



## 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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## LCDR James Addison – NAVY



LCDR James Addison graduated as Valedictorian of the 1982 class from Scotia-Glenville High School. He then accepted a nomination to attend the United States Naval Academy, during which time he was diagnosed with cancer. He continued his studies from a hospital bed and beat the disease. He graduated in 1986, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science. James furthered his education as a Marshall Scholar at the University of Cambridge, graduating in 1988. James was a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy and served as a submarine officer on the USS Stonewall Jackson. After eight years of service, he was honorably discharged from the Navy and began serving as a Foreign Service Officer in the United States State Department and was stationed throughout the Middle East and Europe. James was also honored to have worked as an educator in his career, both on faculty teaching history at the United States Naval Academy and as a chemistry and physics high school teacher in Virginia and Maryland. Most recently, he worked as a Program Change Leader at Edward Jones. James served on the Schenectady Stockade Association Board of Directors. In addition to his love of gardening, reading, and mentoring others, James had a love for rowing and the water, a passion born at the Naval Academy, one that flourished at the University of Cambridge and with the Washington DC Strokes Rowing club. He could often be seen in Schenectady sculling along the Mohawk River, taking in the beauty of the world around him.

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Respectfully, your Stockade Brethern



## A1C Don P. Sylvester – AIR FORCE



A1C Don Sylvester was born February 19, 1963, in Schenectady. He lived in Alplaus, NY, with his parents and two siblings, graduating from Niskayuna High School in 1962. After graduation he enlisted in the Air Force and was sent to the Lackland, TX, AFB for Basic Training before being assigned to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in Trenton, NJ. He worked on radio and radar on Air Force planes, becoming a High Frequency Radio Expert on C130s and 707 aircraft. His time in the Air Force had him stationed all over Europe including New Zealand, London, France, Spain, Germany, and the Middle East, as well as Antarctica. After leaving the Air Force in 1967, he began a career in computer programming, working locally in Schenectady and then in NYC before moving to Washington, DC. He lived and worked in DC for UNISYS Corp. for many years before retiring in 2008 and moving to Arizona to be near his son and his family. He is still there living in his little piece of paradise where...as he says...each week has six Saturdays and one Sunday.

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### CTA2 J. Terence Burns – NAVY

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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### SGT John Pikor – ARMY

SGT John Pikor attended Scotia schools as a child then went into the military. He was in the 1st Armored Division in Fort Hood, Texas. Then he was assigned to Wharton Barracks, Heilbronn, Germany. His bags were all packed and he was in line to get chosen for Vietnam, but they skipped over him; he wasn’t happy about it because he wanted to serve his country. He married his wife and lived off Highbridge Road in Schenectady for 44 years. He retired from Bechtel, located in Schenectady, after 30 years.

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## SP4 George Fredricks – ARMY

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## SGT John Pikor – ARMY

SGT 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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## SR Nicholas DiPierro Jr. – NAVY

SR Nicholas (Nick) DiPierro Jr. was born February 25, 1951, to Nicholas S. DiPierro Sr., an Army vet, and Evelyn Snyder DiPierro. He was one of six children, grew up in Utica, NY, and attended T.R. Proctor High School. He was a drummer in a very popular teen band. Nick joined the US Navy in 1970 aboard the USS Agerholm DD 826 during the Vietnam war. After his naval service, he attended Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY. He married Mary Rysedorph and they shared four beautiful daughters: Rachel, Nicola, Natalee, and Bridget. Nick was a hardworking tractor trailer driver for most of his life and was a loving Poppy to 10 grandchildren who adored him. He had many interests including riding his motorcycle, playing drums, and vacationing with his family. The family resided in Schenectady for many years. Nick passed away suddenly in 2021 but will forever live in the family's hearts.

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[Rachel, Nicola, Natalee, Bridget](#)



## SSGT Frank Salamone – ARMY

SSGT Frank Salamone was born and raised in the close-knit Mont Pleasant section of Schenectady and was the eldest of three sons. His mother and father, Josephine Sifo Salamone and Salvatore Salamone, emigrated from Italy to Schenectady in the early 1900s. He served in World War II as a military police officer stationed in Italy and Africa. While on traffic duty on a street corner in Naples, Italy, waiting for convoys to come through, he met a young lady, Gianna DiLibero, who was in distress because she was late for a college class. He offered to help her and was very impressed that she could speak English so fluently. He later learned that she worked as a translator for the English Embassy. They began corresponding with one-another through mail and would go on to have a 49-year marriage that lasted until Gianna's passing in 1995. Frank was raised with a tremendous work ethic and in later years would often remark, "the harder you work, the luckier you get."

When he returned from the military, Frank, with his two brothers, George and Til, opened the Grandview Block and Supply Company—later Grandview Concrete Company—on Hamburg Street in Schenectady. Frank had an excellent relationship with his loyal customers, who appreciated the reputation for quality and customer service that he and his brothers worked hard to create. He spent his retired years starting every morning reading the Daily Gazette cover to cover, enjoying doing all the puzzles, playing golf— a sport he played until 97—and managing his favorite team, the Yankees, from his couch with his signature drink, a dry martini with two olives. Although he was a successful businessman, his greatest love by far was his family. He left behind five children, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He lived a complete life, but his loved ones will always feel a little incomplete without "Poppy."



