1. Unified Military Affairs Council
2. TEC 5 Edward J. Wujciak Sr. – Army
3. PFC George Williams – Army
4. TEC 4 Jack A. Mangino – Army
5. SGT Richard J. Farry – Air Force
6. CPT Albert J. DeMarco – Army
7. MMC Earl W. Malloy – Navy
8. CPL Henry Michael Dufek – Marine Corps
9. SP5 William H. Hart – Army
10. CPL James J. Kelly – Marine Corps
11. SGT Kelly Ann Vincent – Army
12. CMSGT Dennis P. Ippoliti, Jr. – Air Force
13. PFC Charles Daniel Farnum – Marine Corps
14. SGT Bernard J. Witkowski – Army
15. SGT Nathan M. Higginbotham – Army
16. PFC George Pennell – Army
17. A1C Christopher DiGesualdo – Air Force
18. A1C Frank DiGesualdo – Air Force
19. SGM Charles E. White – Army
20. LCPL Jack Odell Hill, Sr. – Marine Corps
21. SGT Scott Johnson – Marine Corps
22. 1LT Alex S. Kwiatkowski – Army
23. CPT Stephen Astemborski – Army
24. LCPL William H. Prothero – Marine Corps
25. CMSGT Donald M. Legere – Air Force
26. 1LT Tyler Vorpahl – Army National Guard
27. MSGT Edwin V. Jendzeizyk – Army
28. MM Aloysius M. Gesek – Navy
29. SGT Francis J. Mauriello – Air Force
30. COX Edward Wrubleski – Navy
31. CPT Robert A. MacTaggart – Navy
32. PFC Harold Willette, Sr. – Army
33. S1C Richard A. Van Dyck – Navy & WO Peter C. Van Dyck – Army
34. SM3 Robert L. Wurster – Navy
35. TEC 5 Louis J. Wurster – Army
36. SGT Douglas N. Ryan, Sr. – Marine Corps
37. SGT R. Theodore Vinick – Army
38. SGT Vincent J. Musco – Army
39. PFC Henry Edward Taft – Army
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: Capital Region Chamber

TEC 5 Edward J. Wujciak Sr. – ARMY

TEC 5 Edward J. Wujciak Sr. served in the US Army during WWII. He entered service on June 5, 1943 at Camp Upton, New York, and completed his service on February 15, 1946, at Fort McArthur, California. He was part of the Rome-Arno Campaign in 1944 and the Rhineland Campaign in 1944-45. For his service, he was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Banner Sponsored by: Capital District Moose Riders
PFC George Williams – ARMY

PFC George Williams is a WWII veteran of the Army’s 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division. The Rainbow Division is known for overrunning the notorious Dachau Concentration Camp in April 1945. They landed in Marseille, France, in December 1944 and drove north, then east into southern Germany, crossing rivers four different times. The 42nd then barreled south through Bavaria and into Dachau and Munich. The concentration camp, located 10 miles north of Munich, was Germany’s oldest, and had served as an example for the many other factories of death that the Nazis built across Europe during the tyrannical reign of Adolph Hitler. Known as a work site for political prisoners, Dachau held a recorded 206,206 German dissidents, Poles, Russians, Jews and others over its 12 years. Nearly 32,000 of the prisoners died. Many others perished in gas chambers and firing squads around Dachau, according to historical reports. Located near the camp was a facility where SS troops were trained to operate Nazi concentration camps. Williams served with Company G of the Division’s 242nd Infantry Regiment as a mortarman through the spring of 1945. He toured the concentration camp during occupation duties with the division after the war ended.

Banner Sponsored by: The Daily Gazette

TEC 4 Jack A. Mangino – ARMY

TEC 4 Jack A. Mangino entered service in the US Army on January 3, 1942, and was honorably discharged on January 14, 1946. For his service in WWII he was awarded the American Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.

