

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



Dear Veteran,

One of my greatest honors as State Senator is to recognize the men and women who have served with distinction in the United States Armed Forces. Congratulations on your nomination to the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame, which recognizes your extraordinary achievements in both military and civilian life.

As the daughter of a U.S. Air Force veteran and the mother-in-law of a West Point graduate who served as a U.S. Army Green Beret, I am eternally grateful for the commitment and sacrifice of our veterans and military families.

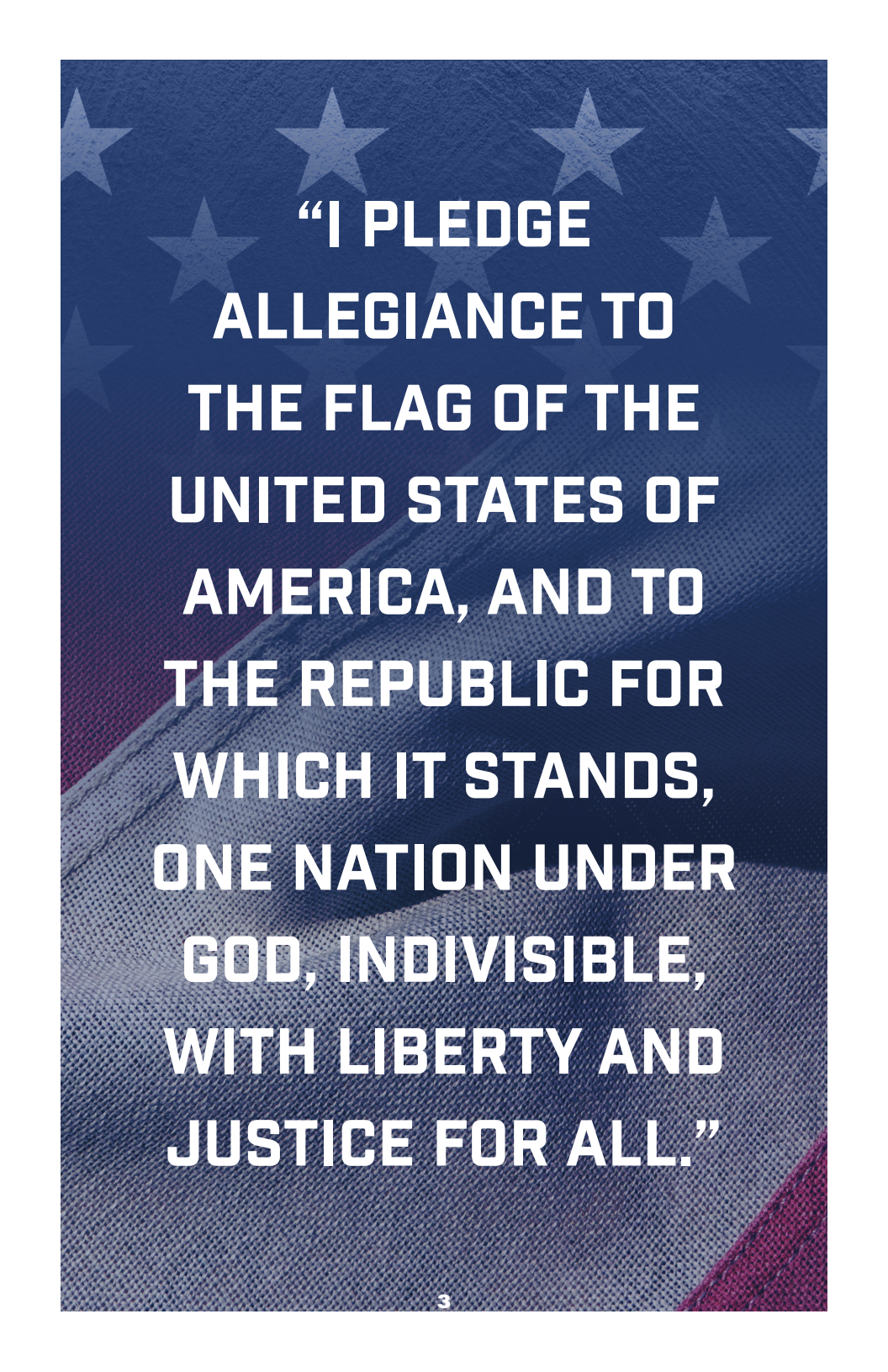
The proud Americans of the 54th District are indebted to you for your honorable service and outstanding contributions to our country, State, and the communities we call home. May God bless you and your family and the United States of America.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela".

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District



The background of the image is a close-up, textured view of the American flag. The top half shows the blue field with white stars, while the bottom half shows the red and white stripes. The text is overlaid on the blue field.

**“I PLEDGE
ALLEGIANCE TO
THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, AND TO
THE REPUBLIC FOR
WHICH IT STANDS,
ONE NATION UNDER
GOD, INDIVISIBLE,
WITH LIBERTY AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL.”**

OUR FORCES

ARMY

The largest and oldest service in the U.S. military, the Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States.