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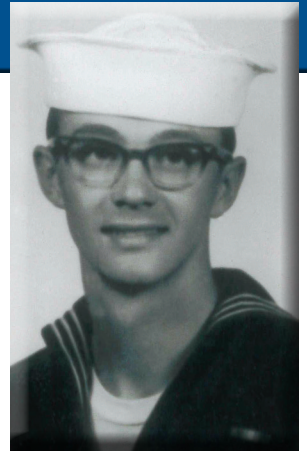
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**E3 John L. Sawyer – NAVY**

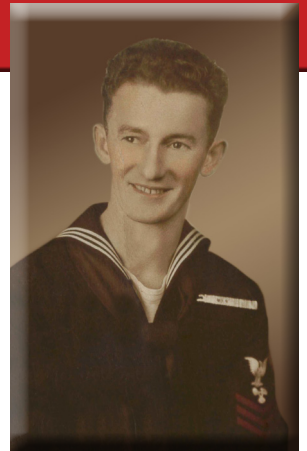
E3 John L. Sawyer graduated from Linton High School in June of 1966 and entered the US Navy Seabees in July of 1966. He went to Davisville, RI, for basic training and then to Camp Lejeune for combat training. In September 1966, he left for Phu-Bai Viet Nam as an E3 construction electrician, where he worked security at a stone quarry for a 9-month tour. After his tour, he returned to Gulf Port, Mississippi, for three months and then returned to Viet Nam in 1967, where he worked security and assisted in building watch towers for the Army and Marines on 90-foot poles, all by hand. John was honorably discharged in September of 1968 and returned home and worked as an electrician until his retirement.

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**WT1 Robert C. Parks – NAVY**

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## CPT Michael A. Ragozzino – ARMY

CPT. Michael A. Ragozzino was born on March 4, 1933, and was a lifelong Schenectady resident. Michael went to Christian brothers Academy through the 12th grade and after he graduated, he attended Michigan State on a football scholarship. In 1952, Michael was drafted into the US Army and served two years in Germany during the war and attained the rank of Captain. He was later in a car accident, which caused a head injury. After he healed, he entered the Army Reserve and served for many years. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1895. He was married in 1957 and had two children, both of whom are Schenectady residents. Michael worked for the US Postal Service as supervisor in the maintenance department for 33 years and retired in 1988. He was a musician and played the accordion around the Capital District. Captain Michael A. Ragozzino passed away on February 27, 1993.

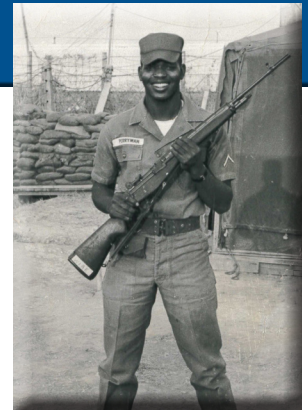


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## SP4 Horace R. Perryman Jr. – ARMY

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## SSG Dennis F. Zeh – ARMY

SSG Dennis F. Zeh was the second child of nine born to Adam and Rose Orzol Zadrozny (Zeh). He grew up on what was then known as the Alsdorf Farm on Washout Road in Glenville. He enlisted in the Army in July 1913 at Ft. Slocum, NY. In June 1917, shortly after the United States entered WWI, he was sent to Europe. The engagements he served in while in France included Cantigny, Soissons, and the 2nd Battle of the Marne. He was originally listed as missing in action in July 1918, which was later changed to killed in action. He is memorialized in the Memorial Chapel in the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial in Belleau, France.



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## CW2 Jonathan Hall – ARMY

CW2 Jonathan Hall was born in 1977 in Troy, NY. He spent his entire childhood in the Averill Park area. 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 decided to enlist 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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## SP4 Patrick J. Magagnos Jr. – ARMY

SP4 Patrick J. Magagnos Jr., was born September 5, 1947. He attended Scotia-Glenville High School and entered the Army on January 24, 1966. The Army sent him to a Field Communication Course. His MOS was 36k20 Field Wireman. He was sent to Pleiku, Viet Nam in 1967 and spent 11 months and 27 days there. He then was assigned to HHC 714th Trans BN at Fort Eustis, Virginia, First Army. He was Honorably Discharged on January 24, 1969.



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## MSGT John E. Jackson – NAVY & AIR FORCE

MSGT John Jackson graduated from Draper High School in 1954, and he immediately enlisted in the Navy and served for four years as a radar operator. When he met his future wife, Marlene, he realized that the Navy was not ideal for family life, so he reenlisted in the Air Force and served for the next 16 years, retiring at MacDill Air Force Base in 1974. John went back to school and earned his degree in accounting from the University of South Florida and worked another 20 years as an accounting manager. John was a past master of Masonic Lodge 57 in Tampa, enjoying many years as a member and secretary of the Lodge. John and Marlene have been married for 60 years, and had two children – Brian, who served in the Air Force, and daughter, Jo Ellen Cropper – along with four grandsons of whom he is very proud. Life in the military afforded them a very good life, and they are very grateful.

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## SP4 Robert R. Ottaviano – ARMY

SP4 Robert (Bob) Ottaviano was born in Schenectady, New York, on August 11, 1935, to Dominick and Rose Ottaviano. He graduated from Nott Terrace High School in 1954. While a student there, he was on the wrestling team, played football, and was a member of the undefeated Nott Terrace tennis team that was recently honored at the Annual Schenectady Hall of Fame Dinner. Bob entered the Army in February 1958. After basic training, he married Connie Civitello and settled in New Jersey. Bob expected to spend the rest of his Army life in the US. As it turned out, Bob was sent to Korea in January 1959 and served with the Army Corps of Engineers until his Honorable Discharge in March 1960. Bob graduated from Union College with his bachelor's degree. Two years later he earned his master's degree, and shortly thereafter received his Professional Engineering license. He worked at Watervliet Arsenal and then for the NYS Department of Transportation as a Bridge Engineer until his retirement in 1995. He loves to go hiking and became a "46er" when he completed climbing all 46 mountains over 4,000 feet in NYS. He has been an avid hunter and fisherman all his life and enjoys participating in trap shooting competitions. Bob and Connie raised their three children, first living in Rotterdam then moving to Glenville. He is a devoted husband, father, and papa to his grandchildren. He still enjoys his hobbies, but he gets the greatest joy from being involved with his family, especially his grandchildren.

