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2025

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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

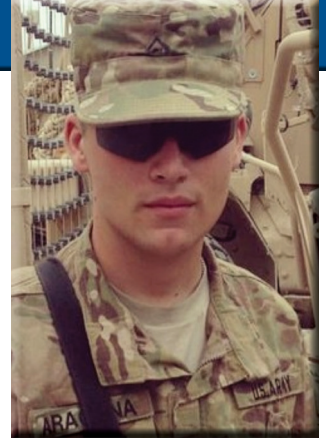


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## SPC Jesse T. Aragona – ARMY

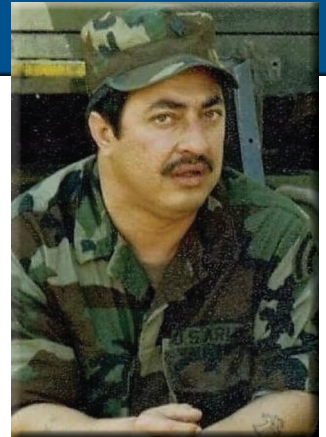
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## PVT Michael Boilard – ARMY

PVT. Michael Boilard was born February 14, 1952. He was a Vietnam Vet and served in Thailand in 1970. After the service he was a truck driver. Michael died January 11, 2009.

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## SMSGT Maxine Getty – AIR FORCE

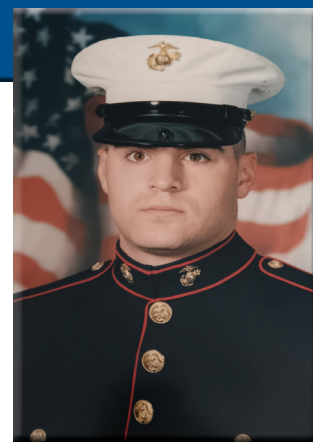
SMSGT Maxine Getty, was Superintendent of Recruiting and Retention for the entire New York Air National Guard from 1989 to 1995. Prior to that she spent 18 years in recruiting as a recruiter and recruiting office manager with the 109 TAG, Stratton ANGB in Schenectady, NY. Airman Maxine Patten (maiden name) was in the active Air Force stationed at Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska from 1964 to 1969. While at Offutt AFB she received many commendations for the handling of multiple classified documents.

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## **CPL Matthew Guthinger – MARINE CORPS**

CPL. Matthew C. Guthinger was born in Schenectady on February 17, 1984, to Jeffrey and Denise Guthinger. Matthew graduated from Niskayuna High School in 2002. He was a championship wrestler, winning sectionals in high school. Despite many offers of a collegiate wrestling scholarship, Matthew proudly enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. in 2004, vowing to serve his country during the Iraq War. Cpl. Guthinger served with valor during both the Battle of Fallujah and Battle of Ramadi in which dozens of Marines lost their lives and hundreds more were injured. Cpl. Guthinger also bravely fought in the Battle of Abu Ghraib where Al-Qaeda launched a secret attack on an Iraqi prison. Cpl. Guthinger also served on board the USS Nashville to aid in the evacuation of nearly 12,000 Americans from Lebanon in 2006. Despite many hard battles fought, Cpl. Guthinger was most proud to have been promoted to a leadership role among his fellow Marines. Together they visited many countries in the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Cpl. Guthinger was honorably discharged in January of 2012. He lives in Glens Falls, New York and serves as project manager for Patten Property and Construction and he remains, "Always Faithful."



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## **CW2 Jonathan Hall – ARMY**

CW2 Jonathan Hall was born in 1977 in Troy, NY. Upon graduation from Averill Park High School, he enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves where he served as a Radioman for two years in Cape May, NJ, and Staten Island, NY. Upon completion of his Coast Guard enlistment, he enlisted in the Army National Guard. After basic training, he served as a Specialist in Mechanized Infantry. He successfully completed warrant officer training to eventually earn the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2. He was deployed three times: New York City after the 9/11 attacks; Iraq during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom; and Egypt during Operation Shadow. Jonathan arrived in NYC on 9/12 and provided police support during the Twin Towers recovery process. (His platoon was photographed by a journalist while serving in NYC and the picture was subsequently published in Time Magazine that same year.) He spent 18 months in Camp Anaconda in Iraq as a tank platoon leader. In Egypt, he served as a signal support specialist during an intelligence mission. After his honorable discharge, Jonathan continued his higher education before going on to work for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and operating two small businesses. Upon meeting and marrying his wife Tonya, they made their home in Rotterdam. He continues to operate his two successful businesses while working at the Albany Stratton VA Center and raising a teenage son, Timothy. Jonathan enjoys spending time with his family in Maine, teaching martial arts, supporting veterans causes, and attending Buddhist services.



