

DOWNTOWN
Schenectady
2024

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HEROES

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

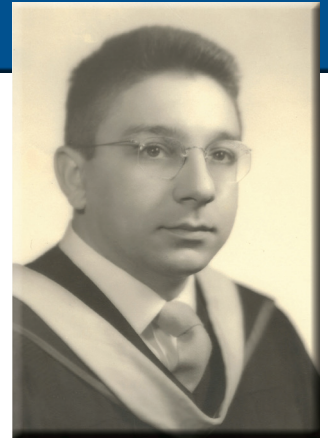


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MML2 Emanuel “Manny” Aragosa – NAVY

MML2 Emanuel “Manny” Aragosa, 90, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2021. The son of the late Joseph and Rafaella (Mauro) Aragosa, he was born in Schenectady on November 5, 1931. A 1949 graduate of Nott Terrace High School, he graduated magna cum laude from Siena College with a BS in Economics in 1953. Manny served in the US Navy from 1954 to 1956 and was employed as a cost accountant by G.E. in Schenectady for 8 years. On April 30, 1955, he married Marilyn Thimineur at Sacred Heart Church. After 16 years as a National Cash Register salesman, he became the owner of Marty’s Hardware on Van Vranken Avenue in 1974. A family business, Marty’s True Value focused on personalized customer service, and Manny took pride in the fact that the store remained open for business during two relocations and several renovations. Manny and his wife Marilyn were also instrumental in founding the Northside Business Association. Church organist at Sacred Heart and Saint Anthony’s Churches, Manny also served as Vice President of the board of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and was a Patron of the Arts. An active member of his community, he was a member of the Boy’s Club Advisory Board, the Human Rights Commission of Schenectady County, and the Schenectady City School District Advisory Board; and served as President of Northside Little League. Manny joined the Order of the Sons of Italy in America (O.S.I.A.) in 1970 serving as trustee, orator, and lodge president.

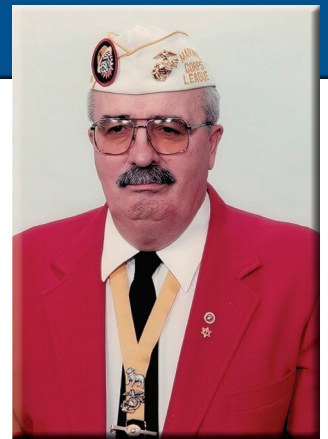


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CPL Robert Becker – MARINE CORPS

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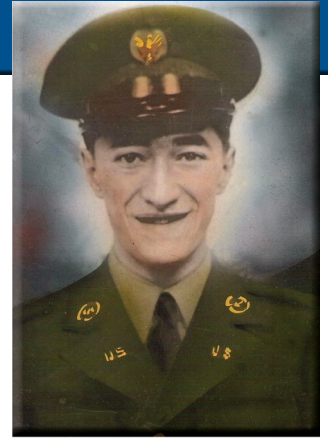


TEC15 Noe F. Boilard – ARMY

TEC15 Noe F. Boilard enlisted in the Army on November 4, 1942, went to basic training at Camp Stewart, GA, and was a lineman for the HQ Battery 471st CA Bn. They were sent to Florida Island August 1943 to March, 44, then to Emirau (Squally) Island March, 1944 to December 1944. Then Northern Solomons December 1944 to January 1946. He was awarded the WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, Philippines Liberation Ribbon with the Bronze Star, and the Lapel Button.

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SGT Harold T. Brown – ARMY

SGT Harold T. Brown, a U.S. Army Korean War Combat Veteran and Former POW, was born on May 16, 1930, in Manhattan, New York. He resided in Rotterdam. Harry enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 16, 1948, to the 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Division, Baker Company. Courageous in duty, he was captured and imprisoned by enemy forces from 1950 – 1953 at North Korean Prison Camp #5. Harry survived numerous escape attempts and the Manchurian Death March. Following his emancipation, Harry was honored with several medals and awards, receiving two bronze stars, one for valor. After the war, Harry and his wife, Josephine, raised four daughters: Lorraine Brown, Kathleen Curtis, Vanessa Noxon, and Patricia Wilson. He purchased lakefront at Crown Point. On this Lake George property, he made a seasonal retreat for family and friends. He spent much time fishing and boating with his friend, Dick, and was always witnessed taking in the view with Josephine. Harry was an empathetic and humble soul, always ready to drop what he was doing to help others. He was a man of infectious humor and skillful storytelling. Unlike many, he talked about his experience in war, knowing that it would guide his fellow man for generations to come. Having passed away January 20, 2022, Harry now rests in Gerald B.H. Soloman Saratoga National Cemetery. His book, Korea: Camp 5, is to be released soon and will offer the reader a detailed account of military imprisonment from the perspective of a former Prisoner of War.



