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

Banner Sponsored by: The Schenectady County Chamber

S2 William D. Mannix – NAVY

Born on August 26, 1926, William Mannix was a native of Glens Falls, NY. Mannix proudly served in the U.S. Navy in both World War II (1945-1949) and the Korean War (1950-1953). He served aboard the USS North Carolina, one of the U.S. Navy’s most decorated battleships. He was awarded the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Victory Medal for his exemplary service. Subsequent to his Naval service, Mannix graduated from Siena College in 1959. He was a resident of Schenectady, NY, for remainder of his life until he died on February 16, 2003. He was buried at Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Niskayuna, NY, with full military honors.

Banner Sponsored by: Marshall & Sterling Insurance
SPC Andrew Sweet – ARMY
Banner Sponsored by: Schenectady ARC

SPC Cassandra Parker – ARMY
SPC Cassandra Parker is a current resident of Schenectady and a 2010 graduate of Schenectady High School, who left for the Army two weeks after graduation. Cassandra received the Army Achievement medal twice, along with the Army Good Conduct medal, the National Defense Service medal, and the Global War on Terrorism medal.
Banner Sponsored by: Metro Ford of Schenectady

CPL George Richard Kelly – MARINE CORPS
CORP George Richard Kelly was a member of the Machine Gun Platoon, Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was seriously wounded on June 3, 1951, while defending his position on the Hill 516 southwest of the “Punchbowl” in North Korea. He died of those wounds on June 7, 1951. CORP Kelly was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.
Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

SPC Thomas T. Lawand – ARMY
SPC Thomas T. Lawand is a U.S. Army veteran. He served 10 years in active duty and was deployed three times, twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. He was born in Schenectady in 1979 and graduated from Schenectady High School.
Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU
SGT Frederick E. Bradt, III – ARMY

Banner Sponsored by: Bobar’s Interstate Towing LTD.

LTJG Charles W. Merriam – NAVY

LTJG Charles W. Merriam, known to most people as Charlie, was born and raised in Schenectady. He graduated from Nott Terrace High School in 1942 and attended Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia for a short time before enlisting in the Navy to serve his country during WWII. At the young age of 19, LTJG Merriam became the skipper of an LCT, or Landing Craft Tank, in the South Pacific. Upon leaving the Navy, Charlie returned to his hometown to join the family insurance business. He married, raised a family, and gave numerous years of service to community organizations including the Schenectady City Mission, Visiting Nurse Service Association, and the Annie Schaffer Senior Center, just to name a few. In true Merriam fashion, many years later, at the even younger age of 85, he became the oldest person to use the zip line at the Episcopal Retreat in Greenwich, New York. LTJG Merriam has traveled extensively around the world, many times as a volunteer for VITA (Volunteers for International Technical Assistance). In the end, Charlie always comes home to Schenectady.

Banner Sponsored by: The Merriam Agency

SSGT Brett Gatta – AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Banner Sponsored by: Galesi Group
SM3 Robert L. Wurster – NAVY

SM3 Robert L. Wurster was born in the Town of Niskayuna on November 1, 1945. He attended Schenectady Public Schools and graduated from Linton High School in 1963. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1967, before Selective Service could draft him. SM3 Wurster served on a destroyer and eventually transferred to a Guided Missile Cruiser homeported in the Mediterranean Sea in Gaeta, Italy, in 1969. Being on the flagship of the Sixth Fleet, Admiral’s Staff was very lucky for SM3 Wurster, as he remained on board until he was discharged in 1971. He met his wife in 1971 and was married in 1972, and raised two daughters. His first job after his time in the Navy was in 1971 with Link and Cullen, Architects. In 1973 he went to work with the NYS Dept. of Transportation in the Bridge Design Unit as a Principle Drafting Technician. He remained there until his retirement in 2003. He now keeps busy with 4 grandchildren all under the age of 10.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU
COL James S. Casey – ARMY

COL James Seaman Casey was born January 28, 1833, in Philadelphia and died December 24, 1899. COL Casey was a U.S. Army officer who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Indian Wars. COL Casey joined the 7th New York Militia in April 1861, just after the outbreak of the American Civil War, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant of the 5th Infantry Regiment in August of the same year. He was promoted to captain in December 1863, and became Commissary of Musters of the Army of the Potomac. He was brevetted major in March 1865 for his actions in the Battle of Fort Stedman. After the war, Casey served under Colonel Nelson A. Miles in the Black Hills War, later receiving the Medal of Honor for leading his company's assault in the Battle of Wolf Mountain. He was promoted to major of the 17th Infantry Regiment in June 1884 and to Lieutenant Colonel of the 1st Infantry Regiment in April 1890. He was eventually promoted to Colonel of the 22nd Infantry Regiment in January 1895, and retired two years later. COL Casey is buried in Vale Cemetery in Schenectady. COL Casey was an Original Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

Banner Sponsored by: OMNI Development Company, Inc.