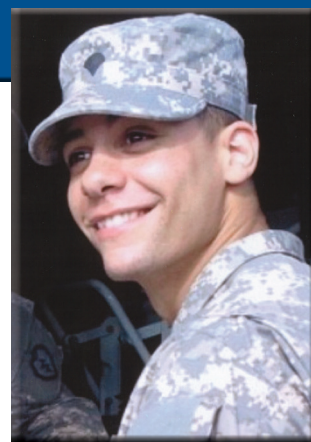
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## **SGT Nathan M. Higginbotham – ARMY**

SGT Nathan M. Higginbotham was Born on July 27, 1990, at St. Clare's hospital in Schenectady, NY. Nathan was very athletic from a young age and enjoyed video games, mostly combat games such as Call of Duty. Other hobbies included football with his friends, basketball and reading Harry Potter books. Nathan knew at a young age that he wanted to join the Military. When he was in his early teens, he had gotten in some trouble but that did not stop him. With a lot of help from his friend's father, he was able to join the Army in May 2010. During his career with the Army, Nathan was a calvary scout, a gunner, and also became a Sergeant. Nathan was stationed in Fort Hood 2010-2011, Iraq in 2011, and Alaska 2012-2016. Awards and Decorations include Army Commendation medal/Army Achievement Metal, (4th award)/National Defense Service Medal/Iraq, Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon/Meritorious Unit Commendation, Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badge Expert with Rifle Bar, Overseas Service Bar. Military Education Includes: Combat Life Savers course 2014, Combatives Level II course, 2013/Basic leader course, 2012 Combatives Level I course, 2012/ Cavalry Scout One Station Unit Training, 2010. Nathan was proud to serve his country, family and fellow brothers.



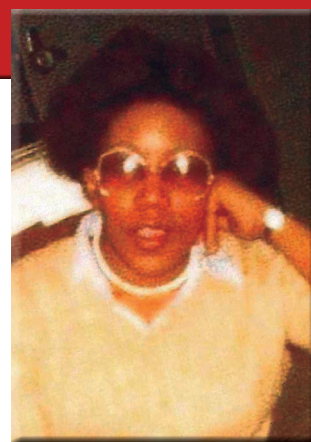
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**ENGINEERING**

## **SSG Michele R. Johnson – ARMY**

SSGT. Michele Johnson was born and raised in Schenectady and graduated from Mt Pleasant High School in 1978. She is the mother of William, Santino, Mekkah and Kali and is referred to as "nana" by her grandchildren, Gellona and Khaliyl. At the early age of seventeen, she joined the U.S. Army, where she developed her skills as a Unit Supply Specialist and eventually earned the coveted title of Drill Instructor. Michele has earned military awards including ARCOM (Army Commendation Medal), Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Achievement Medal, and Overseas Service Ribbon. Michele is a Life Member of Disabled American Veterans and a member of The National Association of Black Military Women, Army Vets Post #35 and the Joseph E. Zaloga American Legion Post #1520. After retiring as a Correctional Officer at Schenectady County Sheriff's Office, she still had more work to do in her community. Michele worked in different fields, including a case manager collaborating with people who had disabilities, to being a residential supervisor working with at-risk, runaway, homeless, and sexually abused and trafficked youth. Through her work with community organizations and nonprofits, Michele is continuing to make a positive impact on the world around her. She is a true inspiration to those who know her, and her legacy of service and compassion will continue to live on for generations to come. Michele has academic accomplishments, including associate degrees in human services and criminal justice, as well as a bachelor's degree in Community Human Services, with a focus on Criminal Justice.