Banner Sponsored by: **Harry's Loving Family "We Will Never Forget"**

CTA2 John Terence 'Terry' Burns – ARMY

CTA2 John Terence 'Terry' Burns was born in Schenectady, NY on June 15, 1943, the son of John and Gladys (Mudge) Burns. Terry graduated from Linton High School, class of '61 and later from Union College, class of '65. He then worked for National Commercial Bank and Trust in Albany, NY, before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1966. After being honorably discharged from his military service in 1970, Terry returned to work at the bank, which eventually became known as Key Bank NA. In 1987, he was transferred to Key Bank of Maine in Augusta, ME, where he continued to work for a total of 35 years, retiring from Key Corp in 2000 as Sr. Vice President. He was a founding board member of the Maine Children's Trust and served as treasurer and on the Executive Board for several years. Terry passed away on August 30, 2012, at age 69.

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EMP Aldo Bursi – NAVY | PVT. Anthony Bursui – ARMY

EMP Aldo Bursi | PVT. Anthony Bursui | The Bursi brothers were in service for their country from 1952-1955. Anthony Bursui as Private First Class served in the Army during the Korean War. Aldo Bursi as Electrician's Mate Third Class in the Navy during the Korean War. Aldo also served on the U.S.S. Salem in the Mediterranean and on the U.S.S. Baltimore in the Far East. Aldo retired from General Electric in Schenectady in February 1996. He currently resides in Rotterdam, New York. Anthony passed away in June 2021.

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TEC5 Anthony Campo – ARMY

TEC5 Anthony Campo immigrated from Italy as a young child. He became a citizen and resided in Goose Hill in Schenectady until his death. He served in WWII and was awarded the good conduct medal, American Campaign Metal, WWII Victory Metal, Army of Occupation Metal with German Clasp, and Marksman Badge. He was an avid golfer and a welder at General Electric until his retirement. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and loved by all. He was proud and grateful to be an American and he served his country with love and dignity.

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COL Jacob J. DeForest – ARMY

COL Jacob J. DeForest, born near Rotterdam, NY, on October 10, 1820, was the oldest child of Jacob and Anna Schermerhorn DeForest. He attended the Schenectady Lyceum, then apprenticed under James A. VanVoast as a carpenter and builder. In 1844, he moved to Albany where he worked as a successful contractor. On December 28, 1855, he was commissioned engineer of the 25th Regiment of the 11th Brigade, 3rd Division of New York. He earned several promotions, rising to the rank of Colonel of the 81st Regiment of NY Volunteers in 1862. At the battle of Fair Oaks, Virginia, 1862, he was shot through the lung, hospitalized, and furloughed home to recover. After rejoining his unit on September 1, he participated in the unsuccessful Siege of Charleston. DeForest was briefly placed in command of the sub-district of Beaufort, NC, then joined Grant's forces in Virginia where he participated in campaigns from the battle of Cold Harbor until the end of the war. DeForest was hospitalized again and mustered out September 1, 1864, although he retained command of the regiment until the end of the war. After the war, he worked under Governor Morgan and served as escort for Lincoln's funerary tour. In his later years, he lived on the family farm in Duanesburg, NY, and was active in community affairs. DeForest had three wives, and 12 children, 7 of whom lived to adulthood. He died at his home at Cady's Corners, Rotterdam on March 14, 1904.



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CPT Martin J. DeForest – ARMY

CPT Martin J. DeForest, born near Rotterdam in Schenectady County on June 23, 1839, was one of 12 children of Jacob and Anna Schermerhorn DeForest. In 1861, he enlisted with the 25th Regiment in Albany at the age of 22. Four of his brothers also enlisted. He later joined the 81st Regiment and earned several promotions during his service. He earned the rank of Captain in 1863. At the Battle of Cold Harbor in 1864, he sustained gunshot wounds which led to the amputation of his foot. He was then honorably discharged due to physical disability. After the Civil War, DeForest worked for the Federal Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands until 1868. He then worked as a clerk in the registry department of the NY Post Office in Brooklyn, a position he held for forty years. DeForest was married twice and had three children. He died at his home in Brooklyn in February 1908 after an extended illness.



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SGT Frank J. Farina – AIR NATIONAL GUARD

SGT Frank J. Farina was born in 1948 to parents Frank and Frances. He was raised in the Bellevue neighborhood of Schenectady where he spent time with his grandparents who had immigrated to Schenectady from Italy, as well as his many aunts, uncles, and cousins. When Frank was 14-years old, he began playing lead guitar with Eddy and the Premieres. They competed in battle of the band's events with Boom Boom Brannigan, including at Rollarama. It was there that Frank met his future wife. Frank played in many bands including Bits and Pieces, Tony and the Goldtones and Capital Stuff. He graduated from Mont Pleasant H.S. in 1966 and attended HVCC before enlisting with the 109th Airlift Wing, NY Air National Guard (ANG). He completed basic training at Lackland and specialized training in engine mechanics at Sheppard Airforce Base. Frank spent six-years in the ANG at Stratton where he repaired the engines of planes used to drop supplies to U.S. troops in the Vietnam War. Simultaneously, Frank worked at Schenectady Herald Printing Co. before beginning a 41-year career with General Electric where he was responsible for ensuring energy was supplied to the entire Schenectady campus. He also worked part-time assisting his father, a master tailor, at his shop, Farina's Tailoring & Formal Wear. Frank and his wife have now been married for 50 years and have a daughter. He spent many years coaching her teams for Scotia-Glenville girls' softball. Now retired, Frank most enjoys spending time with his grandchildren.



