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. Thompkins 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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SPC Joshua White – ARMY

SPC Joshua White, a 2009 graduate of Schenectady High School, entered the Army in October 2009. He completed his basic training in 2010 from Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. From there, he was stationed at Ft. Lee, Virginia, where he graduated in the top five of his AIT class. After graduation, he was stationed in Baumholder, Germany, for two and half years. During that time, he deployed to Afghanistan for a year. In 2012, SPC White was sent to Fort Hood, Texas. While at Ft. Hood, he did a second tour in Afghanistan to assist in closing a U.S. base. SPC White is currently still on active duty and stationed in Ft. Hood, Texas.

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CPT Thomas W. De Coste – ARMY

CPT Thomas William De Coste was a veteran of World War II. In Korea, he was a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, serving as an aerial observer aboard AT-6F, coordinating with the 6148th Tactical Control Squadron. On October 18, 1950, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire at Kajo-jong and crashed five miles east of Pyongyang, North Korea. He was presumed dead on December 31, 1953. For his leadership and valor, Captain De Coste was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; the Combat Infantryman’s Badge; the Korean Service Medal; the United Nations Service Medal; and the National Defense Service Medal.

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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.

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SA Marina Boldeau – NAVY

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CPL Harwood H. Thompson – ARMY

CPL Harwood H. Thompson was a member of Company G, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. During the intense fighting near Chipyong-ni, South Korea, he was listed as Missing in Action on February 15, 1951. Later it was determined that he had been taken Prisoner of War and was killed while a prisoner from being strafed from the air on May 19, 1951. CORP Thompson was awarded the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War medal posthumously.

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SSG James I. Dutcher, Jr. – ARMY

SSG James I. Dutcher, Jr. served proudly in the United States Army for 18 years and served as a Military Policeman, Infantryman, and Army Recruiter. He is a 1977 graduate of Mont Pleasant High School.

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TECH-5 Louis J. Wurster – ARMY

TECH-5 Louis J. Wurster was born in 1921. Before his time in the service, TECH-5 Wurster graduated from Nott Terrace High School in 1941 and was employed by Wurster’s Food Market on McClellan Street. TECH-5 Wurster was inducted into the Army on November 5, 1942 and was honorably discharged on February 14, 1946. He served in the 98th Division and 389th Infantry as a truck driver and served 20 months overseas in the Asiatic Pacific Theatre. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, American Service Medal, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. After his time in the service he worked for East End Lumber Co., Schenectady Railway Co., and finally was a custodian and bus driver for the Niskayuna School System until his retirement. He married Marion Mann in 1943 while still enlisted in the Army. He and his wife Marion raised three children together in Schenectady.

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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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SGT Robert Edmonds – NATIONAL GUARD

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**RD1 Louis D. Valentino – NAVY**

RD1 Louis D. Valentino was born in Schenectady in 1924 to immigrant parents. He was educated in Schenectady Schools and graduated from Nott Terrace High School. To him, there was no place in the world better than Schenectady, NY. After graduating from high school, he joined the Navy. He was assigned to the USS Noa, Destroyer Escort during WWII, which was rammed on September 12, 1944, by Fullam (DD-474) and sunk. The ship sank with no loss of life, and he was rescued after spending many hours hanging onto a life raft in the Pacific. After his time in World War II, he came home to Schenectady to start a family and become one of the founding fathers of Northside Little League. He was so proud of “The Northside.” He worked at General Electric and told everyone how proud he was of The Electric City. His family, his hometown, and his time spent as a sailor are what he stood for until his death in 2010.

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**S SGT John E. Marciniak Sr. – AIR FORCE**

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**ABFI Alexander Magiera – NAVY**

ABFI Alexander Magiera received numerous awards during his years in the Navy. During his service, he received the Navy Expedition Medal twice, the Sea Service Ribbon Gold Cluster 5 Star, Battle E Efficiency Gold Cluster 5 Star, Southwest Asia (twice), the Army Expedition Medal, NATO Medal Presidential Unit Accommodation Ribbon (three times), the Navy Achievement National Defense 5 Star, and the Good Conduct Medal (five times). ABFI Magiera is married to Sherry L. Magiera and has two children, Angela and Jacqueline Magiera, and four grandchildren. He and his wife are also raising a child with autism, of whom he and Sherry have had custody since he was only 14 days old. His favorite saying is “Proud to Have Served,” and he always thanks other veterans or soldiers when he sees them in public.

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