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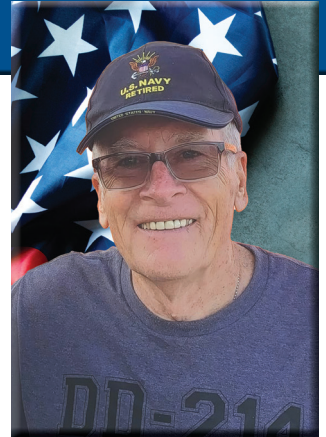
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## SN Timothy Leonard – NAVY

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## FCA3 Cheyenne Lovell – NAVY

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## PFC Orlando R. Lupe – ARMY

PVT Orlando R. Lupe was born in the County of Schenectady, New York. Growing up in Rotterdam, he attended Draper High School. In 1940, Orlando enlisted in the Army and fought in the Southern Philippines and New Guinea Campaigns. He was discharged from the Army in 1945. Many years after his discharge, he was awarded the prestigious Bronze Star. Upon his discharge in 1945, Orlando returned home and met and married the love of his life, Isabelle. Together, they built a life filled with love, raising six children in Schenectady, NY. Orlando's post-war life was characterized by hard work and dedication as a self-employed Masonry Contractor. He worked with numerous builders in the Clifton Park area, contributing to the development and growth of the community. He was meticulous in his work. Orlando always prioritized his family. He was a devoted husband and father, instilling in his children the values of hard work, integrity, and compassion. His life was a testament to the power of dedication, resilience, and love, as evidenced by his courageous service in the Army to his devotion to his family.

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## CPL Florence P. McConville – MARINE CORPS

CPL. Florence P. McConville was born in Milford, Massachusetts July 5, 1941. Her father was a World War II Veteran, and she first met him when she was four years old. She graduated from high school at 16 years and worked in various jobs until she joined the Marine Corps in 1962, becoming the first women marine from Rhode Island. She served three years active duty. She worked at Camp Lejeune learning shorthand, typing and cooking. She also jumped out of helicopters at Cherry Point and was a cheerleader for the Camp Lejeune football team. In 1960 she became a Lance Corporal and transferred to Washington DC. At the Pentagon she marched for President Kennedy at his Inaugural Ball, participated in freeing slaves and worked with mathematicians. She retired in 1962. Florence married her husband marine Richard F. McConville in 1962. She has lived in Schenectady for 61 years and has four daughters, 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She worked for the Federal Government for 15 years until 1979, after her husband passed away at 50 years old. She then worked for the City of Schenectady for 30 years in the Engineering Dept. Florence is now 83 and enjoying her retirement. She is a volunteer with the Marine Corps league. "Once a Marine Always a Marine"



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## TSGT Thomas M. McGarry – ARMY AIR FORCE

T/Sgt Thomas McGarry enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in October 1942 and trained as a Supply Technician. In July 1943 he traveled on the Ocean liner The Queen Mary to England. While in England he was assigned to BAD #2 in Warton, England and was a supervisor in charge of procurement of airplane parts and other supplies. While stationed at Warton in August 1944, he was involved in recovery efforts for injured and dead soldiers and civilians after a repaired B-24 crashed into a school in a village near Warton, resulting in the death of many young children. T/Sgt McGarry left Europe in December 1944 and was discharged from the Army in January 1945. After the war, Thomas McGarry used the GI Bill to return to college at the University of Vermont (UVM) and then was accepted into and attended Medical School at UVM where he met Annora McGarry, a fellow medical student and they were married in 1952. Both Thomas and Annora McGarry moved to Schenectady NY to begin residencies, he in Anesthesiology and she in Psychiatry. They had eleven children, and Thomas was one of the founding members of the Schenectady Anesthesia Associates Group in Schenectady. He passed away in 1988.



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## EMFA Guy A. Mogavero – NAVY

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## MM3 Chester Moskal – NAVY

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## LCpl David Muscanell – MARINE CORPS

Lance Corporal David Muscanell was born October 23, 1956 and is a lifelong resident of Schenectady NY. He is married and has 2 daughters. His mother and father are John Sr and Marion Muscanell, who raised 10 children in which David is number 8. He joined the United States Marine Corps in January 1974. David was 17 when he decided to enlist in the USMC under the delayed enlistment program, needed his mothers signature to enlist before he had graduated from Mont Pleasant High School. David is a Vietnam vet and attended boot camp at Paris Island SC. Upon completion, he was assigned to Camp Lejeune Company "A" 2d Amtrac Bn, Forttrps, FMFLant, NC as a 1833 AMTRAC (LVT-P7) crewmen. During his tour, he served 7 months of foreign service in the Mediterranean Sea after which time he decided to leave the Marine Corps and embarked on a 45-year career working as a prime contractor for the DOE Naval Reactors program. He worked 22 years as a security police officer, 15 years in technical security and ended his carrier as a Special Security officer. He is currently retired and enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends.