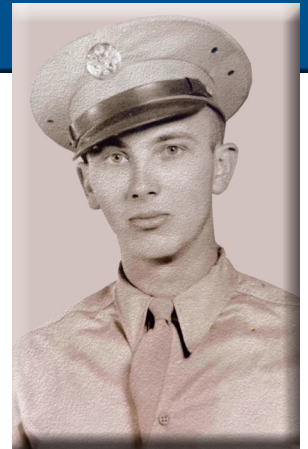
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## 1JT Robert v. Cortelyou – ARMY

1LT Robert V. Cortelyou served his country during WWII as a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army. His eldest brother, Thomas, also served in the army as a Captain, Chief of Orthopedic Surgery in the Panama Canal Zone. Both brothers were nicknamed “Cort” by their friends and family, as was Bob’s eldest son, Geoff. Bob and Tom had four wonderful siblings and were raised by great parents in Princeton, NJ. Bob kept a daily journal during his time in the service, knowing even at a young age that it captured a unique and challenging time in our history. Bob’s first grandchild is named Jacques, after their first ancestor to come to America in 1652, helping to settle New Utrecht, NY, now known as Bensonhurst, as well as Schenectady’s own Stockade area. Bob raised his family in Scotia while working as a vice president for Mohasco Industries in Amsterdam. Bob and his wife, June, a former professional dancer in the USO, had two sons, Geoff and Greg, and a daughter, Cinde. Both sons married and had two children each: Jacques and Graig, and twins Alyssa and Brianna. Bob retired briefly in Florida before he passed away in 1985. He is buried in Rocky Hill, NJ. Family and friends still miss his athleticism, intellect, strong work ethic, gregarious storytelling, and sense of humor.

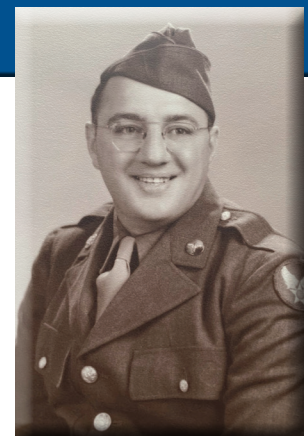


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## SGT Joseph A. Casino Sr. – ARMY AIR FORCE

SGT Joseph A. Casino Sr., U.S. Army Air Forces, was born and raised in Schenectady. His parents were Antoinette and James Casino. He was one of four children. Joseph was a graduate of Mont Pleasant High School. It was there that he met and married his high school sweetheart, Ann Barranco. Joseph was a graduate of Bentley College of Accounting and Finance in Waltham, MA. While serving in the Army Air Forces, he was stationed in the Finance Department at Fort McCoy Army Military Pay Offices in Wisconsin. Upon his return, Joseph established the Joseph A. Casino Public Accounting Firm specializing in individual and business accounting services. He also ran Casino’s Delicatessen on Chrisler Avenue, for many years. Joe and his wife Ann had five children: JoAnne Wiltsie; Michael Casino; Joyce Patka; Joseph Casino, Jr.; and James R. Casino. Joe and Ann were married for 64 years. They are the proud grandparents to seven grandchildren and to 13 great grandchildren.



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**SrA (E3) Jame R. Casino – AIR FORCE**

SrA (E3) James R. Casino, United State Air Force, Vietnam Era, is a lifelong resident of Schenectady. He was the youngest of five children born to Joe and Ann Casino. Jim's siblings were JoAnne Wiltsie, Michael Casino, Joyce Patka, and his twin, Joseph Casino. He was a 1974 graduate of Mont Pleasant HS. Jim completed basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX. He attended technical training in aircraft maintenance at Chanute AFB, Illinois. Jim was assigned to support the SAC flightline KC-135, B-52 at Loring AFB, Maine. He was later assigned to the Pacific Theater 605 MASS, Anderson AFB, Guam, USA. En route to Guam, Jim received additional technical training at Travis AFB California, for C-5 and C-141 aircraft, which were used to support US soldier and equipment movement to/from Vietnam. Jim was honorably discharged and returned to Schenectady in 1979. He attended Schenectady CCC (A.S.'81) where he met and married his wife, Donna Mary Habanec. He continued his education at UAlbany (B.S.'83). He retired from a career in Information Security with New York State. Jim is grateful for his many blessings. He is a firm believer in giving back to the community. He is a member of the Elks, served on the Schenectady City School Board, and was a Boy Scout leader and a Little League Committee Chair. Jim and Donna have three children: Cara, Bobby, and Jimmy. They are loving grandparents to Angelo, Gianna, Gabriella, Anthony, Cooper, and Ayla. Jim and Donna continue to reside in Schenectady.



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**TEC3 Robert J. Habanec – ARMY**

TEC 3 Robert John Habanec, U.S. Army, was born and raised in Schenectady to John and Anna Habanec. He was the youngest of five children. Robert was a football player and a graduate of Mont Pleasant High School. He began his World War II U.S. Army Military Service on April 11, 1941. He attended the Medical Corps Service School and was a Surgical Technician 861. He served in Central Europe, Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland. His decorations and citations include The American Defense Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. He was awarded the Purple Heart. After his Army service he attended the Royal Academy Beauty School in Schenectady and furthered his craft at the Robert France Hair Culture Design at the Hotel Wolcott in New York City. "Mr. Robert" returned to Schenectady and was a senior hair stylist at Wallace Co. He became the owner/operator of Central Beauty Salon until his retirement from the business in 1987. He then worked at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital until his retirement in 1992. Bob was a family man. He always put his family first. Bob was a wonderful husband to his wife Catherine (Kay), a dedicated father to his daughter, DonnaMary and son-in-law, James, and a loving grampa to Cara, Bobby, and Jimmy. His favorite pastimes were playing in the pool and night swimming with his grandchildren. Bob and Kay have six great-grandchildren: Angelo, Gianna, Gabriella, Anthony, Cooper, and Ayla.