Banner Sponsored by: The Costumer
SGT Richard J. Farry – AIR FORCE

SGT Richard J. Farry was born in Schenectady on October 21, 1946, to Robert and Albina Farry. He was raised in Schenectady along with his three sisters and a brother. Richard was a graduate of St. Joseph’s Academy and Mt. Pleasant High School. He enlisted in the US Air Force on September 10, 1964. After completing his basic training, he was assigned to the 14th Strategic Aerospace Division at Beale AFB, California. He then went on to serve as a member of the 434th Tactical Fighter Squadron, stationed at Ton Son Nhut Air Base outside of Saigon. Richard was honorably discharged in 1968. He returned to Schenectady where he married his wife, Susan. Together, they raised three daughters and a son and had five grandchildren. In 1969, Richie began a 30 year career with Verizon, retiring in 1999 as a TTA & consultant. In his retirement, he worked at the Rossi & Ditoro Funeral Home. He stayed active in the community as a 50 year member of the Knights of St. John Uniform Rank, Past Chief of the Carmen Fire Department and was a lifelong parishioner of St. Joseph’s Church, Schenectady. A life well lived, SGT Farry died on the 4th of July, 2013.

Banner Sponsored by: Ditoro & Rossi Funeral Home

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 US 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, 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.

Banner Sponsored by: The DeMarco Family
MMC Earl W. Malloy – NAVY

MMC Earl W. Molloy was born in Schenectady and entered the Navy in 1950, retiring after nearly 20 years as a Machinist's Mate Chief Petty Officer. He has been married to his wife Jean for 37 years and between both of them have 7 children, 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

CPL Henry Michael Dufek – MARINE CORPS

CPL Henry Michael Dufek served proudly and honorably in the US Marine Corps from 1978-1982 and in the reserves until 1984. He was a Field Wireman and received 3 awards as Rifle Badge expert. He received the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Certificate of Service and Good Conduct Medal. After his time in the Marine Corps, he returned home and married his wife, Lisa. Together they raised two boys, Michael and Nicholas. He provided well for his family through his painting business. Henry was an avid outdoorsman and hunter. He enjoyed fishing with his sons and spending time with his family. A beloved husband, father and grandfather, CPL Dufek passed away after a valiant battle with cancer on April 17, 2017.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

SP5 William H. Hart – ARMY

SP5 William H. Hart attended Linton High School and graduated from Schenectady County Community College. He served in the US Army from 1964-1972 and served as a Combat Medic in Vietnam from 1967-1968. SP5 Hart was awarded the Bronze Star with the “V” Device for heroism. He has been married to Kathleen M. Hart for 51 years and has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retiree from Southwest Airlines. He is a current member of the AMVETS and the DAV.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU
CPL James J. Kelly – MARINE CORPS

CPL James J. Kelly proudly served his country as a US Marine from 1946 to 1951, during WWII and the Korean War. He was assigned to Foreign Shore Duty from 1946 to 1948. During that time he served as a 606 AA Machine Gun Crewman. He was deployed on the USS Duluth from 1946 to 1947. He was stationed at Camp Lejeune during which time he was a Rifle Marksman Instructor. He was awarded the WWII Victory Medal, in addition to the Good Conduct Medal and Good Conduct Bar.

Upon his discharge from the Marines, Jim returned to Schenectady, NY, where he served as a police officer for more than 25 years. He attended Russell Sage College and earned a degree in Business Administration. During his service on the Schenectady Police Department, Jim was one of 42 candidates selected from over 1,000 worldwide applicants, to receive a scholarship to Northwestern University to study Traffic Supervision and Administration. In 1966 the City of Schenectady granted him a 14-month leave of absence to assume the position of Associate Director of New York Traffic Safety Counsel in New York City, to promote traffic safety in New York State. Upon retirement from the Schenectady Police Department, he served for 4 years as a Special Investigator for the Schenectady District Attorney’s Office. Jim moved to Florida where he worked for the State of Florida as a Supervisor for the Division of Pari-mutual Wagering.

