

# DOWNTOWN *Schenectady*

# ★ HOMETOWN ★ HEROES

PROJECT PRESENTED BY: DOWNTOWN SCHENECTADY IMPROVEMENT CORP. & THE CITY OF SCHENECTADY



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## CPT Clinton Churchill Brown – ARMY

CPT Clinton Churchill Brown was born on January 16, 1835 in Schenectady, New York to father Albert Brown and mother Jerusha Churchill. Albert Brown came to Schenectady in 1829 from Stockbridge, Massachusetts and started a furniture store named A. Brown and Son Company at 303 and 304 State Street. Clinton Brown enrolled in the military at Schoharie in 1861 and mustered in as a 2nd Lieutenant in Company F. Clinton Brown was eventually promoted to captain on June 6, 1863. He took command of the 134th NY Regiment on July 21st, 1864 after Colonel Allan Jackson was wounded at the Battle of Peachtree Creek in Georgia on the previous day. Clinton Brown was honorably discharged in 1865 with a captain's commission. Brown then moved back to Schenectady and replaced his recently deceased brother Theodore as a partner in A. Brown and Son Company. After the Civil War, Brown remained active in local and state military affairs. He was a charter member of the Washington Continentals, which became the 36th and 37th Company of the National Guard. He married Anna Ramsay on October 28, 1869 and had five children: Gertrude, Wayne, Albert, Theodore, and Horatio Brown. Clinton ran A. Brown and Son Company until 1902 when he turned the management of the store to his son, Albert Brown. Clinton C. Brown died on January 7, 1917 and was buried in Vale Cemetery in Schenectady, New York.



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## CPT Albert J. DeMarco – ARMY

CPT Albert J. DeMarco was born in Schenectady in January 1916 to Italian immigrants. He had six brothers and three sisters. At a very young age, he went to work for his Brother Joseph's business, Pine Grove Dairy Farms. He graduated from Nott Terrace High School in 1934. From 1938-1939 he attended Cornell University under the Agriculture and Dairyman's Program. In December 1942 he entered the U.S. Army with the 101st Cavalry. After numerous training schools he attained the rank of 2nd Lt. and was sent to the Pacific Theatre for 22 months. On April 6, 1945, he arrived on the Japanese island of Okinawa with the 81st Ordnance Division / Tank Maintenance Company, five days after the initial invasion. He spent over a year on the island and was released from duty in March of 1946 at the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal and a Meritorious Service Unit Plaque. Albert later returned home to the family business, he married and raised four children. Albert passed away while at work on August 10, 1971, and is interred at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Niskayuna, NY.



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## PFC Edward C. Pangburn – ARMY

PFC Edward C Pangburn was born April 19, 1919, in Schenectady NY. He grew up on Summit Avenue, graduated from Mont Pleasant High School in 1938, and then went to work at General Electric. He enlisted in the Army on July 9, 1942, at the age of 23. He was in boot camp at Fort Knox and was trained as a mechanic for armored vehicles. He left for overseas in February 1943. PFC Pangburn was in the battles at Normandy, North France, Sicily and Tunisia in World War II. PFC Pangburn was wounded in the battle at Pont Farcy, France on August 4, 1944. His tank received a direct hit from the enemy and he was the only one to survive in his tank crew. He had 2nd and 3rd degree burns over his entire back and arms and spent a year in a hospital in England before he was able to return home. PFC Pangburn was honorably discharged on September 14, 1945, at Fort Dix, New Jersey. For his service, PFC Pangburn was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal and Purple Heart.

After World War II, PFC Pangburn returned to work at GE and retired in 1984 with 42 years service. He met his wife there and together they had nine children, 12 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren with another one on the way.

Ed died on October 16, 1989, after six months in Boston trying to recover from complications from heart surgery. He is buried at Vale Cemetery.