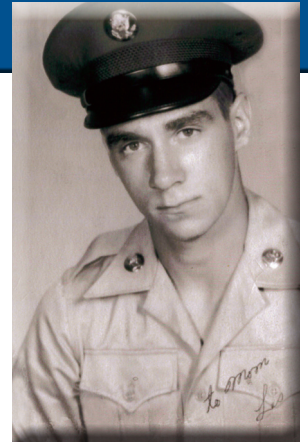


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**SP4 Lester S. DeVarnne – ARMY**



SP4 Lester S. DeVarnne was born in Schenectady, New York, in 1947. He graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School and entered The United States Army in 1966. He served in Vietnam as a Crew Chief 1st Platoon Qui Nhon from 1967-1968, where he maintained and flew missions with his beloved “Bird Dog Planes,” the 24 01-G Cessna Light Observation Plane. SP/4 DeVarnne was attached to the 203rd Combat Support Aviation Company “The Hawkeyes.” The Hawkeyes were activated for combat mission at Fort Sill Oklahoma in 1967. There were 33 Officers and 95 Enlisted men at this time. From April 12, 1967, to July 15, 1970, the 203rd Hawkeyes flew 47,469 missions, destroyed 1,170 enemy bunkers, with 1,512 confirmed K.I.A. From 1967 to 1970, the 203rd had 40 Bird Dogs and lost half. 20 Bird Dogs were lost, five to enemy motors and 15 crashed. In 1968, SP/4 was awarded the Air Medal near Phu Heip, Vietnam, for single acts of heroism and meritorious achievement for combat aerial support of ground operations. Lester was honorably discharged from the United States Army and returned to Schenectady. He met and married his wife Jane in 1969 (now married 54 years) and raised a daughter and son. He enjoyed a career in construction. He has five cherished grandchildren: Atteala, Gina, Samuel, Steven, and Caroline (Katie). Lester’s son, Scott, followed in his footsteps and enlisted in the United States Army. His son earned the rank of E-4 SPEC and served as an Aviation Mechanic specializing in OH-58C Kiow and AH-64 Apache Helicopters. His son proudly served two tours in Bosnia. Lester is a lifelong patriot who loves this country. He enjoys his family, reading about United States history, photography, and has always been an avid outdoorsman.

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**EN1 William F. Godfrey – NAVY**



EN1 William F Godfrey, son of Alfred and Agnes Godfrey, was born in Schenectady NY, on Dec. 28, 1940. He had two sisters and graduated in June 1959 from Scotia-Glenville High School. He enlisted in the US Navy in March 1960, and was discharged in 1964. He served in San Diego for four years and made two West Pacific cruises. After he was discharged from the military, he went to work at General Electric in September 1964 and worked as a Steam Fitter Leader for 36 years. He married Shirley A. Cetnar on November 19, 1966. He has lived in Schenectady County since 1973. After retirement, he bought a 40-foot motor home and started traveling the USA. He joined FMCA Motor Club and Good Sams. William belongs to VFW Post 7062 in Altamont, NY, and American Legion Post IRS 1760 in Albany, NY. He has one son and one daughter; both reside in Schenectady County. He has seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter. His passion is his family and friends, as well as his beloved country.

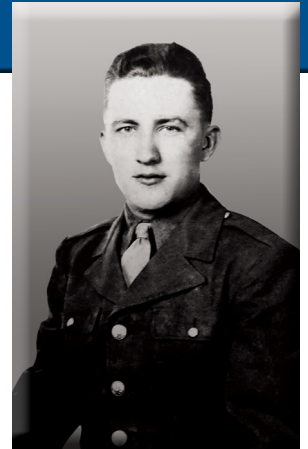
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## CPL Matthew J. Rozycki – ARMY

CPL Matthew J. Rozycki was born on June 13, 1923, in Schenectady to Polish immigrants. He grew up in the Mont Pleasant section of the city and attended St. Adalbert's School and McKinley Junior High School. He studied at the Vocational School on Broadway, where he played on the basketball team. Following school, he worked at the General Electric Co. After World War II began, Matthew was going to enlist in the U.S. Army Air Corps in November 1942, but since it was so close to the upcoming holidays, his mother asked him to delay until after Christmas. However, those plans were quashed after he received notice from the draft board. He passed his physical and was immediately sworn into the U.S. Army, where after training he was assigned to the 821st Tank Destroyer Battalion, whose motto was "Seek, Strike, Destroy." For his duty in the war, he earned four campaign stars: Normandy, Omaha Beach; Northern France, Port of Brest; Central Europe, Belgium and Holland; and Rhineland, Germany. He was the recipient of two Purple Heart medals for injuries he sustained, including shrapnel in his back. After being honorably discharged on Dec. 9, 1945, Matthew worked until his retirement at the Watervliet Arsenal as an engineering technician and designer. He was an avid golfer and a member of several clubs. He was a lifelong member of the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Order of the Purple Heart, the Young Men's Polish Association, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He and his wife, Theresa, raised two sons. He died Nov. 23, 2019, at his home in the Woodlawn section of the city.

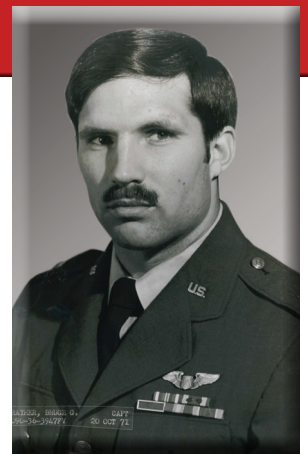


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## CPT Bruce G. Raymer – ARMY

CPT Bruce G. Raymer was born in May 1945 on Cape Cod, MA, to Alyce and George R. Raymer. George was stationed on the Cape toward the end of WWII, and moved his family to Schenectady when Bruce was an infant. Bruce and his younger brother, Brian, grew up in Schenectady. Bruce graduated from Niskayuna High School in 1963. He attended Boston University on a football scholarship and became a teacher. He took time off from this career to join the Air Force in 1968. As a pilot in Viet Nam, Bruce earned several medals including the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery and skill. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Captain in 1975, and eventually taught in the North Colonie School District until his retirement in 2011. Eva became Bruce's wife in 2017 and the couple resides at the Raymer family home in Niskayuna. Eva's two grown daughters, Elizabeth and Martha, love their stepdad and call him "Bonus Dad." To say that Bruce is an avid fisherman would be an understatement, and Eva is happy to go fishing with him! They both enjoy the Adirondacks but have traveled on fishing trips as far away as Chili. At home, Bruce enjoys tying flies, reading, gardening, cooking, and entertaining friends and family.



