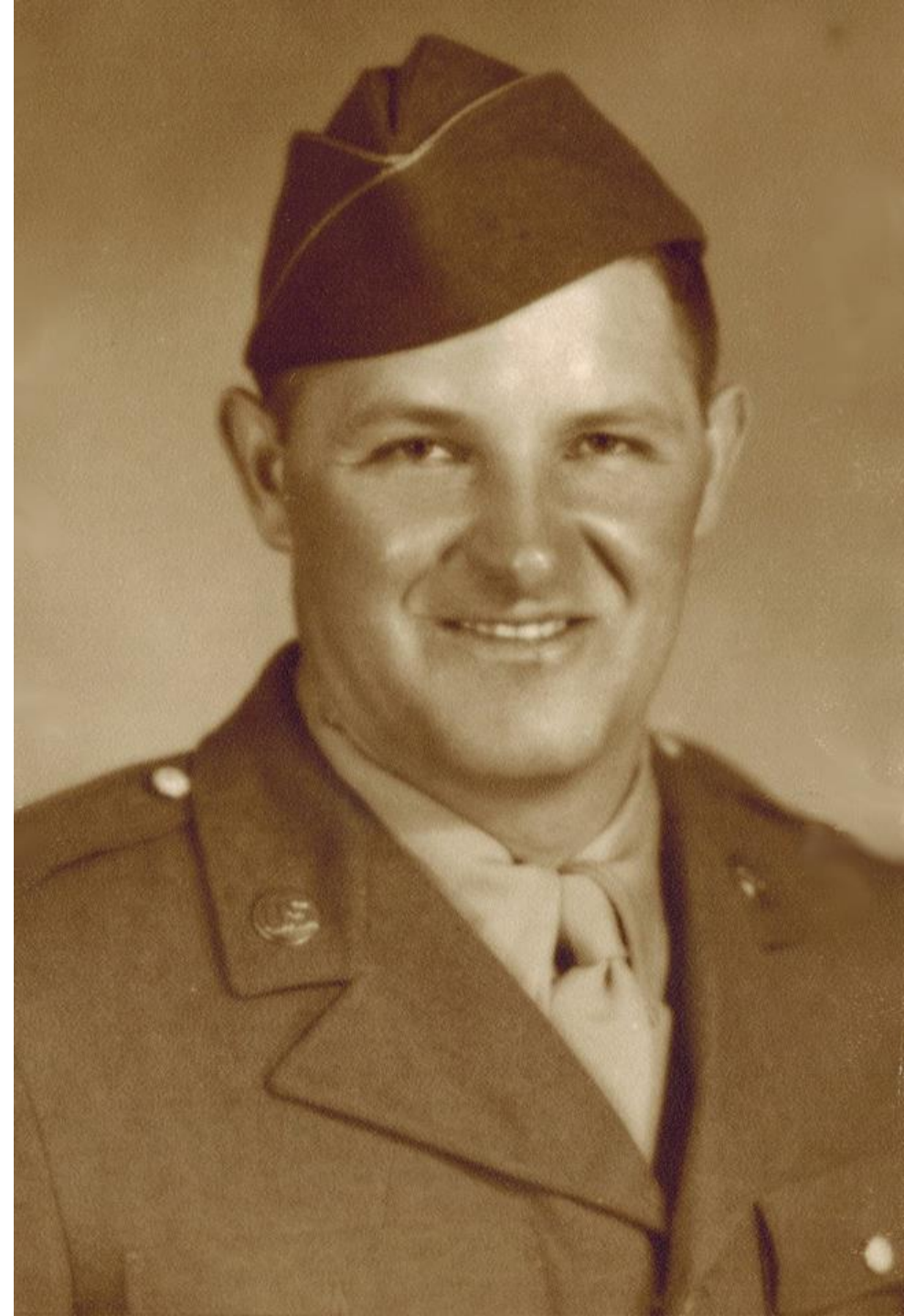
Sponsored by:



