

Veteran's Day

November 11, 2012



*Thank you for your service to our
country!*

A letter to our veterans:

We thank God for America and we thank God for you. This booklet is dedicated to all our veterans. Most of you are church members or loved ones of church members. Others of you are a part of our church family through your regular participation. Many fellow veterans are buried in our cemetery.

We hope this booklet will allow your fellow church members and friends to learn more about you and your service to this great nation.

John 15:12-13- "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

Please accept our thanks and true appreciation for your service, bravery and devotion to our country in whatever capacity and branch of service you were a part of. We understand that not everyone had life-threatening jobs on a day-to-day basis. However, each one of you was in the service; and if needed was willing to report to any position whatever the consequences.

Consider a brick wall. Not every brick is the cornerstone; but, each and every brick has its own position in the wall. Remove a brick and watch the wall become unstable, unlevelled and slowly weaken and deteriorate. We thank each of you for every position that you filled for our safety and well being.

God Bless You All!

Let us remember our deceased veterans who served our country.

Dewey Bodenheimer 1919-1964

Clyde Nelson 1919-1982

Steve Carden 1927-2007

James Masten Phillips 1914-2001

Dwight Deal 1933-1995

Preston Ridge 1931-2008

Arnold Haney 1922-1982

Joicy Reid 1881-1954

Douglas Haney 1935-2001

Leolin Sells 1927-2005

John Hayes 1925-1999

Andee Victor Shields 1894-1988

Layman "Jim" Idol 1926-1981

Jack Shields 1924-2007

Thurman Johnson 1924-1994

Cecil Sisk 1918-2011

Vernie Lawson 1923-1987

Blain Tucker 1915-2002

Charlie Leonard 1905-1985

Wyatt Tucker 1921-1982

Carson Marsh 1923-1992

Dennis Vaughn 1950-2004

Charles H. McDonald 1929-2004

Howard Webster 1951-1982

Calvin McGee 1946-2003

William M. Weavil 1878-1962

Thurman Merrell 1924-1969

Clyde Willard 1934-2008

"If our country is worth dying for in time of war let us resolve that it is truly worth living for in time of peace."

Hamilton Fish

***Men in the Military
Who are now serving in
Active duty***



Colin Cartner

Brad Everhart

Joseph Moore

David Collins

Carlton Evans Idol

Derek Vogt

Al Blake



Branch of Service: United States Navy-Nuclear Submarine Service

Years of Service: 1968-1972

Awards and Decorations: The American Spirit Honor Medal; Qualified on the USS Lewis & Clark and USS Grayling

Al was under water for 70 days at a time with 135 other crew members. The subs on which he served had drills for "battle station missile" and "battle station torpedo" either twice a day or twice a week throughout the patrols. The crew did not find out if it was a drill until they heard the announcement "secure for battle station." Until the crew heard that announcement, they were to prepare for firing the Polaris missiles or torpedoes at targets.

He patrolled the Mediterranean and Black Seas.

Now the submariners' patrols can be scheduled up to a 100 days at a time. Some of the subs have women crew members as well.

Walter Carter



Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1963 - 1969

Rank: Staff Sergeant

Walter received Basic Training and Personnel School at Fort Jackson, SC from Oct. 1963 to March 1964.

March 12, 1964 - November 1965 assigned to Fort Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska. Assigned as Company Clerk to Company B33rd Signal Battalion. Primary duties included updating replacements and personnel being reassigned to other stations, both in the U.S. and overseas.

On Good Friday March 27, 1964 a massive earthquake 9.2 magnitude shook Alaska. One soldier assigned to Walter's unit was killed by falling debris as he was trying to exit his building. This was the second largest earthquake ever recorded in the world. Southern Alaska was hit with rock slides, landslides, snow avalanches and tsunami waves. The shaking lasted four minutes in some areas.

Movement of the ocean floor caused the most disastrous vertical uplift ever measured. The largest wave height was 67 meters (220 feet) in the Valdez Inlet at Shoup Bay. Roads, railroad tracks and bridges were lost, as were power facilities, radio stations and dock structures.

