



# Veterans Shabbat Biographies

Myron E. Berkson\*  
(submitted by Rabbi Marc Berkson, his Son)

Norman L. Blumberg\*  
(submitted by Donald & Mimi Chudnow, their  
Father-In-Law and Father respectively)

David Brazner\*  
(submitted by Bob Brazner, his Uncle)

Sam Brazner\*  
(submitted by Bob Brazner, his Father)

Stanley Burns\*  
(submitted by Adam Burns, his Father)

Jack Chernin  
(submitted by Jack)

Joseph Chudnow\*  
(submitted by Donald Chudnow, his Father)

DeWitt Clinton  
(submitted by DeWitt)

Robert A. Cohen\*  
(submitted by Linda A. Cohen, her Father)

Perry Cohn\*  
(submitted by Bobbie Cohn, her Husband)

Harry Donerkiel\*  
(submitted by Lois Brazner, her Father)

Sheldon (Shelly) Dorf\*  
(submitted by Phyllis Dorf, her Husband)

Seymour Edelman\*  
(submitted by Naomi and Jerry Berkowitz)

Dr. Harvey P. Eder\*  
(submitted by Audrienne Eder, her Husband)

Edward B. Elkon\*  
(submitted by Barbara Elkon, her Father)

**Michael Fefferman**  
(submitted by Michael)

**Louis Ferris\***  
(submitted by Toni Quartana, his niece)

An asterisk (\*) next to each name is a veteran of blessed memory. New submissions are in Bold.

Eli Frank  
(submitted by Eli)

M.P. (Mike) Frank\*  
(submitted by Eli Frank, his Father)

Philip S. Freund\*  
(submitted by Belle Anne Freund, her Husband)

Melvin Godshaw\*  
(submitted by Linda Allen, her Father)

Stan Holland  
(submitted by Stan)

Allan Honigman\*  
(submitted by Beth Clement, her Grandfather)

James Karon  
(submitted by James)

Bernard Kaufman  
(submitted by Laurie Schmidt, her Father)

Orville J. Klumb\*  
(submitted by Lynn Klumb Sidman, her Father)

Gene Laskey  
(submitted by Rachel Frank, her Father)

Paul D. Levey\*  
(submitted by David Levey, his Uncle)

Dr. Jules Levin\*  
(submitted by Ron Levin, his Father)

Ron Levin  
(submitted by Nikki Levin, her Husband)

Jacob Levit\*  
(submitted by Richard Kane, Researcher Of Civil War  
Soldiers With A Jewish Heritage)

**Irving Lukoff\***  
(submitted by Mark Lukoff, his son)

**Mark Lukoff**  
(submitted by Mark)

Bernard Marcus\*  
(submitted by Dianne Sehler, her Father)

Irving Marcus\*  
(submitted by Andrea Marcus Konz, her Father)

Roger W.L. McConnell\*  
(submitted by Rocille McConnell, her Husband)

Jack Meyers\*  
(submitted by Barbara Meyers, her Husband)

**Robert Miller**  
(submitted by Robert)

Nathan Neustadt\*  
(submitted by Richard Kane, Researcher Of Civil War  
Soldiers With A Jewish Heritage)

Marshall J. Palakow\*  
(submitted by Peggy Palakow Bernstein, her Father)

Charles W. Peckarsky\*  
(submitted by Pamela Peckarsky Nonken, her Father)

David A. Peltin\*  
(submitted by Barbara Peltin, her Husband)

Abe Plotkin\*  
(submitted by Jerry Plotkin, his Father)

William Pollard\*  
(submitted by Nikki Levin, her Uncle)

**Werner Richheimer**  
(submitted by Werner)

Ervin Ross\*  
(submitted by Sandra Ruesink, her Father)

Simon Rothenberg\*  
(submitted by Nancy Sandler, her Father)

Joseph Sandler\*  
(submitted by Mitchell Sandler, his Father)

Edward Schneiderman\*  
(submitted by Joyce Schneiderman, her Husband)

Dr. Leonard J. Schwade\*  
(submitted by Sandy Schmidt, her Father)

Stanley Sehler  
(submitted by Dianne Sehler, her Husband)

Richard Selby  
(submitted by Richard)

Alan Sidman  
(submitted by Alan)

Harold Stein\*  
(submitted by Susie Stein, her Father)

George Strick  
(submitted by George)

Milton James Sweed\*  
(submitted by Judy Grodsky, her Father)

Henry Taxman\*  
(submitted by Julie Taxman Stracks, her Father)

Dr. Peter Townsend\*  
(submitted by Margo Zimmerman, her Father)

Denise Wadzinski  
(submitted by Denise)

Kurt Wadzinski  
(submitted by Kurt)

Samuel Weitzen\*  
(submitted by Betty Weitzen, her Husband)

Ernest F. Wilkinson\*  
(submitted by Daniel Wilkinson, his Father)

Floyd M. Wilkinson\*  
(submitted by Daniel Wilkinson, his Brother)

James F. Wilkinson  
(submitted by Daniel Wilkinson, his Brother)

Charles Willis\* & Melvin Willis  
(submitted by Carol Fishman, her Uncles)

Robert Wolpert\*  
(submitted by Bobbie Cohn, her Father)

Alexis Zahradnick  
(submitted by Tiffani Zahradnick, her Mother)

Philip Zuckerman\*  
(submitted by Nadine Zuckerman, her Husband)



# *Myron E. Berkson*



Myron E. Berkson served in the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant during WWII from 1943 to 1945. Myron was a meteorologist and was stationed in both Europe and the United States. Rabbi Marc Berkson, his son, wishes convey his deepest thanks to current members of the armed forces.



# *Norman L. Blumberg*



Norman L. Blumberg served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific from 1945 to 1946. He was a B-24 Gunner and served at the end of WWII. Other than some "milk runs," Norman never actually saw combat in Japan, but did broke an ankle jumping out of his plane after it landed. He ended up in the hospital, while his original unit shipped out. Norman later found out that many of those tail gunners did not survive.

During one training flight, crew members began relaying anti-semitic comments over the intercom about the "kike" tail gunner. The Commanding Officer caught wind of this and made it clear to all the crew members of the plane had to protect each other's backs and that such comments were unacceptable. Norman was subsequently transferred to another plane. He later found out that the crew from that plane went down with all hands lost.

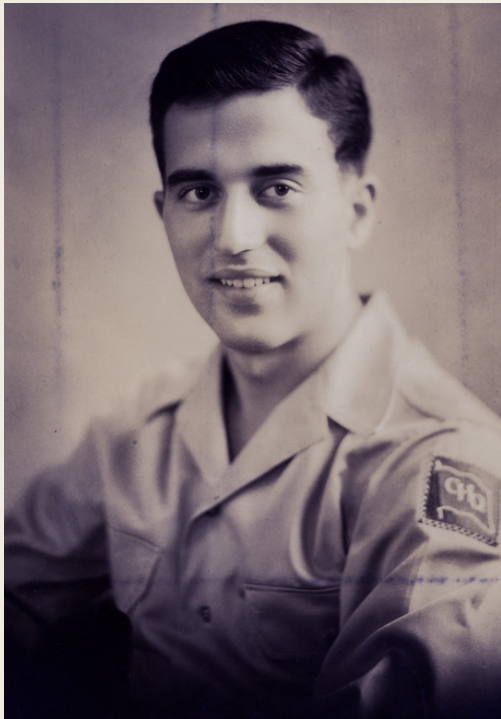
On a light note, Norman was never a smoker and would trade his cigarettes for candy. He definitely had a sweet tooth!