PHILIPP, FRED Jr. – PFC – US Army

PFC Fred Philipp Jr. was born in Switzerland in December 1911. He arrived in America in 1912, when he was just 2-months old. Fred eventually married and started his family of four children, living in Guilderland Center and working in Albany at the Dobler Brewery when America entered into World War II. Fred enlisted in the US Army, even though he was not required to, and was assigned to the 117th Infantry 30th Division (a.k.a. “Old Hickory”). Fred participated in several noteworthy battles including the Normandy Invasion, Ardennes, and Rhineland. He was wounded twice in August of 1944 and received the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was also awarded the Bronze Star, an EAME Campaign Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal. After healing from his injuries, Fred returned to duty until the War ended. He returned home to his grateful family in September 1945. Fred passed away in 1984 following another brave battle, this time with cancer. His family will never forget his sacrifice and bravery.

Sponsored by: The Clikeman Family



RAAB, WALTER H. – Staff Sergeant – US Army

Staff Sergeant Walter H. Raab was a graduate of Hudson High School. He served overseas in the US Army Signal Corps from 1942 to 1945 and advanced in rank to Staff Sergeant. Among the awards Walter received were four Bronze Stars and a Belgium Fourragere. Once out of the service he had a thirty-five year career with Albany International then worked fifteen years for Two Guys Department Store as a sales associate. Walter was an active member of the Boyd Hilton VFW Post 7062 in Altamont, NY, once serving as Chaplain. He received the “Commanders Award for Outstanding Dedication” and broke records for ‘Buddy Poppy’ campaign collections, personally bringing in over 50% of total donations. He was an usher for Lisha Kill Reformed Church and a former member of the West Ghent Reformed Church. Walter was born in Valatie, NY on March 18, 1920, son of the late Florence and Harrison R, Ghent, NY. He lived in Colonie from 1947 to 2012. Walter passed away on July 23, 2013 at Ellis Hospital. The husband of the late Cornelia Rowley Rabb, he is survived by his loving children Paula Sue (Robert) Farquharson, Timothy H. Raab, Christina (Arthur) Miller and his five grandchildren: Adam, Ian, Sara, Sean, Weston and several nieces and nephews.

Sponsored by: VFW Post 7062



REITH, GERALD N. – ATC – US Navy

Chief Gerald N. Reith, ATC, US Navy Retired (Aviation Electronics Chief), made the US Navy his first career. He enlisted in 1952 and retired in 1972. He initially flew as a crew member on P-2 aircraft but later worked mostly on the flight deck of aircraft carriers, including the well-known Kitty Hawk. Gerald attained the rank of Chief and when not at sea, he taught naval classes. He preferred sea duty and always believed sailors belonged on ships and ships belonged at sea. He loved and cherished his family, but when working he was happier when he was on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. Gerald grew up in Gloversville, NY and always said New York was “God’s Country!” When Chief Reith retired from the US Navy while in California, he and his wife and four daughters packed everything into their station wagon and headed for “God’s Country” with their two dogs, a German Shepherd and a Collie.