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SP4 George Fredericks – ARMY

Banner Sponsored by: **The Fredericks Family**



SP5 Michael A Furnari – ARMY

SP5 Michael A Furnari was born in Amsterdam, NY on March 29th, 1950. Michael grew up in Rotterdam, NY. His family-owned Terry's grocery. Michael made personal sacrifices in order to help his family succeed. After his father became ill, he had to stop his education at Mohonasen High School to help his family business. Years later, their business and home were lost to a fire. In December 1967, Michael enlisted in the Army, he completed his basic training at Fort Dix. Upon completion of this, he went to Fort Bliss, where he trained to be a Fire Control Operator for Hawk Missiles. Michael was still determined to continue his education and at Fort Bliss he earned his GED for New York State. Shortly after, Michael received orders to Okinawa. Here he was attached to the 412th Transportation Detachment Unit at Naha Port, Okinawa. He found out that there was a critical shortage of Fire Control Operators at the 30th Artillery Brigade for Hawk missiles and volunteered for reassignment. He received a Certificate of Achievement Award for Combat Readiness in his brigade. In December 1970, Michael was honorably discharged. This began his career in management at Montgomery Wards. He then married the love of his life, Nancy Gray; they had two children Tracy and Michael. He had been chapter president of Operation Friendship of America. In 1980, Michael started working for Ecolab and retired after 31 years of service. He has lived for the last 40 years in Rotterdam, New York.



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PFC Eugene H. Gierka – AIR FORCE

PFC Eugene H. Gierka was born on August 7, 1924 to Joseph Gierka (Gorke) and Josephine (Miecznikowski) Gierka. He was inducted into the Army Air Force in March 1943 and after completing Basic Training he served in the European Theater as an Engine Specialist on P 38 J Lockheed Lightnings with the 39th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, 10th Photo Group. He earned 5 Battle Stars for France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Germany. Gene was married to his wife Helen (Slivenski) on October 20, 1945, after a brief courtship while on leave from the Army Air Force. They enjoyed 69 years of marriage, during which they built several homes and camps together, traveled to Poland to meet their extended families and provided love, care and countless wonderful times to their many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and other children. Gene worked for Norton Company (formerly Behr-Manning) in Watervliet for 37 years and did consulting work as an engineer after his retirement. His wife passed away in 2015 and Gene died December 3, 2020, at the age of 96.

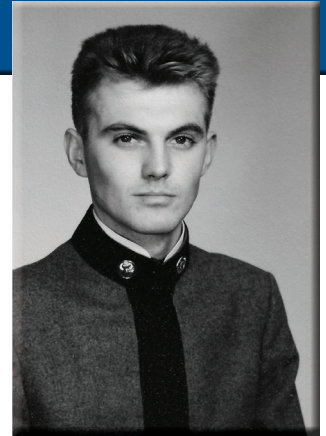


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ACAN Thomas R. Haberbush – ARMY

ACAN Thomas R. Haberbush was born on May 22, 1932, to Walter Haberbush and Adelaide (Gallagher) Haberbush. Tom was a lifelong resident of Niskayuna. He attended Van Antwerp School K-9 and then Mont Pleasant High School. In 1951 he enlisted in the Navy and served during the Korean War. He completed Aviation School and became an Air Controlman Ariman (ACAN). He was honorably discharged in 1955. Tom attended Pennsylvania Military College (PMC) where he earned a BS, and later attended University at Albany where he earned two master's degrees. He spent the majority of his career in education and was an active community volunteer into his 80s. Tom married, raised four children and had three grandchildren. He passed away on May 29, 2015, and is incredibly missed.

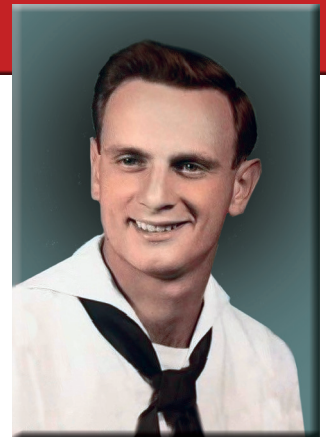


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PO1 James H. Hayden – AIR FORCE

PO1 James H. Hayden, a lifelong resident and the eldest of 4 children was born in Schenectady on October 2, 1929. He attended Christian Brothers Academy but chose to forego his education, enlisting in the US Navy in 1948 and later received his GED while serving. He was a veteran of the Korean War and after 9 years and several different overseas stations, including Guam and the Philippines, he was honorably discharged in 1957. He returned to Schenectady and lived in the Goose Hill neighborhood for the remainder of his life with his wife and four children. He joined the Schenectady Fire Department in 1961 and after 27 years retired with the rank of Captain. After retirement he worked alongside his brother-in-law and owner at Marty's Hardware for many years. He was known for being a prankster and enjoyed making people laugh. He was a card shark and could win a game of double deck pinochle with the lowest ranking card. He loved tinkering in the garage or basement and was a true handyman and could fix just about anything. Above all else he was dedicated to his family and those he loved. Sadly, Jim died on January 23, 1999, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. Jim spent his entire life protecting and serving others and we thank him for his service and for putting the lives of everyone else above his own. He is greatly missed.