Donald and Mimi Chudnow (her Father) are very proud of Norman's service during WWII and their support continues for the men and women currently serving in the military.





# *David Brazner*



David Brazner served in the U.S. Army from January, 1945 to November, 1946. He was a member of the Honor Guard for General Douglas MacArthur. David was very proud of his responsibilities for General MacArthur and secretly took photographs of his private office.

Serving took a physical toll on David. He was seasick all the way from San Diego to Hawaii to Japan and suffered permanent hearing loss, probably from rifle noise.

David stayed in close contact with his fellow Honor Guards and enjoyed attending their reunions. David's son, Kevin wants to thank current members of the armed forces and families for their sacrifices and service!





# *Sam Brazner*



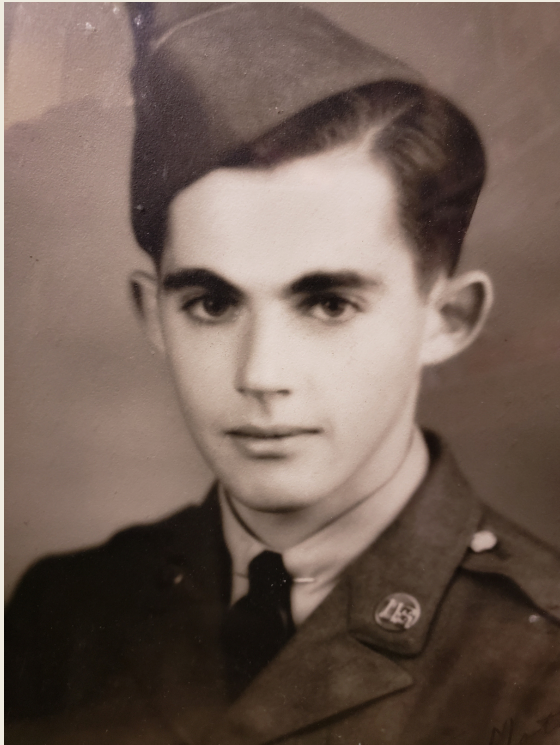
Sam Brazner served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a Sergeant stationed in the Philippines as a Radio Technician.

Bob Brazner, his son noted his Father never discussed his wartime experiences with Family.

But there is a lighter side. At the conclusion of the war, Sam and his brother David (who also served at the same time) were stationed in nearby bases in Japan, both ready to come home. Sam got a one-day pass to make a surprise visit to see his brother David. His brother David got a one-day pass to surprise Sam. They both ended up traveling on the same day and the surprise, of course, was that they missed each other.



# *Stanley Burns*



Stanley Burns was a Private First Class in the Army Airforce during WWII. Stanley enlisted when he was 17 years old and was stationed at Wharton Airforce Base near Lancashire, England. He told stories of learning to drive a manual truck during training. He hated camping during basic training during the hot summer in Georgia.

Stanley recalled the tragic Freckleton Air Disaster, where a test flight of a B24 crash resulted in the deaths of 61 people, including 38 children. He also recalled German V2 rockets falling around the base where he was stationed. He was happy to return home in 1946.

Stanley and his son, Adam experienced a wonderful 2014 Honor Flight Trip together. Stanley was always proud of serving his country and usually had a flag in front of his home.





# Jack Chernin



Jack Chernin was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army from September, 1945 to January, 1947. He was stationed in the Office Of The Chief Engineer in Frankfurt, Germany during the occupation. Jack kept records of all engineer officers in Europe and was the only person in that office.

Jack received his basic training at Camp Joseph T. Robinson near Little Rock, Arkansas. This was the only time he fired a weapon. After being shipped to Germany, Jack lived in German barracks, which were huge cement three story buildings with attics. Jewish refugees from the concentration camps had been living in these barracks prior to his arrival.

While in Germany, Jack had a lot of free time and use of a Jeep. He was able to visit many castles and small cities. Jack was given furloughs to Paris and Switzerland and Verdun during Bastille Days.

Accepting orders and following instructions are lessons Jack learned during his military service.





# Joseph Chudnow



Joseph Chudnow served in the U.S. Army in Italy and North Africa from 1942 to 1945 during WWII. He was a Technical Sergeant in the Signal Corps (30th Signal Heavy Construction Battalion, 5th Army). The Signal Corps is a branch of the Army that creates and manages communications and information systems for the command and control of combined armed forces.

Joe was involved in the invasion of Sicily. He was aboard a Landing Ship Tank during particularly heavy seas. He accidentally tripped over a guide wire, fell flat on his face and knocked out several teeth. Nothing Joe could do as this was the middle of an amphibious invasion. When ashore, one of his men, who spoke fluent Italian said they should find a dentist in a small town that was just liberated. They found an Italian dentist who turned out to be a dedicated Fascist. The dentist told Joe's buddy that he wouldn't work on an "American Pig," where upon Joe's buddy pulled his .45, pointed it at the dentist's head and said, "either you fix up my Sergeant or you're not leaving this office alive." Not surprisingly, the dentist spent the next hour fixing Joe's teeth with a gold bridge, which lasted several years after the war.

Joe met up with his younger Brother, Erv in Italy too. Joe had a neighbor in a small town in Italy, who told him his Brother was stationed with an armored unit just fifty miles away. He used his Signal Corps talents to contact Erv and they ultimately met...an unexpected happy event. Joe's worst memory was the death of a jeep driver who strayed off the road and hit a mine. This was only man under his command who died during the war.

Joe was very proud of his Army service. The war transformed him from a boy to a man. Donald Chudnow, his son was fortunate to attend ten of Joe's Army reunions and meet a good number of the men he served with, all of whom had fond memories and high respect for their Sergeant. Don was also very proud of his Father's service. Don wants current members of the armed forces to know he has always been a strong supporter of our military and all veterans. He thanks all our fine men and women for their service.



# *DeWitt Clinton*

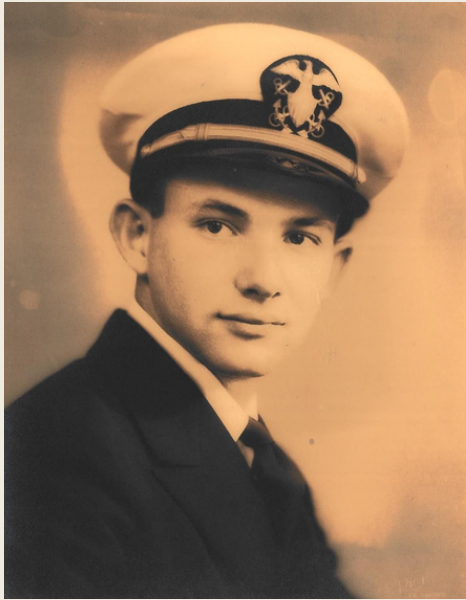
DeWitt Clinton was in the U.S. Army from June, 1968 to January, 1970 during the Vietnam War. He was a Private and later a Corporal in the Artillery 105 Howitzer Cannon Unit. DeWitt's duties was a computer operator determining the distance and direction of 105 howitzer cannon on enemy targets.