**Banner Sponsored by: His Loving Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren**



## PFC George Pennell – ARMY

A lifelong Schenectady resident, George was a graduate of Nott Terrace High School. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1954. After his military service, George was employed at the Power & Light Company and General Electric. In 1961, he opened the Esso Gas Station on the corner of Nott Street and Van Vranken Avenue, and in 1970 he opened the Mobil Service Station at the intersection of Curry Road and Hamburg Street in Rotterdam. Years later he spent time working with autistic children at Woodlawn School, a job he found truly rewarding.

George was passionate about baseball and played on the U.S. Army European Team. He later was drafted to play semi-pro baseball. Over the years, he coached a number of youth baseball leagues including Northside, Mohawk Valley, Town Majors and Carman little league. A lover of sports, he also boxed and was an avid bowler, appearing on WRGB's TV Tournament Time.

He was a member of the Rotterdam Elks Club and the VFW.

George passed away on Monday, April 28, 2014, one day shy of his 81st birthday.

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## LCDR Chester Watson – NAVY

Chet entered the U.S. Navy in 1957. During his Navy career, Chet served as Engineering Watch Officer on the USS Enterprise CVN 65 and the USS Long Beach CGN 9 reactor plants. He also served as construction manager for new construction, refueling, and overhaul of the reactor propulsion plants for Navy surface ships and submarines. He retired from the Navy in 1988 as a Lt. Commander. Following his retirement from the Navy, he served as a project officer for the U.S. Department of Energy based at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory (KAPL) in Niskayuna.

Chet & Susan have been married for 49 years, have five children and seven grandchildren and have lived in Glenville for 41 years. Chet is still very active in the community. Currently, he is a Committee Member of the Glenville Local Development Corp. and is a member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Council.

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## 1<sup>ST</sup> LT John J. Neary, Jr. – AIR FORCE

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## S1 Frank F. Baron – NAVY

S1 Frank Baron was born on January 22, 1923. He proudly served in WW II in the the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946. He bravely served aboard the USS Tulagi, which loaded planes with ammo and aircraft gear, ferried stores, airplanes and military personnel to Iwo Jima. It also supplied air support and antisubmarine patrols. After its long and arduous tour, the Tulagi received four Battle Stars for its service in WW II. Frank didn't speak much of his tour of duty but left these important dates in his own personal journal: "6-6-45 arrived in Guam to unload ammo and aircraft gear, 6-8-45 heading for home... at last!, 6-17-45 arrived at Pearl, 6-18-45 USA... here we come!" Frank lived the rest of his short life in Schenectady married to Condidia Ippoliti and raised four children. He worked for many years at the General Electric Company. He loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter and fisherman and ran a small bait shop in the Mont Pleasant area of Schenectady. He died in 1981 at the age of 58.

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## SPC Angelo Santabarbara – ARMY

Born on September 14, 1972, in the city of Schenectady, SPC Angelo Santabarbara is a first-generation Italian-American. He joined the U.S. Army after graduating from Schalmont High School in 1990 and completed his training at the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, before attending the U.S. Army Quartermaster School in Fort Lee, Virginia.

As an Army Specialist, Santabarbara served in the United States Army Reserve for eight years with an honorable discharge in 1998 and has remained involved with local veterans service organizations.

He is the founder of the first Amvets Post in his hometown of Rotterdam and served as Post Commander from 2012 to 2015. He was elected in 2007 to the Schenectady County Legislature where he served on the Veterans Committee.

SPC Santabarbara currently holds public office as a New York State Assemblyman representing the 111th District, which includes Montgomery County and parts of Schenectady and Albany counties. He is a graduate of SUNY Albany and a Professional Engineer. He worked in Civil Engineering for more than 15 years before taking office, where he continues his service on the New York State Assembly Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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## YN1 Vivian Eagan – NAVY

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## COL Christopher Yates – ARMY

Colonel Christopher Yates was born on July 8, 1737, in Alplaus, NY. His career in the army began during the French and Indian War and he was wounded at the Battle of Carillon. During the American Revolution, he lived at 26 Front Street in Schenectady and was considered "one of the best informed and efficient patriots in the Mohawk Valley." On January 13, 1776, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 2nd Albany County Militia. He served on the staff of General Philip Schuyler at Fort Ann as a deputy quartermaster-general and was promoted to the rank of colonel. After the evacuation of Fort Ann, he had command of a body of Schenectady militia engaged in felling trees to stop the progress of General Burgoyne's army. He served during the rest of the war in the Quartermaster's Department as a deputy. Christopher Yates died in 1785.