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CPL Joel Herrera – MARINE CORPS

CPL Joel Herrera, born with a spirit of duty, embarked on his path of service when he joined the United States Marine Corps in 1997. Joel served as a Helicopter Airframe and Hydraulics Mechanic, specializing in the maintenance of iconic aircraft such as the Huey and Cobra. Stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, he found himself thrust into the dynamic landscape of military deployments across the Eastern Hemisphere, including Japan, Korea, Thailand, and Australia. During one such deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Joel crossed the Equator, earning the esteemed title of “Shellback” in a time-honored maritime tradition. After leaving the Marine Corps with the rank of Corporal and an Honorable Discharge, Joel transitioned to civilian life. In pursuit of further education and personal development, he graduated from Schenectady County Community College and continued with his education at Syracuse University, College of Professional Studies. In 2005, he began his tenure as a Court Officer with the State of New York. Simultaneously, Joel answered the call to return to service, joining the New York State Air National Guard, and rising to the position of First Sergeant in the 109th Airlift Wing, where he continues to serve. As a Guardsman, he has served in support of the COVID-19 Pandemic Response, flooding in the New York Great Lakes Region, and the NYANG Missions in Antarctica and Greenland. Joel and his wife Samantha reside in Rotterdam, where they are raising their six children, Zoey, Skye, Violet, Charlotte, Annette, and Juliet.

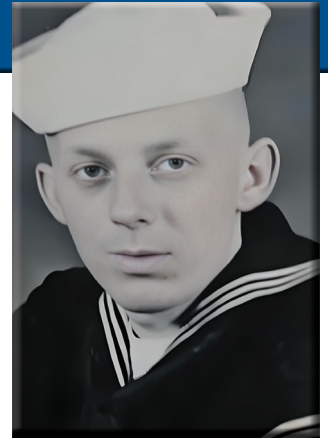


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BT3 Arthur F. Howland Jr. – ARMY

BT3 Arthur F. Howland Jr. was born and raised in Rotterdam on July 20th, 1943, Arthur Franklin Howland Jr. epitomized the spirit of service and hard work instilled by his parents, Arthur, and Verna Howland. His journey is one of unwavering commitment to his country and community. Arthur answered the call to duty and proudly served as a Boiler Technician Third Class (BT3) in the United States Navy during the tumultuous years of the Vietnam War. His valor and courage in defense of his nation's ideals stand as a testament to his patriotism and selflessness. Transitioning from military service, Arthur continued his legacy of service as a Lieutenant in the Fire Department at the Watervliet Arsenal. Here, he embodied the principles of leadership and sacrifice, ensuring the safety and security of his fellow citizens. His dedication extended beyond the confines of his professional responsibilities; Arthur also served as a past 2nd Assistant Chief with the Garman Fire Department, demonstrating his steadfast commitment to his community's welfare. Arthur was not just a dutiful public servant; he was a devoted family man, a loving husband to Sandra Marion Howland, and a proud father of three. His life exemplified the values of honor, integrity, and sacrifice, leaving an indelible mark on those around him. Arthur Howland's legacy continues to inspire generations, serving as a beacon of hope and an embodiment of the finest qualities of the American spirit. We honor his memory as a true Hometown Hero, forever etched into the fabric of our community's history.

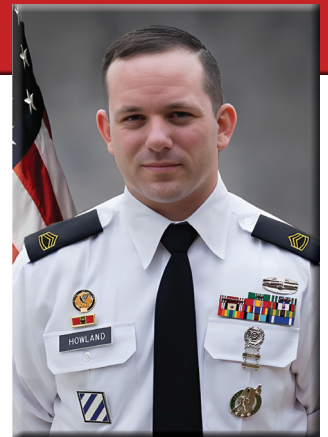


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SFC Justin N. Howland – ARMY

SFC Justin N. Howland, a native of Schenectady, New York, was born on May 2nd, 1990. He answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army in 2008. Throughout his exemplary military career, Justin has demonstrated unwavering courage and dedication to duty. Deploying to Iraq in 2009 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Justin served with distinction, earning his Combat Action Badge for his valorous actions amidst the challenges of combat. His commitment to service led him to a second deployment in 2012 for Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan where he was attached to a Special Forces Unit. A proud alumnus of Mohonasen High School, Justin's military achievements are a testament to his outstanding service, including his role as a driver for the platoon leader's wingman Stryker and his commendable performance as a gunner on the M1A2 Sep V2 Abrams. Despite the demands of military life, Justin has managed to balance his career with family responsibilities, welcoming four children into the world with his wife of 13 years while serving his country. Throughout his military career, Justin has exemplified perseverance and determination, earning his bachelor's degree in history while actively serving in the Army. Currently, Justin serves as a recruiter, actively seeking out the nation's best to join the ranks of the United States Army. He looks forward to continuing his service with the same passion and commitment for years to come. His selfless commitment to his country and exemplary service makes him a true hometown hero.