On one occasion, DeWitt's artillery/infantry unit was overrun by the North Vietnamese Army soldiers, including some with flamethrowers. Just surviving a fierce attack on the firebase was just one experience. DeWitt has occasional flashbacks when hearing Huey helicopters buzz over his neighborhood. He can not watch a few Hollywood films about the Vietnam War.

There are no words of wisdom about serving in war DeWitt can offer to current members of the armed forces.



# *Robert A. Cohen*



Robert A. Cohen served in the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant Commander on the USS Wolsey (DD4437), a destroyer ship during WWII. He was based mostly in the Mediterranean Sea and spent some time in the Pacific. Robert was responsible for charting and navigation while at sea. The USS Wolsey transported soldiers from different branches of the military to their theaters of operation. The USS Wolsey did not take a single hit during the war. This was a great source of pride for Robert, along with members of the crew and their families. For the rest of his life, his lucky number became 4437 given the USS Wolsey never took a hit.

Robert established special lifelong friends and a unique bond with them aboard the USS Wolsey. Those comrades are now located throughout the country. Robert became a respected businessman and leader in his community using the skills that were developed while serving the country he loved.

Linda Cohen, his daughter told how proud Robert was to be in the Navy, fight for his country and the great regard he held for military service people. He was buried with military honors. The Honor Flight Trip made before his death at the age of 94 1/2 was a cherished experience and rekindled many memories. Linda and Robert thank current members of the armed forces for their service and of course, Go Navy!!





# *Perry Cohn*

Perry Cohn served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1957 to 1963 during the Vietnam War. Perry was a Dental Officer and was stationed in Milwaukee.



# *Harry Donerkiel*



Harry Donerkiel on the far right

Harry Donerkiel was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII. He served in China, Italy and North Africa as a Supply Convoy Leader. One memorable experience was successfully taking a convoy of supply trucks through Italy with the wrong color camouflage.

Lois Brazner, his daughter conveyed her father's best memory was riding camels at the pyramids at Giza in Egypt, while his worst was the terrible rations, especially SPAM. The effect of serving in the military was good in that he met so many people not like him. The diversity in the military was incredible.

Lois is so grateful to our armed forces. She believes those who are no longer serving should be sought out and coveted by all employers, since they bring discipline, respect, dignity, organization, structure and dedication to any job they undertake.



# *Sheldon Dorf*



Sheldon (Shelly) Dorf served as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1962 to 1964 at Perrin Air Force Base in Sherman, Texas. He was a Dentist and was able to practice his profession daily, while serving in the military. After two years, Shelly came home with enough money and a lot of experience, which resulted in the opening of his own dental practice.

One memorable experience was when Shelly was invited to go up in a fighter plane with a neighbor, who was a pilot. He was as excited as a child and told his wife, Phyllis all the maneuvers he had experienced and how proud he was to be wearing a flight uniform. Shelly also came home ghostly white, nauseous and dizzy.

The best memory was the birth to their first child. The worst memories were Texas scorpions, roaches and mice. On one occasion, Phyllis stood on the dining room table holding their child after a mouse ran across the floor. All Shelly could do was laugh after arriving home.

The message Phyllis wishes to convey to our armed forces is how fortunate it is to be serving during peace time. Make the most of an incredible experience.





# Seymour Edelman



Seymour Edelman served as a Chief Electrician in the U.S. Army during WWII. Seymour was stationed in an army camp in the Philippines from 1944 to 1945 and was in charge of all electricians. He was thought of highly by his commanding officer, who was dependent upon him to keep all electric components of the base in operating order. Seymour had a good military experience and received many accolades and written recommendations from officers, which helped him seek civilian employment when he was discharged.

Office of the Commander of Troops  
HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE  
APO 234, c/o Postmaster  
San Francisco, California

23 September 1946

SUBJECT: Letter of Commendation

TO: Private First Class Seymour Edelman, 42205824, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Twentieth Air Force, APO 234

PFC Seymour Edelman has been a member of this organization since February 1946. During that time he has performed his duties efficiently and admirably. He has displayed initiative and a willingness to work out of the ordinary.

In his job as Chief Electrician in the 20th Air Force Utilities Section he has been called upon to work long hours and at all hours during emergencies. His zealous spirit and attitude of assisting and directing electrical projects whenever and wherever necessary has done immeasurable good for the organization.

The whole-hearted manner in which Private First Class Edelman threw himself into the tremendous job of re-installing utilities in the aftermath of the recent typhoon here, and the unselfishness displayed on his part in working all day every day and into the night, directing an electrical crew in all conditions of weather, bring forth my highest commendation of Private First Class Edelman as a soldier and as an individual. He has shown the qualities which will insure his success either in the Army or in civilian life.

*Maurice R. Lemon*  
MAURICE R. LEMON  
Colonel, Air Corps  
Commanding



# *Dr. Harvey P. Eder*

Dr. Harvey P. Eder served in the Army during WWII. He was a Captain and the Commanding Officer of two munitions depots in Colorado and New Jersey. Many subordinates visited him after war and they remained good friends. Audrienne Eder, his wife mentioned that Dr. Eder always rolled with the punches, never complained and strove to do his duty.





# *Edward B. Elkon*



Edward B. Elkon served in the South Pacific as a Major in the U.S. Army during WWII from 1942 to 1946. Edward enlisted in August, 1942. After training, he landed in Finschhafen, New Guinea as a Second Lieutenant and was initially assigned to the 462nd Rifle Platoon. From New Guinea, Edward was deployed to the Philippines. He landed in Leyte, where he fought in Tacloban and Palo and was wounded.

After returning to duty, Edward joined the 41st Infantry Division. Edward landed in Mindanao in the amphibious first wave on March 10, 1945, where he fought with D Company. After assignment to C Company, where Edward took command of his first infantry platoon, he continued to fight under the command of General MacArthur. Edward finished his deployment in Japan, after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

For his service to his nation, Edward was awarded two Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star with Valor and a Presidential Unit Citation.





# *Michael K. Fefferman*

Michael K. Fefferman was a Captain in the U. S. Army from 1965 to 1971. He served as an Adjutant General Officer-Director of Administrative Services, Post Adjutant Officer, Courier serving in the Judge Advocate's General Corps on special cases. Michael's wife, Bobbie was with him the entire time.

Michael's most memorable experiences was creating All-Army Welcoming Stations at every Post with a special team. When a soldier came to a new assignment, the Military Police directed him to their Station where he was given a full orientation to the post and his assignment, living quarters and supervisors. Losing friends and colleagues were his worst experiences.

The effect of serving in the military was it moved Michael from a student to an adult and taught him skills that were of value his entire life. The message Michael offers to the armed forces is that they are on the front line protecting one of the few democracies in the world.



# *Louis J. Ferris*



Louis J. Ferris was a Staff Sergeant in the U. S. Air Force. He served in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953. Louis also served in the National Guard and as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Airforce. Serving his country and community was a passion for him.

Louis was Toni Quartana's uncle. Her reflections of her uncle are poignant. Please see the following slide.



Louis Ferris was a man of diverse interests and his love of people showed in all facets of his life. Louie devoted his senior years to honoring and promoting veterans causes. He spent many years as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Leader and Commander. He was the driving force in the naming and erection of The Veterans Monument at the Veterans Memorial Field Sports Complex, located at UW La Crosse. The Veterans Hall of Honor is the La Crosse area's first monument paying tribute to all La Crosse veterans who have served our country honorably in war and peace.