An area of over 130,000 square kilometers (50,000 square miles) sustained MAJOR damage. One hundred twenty three people died and 300 -400 million dollars in property damage were reported. December 1965 - March 1966- Walter attended Data Processing School at Ft. Ben Harrison, Indiana. After graduating from school was assigned to Ft. Bragg, N.C. as a computer operator until April 23, 1967.

April 23, 1967 was assigned to 22nd Replacement Battalion in Viet Nam. Primary duties included processing in country replacements and personnel returning to other duties in the United States or other assignments.

January 1969 - October 27, 1969 assigned to 573rd Personnel Service Company at Ft. Bragg in charge of assigning incoming personnel to other units at Ft. Bragg.

October 27, 1969 received Honorable Discharge from service.

Awards include: Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Viet Nam Campaign Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal, Mauritius Unit Citation, Expert Rifleman Badge

Dwight Lindy Deal

(Deceased-1933-1995)

Branch of Service: Unites States Army
Seventh Occupational Forces Following World War II

Stationed at Nuremberg, Germany

Rank: Sergeant

During his enlistment, Dwight worked in armored tank maintenance. Being the seventh son in a family in which all his brothers but one served in the military, He wanted to join as well. His father signed for him to join the army at the age of 17, however he was still too young so he changed his birth certificate in order to gain entry. Dwight asked to be assigned to the same unit in Germany with his brother Leon, he made his family promise not to write and tell him of his plans. Arriving in Germany he walked up behind Leon and surprised him with "Hello, brother".



Bob Dickey



Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1952 - 1954

Theaters: Served in the Korean War

Stationed on the Island of Hokkaido in Japan with the 1st Calvary Division

Charles Galloway



Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1969 - 1972

Theaters: Womack Army Hospital for 18 months

Decorations: Good conduct medal, Army Commendation Medal

Clyde Garner

Branch of Service: United States Army, 36th Armored Infantry
Regiment 3rd Armored Division

Years of Service: 6 years

Theaters: #1: European 1944 - 1945
5 Campaigns: Normandy; Northern France;
Rhineland; Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge);
Central Europe

#2: 1946 – 1949 Occupation of Japan

Decorations: Combat Infantry

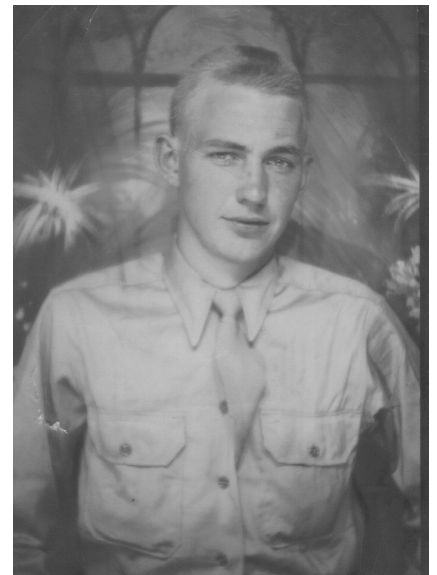


Bill Gibson

Branch of Service: United States Army Air Force - Air Force

Years of Service: 1946 - 1949

Theaters: Central America, USA, Canada
Boca Roton, Tampa, Florida
Radar Mechanic assigned to
“Mapping the World”



Tom Grant



Branch of Service: United States Navy

Years of Service 1944 - 1946 World War II

Theaters: Western and Southern Pacific

Decorations: These are given in remembrance of all my fellow comrades that are buried in the depths of the oceans and on foreign soils.

WWII Memories of Thomas J. Grant: Being the third of four sons, we would all serve in the United States Navy. With my father's signature, I enlisted seven days before turning eighteen years old on June 19, 1944.

I was assigned to a new destroyer "The Alfred A. Cunningham" it was launched and commissioned at the Brooklyn Naval yard in N.Y. on November 20, 1944. This would be my home for the next two years. From New York we proceed to Norfolk, Virginia for 3 months training exercises. I was assigned to a 40 number gun on the port (left) side as a gunner / loader on the Alfred A. Cunningham.

From there we left for the Pacific Ocean, going thru the Panama Canal on to Pearl Harbor for a two week stay. It wasn't a vacation to be in Hawaii. The reality of war was evident and not on the screen of a newsreel in a movie theatre! We saw the destruction of Pearl Harbor. Many ships were damaged or sunk. The site of the Arizona's final resting place...all those bodies entombed in their ship...Silence and respect.