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## SGT Kelly Ann Vincent – ARMY

SGT Kelly Vincent is currently the Client Data Manager at Transfinder, a home grown Schenectady company. She grew up in Upstate NY and joined the Army right out of high school. Kelly received the Achievement Medal and a Meritorious Service Ribbon during her time in service. In 2010, she graduated from Empire State College with a Bachelors degree in Business Management & Economics, thanks in part to GI Bill benefits from her time in the Army.

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## SP4 Lawrence Milliman – ARMY

SP4 Lawrence D. Milliman attended Schenectady schools and was drafted in 1964 into the Army. He served from 1964-1966 and served one tour with the 61st Transportation Company in Damang, Vietnam. When he returned home, he worked for General Electric and was a member of the VFW Post 1895.

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## Unified Military Affairs Council

UMAC's mission is to highlight the importance of the military presence in the Capital Region and Tech Valley. Its number one goal is to ensure the long term viability and success of Stratton Air National Guard Base and the Navy Operation Support Center in Glenville, NY, as well as other military units in the Capital Region which have a profound effect on our local economy.

UMAC strives to facilitate a symbiotic partnership between the community and military by increasing public knowledge of the contributions made by local military units in the Capital Region, all of which impact our global, national, state, and regional economy. UMAC highlights positive partnerships that the military has already formed with State and Federal agencies so all parties understand the vital role our Capital Region military units play in securing our nation.

UMAC also brings attention to the wide community support and pride for our local military units, as well as their significant local volunteer contributions, such as:

- Mentorship Program at Yates Elementary School
- Schenectady Holiday Parade Marshals
- Salvation Army Holiday Food Basket Delivery
- Capital District Construction Career Days
- Greater Capital Region Science and Engineering Fair
- Educational Partnership with Proctors
- Schenectady Inner City Ministries Summer Lunch Program
- Naval Sea Cadet Corps
- American Red Cross Blood Drives
- Caps for Kids Program

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## **CPL George W. Tompkins – ARMY**

CPL George W. Tompkins was born in Otisville, New York. He came to Schenectady to establish a bakery on the corner of Jay Street and Union Street. Tompkins is a Civil War veteran and it was reported that he went to war at Lincoln's first call. He fought in the Battles of Bull Run, Antietam and Gettysburg. At Petersburg on April 1, 1865, he was awarded the Medal of Bravery for an act on March 25, 1845, where he captured a rebel flag. His regiment of three years is known as the "Orange Blossoms."

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## **SSG Salvatore F. Cerniglia – ARMY**

SSG Salvatore F. Cerniglia served in the Army during WWII as part of the 1st Division 16th Infantry. He was part of the several invasions and campaigns including: Campaign Algeria-French Morocco 1942; Invasion of Tunisia 1943; Invasion of Sicily 1944; Invasion of Rhineland Germany 1944; Invasion of Normandy 1944; and Northern France Campaign 1944. He was awarded the bronze star for his actions during the invasion of Normandy.

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## **LCPL Peter Nocera, Jr. – ARMY**

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## LT Joseph W. Kennedy – ARMY

Born January 17, 1921, Joseph was brought to Schenectady at the age of 2 and raised by his two aunts - both teachers in the Schenectady City School District. He attended Parochial schools in Schenectady graduating from CBA, Albany. He was a member of the first graduating class of Siena College and went on to Albany Law School. During his time at the law school, WWII broke out and he volunteered to serve. Before leaving for war, he met and married his wife, Emeline, in Nashville, Tenn. Joseph then went off to serve in the Pacific. He was involved in the battle of Pelelu, a bloody battle on a Pacific Island. Originally scheduled to be part of the invasion force of Japan, course of the war led him to be part of the occupation. Returning from the war, Joe returned to Nashville to pick up his wife and child and came back to his hometown, Schenectady. He finished Law School in 1947 and started to practice law in the Law Firm of Begley, Diamond and Begley. (Owen Begley was a Mayor of Schenectady during this time). After some time, he began his own practice of law in downtown Schenectady. When he retired in 2007 he had practiced law for 60 years. Joseph passed away at the age of 89.