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## TEC4 Ralph J. Miglucci – ARMY

TEC4 Ralph J. Miglucci enlisted in the United States Army in 1940, reaching the rank of Tech 4 Sergeant. A lifelong resident of Schenectady County, Ralph was born February 16, 1916, the oldest of four children of Italian parents. He attended Schenectady public schools and trade schools prior to his military service. In early 1941, he participated in the 'Louisiana Maneuvers' military training exercise, prior to the United States joining the war. Entering World War II, he served with the US Army 1st Infantry Division, participating in campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, the Hurtgen Forest, and the Battle of the Bulge. Returning from Europe after World War II, Ralph married Ann Peccichio of Schenectady and together raised seven children, five boys and two girls. Several of Ralph's children followed in his footsteps, later serving in the US Military, and a granddaughter served in Iraq. After World War II, Ralph re-enlisted in the US Army Reserves and later in the US Air National Guard in Schenectady; his military service totaled 16 years. As a civilian, Ralph was a member of the local 146 Schenectady Carpenters Union. He participated in the construction of housing developments, commercial buildings, schools, and churches around Schenectady, including the present Schenectady Police Station. Ralph enjoyed his home and garden and loved cooking, music, and fishing, but mostly Ralph cherished time with his family. Ralph Miglucci passed away in 1991 and rests beside his wife Ann at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Niskayuna. We love and miss you.



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## SSGT Charles W. Harwood – AIR FORCE

SSGT Charles W. Harwood was born on December 2, 1949, in Schenectady. He resided in Rotterdam where he graduated from Mohonasen High School. After graduation, he attended Hudson Valley Community College until enlisting in the Air Force. Before being deployed, he married his high school sweetheart (now married 54 years) and they both moved to Taiwan where Charles was stationed. He served as an airplane mechanic preparing C-130s to fly into Vietnam. After two years in Taiwan, Charles was transferred to Virginia where he was honorably discharged in 1972. Charles and his wife returned to Schenectady to raise three daughters. There he first worked for his father's dairy business, Harwood's Dairy, then on to General Electric, and finally retired from Niagara Mohawk. Charles enjoys spending time with his family – which includes four grandchildren – spending time at the lake and traveling with friends.



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**SGT Russell J. Moskal – ARMY**

SGT Russell Moskal was born May 5, 1947. He graduated from Mont Pleasant High School in 1965 and attended Siena College for two years. Growing up, he played on the 1959 Schenectady Little League Allstar team that came in third place in the Little League World Series and played high school football. He was drafted into the US Army in November 1967 and did basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey and AIT at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He spent 12 months in Viet Nam with the 9th Division in the Mekong Delta region with the 81mm Mortar Platoon. After discharge from the service, worked for General Electric as a civil/structural designer for power plants for 37 years, retiring in 2008. He enjoyed playing drums in a rock and roll band for 25 plus years. River boat cruising in Europe and taking a train across Canada from Toronto to Vancouver highlighted his many getaways. He has been married to his wife Ellen for 55 years and together they have three children. They currently live in Charlton and enjoy spending quality time with their grandchildren.

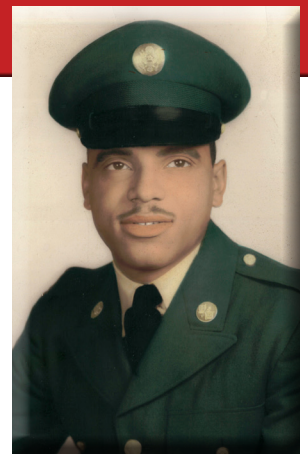


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**SSGT Charles W. Harwood – ARMY**

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## SSG Gregory Kosloski – ARMY

SSG Gregory Kosloski was born in Schenectady, NY, on August 11, 1995 to Sheri and the late Edward Kosloski. He is a 2013 graduate of Mohonasen high school and enlisted in the army in 2015 as an Artillerymen. Staff Sergeant Kosloski has served five different duty stations and one overseas with units such as the 101st Airborne Division, 2nd Infantry Division, and the 1st Cavalry Division throughout his Army career. Staff Sergeant Kosloski was previously serving as a Gunnery Sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division upon being chosen to currently serve as a Drill Sergeant for our future soldiers in Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He is a graduate of multiple schools including Air Assault, Repel Master, Advanced Leaders Course, Battlefield Forensics, and the Combat Life Saver courses. He has earned various awards including five Army commendation medals, seven Army Achievement medals, three Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Global War On Terrorism Medal, and Overseas Ribbon. He currently resides in South Carolina with his wife Alexandra and two daughters, Chloe (6) and Mila (1).

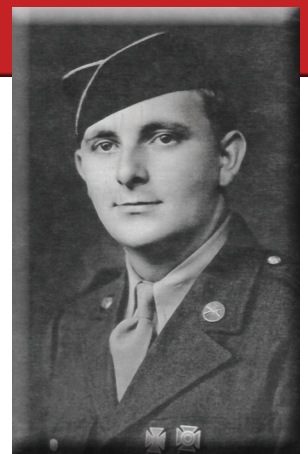


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## PFC Arthur L. Harvey – ARMY

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## CPL Joseph J. Hanrahan – MARINE CORPS



CPL Joseph Hanrahan was born in Schenectady on January 28, 1926, where he remained devoted to his family and community until his passing. A graduate of Nott Terrace High School, he entered the U.S. Marine Corp to proudly serve his country in World War II. Upon his return, Joseph was employed at various Navy and Army Depots, until they closed, whereby he then continued to serve as a government employee at the Schenectady Post Office until he retired. He continued serving his community by assisting with the American Red Cross. Joe also actively served for the church his grandparents helped to construct, St. John on the Hill, later to be known as St. John the Evangelist. He served as a member of the Holy Name Society, the Annual Bishop Appeal, the pastoral care committee, and was a long-standing member of the JFK Division 1 Ancient Order of Hibernians in Schenectady. Joe was a most humble and gentle man whose devotion to his family started as he cared for his mother, brothers, and sister, at the early age of 11, when his father passed away. He married his only love, Jean Berry, and raised five children, whom he loved with all his heart. His love and commitment continued as he cared for his two granddaughters each day after school and found pure joy in meeting his three great-grandchildren. Joe passed away on December 28, 2018, and will always be remembered as a hero to all who loved him so much.