The Cunningham would proceed onto the Western Pacific. We had a duty to support and protect the other ships in our fleet. I can still see the eyes of a Japanese patrol as his plane was 'hit' and fell only yards from my ship into the sea. This was war!

After this, we were assigned to help remove our prisoners of war from the many camps established up the rivers of Japan. I'll never forget the men young and old, starving and what clothing they wore was in shreds. We approached them with honor and respect while removing our shirts to cover their skin and bones. Most were placed on stretchers and taken to our ship which was used as a transport vehicle to the hospital ships anchored offshore. There is no way to know the suffering they endured.

The Cunningham would return to San Diego, California and from there I was given a two week leave to Knoxville, Tennessee.....HOME! The tears of joy and hugs were given by mother and daddy. Their many prayers would be answered; all four of their sons would be coming safely home.

After this short leave I went to New Orleans, Louisiana to receive my discharge papers on June 13, 1946 (13 days before turning 20 years of age) as a Seaman 1st class. Before we left Louisiana a two star General spoke to us in small groups. The usual thanks for our service was given but his words of instructions have been a part of my life; "forget the horrors you've seen, continue to be a good citizen, serve your God, go home and be happy". This I've tried to do for these past sixty -six years.

Tom Grant

Arnold Haney

(Deceased 1922-1982)

Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 3 years

Air Corps Division

Theaters: Pacific

Arnold spent several months on Saipan



Craig Haney

Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1963- 1965

Theaters: Korea

Rank: E4 –Artillery Survey



Douglas Haney

(Deceased 1935-2001)



Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Years of Service: 1954 - 1958

His position was as an office clerk for 4 months

Based: Canada; Minnesota; Texas; North Carolina

Frank Hartley



Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1965 - 1967

Theaters: Germany, MOS Hydraulic Mechanic
Aviation Mechanic NATO Forces

Decorations: Marksmanship, War Time Troops (Vietnam)

Specialist Fourth Class

John Hayes

(Deceased 1925-1999)

Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1945 – 1946 World War II

Theaters: Australia, New Guinea, Philippines, Japan



Rick Hensdale

Branch of Service: United States Navy

Years of Service: 1976 - 1980

Rick served on the US Will Rogers, a nuclear ballistic missile submarine. He served as a Lead Helmsman and cook. His home port was New London, Connecticut. His sub patrolled the Mediterranean Sea. Their port was in Rota, Spain and later Holy Loch, Scotland, Charleston, S.C., the Virgin Isles and Arctic Circle.



Bobby James



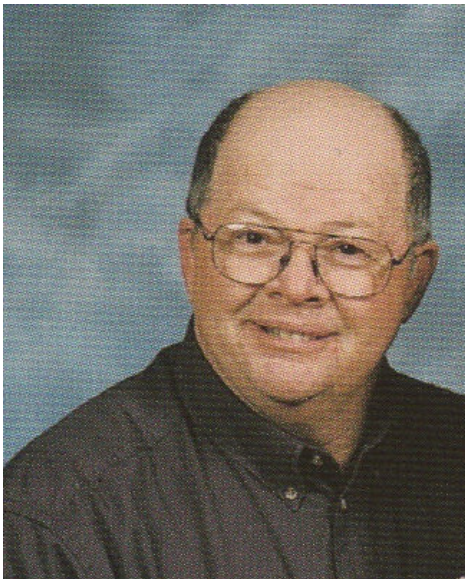
Branch of Service: United States Army Signal Corp

Years of Service: 1959-1962

Theaters: European

Tour of duty included 29 months in Toule, France.
(Extended time due to Berlin crisis.)