MARINE CORPS

A component of the Department of the Navy, the Marine Corps maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations.

NAVY

On, above and below the water, the Navy is America's forward-deployed force and is a major deterrent to aggression around the world.

OUR FORCES

AIR FORCE

The Air Force provides a rapid, flexible, and lethal air and space capability that can deliver forces anywhere in the world within hours.

COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement, marine and environmental protection and military naval support. Part of the Department of Homeland Security during peacetime, the Coast Guard operates under the Navy during times of war.

SPACE FORCE

The Space Force organizes, trains, and equips space forces in order to protect U.S. and allied interests in space and provide space capabilities to the joint force.

NATIONAL GUARD

Comprised of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, the National Guard is a versatile force, supporting combat missions, domestic emergencies, humanitarian efforts, homeland security operations and more.

VETERANS

HALL OF FAME NOMINEES

2024



VETERANS

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ERIC R. LANG

U.S. AIR FORCE, U.S. ARMY RESERVE

RANK: STAFF SERGEANT

1983-1988 (AIR FORCE),

1989-1998 (ARMY RESERVE)

NOMINATED BY

SELF

What inspired you to join the military?

I enlisted to serve my country and to take advantage of the many great benefits the military offers to service members.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Driving an armored personnel carrier in the City of Canandaigua for a Memorial Day Parade.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

The most valuable lesson I learned was self discipline and teamwork.

What do you love most about America?

The freedoms that we enjoy that do not exist in other countries.

Mr. Lang has been a dedicated member of the Richmond Volunteer Fire Department since 2008. He is currently serving as Fire Captain. He is Vice Chairman of the non-profit Western New York Motocross Association and was a long time volunteer for the Honeoye Pirate's Festival and Car Show. Mr. Lang is a graduate of Honeoye Central School and Monroe Community College. He is the owner of Bald Hill Automotive in Honeoye.

For his service, Mr. Lang received the Air Force Good Conduct Medal and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

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LANCE D. REARICK

U.S. MARINE CORPS

SERVED 1995-1999

NOMINATED BY
SUSAN L. SMITH

What inspired you to join the military?

I wanted to follow in my family's footsteps and serve in the armed forces.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

The day I earned the title U.S. Marine.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

I learned discipline and leadership while providing government security and serving at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C.

What do you love most about America?

Our freedoms.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Since 2016, Mr. Rearick has been an employee of the Ontario County Veteran Services Agency. He has provided thousands of veterans with assistance in obtaining their veterans benefits. Without his help, many veterans would not know about all of the benefits they are entitled to.

Mr. Rearick is an active member in the Phelps American Legion Post. He has assisted the Midlakes Boys Youth, Modified, and Varsity Football teams and the Boys Youth and Modified Lacrosse teams.

For his service, Mr. Rearick received the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Expert Rifle Badge.

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PETER FOREST GILBERT

U.S. MARINE CORPS

RANK: SERGEANT

SERVED 2000-2008

NOMINATED BY
NOAH ST MARY

What inspired you to join the military?

After graduating high school and going into college, I didn't have a clear path of what I wanted to pursue, so I joined the military to start on a promising path.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

While my memory is not the best, I remember the comradery the most and the fact that you never knew who you were going to meet. I probably met a person from every state. It also showed how, despite our different ethnicities and lifestyles, we all became a family in a sense. I still have connections with people I served with.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Coming out of high school, I had low confidence in myself. The military taught me to have confidence in myself. I also didn't think highly of myself until joining the military. It gave me a sense of purpose and served to show the potential of who I truly can be. The military also showed me how to function calmly under high levels of stress and not to get frustrated when things didn't go as planned.

What do you love most about America?

The freedoms we have.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Mr. Gilbert exemplifies everything that it means to be a good Marine and American.

Mr. Gilbert was on the front lines of Operation Iraqi Freedom during the initial invasion. He remains humble about his service, even to his friends.

For his service, Mr. Gilbert received the Good Conduct Medal.

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RICHARD BASKIN

U.S. MARINE CORPS

RANK: SERGEANT

SERVED 2005-2013

NOMINATED BY

RONALD L. EVELAND,
CITY OF GENEVA POLICE CHIEF

What inspired you to join the military?

I lost my father at a young age and always looked up to him. He was a United States Marine and served on the front lines in Vietnam. Enlisting in the USMC made me feel more connected to him.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Being at Parris Island, where my father also became a Marine, I felt like I was walking in his footsteps. It connected me to him in a profound way.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

I learned that even at your lowest point, you can always continue to push yourself further.

What do you love most about America?

I love that you can start from nothing, have a tough upbringing, but as long as you believe in yourself and you have the support of your family, you can achieve anything.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Richard Baskin was my partner at the Geneva Police Department. Rich exemplifies what it means to serve your country and community.

Chief Eveland has witnessed firsthand Mr. Baskin's compassion and commitment to protecting and serving the citizens of New York State. Mr. Baskin has been awarded 10 Letters of Commendation, two Geneva Police Department lifesaving awards, and a lifesaving award from the Ontario County Safety Council.