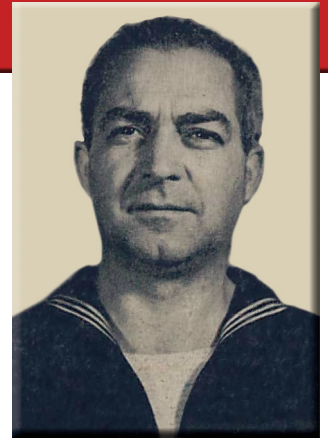


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MM1c Fred S. Hudson – NAVY

MM1c Fred S. Hudson was born July 17, 1905 to Fred Sellars Hudson and Rose Burchby Hudson. He was one of three children and grew up in the Bellevue neighborhood of Schenectady where he completed his schooling. Fred joined the US Navy in April 1943 and served aboard the destroyer USS Bainbridge in the North Atlantic campaign. After being honorably discharged from his military service in October 1945 as a MM1c, he returned to his job at General Electric as a toolmaker, retiring in 1965. In 1950, Fred started a small business selling and repairing bicycles. The Hudson Shop was located on Carig Street in the Hamilton Hill section of Schenectady and was operated by both Fred and his wife Caroline. In 1972 the Hudson's purchased a home in Bellevue where Fred enjoyed the new hobby of gardening. The backyard of Austin Place soon became the site of numerous tomatoes that grew and thrived from his care. Fred also enjoyed building things and helped his daughter Lori and her partner Alice construct a new barn for their horses in Patterson. Fred passed away January 4, 1979, at 73.



Banner Sponsored by: Your loving family, daughters Lori and Shirley, granddaughters Gail, Judy, Jackie & Susie

LTJG Dr. Hugo Isabella – NAVY

LTJG Dr. Hugo Isabella was born on June 23, 1920. Hugo graduated from Mont Pleasant High in 1939 and found his way to Louisiana State University until his country called his name, and he entered the U.S. Navy on June 8, 1942. LTJG Isabella served with distinction as a Fighter Pilot flying a F6F Hellcat off the aircraft carrier USS Hornet. During WWII, he flew numerous missions over the Pacific Ocean. His time spent with Bombing Squadron 2 was later chronicled in the book, "Chock to Chock." The tight-knit group referred to LTJG Isabella by his nickname, Izzy, and also called him "the little flower in full bloom." They mixed hard work with hard play for a common goal – to fight for their country. "Duty flew hand amid hand with danger," the book reads. LTJG Isabella was honorably released from active duty on October 30, 1945. LTJG Isabella's decorations and awards include Air Medal, Presidential Citation, American Theatre Ribbon, and Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (4 stars). After his Navy life was over, he entered dental school at the University of Buffalo and, upon graduation, returned home to his beloved Schenectady to begin his career as an orthodontist until his death on April 20, 1979. He and his brothers' dental and medical practices were located at 607 Union St. He married the love of his life, Kathleen Casey, and raised six children in Mont Pleasant.



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SSG Erin Laiacona – ARMY

SSG Erin Laiacona was born in Melbourne, Florida, to David and Valerie Fors while her father was serving in the U.S. Air Force. The family of six (siblings April – U.S. Navy, Amy, and David) moved to Greene, New York, in 1992 to be closer to family. In 1997, while a senior in high school, Erin enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves. Upon graduation, she attended Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston. While in the Reserves, Erin served with the 865th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Utica, achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant before leaving military service in 2006. While attending college, Erin was deployed twice, once for seven months at Camp Doha in Kuwait with the 865th CSH (2002-2003), and again for a year at Camp Adder in Southern Iraq (2005-2006) with the 408th Personnel Services Battalion. After graduating with a bachelor's from Utica College, Erin moved to the Capital Region in 2008 to work for the New York State Assembly. She later worked for the Executive Branch before accepting a position with Schenectady County in 2019 as their Director of Public Communications, where she continues to work today. In 2021, Erin joined VFW Post 357 and currently serves as Adjutant. She is also a member of the Schenectady County Council of Veterans Organizations, the Schenectady County Honor A Veteran Committee, and the PAV. Erin and her husband, Jesse, currently reside in the City of Schenectady with their two cats, Simba and Snugz.