Dave Kapp



Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1966 – 1967

Base: Virginia Beach, Virginia
Nike HSRC Missiles Base

Ronnie Lauten

Branch of Service: N.C. Army National Guard

Years of Service: 1964 - 1972
E-5 Helicopter Crew Chief

Theaters Or Commands: Fort Gordon, Georgia ,
Fort Stewart, Georgia
Hunter Army Air Field,
Savannah, Georgia;
Fort Bragg, N.C.
Fort Rucker, Alabama

Decorations: Expert M14 Rifle Expert, M 60 Machine Gun



Vernie S. Lawson

(Deceased 1923-1987)

Branch of Service: United States Navy

Years of Service: 1 year

Served in the Pacific

Sent home from being shell shocked on the ship



Ron Linville



Branch of Service: United States Navy

Years of Service: 1968 - 1971

Theaters: 1969 - USS Mazama (AE -9) West Pac/Yankee Station, Vietnam; 1970 -1971 - Riverine Warfare Advisor / US Naval Advisory Group – Vietnam; Imbedded in Vietnamese Navy's Amphibious Task Force 211, River Assault and Interdiction Division 75. Mekong Delta & Ca Mau Province

Decorations: Pistol Sharpshooter, Rifle Expert, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 4 bronze Campaign Stars Combat Action Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross - Palm Leaf Order; National Defense Medal, Navy Commendation with Combat "V" Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon

Jerry Long



Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Years of Service: 1965 - 1971

Command: PACAF (Okinawa)
SAC (Michigan; Montana)

Training in Texas, California and Illinois

Jerry served as administrative officer in a civil engineering squadron in Michigan for two years.

He commanded a small detachment of 35 military and approximately 40 civilian personnel on the island of Le Shima near Okinawa with the responsibility of operating and maintaining a bomb and gunnery range, for one year.

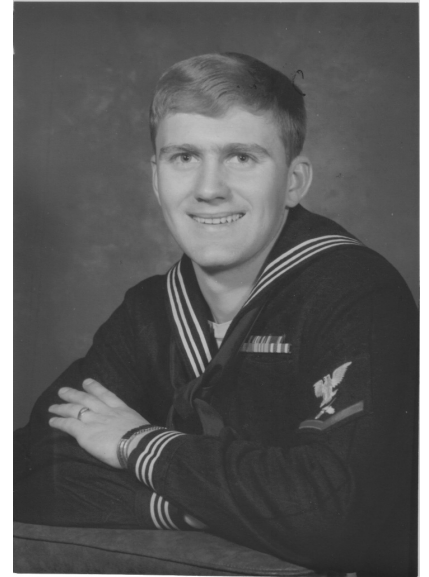
Served as a missile launch control officer, responsible for monitoring the alert status of f10 Minuteman ICBM's in Montana for two years. He was assigned to a squadron command post approximately half this time.

Calvin McGee

(Deceased 1946-2003)

Branch of service: United States Navy

Served in the Navy on the USS Enterprise in 4 years he went to Vietnam, was on PBR's (little boats), and was wounded. He was in the reserves for years and was called up after 9/11 and went to Mayport, Florida and served in security for 1 year.



Raymond McGee

Branch of Service: United States Marine Corps

Years of Service: 1943-1946

Theaters: Asiatic and Pacific

Decorations: Navy Unit Commendation with one Bronze Star (Iwo Jima); Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal with one Bronze Star; World War II Victory Medal

Raymond was drafted at the age of 18 and had three choices of service: the Marines, Army or the Navy and he chose the Marines. He took his boot camp training at Paris Island, SC. and was then transferred to Camp Lejeune, NC as a Private First Class. After Camp Lejeune he was transferred to Camp Pendleton, CA where he worked as a truck driver hauling people and ammunition. After Camp Pendleton he was transferred to Camp Tarawa, Hawaii where he departed to Iwo Jima, Japan on a LCM (Landing Craft Mechanized). He landed on Feb. 19, 1945 on Iwo Jima and it was a full assault from the Japanese.



(Iwo Jima was an important piece of real estate because of its strategic airstrip location between Hawaii and Japan.) When they landed on the beach it was chaos; explosives, ammunition, mortars, vehicles and people. They attempted to get into the beach as far as possible but with nightfall they were forced to dig a foxhole beside their truck and wait out the night. By mornings light they discovered that their truck had several holes in it and 6 out of the 10 tires were flat; however they continued to drive it until they could get them repaired by maintenance.

It took 6 weeks for Iwo Jima to be completely secured by the United States. During that time Raymond's job was to take ammunition to the front lines. On one trip to the front lines, he drove too far and got between the US front line and the Japanese front line. A sergeant saw him and got him out of there pronto. Another time after the US had already taken an area some Japanese put on uniforms of dead Marines and infiltrated the line and began combat using knives during the night.