Louie approached the city about having a park established upon which to erect war memorials in honor of those local residents who had served in the various military branches. Located on French Island, the park is named La Crosse Veterans Freedom Park.

As a one-man fund-raising team, Louie sought out and procured all the needed funds. He worked diligently with local craftsman, many who donated their time and efforts to the cause. After the first statue was erected, Louie was approached by other military groups and spouses to erect a statue in memory of their loved ones who had served. In all, Louis oversaw five memorial statues, plus the establishment of the park itself.

The Korean War Memorial, the World War I Memorial, the Hmong-Lao Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Nurse Cadet Corps Memorial, who served in World War II and a World War II Memorial. Prior to passing, he was assisting others on the WI Vietnam War Memorial and one other memorial.

The memory of La Crosse native and Korean War veteran, Louie Ferris, will be honored at a city park he helped to build. The La Crosse Park Board voted Thursday to rename a road inside Veterans Freedom Park after Ferris.





# *Eli Frank*



Eli Frank served in the Army as a Captain from 1965 to 1974 in the United States. He was an Adjutant, which is a military officer who acts as an Administrative Assistant to a senior officer in charge of payroll and personnel.

Eli's best experience was running the administration at Army Hospitals, each for a short time at various locations. Eli's worst memory was going thru basic training. An event that stood out was almost dying after drinking rancid coffee.

The lessons learned from Eli's military service was useful in his life. Eli values the service of all our armed forces.



# *M.P. (Mike) Frank*

M.P. (Mike) Frank served in the United States Coast Guard as a Seaman from 1941-1944. He was the proud Father of Eli Frank. His duties were guarding the Port of Milwaukee and rescue responsibilities on Lake Michigan.



# *Philip S. Freund*



Philip S. Freund served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1991. Philip was proud to wear the uniform from the day he enlisted in 1951, becoming a First Lieutenant in 1960 and retiring in 1991.

Philip's duties focused on Military Intelligence. He taught at Fort McCoy for many summers and was stationed in Washington, DC two weeks every summer for many years.

The camaraderie with his men was wonderful and he considered them family. Philip was an excellent teacher and always took courses to better himself. He was the first to offer help to his men when needed, not only serving as a teacher, but a guidance counselor.

Philip told Belle Anne, his wife that he was so very grateful for the GI Bill, which helped to pay for his advanced schooling. Having left Germany aboard the MS St. Louis in 1939, he loved doing all he could for the goodwill of this country.

The message Belle Anne offered is to study hard to better yourself, leave a better place than how you found it, be grateful for what you have and love America.





# *Melvin Godshaw*



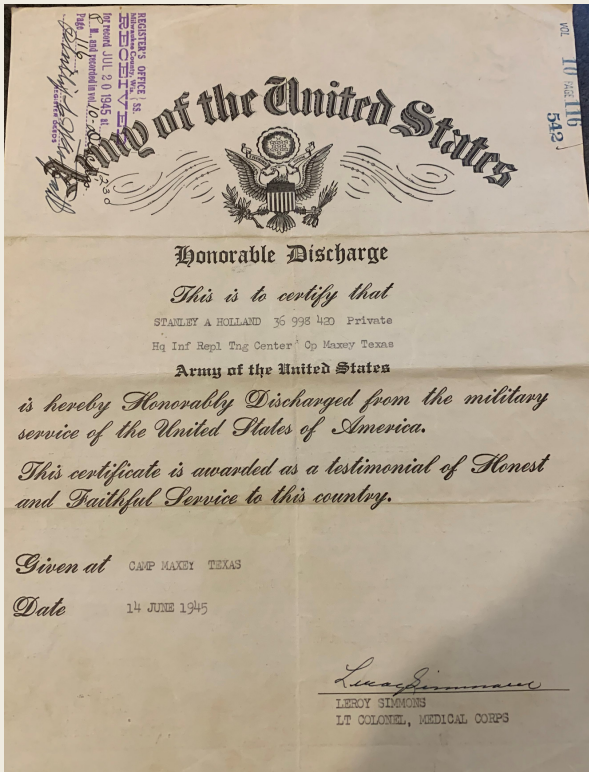
Melvin Godshaw served in the Navy during WWII, where he worked in the galley. He was stationed in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. Melvin told his daughter, Linda Allen that Brazil was a beautiful country to be stationed in during the War.

Melvin's finger was cut off in a slicing machine, which resulted in him being considered a wounded Vet. He received the Purple Heart for his accident! Melvin was proud to be a Jewish War Veteran. So proud that he was married in his sailor uniform after WWII.

Linda wants to thank the current members of our armed forces for serving our country.



# Stan Holland



Stan Holland was in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a Private and received his basic training was in Texas. Stan remained stateside during the war. One memorable experience was his contact with German POWs.

The GI Bill paid for Stan's education and included a life insurance policy. Stan's message to current members of the armed forces is how appreciative he was to serve and of their service to our country.



# *Allan Honigman*



Allan Honigman served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in Japan and New Guinea during and after WWII. Allan was a Logistics Officer.

One memorable experience was opening up the harbor port of Yokahama after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Negasaki. This was a necessity, since there was no place for cargo ships to offload supplies for the occupying troops. Allan reported to General MacArthur's aide twice daily.

The positive effect for Allan of serving in the military was that every design that was drafted had complete usability. No space went to waste, including the home he designed for his wife and two daughters to live in!

The message his Maternal Granddaughter, Beth Clement wishes to convey is the rich history of military service among many Jewish families. Beth feels this is a very special community.





# *James Karon*

James Karon served in the U.S. Air Force from 1970 to 1973 during the Vietnam War. He was a Sergeant and was based at SAC Headquarters in Omaha, Nebraska and one year in Southeast Asia. His duties were to analyze various kinds of data, debrief photos and do special research. James worked with many great people, but while stationed in SE Asia, he was always alone and worked shifts, which meant he hardly socialized with any fellow service members for an entire year.

James mentioned one of many memorable experiences, while in Thailand assigned to a base for search and rescue operations. He was returning to base one night after an afternoon off in the local town. It was already dark and suddenly there was a distant flash and sparkling cloud. It was a B-52 that crashed after the crew bailed out as soon as they crossed into Thailand. It was a startling and serious reminder of the danger air crews faced, instead of hearing about it.

James was glad to serve and believes he made a meaningful contribution, although sometimes it felt pointless. He returned home in the midst of the 1973 Recession and wage freezes. James went back to his former employer and was given a new position, since the old one had disappeared. He discovered that he was three years behind in professional advancement and compensation and never really caught up. James eventually used his GI Benefits to go to graduate school.

James greatly appreciates those who serve now and recently. Compared to those who serve today, James believes he had it easy during the Vietnam Era.



# *Bernard Kaufman*

Bernard Kaufman served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946 during WWII. He was a Private First Class in at the Infantry stationed in the Aleutian Islands, Burma and India. One memorable experience was landing in Calcutta the day the atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima. Bernard best memory was coming home alive! He regretted the lost business opportunities while in the military, but the VA Hospital benefits have provided him a great service.



# *Orville J. Klumb*

Orville J. Klumb served as a Private in the Army Air Corps during WWII in Europe. Orville was an Ambulance Driver. His best memory was the comradely in the unit. Orville developed a sense of loyalty and fulfillment from his military experience. The message from his daughter, Lynn Klumb Sidman to current members of the armed forces is the gratitude she feels for their personal sacrifices and pride in knowing her family has contributed in defending our homeland.