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## QM1 Thomas Leo Houck – NAVY

QM1 Thomas Leo Houck served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Lapon (SS-269) a Gato-class submarine at Pearl Harbor 1943-1946.

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## PFC Walter W. Simmons – ARMY

PFC Walter W. Simmons was born on March 22, 1925. He served in WWII in the U.S. Army, 407th Infantry Regiment, June 1943 – March 1946. He was one of the soldiers that landed at Normandy. Walter was a Military Policeman 677, that enforced military law and discipline in the European Theatre. He acted as train guard, rode trains guarding supplies and prevented dtealing and pilfering. He also drove trucks for company, services the trucks and performed minor repairs. Walter serves in France and Germany and was awarded the American Theatre Ribbon, European Theatre Ribbon, American Campaign Medal, European African Medal, Eastern Campain Medal and WWII Victory Medal. He really never spoke of his military service until the May before his passing. Walter worked for Knolls Atomic Power Lab for many years. He loved his family and he enjoyed flowers and gardening. He also was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons, grandsons and only daughter. Walter lived in the area all of his life, until his passing on June 7, 2009, at the age of 84.

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## PH3 William E. Brown – NAVY

PH3 William (Bill) Brown entered service in 1967 with the United States Navy Reserve. He entered service at the tail end of the Vietnam War. Bill was first stationed and served in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Later, Bill was stationed aboard the USS Forrestal (CV-59) multi-purpose aircraft carrier, which deployed to Mediterranean waters four times between 1968 and 1973; she sped to Tunisia for rescue operations in the flooded Medjerda River Valley near Tunis. William E. Brown was honorably discharged from service in 1973 at the rank of Photographer's Mate Third Class.

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## PFC George Bruce Gunn – ARMY

George Bruce Gunn left Mont Pleasant High School in February of 1967 and joined the U.S. Army. After completing basic training, he also completed his Airborne Course in July of 1967 and became a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. The following month he left for active duty in Vietnam. He was only 18 years old and the only child of Angeline and David Gunn. He was reported MIA on November 10th and reported KIA on Veterans Day, November 11th, 1967. George was awarded several medals for bravery and valor including The Army Commendation Medal, The Bronze Star and The Purple Heart. He was instrumental in supplying ammo to fellow comrades and the line of fire and lost his life in The Battle for Dak To. George's dad passed away in 2007. Shortly before his mom passed away, she was presented with George's High School diploma through the New York State Assembly. On the day of her funeral in August of 2013, she posthumously was presented with The Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Certificate of Honor. She was also a Gold Star Mother and they were both very proud of their soldier.

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## LCPL Sharon Rexford – MARINE CORPS

LCPL Sharon Rexford enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1987 and earned the title "Marine" at Parris Island, SC, in January of 1988. Following boot camp, she received orders to the Avionics Technician School at NAS Memphis. There she received a meritorious promotion for being the top Marine in her class. Following "A" school, she worked on navigational and communication systems for KC-130s, EA-6s, and F/A-18s while stationed at MCAS Futenma in Okinawa, Japan and at MCAS El Toro in Orange County, CA. Sharon currently works for Transfinder in Downtown Schenectady as an Instructional Designer and Documentarian.

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## LCPL Harold Willette – MARINE CORPS

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## 1LT Tyler Vorpahl – ARMY

1LT Tyler Vorpahl is a Software Developer at Transfinder in Downtown Schenectady. After four years in the Siena College ROTC program, he commissioned in May 2013 as a Second Lieutenant into the New York Army National Guard branching in Aviation. Shortly after commissioning, he spent 14 months in Fort Rucker, Alabama, where he successfully graduated as a UH-60 Black Hawk Pilot. 1LT Vorpahl is currently a Platoon Leader in Alpha Company, 3-142 Assault Helicopter Battalion in Latham, NY.