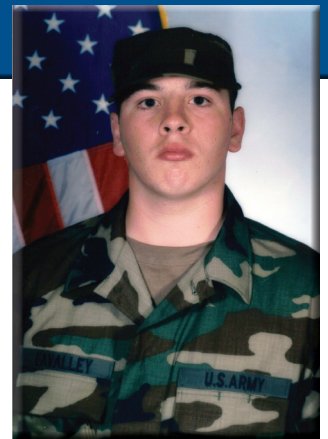


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SGT Shawn A. LaValley – ARMY

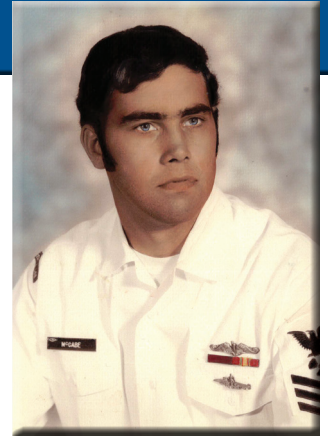
SGT Shawn A. LaValley was born in Schenectady NY on November 4, 1980, the son of Larry LaValley and Debbie Swint (Ozmon). Shawn graduated from Schenectady High School, class of 2000. He enlisted with the Army right out of high school. After basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in 2000, he was stationed in Germany. After that, he was sent to the front lines during the Iraq war, where he was injured twice and received two purple hearts for bravery. He was a tank driver while in the army. Shawn was later stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado and ended his 10+ years of service. Shawn works for Aaron's Rent To Own in Schenectady and is married to Stephanie and has three children (Logan, Layla, and Adonis). He also has two sisters (Bridget, Jennifer) and a brother (Joshua).



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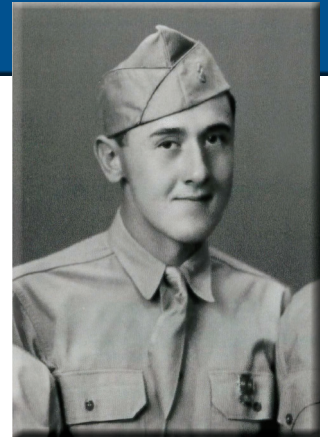
MM1 Butch McCabe – NAVY

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TEC4 Thaddeus Moskal – ARMY

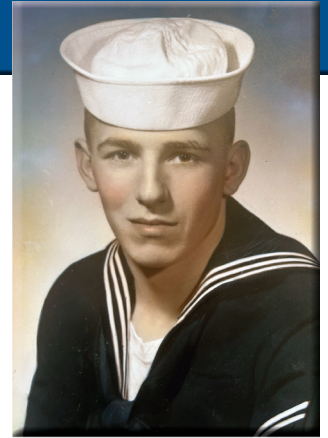
TEC4 Thaddeus Moskal was born in Schenectady, NY on July 32, 1923. He was the son of Agnes and Ledwig Moska, immigrants from Poland. The family lived in the Mont Pleasant section of Schenectady. Ted graduated from Mont Pleasant High School. He served in the Army from 1943-1945 and earned many medals during in time in the service. When he returned home, he worked for the NYS Thruway Authority and retired in 1978. Ted married his loving and devoted wife Jadwig in 1983. He was a parishioner of St. Adalbert's Church, he enjoyed traveling: especially to Poland and Florida. He loved hunting, camping, and feeding and watching the birds. Ted was a lifelong patriot who loved his country and his family. He passed away on March 7, 2020. Jadwig would like to thank the VA for taking care of her husband. God Bless the USA. Boze Blogoslaw Ameryka Kazdego dnia.



Banner Sponsored by: **Your Loving Wife, Jadwiga**

RM3 Norman D. Pross – NAVY

RM3 Norman D. Pross was born on March 30, 1943, to Cecile Elizabeth Meluck. He grew up in Schenectady, New York and attended Mohonasen High School. Upon graduation from high school, Norman enlisted in the U. S. Navy. He served four three-and-a-half year terms as a radioman, Third Class Petty officer aboard the USS Hugh Purvis (DD-709). Norman was recognized by the U.S. Navy for his commendable service and awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and a Combat Action Ribbon. Additionally, Norman was presented a Certificate of Merit from the Assembly of the State of New York in recognition of his brave and honorable service in the Vietnam War. Following his naval service, Norman obtained employment with General Electric as a high voltage electrician and served as a peer advisor to his colleagues. During his employment, Norman was honored for single-handedly developing an innovative cable re-routing system that resulted in over \$35,000 in savings and cost efficiency. Norman still resides in Schenectady where he actively participates in community activities with the Amvets. When he is not volunteering his services, Norman (a sports enthusiast) can be found cheering on his New York Yankees and (enthusiastically) sharing his love/hate relationship with his New York Giants! Norman's kind demeanor and dogged determination to rise above any adversity serves as a remarkable inspiration to his three grandchildren: Sara, Waverly, and Logan. Norman is loved dearly by friends and family and is revered as their personal hero!