On February 23, 1945 as Raymond and a lieutenant was standing beside an airstrip they witnessed the raising of the US flag at Iwo Jima.

After 8 weeks on Iwo Jima, Raymond boarded the LCM to go back to Camp Tawara, Hawaii. He was then transferred to Pearl Harbor for four months. After that he was transferred to San Diego, CA and then onto Camp Lejeune to be discharged.

Cody Ridge



Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 2009 – 2012

Deployments: Iraq, Kuwait

Rank: SPC/E-4

Awards: National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal w/ campaign star, Combat Action Badge, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Good Conduct Medal

Stations: Fort Benning GA, Fort Gordon GA, Fort Hood TX

Preston L Ridge

(Deceased 1931-2008)

Branch of Service: United States Navy

Years of Service: 1952 - 1954

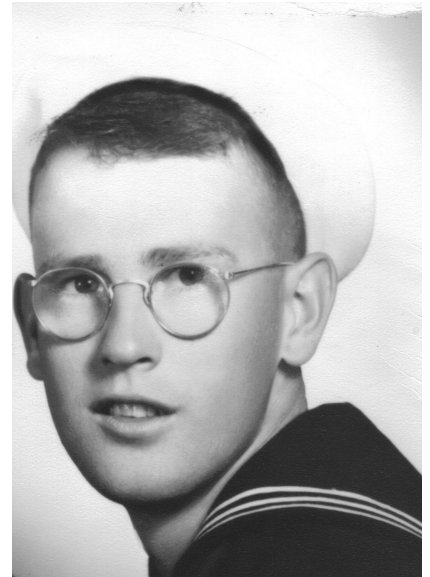
Campaign: Korean Conflict

Rank: Seaman

Awards: National Defense Service medal

Stations: US. Naval Station Tongue Point, Astoria OR;
US Naval Station, Orange TX

Reason for Discharge: Korean Conflict ended and was given option to get out.



Alton Leolin Sells

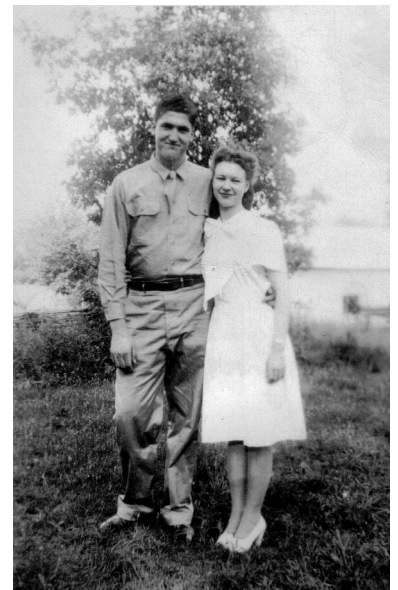
(Deceased 1927-2005)

Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: February 14, 1946 - April 8, 1947

Basic Training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Leolin married Naomi February 9, 1946 and left for Fort Bragg, N.C. February 14. While there he was sick with strep throat which kept him there and therefore he served as a medical Technician in charge of the Dispensary, 2nd Regiment, Replacement Training Center. He gave immunizations shots and assisted the medical officers.



James F. Sells



Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Years of Service: July 1951 - July 1955

Theaters: Korea

Rank of Staff Sergeant at time of discharge

James was stationed near Nashville, Tennessee at Stewart AFB for 3 years. He worked as an airplane mechanic on C119s known as "Flying Boxcars" These were transport planes that carried both troops and cargo.

Jack Shields

(Deceased 1924-2007)



Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1944-1946

Rank: Technical Sergeant

Started in Infantry ended up in Ranger Recon.

Awards: Army Commendation Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal with one bronze star, Philippine Liberation Service Medal with one bronze star, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Occupation Medal.

Cecil Roy Sisk

(12/22/1918 - 6/11/2011)

Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: 1941-1945

Cecil was in line to board ship for service abroad when a Captain tapped him on the shoulder and said he heard he knew how to bake bread. He said he did, so the Captain told him to fall out of line.