**Banner Sponsored by: Transfinder**



## MSGT Adolph J. Czyzewski – ARMY

Adolph J. Czyzewski, after graduating from Draper High School, enlisted into active service in the United States Army, retiring as a Master Sergeant in 1961. "Sarge," as he was known, served a total of 34 years for the Federal Government – 20 years for U.S. Army and 14 for the U.S. Postal Service. He served as a member of the 84th and 97th Signal Corp. during World War II and the Korean War. He was responsible for the control and coordination of the wire-laying team in England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany. He was also responsible for the installation and repair of telephone lines. His decorations include the American Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Europe-African Middle Eastern Medal and NYS Certificate of Merit. Just prior to his death, he was awarded the Liberty Medal from Senator Hugh Farley for serving in France during the liberation in World War II.

After retiring from the U.S. Army, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service and was also a Deputy Sheriff for Schenectady County. He was a member of the 97th Signal Battalion Association and attended numerous reunions sponsored by them. He also was a member of the American Legion, Watervliet BPOE, National Association of Letter Carriers and Rod and Gun Clubs both in Europe and the United States.

During his retirement, his interests were traveling with his wife Dorothy and spending time with his grandchildren who affectionately called him "Pop."

**Banner Sponsored by: Shawn, Summer, Caitlin, Tyler & Kyle**



## LCPL Raymond Lee Hyson – MARINE CORPS

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**EN Harry White – NAVY**

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**SGT Charles V. Barkowski – ARMY**

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**BT2 William T. Tiernan, Jr. – NAVY**

BT2 William T. Tiernan, Jr. enlisted in the Navy on December 6, 1950, and served as a Boiler Technician on the USS Casa Grande (LSD-13) until his honorable discharge on October 20, 1954. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

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## SPC Shawn P. Latour – ARMY

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## EN3 Patrick J. O'Connor – NAVY

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## SSGT Julius Wukitsch, Jr. – AIR FORCE

SSGT Julius Wukitsch, Jr. served during WWII in the Air Force from 1942-1945. SSGT Wukitsch participated in fifteen separate bomber combat missions over enemy occupied Continental Europe. On March 6, 1944 while on his 15th bomber mission over Berlin, Germany his plane was shot down, he was captured and became a prisoner of war from March 6, 1944 - April 26, 1945 when he was liberated by the US infantry near Bitterfeld, Germany. SSGT Wukitsch received his first Air Medal on December 18, 1943, the 2nd Air Medal on February 16, 1944, the European-African-Middle Western Service Medal and and Air Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

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**GYSGT Timothy Ingoldsby Sr. – MARINE CORPS**

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**S1 Louis D. Zampella – NAVY**

Seaman 1st Class, Louis D. Zampella was born on April 5, 1928, in Schenectady, NY. Louis Zampella enlisted in the U.S. Navy, February 22, 1946. Seaman Louis Zampella served on the USS Joseph P. Kennedy, which was commissioned in Boston in 1945. The new destroyer sailed its maiden voyage that February to the Caribbean for training and is currently preserved as a floating museum in Fall River, MA. After his service in the Navy, Louis returned to Schenectady and married his wife of 62 years, Pauline Kornacki, and together they had three children. Louis worked for the City of Schenectady for 39 years in Public Works and later for the Police Department. He passed away in 2011 and is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

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**CPL James E. DiDonna – MARINE CORPS**

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**PFC Elio DiGesuald Sr. – ARMY**

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**CPL Louis F. DeVito – ARMY**

After being drafted to the Army, Louis served his country during World War II in the Pacific. Upon his return to the states, he joined his father and brother as a mason with DeVito & Sons Construction Company, building many homes and businesses in Schenectady. He currently resides in Schenectady with his family.