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MSG Anthony Pruscop – AIR FORCE

MSG Anthony Pruscop proudly served for over 31 years in the Armed Services in the United States. He served with the 69th Infantry Division during WWII. After the war, Anthony continued to serve his country by entering the Air National Guard until his Honorable Discharge in 1972. Anthony's awards of service are the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Aviation Crew Chief Badge, WW II Victory Medal 1941-1945, Army of Occupation 1945, American Campaign 1941-1945, European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign 1941-1945, Republic of Vietnam Service, National Defense Service Ribbon with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct - Efficiency, Honor, Fidelity. Anthony grew up in Depew, New York. He entered active-duty December 16, 1941. After the war ended, he was honorably released from duty on Dec. 5, 1945. He continued to serve his country in the Air National Guard and served as an Air Police Supervisor with a discharge date of April 3, 1972. After the war in 1945, Anthony settled in Schenectady where he lived for the rest of his years. Anthony married Genevieve M. Shirley Pruscop on Dec. 26, 1945. Together they raised two daughters: Shirley T. Pruscop Harwood and Susan F. Pruscop Goard. He passed into Eternal Rest on August 30, 1982. He is survived by six grandchildren: Michael D. Goard, Melissa S. Goard, Timothy D. Goard, Lisa Harwood, Holly Powell, Tammy Downs and four great grandchildren – Stephen, Noah, Ryan and Michael. Anthony Pruscop, loved beyond words, missed beyond measure.



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SP4 (T) Jack G. Purdy – NAVY

SP4 (T) Jack G. Purdy was born on July 30, 1947, in Schenectady, New York. He graduated from Mont Pleasant High School in 1965. After graduating from High School, he enlisted in the United States Army, completing Basic Training, Airborne School, and other military training schools. He was deployed to Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division, earning the Combat Infantry Badge and other honors. After being honorably discharged from the Army, he continued to serve his country and community as a member of the Air National Guard at Stratton Air Base, Glensville, New York. In 1971, he was appointed to the Glensville Police as a patrolman and rose through the ranks, ultimately retiring as Chief of Police after a 34-year career. He was very community and civic oriented, as evidenced by his involvement with many service organizations. He was a former member of the East Glensville Fire Department, charter member of the Scotia-Glensville Elks Club, member of the VFW Post, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and Kiwanis, serving in many capacities within the organization, most recently as the Lieutenant Governor for the Mohawk Division of New York. He was an avid golfer, poker player, and master of all games of chance.



Banner Sponsored by: Loving wife and family

LTC Paul Reo – ARMY

LTC Paul Reo joined the New York Army National Guard in 1987 as an enlisted member. While also a student at Siena College he eventually enrolled in the ROTC program, graduating, and earning his commission as an Aviation Officer in 1990. Paul went to Army flight training in Ft. Rucker, Alabama, graduating in 1993 as a UH-1 helicopter pilot. In 1994 he completed the AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter course and in 1995 completed the UH-60 Blackhawk course which he would fly for the remainder of his career. Over the next several years he would serve in 3-142 Assault Helicopter Battalion in a variety of roles including platoon leader and company commander. Paul completed three overseas deployments, beginning with Bosnia in 2002 where he commanded an aircraft maintenance unit. In 2008 he deployed to Iraq serving as the Battalion Personnel Officer. His last deployment was in 2013 serving in Kuwait first as the 42nd Combat Aviation Brigade's Intelligence Officer and then as the Operations Officer. He retired in May 2018 as a Lieutenant Colonel having earned several awards and decorations including the Bronze Star for service, Meritorious Service Medal and Master Army Aviator Badge. In his civilian career Paul is a Surgical Physician Assistant at Albany Medical Center.



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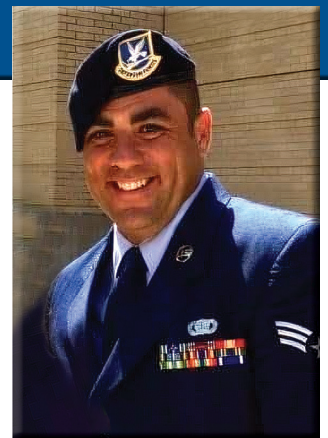
PVT Dionte Romero – MARINE CORPS

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SPC/SRA Jesús Santiago – ARMY/AIR FORCE

SPC/SRA Jesús Santiago entered service in 1995 in Orange County, enlisting in the US Army initially as a reservist. Upon completion of US Army Military Police School, he went back home but this time to Saratoga County. In 1996 he reenlisted and moved to Ft. Hood, Texas as a member of the 401st MP Company. Worked as a combat MP on deployment to Bosnia in support of SFOR 4 Operations at Camp Eagle, a Patrolman conducting Law and Order operations for Ft Hood and the Greater Killeen area, he was also, a member of the 43rd MP Detachment Criminal Investigation Command Drug Suppression Team as an Investigator. Concluding his service in '04 in Washington DC assisting 9/11 operations in the logistics of housing incoming National Guard Units from around the district and country. Moving to the tri-county area in 2010, he enlisted in the Air National Guard as a member of the 109th Security Forces unit in Scotia in 2012. Assisted in Hurricane Sandy operations in the same area that his family once lived decades prior, unloading tons of goods for fellow New Yorkers in need, and concluding service in 2015. He purchased his first home in Scotia with his wife Khari and youngest daughter in 2016. Jesús has two daughters and a beautiful grandson. January 2020, he began a new career with Schenectady County as a Veteran Service Officer assisting veterans and families in the compensation process in the VA. He now serves as the Director of Schenectady County veteran Services.