# *Gene Laskey*

Gene Laskey was in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. His rank was Private and he worked at Edgewood Arsenal Base, a top secret lab doing government work located in Maryland. Gene never wanted to be in the Army, but was drafted and considered going to Canada. His grandparents made him go into the Army. Gene loved working in the lab, but to this day can't divulge what he worked on.

Gene's worst memory was driving an Army Jeep on base and being accused of speeding. He was given KP Duty, placed in a shack and forced to take the eyes out of 500 potatoes. One consequence of serving in the military is his dislike for oatmeal, since this was served far too often.

Rachel Frank, his daughter wants to convey to current members of the armed forces to be glad that you made the choice to volunteer in the military. Those that were drafted did not have a choice. Make the most of your time.



# *Paul D. Levey*

Paul D. Levey served as a Sergeant in the Army Air Corps during WWII from 1943 to 1944. Paul was a Left Waist Gunner on a B24 Liberator. He was shot down and killed over Germany on November 22, 1944. His plane lost two engines while on a mission to Hamburg. The crew decided to fly for neutral Sweden, rather than attempt the long journey back to base in England. The plane was shot down by a German Me 262 jet fighter over the island of Reugen in the Baltic Sea. There was only one survivor. A German medical officer communicated five bodies were recovered from the crash site and buried on Ruegen.

David Levey never met his Uncle Paul. His death had a profound effect on his Father and Grandparents. It wasn't until a few years ago that David learned of the hurt in his family. While moving his parents, David came across a suitcase full of his uncle's personal effects, service medals, and letters to his grandparents. There were also letters from his grandmother to and from other mothers of the crew members hoping for word of the fate of their sons. It wasn't until after the war was over and American POWs liberated that they learned their sons would not be coming home.

The message David wishes to convey to current members of the armed forces is that their service to our country is respected and honored by the millions you protect and defend.



# *Dr. Jules Levin*

Dr. Jules Levin was a Neuro-Surgeon and served as a Captain in the Medical Corps during WWII. He was assigned to the Northenington Army Field Hospital in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Jules basic training was in Pennsylvania.

Jules took care of wounded soldiers, who were shipped from Europe to the East Coast and then transferred by train to Tuscaloosa where he operated on them. He performed continuous surgery six days a week, each day lasting eight hours.

Jules best memories were saving the lives of wounded soldiers. The worst memories were the horrible wounds of some soldiers whose lives he was unable to save.

Their son, Ron Levin noted his Mother sang to recovering soldiers, while his Dad operated on the wounded. His Mother and other wives, along with the wife of the commanding general made bandages, along with similar activities. This helped to boost the moral of the recovering soldiers.

The lasting effect of serving in the military was the good in saving lives, while the bad was losing lives.





# *Ron Levin*

Ron Levin served as a Captain stationed in Thailand during the Vietnam War. His duties included helping to run the NCO and Officers Clubs, which included bars and restaurants. Organizing entertainment and recreational spaces for both enlisted personnel and officers were a part of Ron's duties too. Thai citizens often played music to entertain the troops.

Ron was stationed near an Air Force base in Thailand, where B-52s flew missions into Vietnam. He was able to sightsee in Thailand and throughout Southeast Asia. One memorable experience was attending a USO show featuring Bob Hope! Ron viewed his military tour as a once in a lifetime experience.



# *Jacob Levit*

Jacob Levit was born in Prag, Bohemia and immigrated to to the United States. On June 15, 1862 he enlisted in Company H of the 26th Wisconsin Infantry. Jacob served in Company H from August 1862 until October, 1864. Thereafter, he became an assistant surgeon (A.A. Surgeon) at the U.S. General Hospital in Milwaukee. Jacob was discharged on June 15, 1865, with incapacitated lung disease.

On October 31, 1865, Jacob married Minna Hirschstein at Congregation B'ne Jeshurun and presumable was a member. They had two daughters, Theresa (born 1866) and Rosa (born 1869). Jacob died from lung disease on April 6, 1875 and is buried at Schaarei Tzedek (Hopkins Street) Cemetery.

Minna thereafter applied for a widow's pension from the Federal government. His physician, Dr. Francis Huebschmann gave a deposition stating Jacob's lung disease was progressive and incapacitating, making him unable to make a living by any manual labor. He added that the symptoms were not caused by any intemperate or bad habits. Dr. Huebschmann described Jacob Levit as a good and faithful soldier and a man of good character.



# *Irving Lukoff*



Irving Lukoff served in the U.S. Army during WWII in Europe from 1942 to 1945. Irving was a T/5 Signal Corps Lineman in the Third Army commanded by General George Patton.

The worst experience Irving endured was D-Day, while coming home was his most memorable. Irving stated he would never forget being a Jew fighting the Germans.

The effect of serving in the armed forces was knowing it needed to be done. His son, Mark believes his Father was the best of the Greatest Generation.





# *Mark Lukoff*



Mark Lukoff served in the Army and Army Reserve from 1968 to 1997, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Mark served in Vietnam and Desert Storm. In Vietnam, Mark was a Sergeant doing security and Reserve Judge Advocate.

Mark's best memory was participating in the Honor Flight with his son, Ari and being greeted when returning by his wife, Toby and daughter, Meira.

His worst memory was the heat and monsoons in Vietnam. The effect in the military was overall a good experience. The message Mark would offer to current members of the armed forces is that you are not alone and that we honor your service.



# *Bernard Marcus*

Bernard Marcus served in the U.S. Army as a Staff Sergeant in WWII from 1942 to 1945. He served in Europe on the Western Front.

Bernard led a company on the front line during the Battle of the Bulge. His most memorable experiences were saving the lives of comrades under severe enemy fire. Bernard received a Bronze Star for his heroism.

Dianne Sehler, his daughter indicated the effect of Bernard's service deepened his love of our country. Dianne's family honors veterans for their service, sacrifice and patriotism.



# *Irving Marcus*



Irving Marcus served in the Navy as a Radioman Third Class from July 21, 1944 to July 9, 1946 in the Asiatic Pacific. His duties included radioman, shore patrol and swimming instructor. Irving received the American Theatre Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal and Victory Medal. During the war, he received a shrapnel wound in his leg and developed a mild case of PTSD.

One terrifying experience was being attacked by Kamikaze Pilots. Another memorable experience occurred on September 2, 1945, when Japan signed an unconditional surrender on the U.S.S. Missouri. Irving was on one of the ships circling the Missouri for protection. Irving was able to see both the American and Japanese dignitaries on board the Missouri.

Andrea Marcus Konz told of her father's great sense of humor and that he like to joke around - sometimes at the expense of others. On one rocky day at sea, Irving wafted the fumes of something that was cooking to help ensure that the seasick sailors got sick over the side of the ship

Andrea noted Americans across the political spectrum thank all members of the armed forces for their service and for doing their part to make this the land of the free. Her father was very patriotic and believed in standing up for those without a voice.





# *Roger W.L. McConnell*

Roger McConnell served in the U.S. Navy as a Chief Hospital Corpsman for twenty-one years from 1954 to 1975. Roger joined the Navy right after High School Graduation. He was the only medical person on smaller ships and provided care for Marine units. Roger was stationed in many places over those years with his last assignment being in Vietnam.

His worst experience was being shot down in a helicopter while administering medivac in Vietnam. Half of the crew was killed, and Roger was injured. He was sent to Great Lakes Hospital for surgery.