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## LTC Jerry Mastan Jr. – ARMY



Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Mastan fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming a soldier and began his career as an enlisted infantryman in 1986, serving with the 101st Airborne Division. After several years on active duty, he returned home to serve in the National Guard at the Schenectady Armory. From there he was recruited for Officer Candidate School and received his commission from the Empire State Military Academy in 1990. He moved to Schenectady in 1994, shortly after graduating from SUNY Oneonta as a young Second Lieutenant. He transitioned to the Army Reserves in 1997 and served at the Horace Bradt USARC Center on Hillside Avenue in Schenectady and its command headquarters for over twenty years before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2018. He has served as both a Battalion and Brigade Commander during his career. He has served in deployments and exercises in Panama, Iceland, Kuwait, Qatar, Iraq, and Korea. LTC Mastan was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003-2004 and three Meritorious Service Medals during other tours of duty. LTC Mastan currently resides in Schenectady with his wife, Crystal, and his two daughters, Juliana and Cara.

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## SMSgt Thomas E. Young Jr. – AIR FORCE

SMS Thomas E. Young Jr. was born in Concord, NH, in June 1938. During the winter of 1949, Tom and his family moved to the thriving and exciting city of Schenectady, New York. As a youth, Tom delivered newspapers for the Gazette and the Union Star. Eventually, he worked as a 'devil's helper' in the pressroom of the Star, assisting with the production of the daily paper. In September 1955, Tom enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at the young age of 17. Upon completion of basic training at Sampson AFB in Geneva, NY, Tom transferred to his first assignment at Turner AFB, Albany, GA. In April 1957, his entire wing moved to Laughlin AFB, Del Rio, TX, whereupon they were assigned to the super-secret, high flying U-2 strategic reconnaissance aircraft. Upon completion of many deployments. Tom and his new bride Teresa (nee Briggs) headed for Hq SAC, in Omaha, NE. They were excited to start their new family there, eventually blessed with eight children! Upon completion of 20 years of service (mostly at command level), Tom retired as a SMSgt on October 1, 1975.



**Banner Sponsored by: The Sochas:  
Mary, Bernie, Bernadette & Anna**



## SSG Strphen M. Kirker – ARMY

SSG Stephen M. Kirker was born in Schenectady, New York, on March 13, 1983. He is the youngest of three sons born to George Kirker, Sr. He attended Schenectady High School and graduated in the Class of 2002. He enlisted in the Army and has served his country in both Afghanistan and Cuba and is currently a Crew Chief for ANG Reserve. He is happily married to Nicole Kirker, has three children, and is currently employed by the DOE Police for Knoll's Atomic Power Lab and resides in Scotia, New York.



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**SP4 Arthur A. DeLissio Sr. – ARMY**

SP4 Arthur A. DeLissio was born on October 28, 1947, to Clara and Rocco DeLissio. He grew up in the Stockade area and was a member of the Northside Little League. It was there that he made life-long friendships. After graduating from Linton High School in 1965, Art was in California with friends when Uncle Sam sent him a letter requesting that he report for duty. He was drafted into the Army in May 1971 and did his basic training in Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Upon completion of basic training, he went to Ft. Gordon, Georgia, where he received Military Police training. Art's duty station was at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he oversaw the maximum-security section of their confinement facility. Following his honorable discharge from the Army in 1973, Art went to work for the Watervliet Arsenal. During his 30 plus years with the Arsenal, he worked as an Engraver, President of the Union, and retired while holding the position of Workman's Compensation Specialist. What Art really enjoyed was his second career as a Court Attendant for the Schenectady County Court System, retiring in 2010. Art has three children and four grandchildren. He currently resides in Rotterdam with his wife of nearly 40 years. Art is a man who has a love of his Italian heritage, his family, friends, country, and the New York Yankees.



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## SP4 Robert P. Longo – ARMY

SP4 Robert Longo graduated from Schalmont High School in 1966, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Army. In September 1966, he was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, for training. Upon graduating, he received the battery of shots for Vietnam but due to missing a few days with the flu, he was taken off orders to leave with his unit. Upon arriving at his duty station, he started training in the Military Police, 38th MP detachment 25th America Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and remained until his discharge in 1969. He returned home to Schenectady, NY, where he worked in the family business, Empire Paving, and personal business Telstar Limousine.



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## PFC August W. Kruman – MARINE CORPS

PFC August W. Kruman was born on July 18, 1934, in Cleveland OH, and moved to Scotia, NY, when he was 15. He was the oldest child of six to his father who came to the USA from Germany. August, best known as “Augie,” graduated from Scotia-Glenville High School in 1953 and shortly after married his sweetheart, Mabel. They shared 49 years together until his passing on January 8, 2004. Together they had three children – Vanessa, Lawrence, and David – followed by six grandchildren – Sherri, Lauren, Lindsay, Brian, Matthew, and Christopher. He left this world before he could see his four great-grandchildren join the family – Lino, August, Alexandra, and Taylor. Augie served in the Marines during the Korean War. When he returned from service, he worked for a meat packing company where he learned to be a butcher. He soon became active in the Union and traveled throughout the state as a business agent. He loved the outdoors where he could tend to his vegetable garden, camping with his family, and carpentry. Augie and Mabel retired to Florida in 1995 where he lived for the rest of his days.