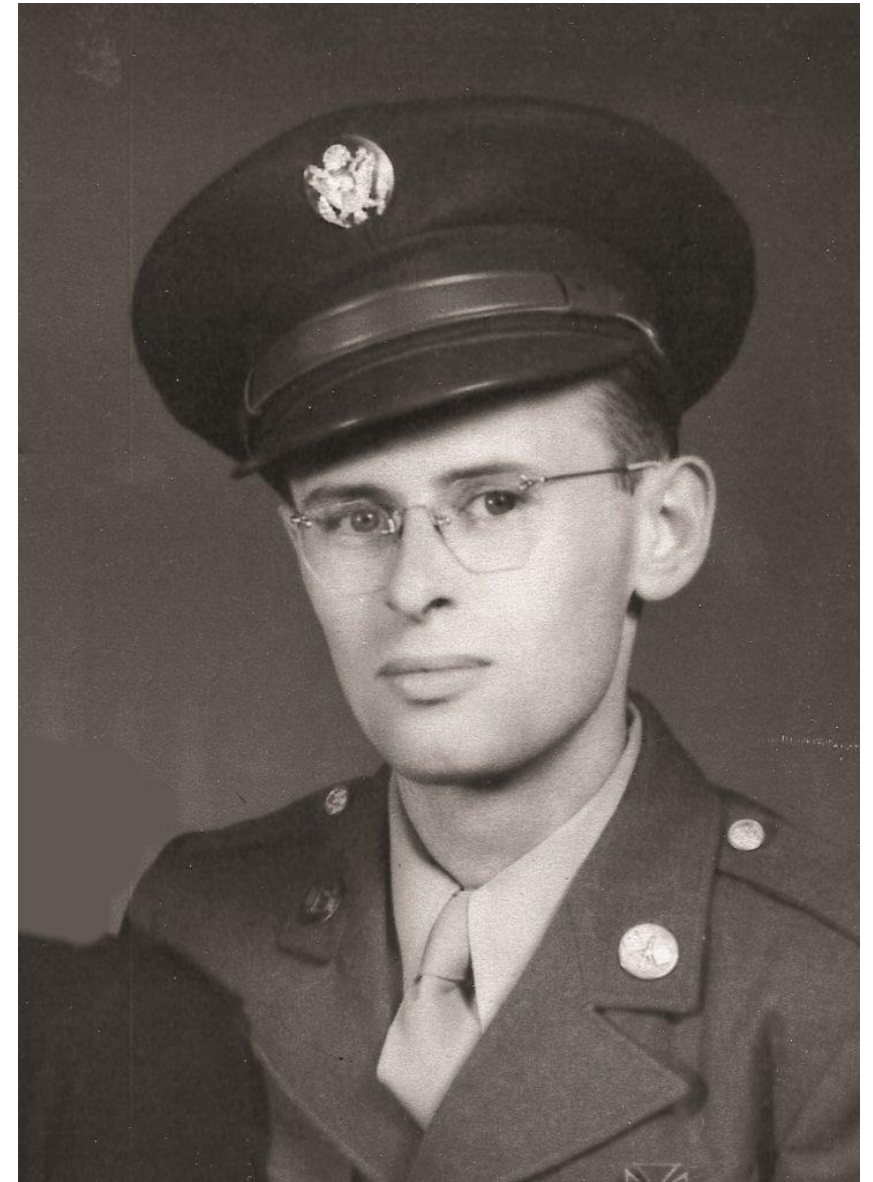
Sponsored by: Bill & Michele Coons



SHEEHAN, FRANCIS MARTIN – Technical Sargeant – US Army

TSgt. Francis “Frank” Martin Sheehan enlisted in the US Army in 1943. He became a glider trooper and proudly served in the 101st Airborne Division during World War II in England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. Between December 1944 through January 1945, Frank was in Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge. Francis Martin Sheehan was born on February 1st, 1920 to Rose and John Francis Sheehan and began his lifelong journey of service to his Country, community, family, friends and church. After the War Frank formed Readers Service Bureau, Inc. (with Time, Inc.) and became a partner in Lightning Express, while attending Russell Sage College. In 1956, he founded Crest, Inc. and was president for 26-years until he retired. An ardent champion of the Guilderland Public Library, Frank served on its Board of Trustees and helped organize the Guilderland Library Foundation, becoming its president in 2006. While in the US Army, Frank met and married Joan Morrissey, a beautiful marriage that lasted nearly seventy years until Joan passed away on September 16, 2012. On January 17, 2013, two weeks before his 93rd birthday and four months after losing the love of his life, Frank Martin Sheehan passed away. He was an inspiration to everyone around him.