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**PFC James Sherwin Pittman – ARMY**

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## SGT Vincent J. Musco – ARMY

SGT Vincent J. Musco was assigned to the 11th Light Infantry Brigade, American Division, near Duc Pho, Vietnam. SGT Musco was awarded the Sharpshooter and Pistol Expert Medals. He was twice given the Purple Heart medal and received the Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal, Efficiency Honor Fidelity Medal, and Conspicuous Service Medal from New York State.

**Banner Sponsored by: Rosann Musco, Tony Musco, John Musco, & Paul Pakan**



## SP4 Donald B. Kearney – ARMY

Donald B. Kearney served in the United States Army for one year from September 14, 1967 until April 4, 1968. He did a tour in South Vietnam. During his time, he received many honors and awards including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, Good Conduct, and the Military Merit Medal.

**Banner Sponsored by: George, Bernard, Connie, & Lois**



## EM3 Charles S. Cole – NAVY

Charles S. Cole, a lifelong Schenectady resident and graduate of Nott Terrace High School. Served in the U.S. Navy during World War II from July 1944 through May 1946. After receiving his basic training in Sampson, NY., he served building naval air bases in Leyte Gulf, Philippines on a program known as "ACORN 30", and later served on the aircraft carriers USS Antietam and USS Hancock. For his service he was awarded the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Asiatic Pacific Medal, the Victory Medal and the American Theater Medal.

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## **PFC Richard Mahoney – ARMY**

Richard C. Mahoney, a lifelong Schenectady resident, graduate of Nott Terrace High School and Albany Jr Business College. Served in the U.S. Army out of Ft. Bragg, NC from September 1946 to March 1948. Served with the 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment, as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. Performed the duties of a light truck driver. Drove trucks of 2.5 Ton capacity in the transportation of personnel and equipment. Was familiar with civilian and military traffic law and regulations. Drove “weasels” in Operation “Snowdrop” He was president of the former Mahoney Hardware Co where he had worked in the family business for more than 50 years. The store was closed in 1998 after 95 years.



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## **PVT Anthony A. Farina – ARMY**

PVT Anthony A. Farina (Tony) was born in Schenectady on February 19, 1925, son of Italian Immigrants, Michele and Luigia (Ferri) Farina (Posta Fibreno, Italy). Tony was a proud veteran, serving during WWII from 1943 to 1946 with the 518th Port Battalion, 900th Infantry and the 726 Military Police. He served in an Army port company with the 518th Port Battalion at Utah Beach for the Normandy invasion. Tony’s job was to drive trucks from the beach to supply dumps further inland. By July the French port of Cherbourg had been liberated and made operational. Tony’s company was sent there where he worked guard duty until December of 1944. When the Allies were surprised by the German’s Ardennes Offensive, service troops were asked to volunteer for combat. Tony was on the front lines in the Battle of the Bulge for just two days when he got wounded. After recovering Tony was shipped to Japan. He was in a military police (MP) battalion for just a few weeks when Japan finally surrendered. Tony earned a Purple Heart, a Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star and five major battle stars. After returning from war, Tony graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School, married Anita La Malfa and had four children. He worked at General Electric Company in the Motor and Generator Division, retiring after 40 years of service. Tony also owned and operated a successful photography business, Photography by Tony, specializing in wedding photography for over 40 years. He died in 2015 in Rotterdam, NY at the age of 90.



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## **T4 Mario V. Farina – ARMY**

T4 Mario V. Farina was born in Schenectady, New York and has worked all his life, from age 18 to 90. He worked for the American Locomotive Company, served in the U. S. Army during WWII as a Radio Operator in the China/Burma/India Theater, and was employed at General Electric. In 1973, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York. He retired from GE in 1982 and accepted a position at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) as a microcomputer consultant. After leaving his position with RPI, he became employed with the State Labor Department of New York. He's a car buff, a pun creator, and a computer enthusiast. He wrote textbooks for the programming languages COBOL and FORTRAN and wrote a book of puns and short stories called, "A Little Light Reading," as well as over 20 other books. Several of his books were translated into other languages.

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## **CPL Manuel Steele – MARINE CORPS**

**Banner Sponsored by: St. Anne Institute**



## **SSGT Raymond M. Circe – ARMY**

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