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## TSGT Tyler Paluba – AIR FORCE

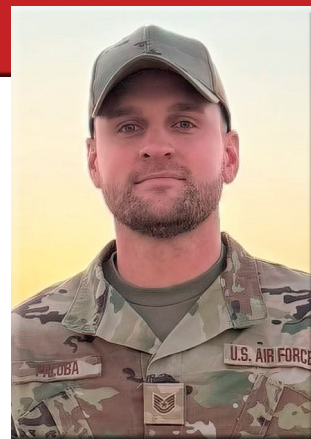
Technical Sergeant Tyler Paluba is a longtime affiliate of Schenectady, New York. He spent his early years in Schenectady city before relocating to the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District. Graduating from Burnt Hills High School in 2010, he then went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University at Albany in 2016.

Following his graduation, Tyler enlisted in the United States Air Force in May 2017, serving at Stratton Air National Guard Base. Over the course of eight years, he rose through the ranks and achieved the rank of Technical Sergeant. During a recent deployment to the Middle East, Tyler has been selected for promotion and will be commissioning as a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force.

In addition to his military service, Tyler began his law enforcement career in 2019 with the Schenectady Police Department. After a year, he transferred to the Town of Glenville Police Department, where he currently serves as the School Resource Officer for the Scotia-Glenville Central School District.

Outside of his professional responsibilities, Tyler enjoys spending time with his family, playing golf, and watching professional sports.

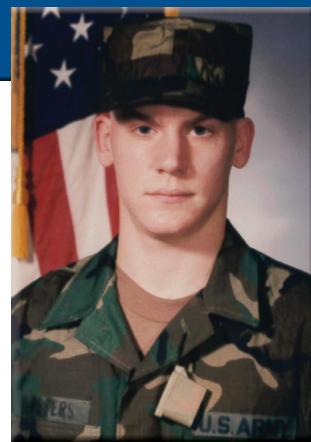
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## SPC Eric J. Peters – ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Spc. Eric J. Peters was born on May 30, 1974, in Schenectady to Joseph Peters III and Charlene Peters. Eric graduated from Linton High School in 1992 and received his Associates Degree in criminal justice from Hudson Valley Community College in 1998. He served as a Military Police Officer with the Army National Guard from 1995 until his honorable discharge in 2000. Eric was called to active duty for the Plattsburgh Ice Storm in 1997. In 1998, he joined the Schenectady Police Department as a patrolman. During his career, he advanced from patrolman to detective. In 2015, he was trained as an Explosive Detection K-9 handler and continued to serve the department with his best friend K-9 Liuger until his retirement in 2019. While a police officer, Eric served as police honor guard for sixteen years and as an instructor with the Zone 5 Law Enforcement Academy for seventeen years. He is most proud to have also served as member of the Special Operations Squad (SWAT) team for the Schenectady Police Department for sixteen years, five of which he served as a respected team leader. After retirement, he began work with the United States Department of Homeland Security where he continues to be employed today. Eric is a faithful servant of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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## SPC Joseph A. Peters III – ARMY

SPC. Joseph A. Peters III was born on July 30, 1941, in Schenectady to Chief Joseph Peters Jr. and Bernice Peters as the eldest of five children. Joe graduated from Linton High School in 1959 and received his Associates Degree in criminal justice from Hudson Valley Community College in 1971. Joe joined the Schenectady Police Department in 1963 and was drafted the same year into the Vietnam War. He served in South Korea from 1963 to 1965. Upon his honorable discharge, Joe returned to the Schenectady Police Department. During his tenure as a police officer, he attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy. He served in a supervisory position for many years; first as a patrol sergeant, then lieutenant of the traffic division, and finally as commanding officer of the department's investigative division where he achieved the title of Captain. He was supervisor of the police department's vice squad and responsible for the formation of the Riot Control Unit in 1965. He retired in 2003 after forty years of service to the department and the City of Schenectady. Joe continues to reside in Schenectady with his wife Charlene and enjoys time with his three children and seven grandchildren.