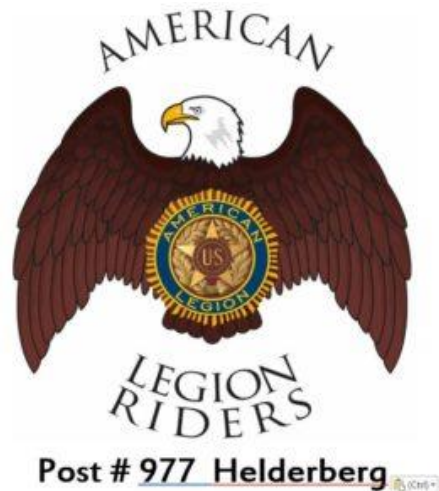
Sponsored by:



STEDMAN, HOLLIS L. – Chief Petty Officer – US Navy

OSC Hollis L. Stedman, born in March 1952, was a Retired United States Navy Veteran, proudly serving his country from 1975-1995. He was initially assigned to the USS Plymouth Rock LSD-29 from 1976-1979. He was later assigned to the USS Portland LSD-37 from 1982-1984, and was in the Mediterranean off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon in October 1983. Hollis was initiated as a Chief Petty Officer in 1991 and retired as a Navy Recruiter in 1995. He was employed at the Military Entrance Station in Albany, NY in 1999, retiring in 2013. OSC Stedman (Retired) passed away in November 2017. Often called “Sted”, one of his favorite quotes was: “Smooth seas never made a skilled sailor.”

Sponsored by:



TRAVERS, DANIEL J. – Colonel – US Army

Colonel Daniel J. Travers (Retired), originally from Troy (Lansingburgh), New York, is a 1978 graduate of Sienna College, and received his commission through the Siena College Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program in 1979. Assigned to the 1/105th Infantry Battalion, 42nd Infantry Division as a Medical Corps Officer, he served with the 105th Infantry Battalion while attending graduate school. Upon receiving his master's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1981, he entered active military service. Colonel Travers was assigned to the 72nd Field Artillery Brigade in Wertheim, Germany, serving as the Communications Platoon Leader and Brigade Communications-Electronics Officer. Upon returning from Europe, Colonel Travers was assigned to Fort Drum, New York with the 76th Engineer Battalion (Combat Heavy). Later he was assigned to the 41st Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) as the Battalion Communications-Electronics Officer/Battalion Adjutant. In 1985, Colonel Travis was released from active military duty and entered the New York Army National Guard. He served in successive assignments at the New York State Area Command as the Assistant State Signal Officer, Director of Information Technology, and the Director of Facilities Management and Engineering. His career took him to the 27th Infantry Brigade as a Safety Officer, assigned as the G6 for the 42nd Infantry Division, the "Rainbow Division", served at the World Trade Center, and in Tikrit, Iraq as part of Multinational Force North Central in the Sunni Triangle. Colonel Travers, along with the G6 section, the 250th Signal Battalion, and 17th Signal Battalion, deployed, operated, and maintained the most complex tactical and commercial federation of communications networks on earth. His last assignment was as the State Area Command-New York J6 in the Joint Force Headquarters. His awards include the Bronze Star, Iraqi Campaign Medal with 2 Service Stars, Legion of Merit, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and NYS Defense of Liberty Medal with WTC device for service at Ground Zero, along with other federal and state military awards. Colonel Travers (Retired) is employed as a Project Manager with the New York State Information Technology Services (ITS) assigned to the New York State Workers Compensation Board.

Sponsored by: Boy Scout Troop 1083



VIOLA, CHRISTIAN T. – Corporal – Infantry, US Marine Corp

Christian was born in Queens, NY 1994 and moved to Altamont, NY in 1999. He graduated Guilderland High School and went on to Hudson Valley Community College. He enlisted in the USMC April 2015 and graduated Boot Camp on July 24, 2015. He was assigned to 2/8 Battalion, Infantry, Weapons Co. Mortarmen. He quickly demonstrated leadership abilities and was appointed as a squad leader. He received LCP immediately and was then stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. He was sent to 29 Palms for training, then off on his first deployment. He traveled to MIHAIL KOGALNICEAU AIRFIELD, to Romania, Georgia and Latvia, serving with the Black Sea Rotational Force. He returned to the States, was promoted to Corporal and earned a few declarations of merit. Christian is now stationed at Camp Schwab Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan. He is a true Marine. Semper Fi, always faithful – and that is Christian to the core.