While living in Schenectady, he was involved in numerous community organizations: Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus, Board of Directors for the Niskayuna Little League, and was a President of the Kiwanis Club.

Jim passed away in September 2016 and was returned home and is laid to rest in the Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, NY.

Banner Sponsored by: The Galesi Group

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.

Banner Sponsored by: New York BizLab
CMSGT Dennis P. Ippoliti, Jr – AIR FORCE

Chief Ippoliti grew up in Scotia, NY, and graduated from Notre Dame-Bishop Gibbons High School in 1988. He enlisted in the Air Force and went to technical school at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS. After training in the Information Systems field, he went on to numerous duties in the cyber systems operations career field and various leadership roles at the squadron, wing and field operating agency levels. His medals include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and Joint Service Achievement Medal among others. His tours of duty included McGuire AFB, NJ; Lajes Field, Azores (Portugal); Offutt AFB, NE; USAF Academy, CO; Bolling AFB, Washington, DC; and Peterson AFB, CO. Chief Ippoliti deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of combat operations in Southwest Asia. He served as the Operations Coordinator for the Defense Attaché at the United States Embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan for 18 months as his last deployment. He earned an Associate’s Degree, Bachelor’s Degree, two Masters Degrees and completed his PhD in Engineering, Computer Science just after returning from Turkmenistan. Chief Ippoliti retired with honor in 2014 after serving his country for 26 years. His wife, daughter, grandson and the entire Ippoliti family say – Thank you for your service, Chief... Welcome Home!

Banner Sponsored by: The Ippoliti Family

PFC Charles Daniel Farnum – MARINE CORPS

Banner Sponsored by: Friends & Family
SGT Bernard J. Witkowski – ARMY

SGT Bernard J. Witkowski was inducted into the US Army on June 25, 1968, and was honorably discharged on January 26, 1970. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Expert Sharpshooter and Marksman qualification badge, Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal with 2 overseas bars.

Banner Sponsored by: His wife, Christine

SGT Nathan M. Higginbotham – ARMY

SGT Nathan M. Higginbotham entered into service to his nation in 2010. He joined the US Army and rose to the rank of Sergeant, E-5 holding significant training and leadership positions. He was part of the Troop B, 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry, 1st BCT at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska. SGT Higginbotham served in Lancer Platoon for over two years before moving to headquarters. During his time in Lancer Platoon, SGT Higginbotham served as a team leader and the platoon javelin trainer. He deployed with the platoon to NTC 15-03 and conducted numerous dismounted reconnaissance operations in support of the brigade. He took an active role in the squadrons MACP and assisted in certifying over 100 soldiers in combative level 1 and 2. SGT Higginbotham was responsible for coordinating and running the squadrons 2014 combative tournament, which had the largest participation of any previous tournament. As the troop BOSS representative, SGT Higginbotham boosted the morale of the single soldiers by always encouraging them to travel and take advantage of MWR trips. He served in the capacity of a Cavalry Scout while serving in Iraq in 2011. An avid football and Atlanta Falcon fan, Nathan was a volunteer at Northeast Parent and Child Society when home, and a friend to everyone he met.

Banner Sponsored by: His Loving Family
PFC George Pennell – ARMY

A lifelong Schenectady resident, George was a graduate of Nott Terrace High School. He went on to serve in the US 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 US 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.

Banner Sponsored by: The Pennell Family

A1C Christopher DiGesualdo – AIR FORCE

Banner Sponsored by: The Daily Gazette
A1C Frank DiGesualdo – AIR FORCE

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

SGM Charles E. White – ARMY

SGM Charles E. White was born on June 4, 1949, in Binghamton, NY. Charles graduated from Jones Business College in 1971, missing his college graduation so he could attend his induction into the New York Army National Guard. Charles has proudly served as a member of the 42nd Infantry “Rainbow” Division, supporting New York State during active duty missions such as the state prison guard strike of 1979, the tornado in Mechanicville in 1998, and in New York City following the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center in 2001. In 2004, Charles was mobilized and deployed in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Charles has received the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Charles has resided in Schenectady with his wife Nancy since 1971. They have been married for 47 years and have 2 children and 2 grandsons.