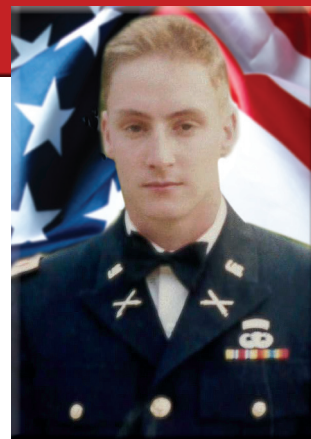


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## CAPT Joseph A. Peters IV – ARMY & AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Capt. Joseph A. Peters IV was born on June 3, 1966, to Joseph A. Peters III and Charlene Peters. Joe was a graduate of Linton High School and SUNY Brockport. He served in the U.S. Army and N.Y. Air Force National Guard. During his military career, Joe served as an enlisted soldier, a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), and a Commissioned Officer. He retired after 29 years of military service as a Captain. In the Army, Joe graduated from Airborne, Ranger, and Northern Warfare Schools. He was assigned several military occupational specialties (MOS) during his military service including combat engineer, field artillery and infantry. He also held a top-secret security clearance. In the Air Force, Joe attended arctic survival school and was deployed on several missions to Antarctica and Greenland. Along with his military career, Joe also served the City of Schenectady as a police officer. He retired after 23 years of service as a vice squad detective. As a police officer, Joe was a member of the Special Operations Squad (SWAT), Police Honor Guard, and served in many other law enforcement capacities for the Schenectady Police Department.



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**SSGT John W. Powles Jr. – ARMY AIR CORPS**

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**MM2 Gordon Rockstroh Jr. – NAVY**

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## PVT Virgil C. Rose – ARMY

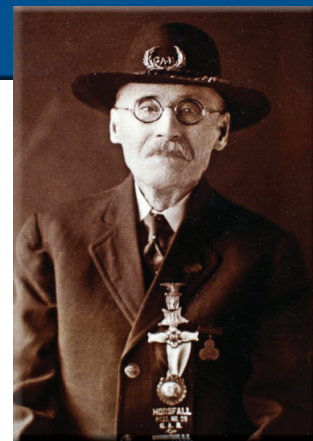
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## CPL Jacob H. Sager – UNION ARMY

CPL. Jacob Henry Sager was born into a farming family on May 18, 1844 in the town of Princetown. He was the son of Peter and Helen Sager, early settlers of Schenectady County. When he was 19 years of age, he enlisted in the Union Army. Mustered in on October 10, 1863, Jacob was assigned to Company C, Heavy Artillery, 16th New York Volunteers. During his service, he fought in many major campaigns including the battles at Chapin's Farm, Fort Fisher, Wilmington NC, and Andersonville. He spent six months in the hospital with a serious illness during his service. Jacob narrowly missed being shot when a bullet passed through the collar of his coat when he was on picket duty at "Fort Hell" (Fort Sedgwick) in Petersburg VA. He was also part of a large contingent of soldiers who dug the "Dutch Gap Canal" seven miles from Richmond VA. After he mustered at the end of the war on August 21, 1865 in Washington DC, Jacob returned home to work the family farm. He married Jennette Weast and together they had six children. Jacob was active in the Horsfall Post 90 Grand Army of the Republic. He was a senior vice-commander and held many other offices in the post. When he died at age 86, on November 24, 1930, he was one of just six remaining Civil War veterans in Schenectady County. He is buried in Viewland Cemetery.

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## LT Joseph J. Sardos – NAVY

Lieutenant Joseph John Sardos is a 1997 Graduate of Mohonasen High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy in February of 1998. After boot camp at Great Lakes IL and C-School training in Dahlgren VA he was stationed on the USS Stout (DDG-55) for five years. Following a recruitment assignment in Oswego NY, he was stationed at Pearl Harbor, HI for six years, serving on the USS Hamilton (DDG-60). After returning to the mainland he served on the USS Jason Dunham (DDG-109) and the USS Harry S Truman (CVN-75) as well as shore duty at the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity and the Aegis Training and Readiness Center. Joseph retired at a Ceremony on November 9th, 2024 after 27 years of service. His family and friends would like him to know how proud we are of his dedication to his country and wish him the best of luck on his future endeavors. We love you Joe!