During his later years of service, Roger realized he wanted to further his education in order to find successful employment. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree utilizing the G.I Bill. Roger's military service ultimately prepared him for a career in the medical field upon retiring from the Navy.

Roger and his wife, Rocille attended ship reunions. Many men thanked Roger for the medical service he provided to them while at sea. Roger would tell current members of the armed forces to be proud that you are serving your country.



# *Jack Meyers*



Jack Meyers served in the Navy from 1941 to 1945 as a Communications Officer. He served in the Pacific Theater and enjoyed traveling to different ports. Jack was in attendance on the USS Missouri during the signing of the Peace Treaty with Japan.

Barbara, his wife noted the best effect of serving in the military was learning discipline. Barbara wants to convey to current members of the armed forces that serving your country is a privilege.



# *Robert Miller*

Robert Miller was a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves from April, 1961 to June, 1969. His duties were being a General Hospital Personnel Officer. The best experiences were the friends Robert met, while a memorable experience was two weeks summer active duties around the country. The effect of serving in the military was good.





# *Nathan Neustadtl*

Nathan Neustadtl fought in Company H of the 24th Wisconsin Infantry. His Father was Isaac Neustadtl, who, along with 11 other Bohemian Jewish settlers, held the first Yom Kippur service in Milwaukee at his house on 4th and Chestnut (now Juneau Avenue). This group of Jews merged with others leading ultimately to the establishment of Congregation Emanu-El.

Nathan was killed in action at Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. His commander wrote to his family from Libby Prison in Richmond:

"...when I was taken prisoner I saw (Neustadtl) on the field very badly wounded. The nature of his wounds were such as to leave little hope of his recovery. It is very hard to part with one's friends, still it is a great consolation to know they died while doing their duty. Nathan Neustadtl was a true soldier. I remain with much respect. T.S. West, Lt. Colonel, 24th Wisconsin."



# *Marshall J. Palakow*

Marshall J. Palakow served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII. Marshall was assigned to the Anzio Beachhead. He had sight in one eye and was put in a unit with others like him. Marshall stood in front of the "real" soldiers to protect them. These soldiers buddied up so that each pair had a left and right eye. None of his comrades were killed. Marshall felt he had accomplished something. The message from his daughter, Peggy Palakow Bernstein to current members of the armed forces is how much she appreciates their service.



# *Charles W. Peckarsky*



Charles Peckarsky served as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946 during WWII in Europe. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School in 1932. Charles was drafted in the the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Medical Corps.

He completed his Basic Training in Memphis, Tennessee and thereafter debarked from New York City and studied at the London School of Economics in England. Charles was deployed to the Eighth Army Hospital in Nancy, France, where he served as an Roentgenologist (X-Ray Technician) until he was discharged.





# *David A. Peltin*

David Peltin served in the U.S. Air Force from 1949 to 1953 during the Korean War. David was stationed in Florida operating a radar station.



# *Abe Plotkin*



Abe Plotkin served in the Pacific during WWII as a Corporal in the U.S. Army. He contracted malaria while stationed in New Guinea and was subsequently sent to Salt Lake City, Utah for treatment. After recovering, Abe volunteered for an "unknown mission," which was a risky proposition. That reassignment turned out to be guarding German POWs at Mitchell Field. So Abe ended up coming home.

Jerry Plotkin, his son noted Abe did not speak much about his military experience. He just fulfilled his duty to to our Country. Jerry also mentioned on the day of his birth, Abe was in Minnesota being discharged.



# *William Pollard*

William Pollard served as a bombardier in the Army with the Flying Tigers in Burma, China and India during World War II. His rank was Sergeant. William was the proud Uncle of Nikki Levin. He spoke little of his military experience, but mentioned to Nikki he had an appendectomy in Karache, lost his watch during a bombing mission and saw the Taj Mahal.

William also told Nikki that he was taking a bath during the attack on Pearl Harbor. He never took a bath again, only showers. William wanted to be a JAG lawyer, but ended up enlisting in the Flying Tigers.

William was proud to serve and be a part of the "Greatest Generation" that saved the world!





# *Werner Richheimer*

Werner Richheimer was a Captain in the U. S. Army from 1962 to 1964. He served in the Fifth Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. Warner's duties were Medical and Dental Services. A Jewish Dental Colonel offered Werner a Dental Rotation, which allowed him to experience advanced courses in dental and medical specialties.

The effect of serving in the military was the satisfaction of taking care of the dental and medical needs of soldiers.



# *Ervin Ross*

Ervin Ross served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945. He was a Pilot/Navigator flying with inexperienced pilots in San Antonio, Texas, which proved to be a nerve-racking experience. Ervin especially enjoyed flying B-45 Bombers.

Sandy Ruesink, his daughter, told the story that she was born at 11:50 pm on September 2, 1945, which was VJ Day. Her birth on that day gave Ervin enough points to get an honorable discharge from the military. Ervin nonetheless loved flying so much, that in the 1950's, he joined the Wisconsin Civil Air Patrol. He also went on search and rescue missions and taught youth how to fly.

Ervin acquired good leadership qualities from his military experience. The GI Bill paid for his degree at Marquette University. For Sandy Ruesink, those who serve in the military are her heroes.



# *Simon Rothenberg*

Simon Rothenberg served in the U.S. Army in the 1940s. Simon was a Lieutenant stationed in Puerto Rico and performed various office duties.

Nancy Sandler, his daughter wants to let current members of the armed forces know how much we value your efficiency with daily operations and the protection you provide for our country.





# *Joseph Sandler*

Joseph Sandler was a Private First Class in the U.S. Army during WWII in Europe from 1941 to 1945. Joseph was an infantryman and truck driver. Joseph had many memorable experiences. He landed at Normandy, France six days after D-Day in June, 1944. Joseph earned the Purple Heart Medal for being wounded during the battle at St. Lo, Normandy in July, 1944. He was a member of an army unit that liberated Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany in April, 1945.

Mitchell Sander, his son wants to thank all current members of the armed forces for their service and defense of our nation.



# *Edward Schneiderman*

Edward Schneiderman was a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Corps from January, 1952 to November, 1954. His duties were defending and prosecuting soldiers accused of wrong doing. All of Ed's posts were in the United States.



# *Dr. Leonard J. Schwade*



Dr. Leonard J. Schwade served in the U.S. Army from July, 1942 to November, 1945 during WWII. He was a Combat Physician and Surgeon with the 48th/128th Evacuation Hospital. This was a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital. Dr. Schwade served in Algeria, Ardennes, Central Europe, France, Normandy, Rhineland (Western Germany), Sicily and Tunisia.

The most difficult part of Dr. Schwade's duties was witnessing the horrors of war-the debilitated and wounded soldiers and so much death. It was difficult for him to be away from his wife and young daughter for three years. Dr. Schwade's daughter was two years old when he left and five years old when he returned. He was in constant danger for the three years, living in frightening and unfamiliar circumstances with no way to predict the outcome or the future. However, Dr. Schwade always believed very strongly in the cause and thought the war was worth fighting for given the stakes.

Sandy Schmidt, his daughter was told by her Father about a young German soldier who was wounded and brought for treatment. Her Dad assured this soldier he would be well taken care of. As Dr. Schwade was giving this soldier a blood transfusion and administering anesthesia for his surgery, he leaned down and told this soldier that he was getting the best blood from a Jewish soldier.