Banner Sponsored by: Omni Development Company, Inc.
LCPL Jack Odell Hill, Sr. – MARINE CORPS

LCPL Jack Odell Hill, Sr., also known as “Kalem,” was born in Schenectady, NY, in 1947 and served in the US Marine Corps from 1966-1969 as a point man. During his time in the Marines he was a man of valor who served his country well by earning 2 Purple Hearts, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, and held a Rifle Marksman Badge, and Pistol Sharpshooter Badge. After his honorable discharge, he was employed as a CDTA bus driver and played the congas in many local bands in the Capital District area. He was the husband of Malikea Edwards (Hill), a fun-loving father, grandfather, uncle, brother, cousin and friend. He loved to watch football, boxing and documentaries and had an amazing gift of storytelling. Because of this gift, he was interviewed in a PBS documentary entitled “Vietnam: A Television History” in 1982. He loved to laugh and make others laugh and smile, especially children. One of the ways he made them smile was in his volunteer service through the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. He also volunteered as a Memphis, Tennessee, Patriot Guard Motorcyclist, visiting hospitals and youth centers to uplift the spirits of children.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

SGT Scott Johnson – MARINE CORPS

SGT Scott Johnson was born and raised in Schenectady, NY. Scott comes from a family with a history of Marine Corp service. A graduate of Niskayuna High School, he joined the Marine Corps after college in Key West. During his enlistment, Scott rose to the rank of Sargent and was honorably discharged in 1984 after serving for 4 years. After leaving the Marines, Scott returned to his home town of Schenectady and started Omnis Computers, a computer networking company proudly serving the Capital Region, where he still works as the company’s president today.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

1LT Alex S. Kwiatkowski – ARMY

Banner Sponsored by: The Daily Gazette
CPT Stephen Astemborski – ARMY

CPT Stephen Astemborski grew up in Niskayuna, NY, and was commissioned to active duty through West Point in 2009 and honorably discharged from active duty in 2014. CPT Astemborski was awarded various decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons including: The Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two campaign stars; The Bronze Star; Army Achievement Medal; NATO Medal; Valorous Unit Award; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Combat Action Badge; and Parachutist Badge.

Banner Sponsored by: T&P Lawn & Landscape

LCPL William H. Prothero – MARINE CORPS

LCPL William H. Prothero attended Linton High School in Schenectady and joined the Marines in August, 1965. William was killed in action while serving in the Vietnam War – he was only 22. Prior to his death, he was cited for preventing the escape of a North Vietnamese soldier and was awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Banner Sponsored by: Coldwell Banker Prime Properties

CMSGT Donald M. Legere – AIR FORCE

CMSGT Donald M. Legere served in the Air Force during WWII, Korea, and the Cuban Missile Crisis and retired from the Schenectady Air National Guard as Chief Master Sergeant. Born in Schenectady, he was the son of the late Charles and Margaret (Savage) Legere. He was a graduate of Draper High School. Donald served his country in the Air Force during WWII and was employed for over 38 years in the Schenectady Air National Guard as a Chief Master Sergeant, acting as a supervisor prior to his retirement. A member of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Schenectady, Donald had a great passion for fixing things and making old things new again. He also enjoyed going camping with his family, music, and playing the organ.