Sponsored by:



**WACKSMAN, ZACHARY J. – Senior Airman (SrA) – US
Air Force**

A1C Zachary J. Wacksman was born and raised in the Town of Guilderland. He graduated from Guilderland High School in 2012 and in 2015 he joined the US Air Force. Zach continues to be elevated in rank and was recently awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for his actions during Combat Hammer and Operation Inherent Resolve. Zack has three sisters, a brother, and parents Steve Wacksman and Kathy Burbank.

Sponsored by: The Wacksman & Burbank Families



WIER, JOSEPH J. Jr. – Seaman First Class – US Navy

Joseph J. Wier Jr. enlisted in the US Navy at age 17 and served during the Korean War between 1951 and 1955. He sailed with the Missouri, the WASP, CV18, CVB41, and the Midway ending his tour on the Coral Sea. He sailed in the Caribbean, Mediterranean, and in the North Atlantic. While on the WASP, escorted by the Hobson during night flight operations, the two ships collided, cutting the Hobson in half and tearing off 170-feet of the bow. The WASP returned to port in reverse for repairs. Joe received an honorable discharge in February of 1955 and returned home to work on the family farm and finish his education, ultimately receiving his high school diploma. Joe married Dorothy Bednarczyk from Schenectady in September 1957, and built their home on the family farm. He was initially employed by Dagastino Block. In 1963, he went to work at General Electric Company where he became a Master Locksmith. This eventually earned him the highest military clearance to work on setting safe locks for classified documents. Joe and Dorothy raised their family on the farm that they live on today.

Sponsored by: Greg Wier



WINTLE, CARTER A. – CS2 – US Navy

Carter Allen Wintle joined the US Navy in 1967 and proudly served as a commissary man on board the USBN Henry L. Stimson nuclear submarine from February 1968 to October 1971. During this time, Carter was deployed on seven, three month sea patrols in the Mediterranean Sea and North Atlantic. Stationed in New London, CT, he traveled to Spain, Scotland, and England. After serving his country, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from SUNY Albany, using the GI Bill and graduated with honors. Carter worked for the state of New York for 23 years, starting as an economist for the NYS Labor Department and later as a manager for NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, until he left for private industry in 2000. He retired as a Senior Vice President from Newkirk Products in Albany. Carter was heavily involved with the PTA while his children were in middle school and high school. He held numerous leadership positions such as president, co-president, vice president, treasurer, and PTA council representative. In addition, He was a long distance runner for over 20 years, completed 14 marathons and numerous half-marathons, 30k and 10k races, and served as president of the local runners' club, the HMRRC. He directed and co-directed the Manufacturers Hanover Corporate Challenge for 10 years. He now happily spends his retired days between Guilderland and Davenport, Florida, enjoying time with his family and improving his golf game. He is extremely proud of his children, Keri Wintle, an attorney in Boston, and Brynn Miltner, a probation officer for Albany County. His family is proud of the work ethic he shared with them growing up, and the 16 years he has spent successfully battling kidney cancer with a fierce and strong will. He is grandfather to Hannah and loving husband of 38 years to his wife, Linnea. He continues to cook and bake. Friends and family love his homemade blueberry, cherry, pumpkin, and apple pies.

Sponsored by: Linnea Andersson – Wintle





Hometown Heroes Weekend 2018



Photo Credit: Michael Mayer



Vietnam Moving Wall Memorial



Photo Credit: Michael
Mayer



Special Thanks...

*To all of our sponsors, families and
Hometown Heroes!*

*The Town of Guilderland and the
Guilderland Chamber of Commerce*

Biographies compiled by: Ed Czuchrey

*Biography website designed by: Sarah
Stedman*

PowerPoint created by: Amanda LaForte





Coming Soon!

2019's Hometown Heroes Banner Project