Sandy told of her Brother watching a documentary with Dr. Schwade on D-Day. Her Brother asked him "how could you clamber down that rope and ladder into a boat and land on the beach under fire?" What could have motivated you to go and do that?" Dr. Schwade turned to his son and answered "so you wouldn't ever have to."

Dr. Schwade was very proud to be a doctor and serve in the Army during WWII. He was always grateful to have returned home without injury and be able to live peacefully with his family and return to his medical practice.





# *Stanley Sehler*

Stanley Sehler was a Captain in the U.S. Air Force from 1962-1964. His duties were with the Medical/Dental Unit at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. Stanley was proud to be counted among the active duty personnel and feels privileged to have worn the uniform in the U.S. military.

Stanley feels sincere gratitude for those who served to defend the blessings of our nation's freedoms.



# *Richard Selby*



Richard Selby served in the Army Judge Advocates Generals Corps (JAGG) from 1962 to 1964. He was a Captain and a Court Martial Trial Counsel. Richard both prosecuted and defended clients. His best memory was the successful defense of a fifteen year veteran charged with espionage, while his worst was losing a rape case he was prosecuting. Richard's most memorable experience was attending the Armored Officers School in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He enjoyed JAGG School at the University of Virginia, but disliked the huge caseload. Richard found military justice to be fair because of the dedication and intelligence of the attorney and judges. He believes we should support our service members.



# *Alan Sidman*

Alan Sidman served in the Vietnam War from October, 1966 to May, 1970. Alan was a Sergeant (E5) in the U.S. Army and was an Intelligence Intercept Analyst for the National Security Agency. Alan is honored and proud of the current members of the armed forces serving our country.





# *Harold Stein*

Harold Stein served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946 during WWII. He was a First Lieutenant stationed at various Pacific islands building bridges, roads and desalinization plants. A memorable event for Harold during the war was the decision to use the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The camaraderie among his military comrades had a positive lasting effect. Coming home when the war ended was his best memory.



# *George Strick*

George Strick served in the U.S. Army as a Non-Commissioned Officer from 1954 to 1956. While serving for one year in Ft. Devens, Massachusetts, he was stationed at the Surgical Hospital Mobile Army focusing on medical equipment repair, set up and tear-down. While stationed at a hospital Okinawa, Japan for one year, George's duties were linen supply.

One memorable experience occurred during Basic Training in the Ozarks. Friday evenings was dedicated to cleaning the barracks in advance of Saturday morning inspection. It was a miserable task, which all disliked. During the second week of training, George and five or six Jewish servicemen found out a Chaplain conducted Friday Night Shabbat Services. They made a request to attending one Friday Shabbat Service, which relieved them of Friday night cleaning duties. When they returned to the barracks, their bunks and lockers were trashed and spread out on the floor. They complained to the Barracks Officer, who responded "he did not see anything and that they had been taught a lesson." George and his fellow Jewish servicemen reported the situation to the Chaplain. The following day a Colonel arrived at the base and the entire barracks command personnel were replaced. They never had a similar problem.

But a positive experience occurred while George was stationed in Okinawa. Pregnant women tend to give birth during times of low barometric pressure. So during the hurricane season, they were sent out to gather pregnant women and provide life saving assistance to them and their unborn children.

George encountered good and bad experiences in the Army, but serving in the military taught him a great deal about handling adversity with whatever tools are available.



# *Milton James Sweed*

Milton Sweed served as a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the U.S. Navy during WWII from 1944 to 1946. Milton was a dentist and served at the Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago and Sampson Naval Base in New York.





# *Henry Taxman*



Henry Taxman was a Private First Class in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was trained to be an Italian translator, but those skills were never utilized. Henry served in France and on a ship in the Philippines. While being transported from Europe to Asia, Henry noted he received one Coke per day. Officers were always at the head of the line, while everyone else had to wait.

One memorable experience was attending a Passover Service, while in France and to his surprise finding Dudley Weinberg was conducting the service. While stationed in France, Henry wrote a letter to his daughter, Julie Taxman Stracks on her first birthday. Be sure to read this heartwarming letter (see attachment). Henry in fact missed the first two years of Julie's life, but returned safely to the United States.

(Letter to Julie on next page)

June 6, 1945  
Beaune, France

Dearest Julie:

It's sort of hard, darling, for a dad to write a letter to his daughter on the occasion of her first birthday.

If it weren't for this tremendous World War II, I'd be able to be home to help you celebrate your birthday. We're in this war, darling, so that you and millions of other children will be able to enjoy a future free of hatred and viciousness. Millions of soldiers would love to be with their children. We'd love to, dear, but our duty to the world—our common goal of a world at peace—makes it necessary to be in many foreign lands. Here in France, whenever the little children see us American soldiers, they smile and put up their little fingers in the V for victory. If children the world over will realize and appreciate that kindness and tolerance are always good and that bigotry, viciousness, and intolerance are always bad, then the world will always be able to put up its fingers to form the V for victory.

Thanks to your Mommy's letters and those of our families and friends, I've been able to get an excellent picture of how adorable and sweet you are. Mommy knows how much I love children and how I'd love to have been able to be with you this past year. That's something that neither of us could do much about.

What I do know, dear Julie, is that one day the War will be over and I'll be home. We'll have lots of fun to catch up on and we'll certainly do it. We'll be pals, darling—you and I—real pals. Mom is doing a wonderful job by herself and when I get home, the two of us together will do our best to help you grow up to be a fine, gracious, endearing woman.

Happy birthday, my darling Julie. If God be willing, I'll be home to help you celebrate your second birthday.

Life is a wonderful thing, dear. To make it beautiful, it has to be nourished with goodness, kindness, and love. We'll do our best, won't we Julie, to keep life beautiful.

I love you so very much.

Love,  
Dad



# *Dr. Peter Townsend*



Dr. Peter Townsend came to the United States of America at eight years old in 1939 from Berlin, Germany, where he witnessed the atrocities of the time. He moved to New York City and attended public school as a German speaking youth. Dr. Townsend came to serve in the U.S. military in the country that saved him and his family, despite the loss of many in his extended family. Dr. Townsend was a Captain in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1960s. He enlisted following his residency program. He served as a Flight Surgeon during that time and was stationed primarily at Dover Air Force Base. At times, he traveled with pilots to bases and ships abroad and even had his own flight helmet.

Dr. Townsend served during the period when our nation was in heavy competition with the Soviet Union to land on the moon. He met many of the early astronauts and was involved with later stage development of the early space suits and astronaut endurance assessment.

Margo Zimmerman, his daughter told a story of interest. One night when Dr. Townsend was the "on-call" doctor in Dover, he received a call to go examine a person on a plane on the runway. He was told that he could only examine this person and not speak to him or ask any questions or tell anyone about this assignment. It wasn't until the next day that he realized that he had examined Gary Powers, who was the U.S. pilot shot down over the Soviet Union that subsequently resulted in a negotiated prisoner exchange.

When Dr. Townsend was discharged, he began his practice as a family physician. In order to supplement his fledgling practice, he began to serve as a civilian doctor for the military. He performed physicals on candidates for all of branches of the military. He served as intermittent Medical Officer countless times, but maintained his private practice despite many requests that he assume the role permanently. Dr. Townsend maintained a civilian role with the military for 47 years and was honored for his longevity of service many times. At times, he was required to assist in policy decisions and deliver difficult news to those he examined, such as an HIV positive result to patients during the AIDS crisis.