Banner Sponsored by: Legere Restorations
**1LT Tyler Vorpahl – ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

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 Edwin V. Jendzeizyk – ARMY**

MSGT Edwin V. Jendzeizyk, the son of Polish immigrants Vincent and Katherine Jendzeizyk, was born in Schenectady, NY, on May 8, 1918. His love of aviation while growing up led him to enlist in the United States Army Air Corps in 1939. In April 1940, while serving with the 33rd Squadron of the 22nd Bombardment Group, he graduated from the United States Army Air Corps School for Airplane Mechanics, at the Roosevelt Aviation School. While serving in the Pacific during the WWII, he was stationed in various locations including Antil Plains and Woodstock in northern Australia, and Nadzab and Dobodura in New Guinea. As a MSGT, he was crew chief in charge of maintenance for various squadron aircraft. For his service in the Pacific, he was awarded the Bronze Star and was a recipient of the Presidential Unit Citation. After the war, he returned to Schenectady and married Stasia Zych in 1947. He then moved and attended the Lincoln Aviation Institute in Nebraska, where he earned his aircraft mechanics license. He then worked as an aircraft mechanic for Mohawk Airlines in Ithaca, NY, and the General Electric Flight Test Center in Schenectady. In 1965 he continued to work for the General Electric Co., as an electrical designer, retiring in 1984. He continued to live in Schenectady and joined the Empire State Aerosciences Museum in Glenville, where he helped with the restoration of some of the museum’s aircraft. Edwin Jendzeizyk passed away in 2007, at the age of 89. He is survived by his 2 sons, Paul and Peter Jendzeizyk, and their families.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU
MM Aloysius M. Gesek – NAVY

Machinist 2nd Class Aloysius M. Gesek was born in Manville, New Jersey, on November 16, 1921. When he was a youth, his family, which included 4 brothers and 3 sisters, moved to a farm in Delanson, New York. At the start of WWII, 2 of his brothers were drafted into service. Just prior to his graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Navy. Subsequently, all five brothers served in various branches of the military during WWII. He received his basic training at the Navy Boot Camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. He was then stationed at the Naval Training Station in Wahpeton, North Dakota and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He later served in the Pacific, as a machinist in the engine room aboard the USS Mendocino (APA-100), an attack transport, during the occupation of the Philippines and the invasion of Okinawa. He was awarded the Victory Medal for his service during the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, a Star for his service during the Philippines Campaign, and the Good Conduct Medal. Upon discharge from the Navy, he was briefly employed at the General Electric Company in Schenectady, New York, as a machinist. Subsequently, his interest in woodworking and carpentry led him to become a journeyman carpenter’s apprentice. He then worked as a carpenter for over 40 years. He married Giovanna (Jennie) Cefala in 1949, and was married for 64 years. He was also a member of the VFW Post #1895. Aloysius Gesek passed away in 2013, at the age of 91. He is survived by his son Frank Gesek and daughter Regina Jendzeizyk, and their families.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

SGT Francis J. Mauriello – AIR FORCE

SGT Francis J. Mauriello joined the Air Force at the very young age of 17 in 1942. He was based in the South Pacific and was asked to set up camp on what was thought to be a deserted island off the coast of Japan along with 25 other soldiers (LORAN Group). They were undercover and monitoring the radio waves of Japanese communications. However, the island was inhabited by the Aborigines and through Frank’s clarinet and music around the campfire, they became allies. Frank also flew B24s/25s during his time in the service. He served a total of 4 years. Following his time in the service, Frank attained a position at Glen L. Martin Aerospace and met his lovely wife, Arline. They married in Baltimore, MD, and then moved back to Schenectady to be near Frank’s family. He then became a Police Detective for the City of Schenectady. He developed and trained police on the identikit – a tool using facial composites to identify criminals. It was eventually distributed worldwide. Frank also worked on the first team of specialists to develop guided missiles (which later turned into the Manhattan project) and went on to form NASA.