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**MAJ Julia R. Holcomb – AIR FORCE**

MAJ Julia R. Holcomb was born to Kingston and Belinda Holcomb on May 18, 1953, at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady, New York. Like her seven siblings, she was educated in the Schenectady Public Schools, attending Yates and Franklin Elementary schools, Oneida Junior High, and graduating from Linton High School in 1971. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Gordon College in Waltham, Massachusetts. She also attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha and received a master's degree in urban studies and pursued postgraduate work at Portland State University. Julia joined the Air Force Reserves in 1977 and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in 1981. She rose to the rank of Major, having served in Riyadh during Desert Shield/Storm and as an administrative officer to the secretary of the Joint Staff at United States Central Command preparing message books for General Schwarzkopf's general staff. She retired from the Air Force in 1995. After her retirement, Julia entered the Troops to Teachers program. She taught in Maryland for five years and then returned to Schenectady and taught social studies for nineteen years at Schenectady High School, retiring in 2001. She chaperoned many worldwide trips for Capital District students, exposing them to cultures all over the world. Retirement has not slowed her down. Julia is an active member of First Presbyterian Church and serves as a member of community service organizations such as NAACP, Schenectady County League of Women, and the Clifton Park Elks Lodge 2466.



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## SGT Joseph P. Blesser – ARMY AIR CORPS

SGT Joseph P. Blesser was born in Schenectady on June 22, 1916. He grew up in the Mont Pleasant section of Schenectady and he resided in St. Louis, MO, for a while. He served honorably in the Army Air Force during WWII. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was a Teletype Operator. He progressed through the ranks and was discharged in Sioux City, Iowa, as a Sergeant. Joseph received several awards and decorations, including the American Theatre Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory medal. He had four brothers – Leonard, Edward, George, and Justin – and a sister, Katherine. He was married to his wife Wilma Porter Blesser. Prior to the service, he worked in the Civilian Conservation Corps, and after the service he was employed by the US Postal Service. He was an avid bowler and he loved to travel with his family and friends.



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## CTT2 (SW) Lloyd R. Robistow Sr. – NAVY

CTT2 (SW) Lloyd Robistow was born and raised in the City of Schenectady. He was the 4th of five children to Floyd and Annette Robistow. Lloyd attended and graduated in the class of 1983 from Mont Pleasant H.S. He enlisted in the Navy and departed for bootcamp in December of 1983 in Orlando, FL, then attended Cryptologic Technician “A” & “C” schools in Pensacola, FL. In 1985, he returned home to marry his wife, Tina, so they could embark on life’s journey together; they have now been married for 38 years. This took them to another brief stay in Pensacola, FL, and then onto Norfolk, VA. While in Norfolk, he was stationed on board the USS Josephus Daniels (CG-27) where he made several deployments, including being one of the first US ships to sail into the Black Sea. Here he also earned the Surface Warfare designation. He was then stationed at NSGA Northwest, where he was part of the Cryptologic Readiness Group. Then he was transferred to the COMSEC Material Issuing Office in Norfolk. After having three children – sons Edwin and Lloyd Jr. and daughter Aaren – it was time to move closer to family, so he applied and was accepted for Recruiting Duty back in his hometown of Schenectady where he remains today. Now being retired after 33 years of Federal Service, 12 Active-duty Navy and 21 as a Federal Civil Servant, he is enjoying spending the good life with Tina, his three kids and three (almost 4) grandchildren: Addilyn (10), Makenzie (6), Connor (5) and arriving soon, Charlie.



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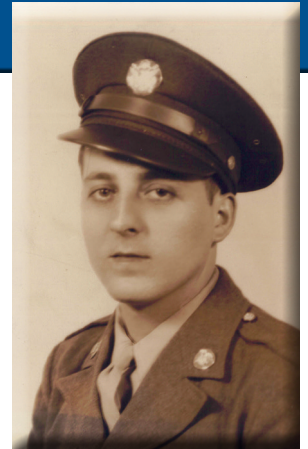




## TEC5 Carmen J. Marmo – ARMY

TEC5 Carmen J. Marmo was born in Schenectady on October 21, 1916, to his parents, Mary and Joseph Marmo. He grew up on Vischer Avenue along with his sister Emily and his brother Salvatore. After graduation from Mont Pleasant High School, he went on to Syracuse University, from which he graduated on June 3, 1939, with a BS degree in business. While at Syracuse, he was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity (Alpha Chi chapter) and served for three years as the Coxswain of the Syracuse Crew Rowing team. He also studied the German language at both Mont Pleasant and Syracuse. Following college, Carmen married the love of his life, Louise Pasquarella. When World War II broke out, Carmen was drafted into the US Army. He completed basic and advanced training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and was then deployed to Germany, where he served as a Tech Sergeant in the 76th Quarter Master Infantry Division. He often served as an interpreter for his division because of his German language training. After completing his service in the Army, Carmen returned to his wife, Louise, in Schenectady. Living on Shannon Street, they raised three beautiful children: Ronald, Marie (Pidgeon) and Marilyn (Brennan). Carmen, along with his brother Salvatore, founded and established the Marmo Brothers Candy and Tobacco Wholesale business on Second Street in Schenectady. He was an active parishioner of the Immaculate Conception Church, serving as an usher for many years. Carmen was also an active member of the Bellevue Merchants and the Idaka Forum Italian Americans Society. Carmen passed away on October 3, 1983, two and half weeks shy of his 67th birthday.

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## TEC5 Julian Miller – ARMY

TEC5 Julian Miller was born in Schenectady and grew up in the Goose Hill neighborhood. He graduated from Nott Terrace High School. During WWII, he was part of Patton's 3rd Army through Normandy, Northern France, and the German Rhineland. In Vienna, Austria, he met his future wife, Hilda. After the war he worked at GE and Ellis Hospital. He passed away in 2004.