Dr. Townsend never received his official discharge papers for years. The official discharge did not occur for years due to the Vietnam War. He was never recalled for his Flight Surgeon position during that time too. Margo notes her Father frequently reflected on his days in the military with reverence, awe and gratitude.





# *Denise Wadzinski*



Denise Wadzinski served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force from 1989 to 2010, graduating from boot camp at Fort Dix, New Jersey in 1990. She spent most of my military career as an enlisted Soldier and then a Non-Commissioned Officer. However, Denise eventually became a Commissioned Officer, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. The majority of her duties were located on training bases all over the United States (CONUS), but Denise spent some time in Germany at Ramstein AFB. She worked in several fields including: Administration, Civic and Public Affairs, Drill Sergeant School and Honor Guard.

Denise's best memory was training with the 11th Wing at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington D.C. for Honor Guard. She participated in several military funerals, which was truly a honor and a privilege. The most memorable experiences was flying regularly in C-130 and C-17 aircraft.

Denise's worst memory was suffering exertional heat stroke at Fort Benning, Georgia, which sadly led to the process of ending her military career. The base lost several Soldiers that year due to the excessive heatwave. Training deaths or accidents are quite common and they happen far more often than the average citizen realizes.

Denise's advice to current members of the armed forces is always save any and all paperwork, enjoy the camaraderie while you are serving because there is nothing like it in the civilian world, wear your PPE and do not get up from your seat when the plane opens the back door!



# *Kurt Wadzinski*



Kurt Wadzinski served as a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force from 1986 to 2009. His duties were Logistics Management. Kurt was later able to use the G.I. Bill to earn a bachelor degree.

Kurt believes serving and living with a variety of people of different races, religions, regions and countries helped to make a better and more empathetic person. Being with his fellow troops are among Kurt's best memories, while his worst experience was getting thru boot camp.

One memorable experience was preparing to deploy to Turkey in 2003 and then having the deployment called off at the last minute when Turkey's Prime Minister held a vote to allow U.S. Troops, which failed by four votes.

The message Kurt would offer members of the armed forces is to enjoy the experiences while you are in the military and use them to make yourself a better person because you will hang up the boots at some point in time. Really get to know the troops you are working with and it will serve you well.



# *Samuel Weitzen*

Samuel Weitzen served in the U.S. Navy as a Chief Petty Officer. Samuel conveyed that the effect of serving in the military was good training for future living.

Betty Weitzen, his wife wants to thank current members of the armed forces for their service.





# *Ernest F. Wilkinson*



Ernest F. Wilkinson served as a Corporal in the United States Army in Europe during WWII. Ernest had many duties. They included armament supply, assisting with new servicemen arrivals, guard duty, loading coffins on ships for the return trip to the United States, medic detail, mess tent & kitchen detail and supply ship inventory.

The death and destruction of the daily bombing in London was Ernest's worst memory.

The day the war ended and being informed he was going home to his wife and two children was his best memory, which included holding his sons, Floyd and Jim. Floyd was less than one year old when Ernest enlisted. He learned while at base camp in Needles, California that his wife was pregnant with Jim. Ernest shipped out six months before Jim was born.

Ernest conveyed to his son, Dan Wilkinson that serving in the military shaped his commitments for the rest of his life. Ernest pledged to make meaningful contributions to his country, community and his family. This purposefulness has been passed on to his 7 children, 17 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren and 10 great great grandchildren.

The message Dan wishes to offer current members of the armed forces is we need men and women of every rank in all five branches of the military to be as committed to our nation as were our military commanders during WWII. They need to adopt a similar style of living that his Father possessed, along with most of his comrades after they returned from their military service.



# *Floyd M. Wilkinson*



Floyd M. Wilkinson served in the U.S. Navy, mainly in the Caribbean and Mediterranean as a Petty Officer 3rd Class from September, 1961 to January, 1966. He enlisted three months after graduating from high school. Floyd's duties were Engine-Boiler Room Propulsion. Floyd later realized he received the equivalent of a college degree in High Pressure Steam Management/Maintenance as an Officer aboard a battleship.

During his four years aboard various class naval ships, Floyd was able to circle the globe and see the world. He participated in the flotilla order by President John Kennedy during the Bay of Pigs Invasion in October, 1962. Floyd was also in the Mediterranean about the U.S.S. Borie on June 24, 1963 in preparation for war in Beirut, Lebanon.

The message Dan Wilkinson, his brother would like to offer members of the armed forces is to pay attention to details. The small stuff makes a big difference. Those things that seem of little importance during basic training end up saving many lives in the furry of battle.



# *James F. Wilkinson*



James F. Wilkinson was a Sergeant in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1968 during the Vietnam War. His duties included Perimeter Guard Duty when at a Battalion Base Camp. That included commanding forward gunnery units and platoons stationed along the Demilitarize Zone separating North and South Vietnam.

James received a Purple Heart Medal from J.C. Lanbert, Major General for being almost fatally wounded during action along the Demilitarize Zone. He still has thirteen pieces of inoperable shrapnel in his back, shoulder and upper body.

James completed three tours of duty. On two occasions, his helicopter was shot down, which resulted in the deaths of most of the soldiers aboard. James almost had his head taken off with a hoister shell, but survived this attack with a few other men of the platoon under his command. He again sustained severe injuries. James could only ask: "God, why am I still alive?" He nonetheless felt compelled to remain in Vietnam until the war was won.

James never received a hero's welcome upon returning home. Many of his comrades were spit on, verbally abused and made to feel "un-American." He still feels the shame today. Nonetheless after returning home tired and weak, James was committed to making young people understand what he had been fighting for!

Dan Wilkinson, his brother would like to convey to current members of the armed forces to take care of every Veteran from every war and to treat all veterans with equal respect.





# *Charles Willis and Melvin Willis*

Charles and Melvin Willis were Brothers, who both served in the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII. Charles was a Paratrooper in the 12th Battalion, while Melvin was a MP. By sure coincidence, Charles and Melvin found each other in Belgium on March 14, 1945. They hugged and got drunk together. Ten days later on March 25, 1945 Charles was killed.

After returning home, Melvin joined the New York Police Department until his retirement. He received a master's degree, while working, which was paid via the GI Bill. Melvin had three children, all well-educated and went on to have successful careers.

Both Charles and Melvin were uncles of Carol Fishman. Carol wishes to convey the dilemma our armed forces face in protecting our country, but difficult decisions need to be made.



# *Robert Wolpert*

Robert Wolpert served in the U.S. Navy from 1916 to 1918 during WWI. Robert was Seaman First Class and was a radio operator.



# *Alexis Zahradnick*



Alexis Zahradnick is currently a Staff Sergeant (E5) in the Air National Guard. She served on Joint Task Force Delta for the Covid-19 pandemic. She has received the Air Force Achievement Medal and an Army Achievement Medal.

She is currently on her first deployment. Her family, especially her mother, is very proud of her and looks forward to her return at the end of January 2023.





# *Philip Zuckerman*



Philip Zuckerman was a Private First Class in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953. He was stationed in Fort Bliss, Texas and worked in a photo lab. Philip enjoyed taking important pictures, but disliked field duties. Philip earned his college degree, which was paid via the GI Bill.

Nadine Zuckerman, his wife wants to convey to current members of the armed forces what you do is truly appreciated.