Banner Sponsored by: The Daily Gazette
Dr. Robert A. MacTaggart was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1890 and moved to 427 Smith Street, Schenectady in 1895 with his parents William and Gertrude MacTaggart. Robert attended Schenectady High School and Union College, and graduated from Albany Medical School in 1917. He enlisted in the Army Medical Corps during his internship at Albany Medical. Dr. MacTaggart served in various hospitals throughout England, France, and Germany during World War I. He was promoted to Captain in 1918 with his commanding officer stating that, “Lt. MacTaggart at all times displayed initiative, resourcefulness, and ability to a marked degree.” After World War I, Dr. MacTaggart moved back to Schenectady and opened up his practice on Nott Terrace. He was a member of the Schenectady County Medical Society, appointed to the Schenectady Board of Education, and was heavily involved in the community until his death on June 21, 1970.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU
S1C Richard A. Van Dyck (NAVY) & WO Peter C. Van Dyck (ARMY)

The Van Dyck brothers are 3 out of 8 siblings that were residents of Schenectady, born to Louis B. and Marguerite J. Van Dyck, that served in WWII. All 3 brothers served in the Pacific Rim.

WO Peter C. Van Dyck, enlisted in the Army in October 1942 and served as a warrant officer in the 98th Infantry Division. He was with the 323rd Engineer Battalion and the Division Engineer Supply Section during the preparations for the movement overseas, during the preparations for movement to Japan and during the occupation of Japan. He was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for outstanding performance of his duties during the period from March 1944 to February 1946 by the direction of the Secretary of War.

S1C Richard A. Van Dyck (Fire controlman – FC) was his younger brother and served in the Navy on the destroyer USS Moale as a fire controlman. FCs were highly skilled technicians responsible for the operation of various forms of range finding gear, and solving ballistics calculations to control the firing of the ship’s guns. These skills were originally employed primarily for naval gunfire support and surface combat, but during WWII, the FC’s responsibilities expanded into anti-aircraft warfare.

The third brother RDM3C David H. Van Dyck (not pictured) also enlisted in the Navy in September 1943 and served on the destroyer USS Hall as a radar operator.

Banner Sponsored by: the Creative Advantage, inc.

SP4 Donald B. Kearney – ARMY

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

Banner Sponsored by: George, Bernard, Connie & Lois
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. Robert 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 Robert, as he remained on board until he was discharged in 1971. He met his wife in 1971, was married in 1972, and raised 2 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
TEC 5 Louis J. Wurster – ARMY

TEC 5 Louis J. Wurster was born in 1921. Before his time in the service, Louis graduated from Nott Terrace High School in 1941 and was employed by Wurster’s Food Market on McClellan Street. TEC 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 Marion raised 3 children together in Schenectady.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

SGT Douglas N. Ryan, Sr. – MARINE CORPS

Douglas N. Ryan, Sr. left Draper High School in 1953 to join the United States Marine Corp. He saw active duty in Korea from 1953-1956 in the 3rd Battalion 4th Marine, 3rd Marine Division. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the UN Service Medal and the Korean Service Medal. Doug was honorably discharged in 1961 with the rank of sergeant. Upon his return home from military service he went to work for General Electric becoming a Satellite Hard Surface welding specialist, retiring in 1993. After retiring from GE he traveled to Korea as a satellite Welding Consultant for GE. Doug and his wife Patricia have been married 61 years, have 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU

SGT R. Theodore Vinick – ARMY

SGT R. Theodore Vinick (Ted) served from 1943-1946 US Army, 100th Infantry Division and served as editor of the division’s newspaper, “D.A. Ash & Trash.” Ted was a graduate of the Union College class of 1943. Ted married his wife Raquel Scher in 1957 and they raised 2 sons. Ted and his family were the former owners of Myers Children’s Shop in Schenectady until it closed in 1982. In 1978 Ted joined the NYS Department of Transportation. Ted was also instrumental in the formation of the Downtown Schenectady Association, and served as an officer on the Board of Directors of what is now known as the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation.

Banner Sponsored by: Union College
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, Tony & John Musco & Paul Pakan

PFC Henry Edward Taft – ARMY

PFC Henry Edward Taft was born on February 6, 1915. He served in the Army from March 1934 – August 1944 and was part of the 1st Division – 16th Infantry in World War II. PFC Taft was awarded the Purple Heart. He died on June 2, 1998, and is buried at Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.

Banner Sponsored by: SEFCU