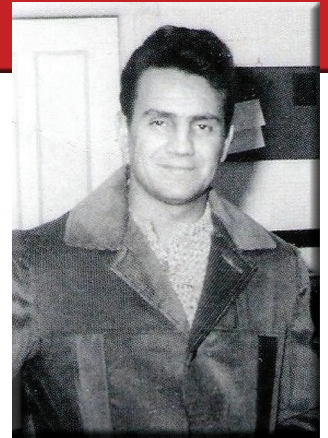
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PFC Patsy Sarrutto – ARMY

PFC Patsy Sarrutto entered the Army in April 1952 and was discharged in April 1953. He was stationed in Korea with the 1966 1st Ord Co. While there he helped repair military vehicles. He earned the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defiance Service medal.

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SP5 Robert Serotta – ARMY

SP5 Robert Serotta was born in Glens Falls in September 1946. He graduated from Linton High School in June 1965. He enlisted shortly after in the U. S. Army in November 1965 and served three years with duty in both Furth, Germany with the 14th F&AO and Ft. Bragg North Carolina. He was Honorably Discharged from active duty in November 1968 and returned to Schenectady. He married his high school sweetheart, Patricia and together they raised a son and four daughters in the City of Schenectady. They have six grandchildren. He first retired from General Motors Acceptance Corporation in 1999, with 29 years of service. He was elected in 1995 and served two terms on the Schenectady County Legislature. His second retirement was from the Dormitory Authority State of New York in December 2011. He is currently the Commander of Lt. Vibert O. Fryer Chapter 88 of the Disabled American Veterans.

Banner Sponsored by:



SSG Stephen E. Zebrowski – ARMY

SSG Stephen E. Zebrowski was born in Schenectady on May 21, 1967, to Walter and Rometta Zebrowski. He lived in Schenectady until 1975 when his family moved to Glenville. He graduated from Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake High School in June of 1985 and enlisted in the Army in November of 1985. He had Basic Training and AIT at Ft. Jackson, SC. From March of 1986 to September of 1987, he served at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO with HHC 5th Combat Engineers. From September of 1987 to September of 1988, he served in Korea with Bravo PT and 5th Mechanized Infantry. From there, he served in Italy with the 167th Signal Brigade from September of 1988 to September of 1991. From September of 1991 to December of 1992, he was at Ft. Devens MA with the 39th Combat Engineers. He was discharged until June of 1993 when he went into the Reserves with the 413th Supply and Service. While with the Reserves, he was assigned to Anaconda Base in Iraq from March of 2003 to March of 2004. From March of 2004 to June of 2007, he remained in the Reserves, retiring in June of 2007. He lives in Schenectady and is employed by the New York State DOT.



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ENGINEERING

SP4 Walter D. Zebrowski – ARMY

SP4 Walter D. Zebrowski was born at home in Schenectady on June 23, 1942, to Benjamin and Genevieve Zebrowski. He graduated from Linton High School in June of 1961. He enlisted in the Army on May 15, 1962, and did his Basic Training at Ft. Gordon, GA. He spent two years in the Regular Army, including a year in Korea. He was discharged on April 27, 1964, and assigned to the Active Reserves for two years and then, the Inactive Reserves for two years. On November 27, 1964, he married Rometta Bemis, and together, they raised three sons. They lived in Schenectady until 1975, when they moved to Glenville. He worked for Ace Alarm Co. and then Hart Alarm installing burglar alarms until his retirement in 2006. He passed away on June 5, 2009. At the time of his passing, he had one granddaughter. Subsequently, two more granddaughters were born into his family.



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ENGINEERING

CPT Paul Zonderman – MARINE CORPS

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VFW Post 1895

VFW Post 1895 – was mustered into existence on 17 August 1935, Hilderbrand-Davis Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1895 has served the veterans and residents of the Town of Rotterdam and the City of Schenectady, as well as New York State, for nearly 90 years. Originally located on Summer Street in the City of Schenectady, Post 1895 was the second VFW Post to be located within the city limits. In 1952, Post 1895 moved to the Town of Rotterdam after the land the post is currently located on was graciously donated. The men and women of Post 1895 and its Auxiliary continue to show that we are still serving!

Banner Sponsored by: **Honoring all veterans past and present in Schenectady. Thank you for your service.**