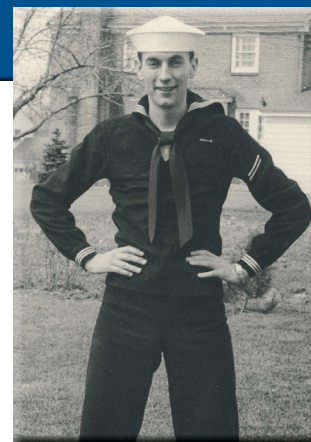
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## RD(3) Richard J. Schermerhorn – NAVY

RD3 USN Richard J. Schermerhorn was born in Schenectady, NY on January 16, 1931. He was the son of the late James Richard and Mary Garrett Schermerhorn. He graduated from Nott Terrace High School in 1949 and soon after attended Siena College. While at Siena he enlisted in the Navy due to the conflict in Korea. He deployed on the USS Albany, where he undoubtedly befriended everyone on board. While home on leave he attended his five-year class reunion where he met up with an old schoolmate, June Edwards. Following their first date he told her he would be back from the Navy and would marry her. She laughed this off. Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy he returned, proposed, and married June. He also went back to finish his degree at Siena college and started a family. Dick soon moved his family to Staten Island for work, but returned to Schenectady after just a few short years of "City" living. Dick raised all three of his children in Schenectady. He retired from the New York Telephone Company. Dick was best known for his sense of humor, his love of sports, his pride in his family, and his friendly nature. Dick passed away April 22, 2007. He was proud of our Country and spoke fondly of his time in the US Navy. Dick was even more proud to participate in his daughter's swearing in ceremony, as she followed in his footsteps into the US Navy.

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## LT COL Joseph A.C. Solghan – AIR FORCE

Lt. Col. Joseph A.C. Solghan (Ret.) began his military service in 1989, serving ten years in the United States Army as a combat medic and field nurse. While completing his nursing degree, he continued to serve in the Texas National Guard, exemplifying his commitment to both his education and military service. Upon earning his degree, he received a direct commission into the United States Air Force, launching the next phase of a military career that would span more than 30 years.

Throughout his service, Lt. Col. Solghan held a wide range of clinical and leadership roles in both field and combat hospital environments. His assignments took him around the globe, including two extended overseas tours, five short tours, and seven deployments to locations such as Honduras, Iraq, and four separate tours in Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Solghan served with distinction in positions including Chief Nurse, Operations Officer, Medical Crew Director, Flight Instructor, and Flight Standards and Evaluations Officer. He remained flight-qualified on seven U.S. Air Force and Canadian Forces airframes, amassing more than 1,250 flight hours—of which 252 were instructor hours and 292 were in combat.

In his final assignment before retiring, he served as Chief of Clinical Operations at U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), where he led a team of 23 medical professionals in coordinating in-flight care for military and civilian patients across the Asia-Pacific Theater.

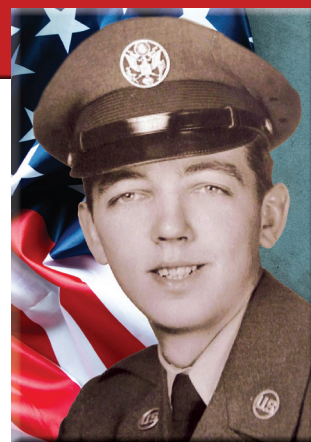
Lt. Col. Solghan's career stands as a testament to unwavering service, clinical expertise, and operational leadership in the field of military medicine.



**Banner Sponsored by: The Entire Solghan Family**

## S/SGT (T) Donald J. Spencer – AIR FORCE

S/Sgt Donald J. Spencer was born in Utica on June 4, 1930 and was raised in Schenectady, living there almost his entire life. He was the son of the late Mae Golden and Dorr Spencer. Donald graduated from Saint Columbus High School in Schenectady in 1948 and soon after attended the Rochester Institute of Technology, eventually returning to Schenectady to help his father with the family business—Dorr A. Spencer Printing on Craig Street. In 1951, Donald enlisted in the United States Air Force and was stationed in various locations throughout the United States and abroad. While stationed in Madison, Wisconsin, he met his bride, Carol Christopher. In 1952, they were married in England, where he was then stationed, and had their first child, Susan, while still overseas. After four years of service, Donald was honorably discharged and moved with his young daughter and wife back to Schenectady, where they would eventually have nine more children. Donald lived out his life in Schenectady, raising all ten children, working in the printing trade and teaching his passion and vocation at various places, including Troy High School, where he eventually retired from. He was an active participant, faithfully attending Saint John the Evangelist Church in Schenectady throughout his adult life. Donald Joseph Spencer passed away on March 7, 2005—leaving a legacy of service to his church, community, family, and country. Serving his Country was one of the great joys of his life and a source of tremendous honor and pride.