Cecil was declared Military Occupational Specialist "Chief Baker 017 and assigned to the local base Camp Gordon Johnson Florida. Cecil was the only American in this duty and his helpers were German prisoners. Cecil made good friends with those whom he worked. A testimony to this was many years later a German worker looked him up and visited his home.

Awards: Rifle Marksman, Good Conduct Medal, American Service Medal, American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal



Bobby S. Smith

Branch of Service: United States Army

Years of Service: November 4, 1958 - October 24, 1960

Basic Training at Fort Jackson , S.C.

Attached Artillery School at Fort Chaffee, AK

Bobby traveled by ship to Germany. He was stationed at Peden Barracks, Wertheim, Germany in the 3rd Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery. Primary mission was border patrol on the border between East and West Germany.

Betty accompanied Bobby for ten months, living off base in a private German home.



Paul Stephens



Branch of service: United States Navy

Years: 1946-1948

Theaters: Electrician on Air Craft Carrier USS Leyte CV32.

Sailed to 27 Ports along the Mediterranean Sea

Robert Blain Tucker

(Deceased 3/13/1915 - 8/21/2002)



Branch of Service: United States Army Air Corp

Blain served in WWII first in maintenance arm of the Army Air Corp based in Shreveport, La. He was transferred to the Army Infantry and after basic training went to fight in France. His Unit went through France into Germany. He was a Sergeant and a platoon leader.

Among other battles, he fought in the infamous “Battle of the Bulge” when the Allied Forces were invading Germany. After Germany surrendered he helped guard German POWs. He treated them well and with dignity, like we would want our own POWs to be treated.

Terry Tucker

Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Years of Service: 1966 - 1970

Unit - 28th OMS (organizational maintenance squadron)
Ellsworth Air Force Base - South Dakota
Crew chief on KC135 Air Refueling Tanker

Basic Training at Technical School - Aircraft Maintenance
Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas
Amarillo Air Force Base - Amarillo, Texas

Home Base: Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota

Attained the rank of Staff Sergeant; Served during the Viet
Nam War in Guam, Okinawa, the Philippines, Taiwan and
Thailand

Awards received: Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Good
Conduct Ribbon, Small Arms Expert Marks man Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal,
Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal



William Wyatt Tucker

(Deceased 1921-1982)

Branch of Service: United States Army

Rank: Staff Sergeant- Co. H. 276th Infantry

Theaters: European

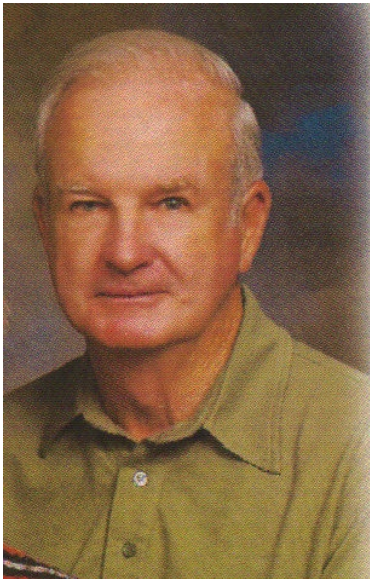
Wyatt rode across the Rhine River in France with his brother Blain who was in a different company. When their companies converged on the banks of the Rhine, Uncle Blain waited for Wyatt and surprised him and they rode across in a jeep together. Wyatt never talked about the war but his brother, Blain, told lots of stories.

Wyatt received the Bronze star for bravery

Carol never told stores of Wyatt's experiences until her dying days when she told of how Wyatt had gone behind enemy lines and had to get back to the company with another guy. When Wyatt wanted to go one way and the other guy wanted to go the opposite way, Wyatt insisted they go his direction. They went the way Wyatt wanted to and Wyatt felt that if they made it through it was a sign they would make it back home safely.



Berton Whittington



Branch of Service: United States Navy
AK2 (E-5)

Berton obtained his worker's permit at 16 and worked as a pipe fitter helper in the shipyards. He joined the US Navy at the age of 17 when his parents signed for him. After thirteen weeks of recruit training at Maryland, he was a member of the Navy drill team. He worked in the bakery awaiting duty aboard the carrier the USS Leyte CVS 32 at Quonset Pt, Rhode Island. He attended fire fighting school in Boston, while the carrier was dry-docked for repairs. He left the ship after one year in the North Atlantic with the 6th fleet.