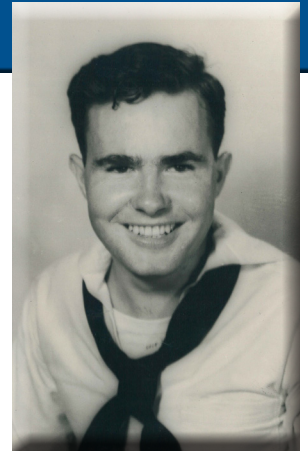
**Banner Sponsored by: [His Wife Hilda and Son Gary](#)**





**TEC5 Carmen J. Marmo – ARMY**

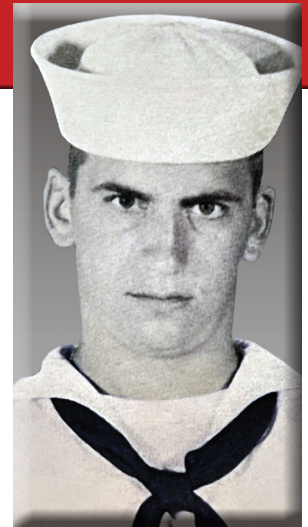
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**ABH3 Douglas Graham – NAVY**

ABH3 Douglas Graham entered the world on January 9, 1950, in Niskayuna, NY. Growing up in Schenectady, NY, Douglas completed his education at Mont Pleasant High School in 1968. Shortly after, he joined General Electric and worked there for a year. In 1969, Douglas enlisted in the US Navy, embarking on a journey that commenced with basic training in Great Lakes, IL. He served aboard the USS Ranger, making ports of call in Hong Kong, the Philippines, Singapore, and even Cuba. A proud veteran, Douglas's dedication to his country was unwavering. Following his honorable service in the Navy, Douglas returned to General Electric. For an impressive 38 years, he made a name for himself as a renowned plumber and steamfitter at the General Electric Company in Schenectady, being associated with the esteemed Local 128. When he retired in 2005, he had achieved legendary status among his peers, earning the nickname "The Legend." Beyond his professional accomplishments, Douglas excelled in his roles as a devoted husband, father, papa, son, brother, and friend. He epitomized the essence of a family man, consistently working hard to provide for his loved ones, even during his well-deserved retirement. Douglas embraced life to its fullest, relishing every moment of his journey. He was deeply cherished and remains dearly missed, a presence that lingers in our hearts each day. We are determined to pay tribute to him daily, aspiring to emulate his remarkable qualities and lead lives as extraordinary as his own.

Banner Sponsored by: **His Wife, Daughter and Grandchildren**







**TEC5 Carmen J. Marmo – ARMY**



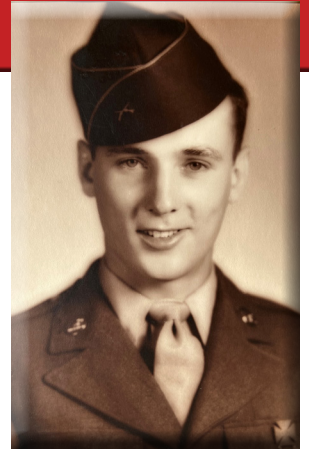
PNCM William W. Kerr was born in Barberton, Ohio on July 6, 1950. He grew up in Arnold, PA, and graduated from Valley High in 1968. On February 25, 1969, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After completion of recruit training in Great Lakes, Illinois, he was assigned to the First Division of USS ARCTURUS, homeported in Norfolk, VA. It was during this early tour that he found his rating of choice-Personnelman; it was also during this tour that Master Chief Kerr married his high school sweetheart, Connie, and was blessed with his first daughter, Dusty. In 1975 he was blessed with the birth of his second daughter, Michon. He reported aboard USS Piedmont in 1976 and in October of 1977 he was advanced to First Class Petty Officer. In 1979 he was blessed again, with the birth of his third daughter, Carrie. He was named the District Support Person of the Year for FY80; he was interviewed and hand-picked as one of only two classifier instructor billets at Navy Recruiting and Orientation Unit, Orlando. In late 1981 he was initiated to Chief Petty Officer. He reported aboard USS William V. Pratt at Charleston, SC, in March 1985 and a few months later he was advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer. During his assignment at Navy Recruiting Area ONE in Scotia, NY, in April 1989, he was promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer. From 1993-1996 he served PSD in Sigonella, Sicily. His next and final duty station was Rota, Spain. Master Chief Kerr retired on August 1, 1999, and returned to Schenectady County, where his eldest two daughters were already residing.

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## SSGT Sidney M. Brown – ARMY



SSGT Sidney McLean Brown was born at Albany Memorial Hospital on May 17, 1927, to the late Charles D. and Ruth (McLean) Brown. He grew up in Woodlawn at 2905 Albany St., Schenectady, and graduated from Mont Pleasant High School in 1945. Sid was drafted and served as a paratrooper and Staff Sergeant in the Army of Occupation, 11th Airborne Division in Sendai, Japan from 1945-47. While in Japan he received pilot's training at the 11th Airborne School of Aeronautics and became interested in photography. Over the years he would combine the two skills. Sid began his career in photojournalism as a staff photographer for the Schenectady Gazette in 1948 and became Chief Photographer from 1960 until his retirement in 1991. Sid married Doris Mageean in 1951. They met at the Gazette where Doris worked in the Classified Advertising Department. After living in Schenectady for 65 years, Doris and Sid moved to Hoosick Falls to live next door to their son Garrett and his family. They were warmly embraced by their new community in September 2020, when the Hoosick Falls Historical Society presented an exhibit of Sidney's five decades of photography. In addition to Doris, his wife of 69 years, he is survived by his sister Miriam A. Brown of Niskayuna, NY; daughters Linda Ellen Brown of Delmar, NY, Laurie (Eugene) O'Brien of Swampscott, MA; a son, Garrett (Kelly) Brown of Hoosick Falls, NY; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren; three nieces and one nephew. Sid was predeceased by his son Sidney McLean Brown, Jr. in 1992.

**Banner Sponsored by: [The Family of Sidney M. Brown](#)**