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## MS3 Joseph VonStetina – NAVY

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## **SGT James C. Ward – ARMY**

Sgt. James Ward was born on March 25, 1946, in Schenectady, New York to Charles and Ethel Ward. One of seven children, he graduated from the technical program at Mont Pleasant High School in 1964. Thereafter, he graduated from Hudson Valley Community College in 1966 with a degree in drafting. He went to work at General Electric and after a few years, he joined the Schenectady Fire Department. Jim was drafted into the Vietnam War in 1969. He was gravely wounded while on a mission in Cambodia on April 15, 1970. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his heroism on that day. He was also awarded the Air Medal for making more than 25 operational flights under enemy fire, which is the award he is most proud of. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1970 and honorably discharged in 1971. He resumed his work in Schenectady as a firefighter upon discharge. He also purchased a tavern aptly named "Ward's Tavern," at 1443 Erie Boulevard which he operated for 25 years until 1996. He was a proud member of the Tavern Owners Association and Schenectady 2000, which was geared toward revitalizing downtown Schenectady. Jim was promoted to Lieutenant with the Schenectady Fire Department and retired in 1990. Thereafter, he worked for several years as a mail carrier for the United State Postal Service. Jim continues to reside in Schenectady and cherishes time spent with his family and friends especially his daughter, Rachael.



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## **PVT Dennis Wielt – ARMY**

PVT Dennis Wielt was born in Niskayuna to the late Warren and Rena Wielt. He attended Niskayuna High School, where he made many lifelong friends. After graduation, he was drafted into the Army in 1969 and served during the Vietnam War. After the war, Dennis worked as a mechanic for several years. From a young age, Dennis had a love for anything with an engine, classic cars being his specialty. He owned and restored many cars over the years, but his pride and joy was a 1929 Model A Ford hot rod with a V12 engine. He and his wife enjoyed many rides in the Model A and bringing it to car shows. Dennis passed away in July 2022.



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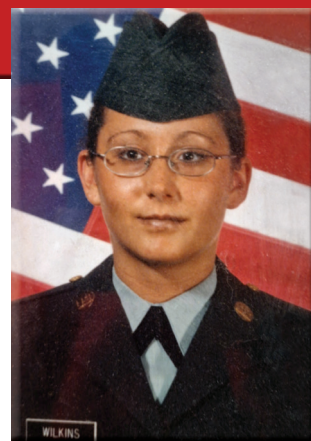
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## SSG Jamie Wilkins Dominy – ARMY

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## TSGT Julius Wukitsch Jr. – AIR FORCE

TSGT Julius Wukitsch Jr was born in Schenectady New York on April 24, 1915, the son of Julius Wukitsch Sr. and Anna Kovars, immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He graduated from Mont Pleasant High School in 1933, and his love of air travel drew him and his Model T Ford to the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he excelled as a student. Fate intervened and World War II would mean that Julius could continue his air adventures as a technical sergeant in the Army Air Force on the vaunted B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew fifteen bombing missions over occupied Europe. The Gazette newspaper reported that on one mission, he alternately rendered first aid to wounded crew members and continued to man his gun to fight off enemy fighter attacks while his plane limped back to England. His luck ran out on March 6, 1944, the big day light bombing of Berlin when his plane was fatally crippled and he bailed out at 10,000 feet. Upon landing he was captured and interned as a prisoner of war from March 1944 until he was liberated in April 1945. For his service, he was awarded the Air Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and the European African-Middle Eastern service medals. After the War, he worked for the General Electric Company, married and had three sons. The hardship of war and captivity compromised his health, but he never complained or even mentioned his truly heroic wartime service. He passed away on September 12, 1982.



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