He was then transferred to the legal office awaiting class "A" school in Jacksonville, FL. After 16 weeks of school, he was assigned to Airborne Early Warning squadron (AEW-15) at the Naval Air Station in Patuxent River, MD. as an aviation storekeeper. He rotated every 3 months to Argentina, Newfoundland.

He left the service at the age of 21. After leaving the service he went on to school for 2 years at DTI and VPI in Danville, VA and was hired by R.J. Reynolds in the engineering department for instruments and air-conditioning. He obtained his refrigeration, electrical, drivers and marriage licenses while there. (He still holds a driver's and marriage license!)

Berton also went on to serve in the Reserves in Charleston aboard the USS Saratoga (CVA60) and at the US Naval Stations in Key West and Pensacola, FL.

Clyde C. Willard

(Deceased 1934-2008)



Branch of service: United States Army

Years of service: 1953 - 1955

Theaters: Served in Korea

Scott Willard

Branch of Service: United States Coast Guard

Served in the Reserve Program from 1986 – 1996

Damage Control man – enlisted

Served in Desert Storm

Awards: National Defense medal – Desert Storm, Expert Rifle medal, Ten Year Good Conduct medal, Three Year Good Conduct medal, Two Letters of Commendation from the Coast Guard, Commandant – ribbon with Bronze Star, Sharp shooter – Pistol



Nicholas Frank DeFranza Williams

Branch of Service: United States Navy

Years of Service: four years

Nick was stationed on the USS Harpers Ferry, LSD-49, a 610 foot vessel in Sasebo, Nagasaki, Japan for the duration of his service. He worked as an undesignated firefighter then as a Damage Control Fireman Apprentice and performed duties necessary for ship stability, firefighting, fire prevention and chemical, biological and radiological warfare defense.



As a sailor Nick was initiated as a Shellback when his ship crossed the equator in July 2005. He was sent all over the Pacific and Indian Oceans, including to Russia, Qatar, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Guam, Korea, Brunei and the United Arab Emirates.

In April 2005 he completed an eight month deployment that included operations in the Persian Gulf and humanitarian relief efforts following the December 26, 2004 tsunami in Southeast Asia; the USS Harpers Ferry was called to assist in numerous relief efforts during Nick's service.

Awards includes: National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Navy "E" Medal, 2 Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbons, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, 2 Sea Service Deployment Ribbons

Fletcher Wilson



Branch of Service: United States Army
11th Special Forces Group
(Airborne)

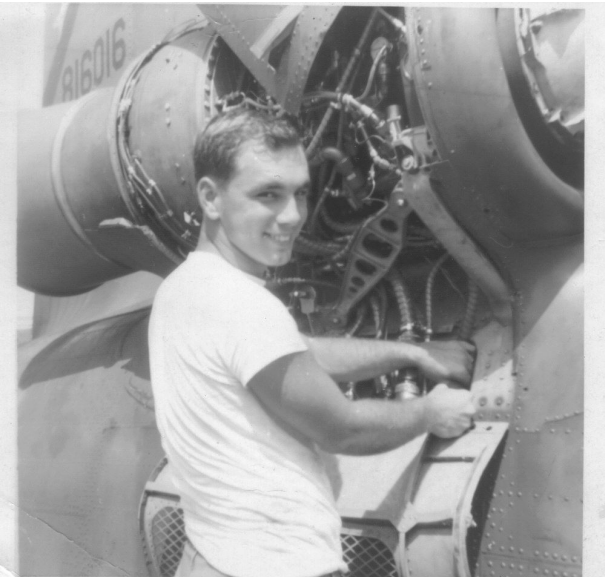
Years of Service: 6 years

SFOB: Winston-Salem, N.C.

Operational Area - Eastern USA

Decorations: SGT E-5

John Woodard



Branch of service: United States Army

Years of service: 1969-1972

Theaters: Vietnam; Ft. Benning , Georgia

Duties: CH-47 (Chinook Helicopter) crew chief
& repairman

Decorations: Air medal, Good conduct medal,
National Defense Service medal, Vietnam
Campaign medal, Vietnam Service medal