For his service, Mr. Baskin received the National Defense Medal, Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal, and Good Conduct Medals (2).

VETERANS

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**ARTHUR MICHAEL
PALIANI, JR.**

**U.S. MARINE CORPS
RANK: E4 CORPORAL**

SERVED 1965-1968

**NOMINATED BY
DORIS D. PALIANI**

What inspired you to join the military?

A feeling of group spirit - "Esprit De Corps."

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Boot camp and bonding with fellow Marines.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Courage, honor, loyalty.

What do you love most about America?

Our Freedom.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Arthur is an honorable man, a great father, loving husband, and true friend who is always helpful to others.

For his service, Mr. Paliani received the Combat Action Ribbon, Rifle Marksmanship Badge, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

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ERMIL "BUD" J. PEGLOW

HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

U.S. ARMY

SERVED 1961-1963

NOMINATED BY

SAM J. CRETEKOS

What inspired you to join the military?

Mr. Peglow entered the Army at a time when many service members were drafted to serve. Bud would joke that, being drafted at age 24, he was often referred to as "the old man" by his fellow soldiers.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

He rarely spoke of his time in the military. Bud was stationed in Germany, ready to respond to nuclear aggression during the Cold War.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Mr. Peglow was a very organized person. He had what some would describe as military precision and carried this through his lifetime.

What do you love most about America?

Mr. Peglow loved serving and was incredibly proud to represent his country.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Bud contributed to the Victor community as a volunteer fireman, member of American Legion, Milnor Lodge 139 Free Masons, Saint Patrick's Church Knights of Columbus, driver for Meals-On-Wheels, as well as countless other acts of kindness he performed quietly for others.

For his service, Mr. Peglow received the Good Conduct Medal.

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**LEWIS ROBERT
"BOB" LASH**

U.S. ARMY

RANK: CORPORAL

SERVED 1950-1956

NOMINATED BY

MARGARET FRANCES LASH

What inspired you to join the military?

I was drafted, but my older brother, Kenneth Lash, served in WWII and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. Our brother-in-law, Daniel Carroll, gave his life in the Korean War.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

While working high up on a telephone pole to maintain communication lines, the service man, assigned as a lookout, had been killed by the enemy. It could have been me.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

I learned skills as a marksman, discipline, and respect for people from other countries who came to serve during the war. I learned how precious life is and the price of freedom.

What do you love most about America?

Our freedoms, paid for by those who gave their lives so that our children and grandchildren are able to live in relative peace in America.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Bob and I will celebrate 65 years of marriage. He is a gentle man who loves his God, his family and his country. He has passed these values to our children.

Mr. Lash has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 60 years. He has worked as an electronics technician, attends religious services faithfully every Sunday, and was a greeter at Walmart after retirement, where he was honored for his military service. For his service, Mr. Lash received the Commendation Ribbon and the Pendant for Korean War service.

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ROBERT F. HEINTZELMAN

U.S. ARMY

SERVED 1985-1994, 2003-2016

NOMINATED BY
CARYN A. PAZ

What inspired you to join the military?

Service to my country and family tradition.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Being a military greeter and seater at the 1988 Presidential Inaugural Ball. I was one of eight military security on the podium stage.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Leadership skills and diversity training to help counsel both military and civilian personnel in their daily duties.

What do you love most about America?

The ability to be free and make our own decisions and support worldwide democracy. We live in a place where a kid grows up in small town America, gets to serve his country, have a wonderful loving family and accomplish the American dream of free enterprise and entrepreneurship.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Bob has made an impact on my family and inspired our son to join the Army.

Mr. Heintzelman and his family own Heintzelman's BBQ Pit in the Town of Ontario. During COVID, Mr. Heintzelman and his family generously provided hundreds of dinners to Newark, Strong and Rochester Regional Health emergency room staff, as well as local law enforcement agencies. He contributes to the Stop 22 program, which provides counseling and awareness for suicide prevention and has provided support and meals for the suicide prevention, motorcycle ride.

For his service, Mr. Heintzelman received the Meritorious Service Medal and 2C citations.

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MORRIS LEW

U.S. ARMY

RANK: LIEUTENANT COLONEL

SERVED 1973-2001

NOMINATED BY
FARMINGTON TOWN SUPERVISOR
PETER V. INGALSBE

What inspired you to join the military?

I am very proud of our country and wanted to keep us safe and free.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Speaking to civilian groups on Veterans Day.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

ROTC taught me leadership skills at a time before there were any civilian leadership courses. This gave me a big advantage in my management career and provided opportunities to develop self confidence.

What do you love most about America?

The idea of opportunity and how far you can go is up to you.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Morris retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years of service to our country. He has been a Farmington Town Justice for more than 21 years and was a long-serving member of the Farmington Fire Department. He is always available to help his fellow Veterans and neighbors.

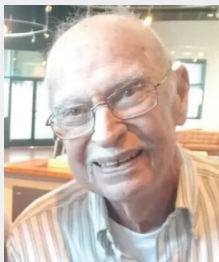
Mr. Lew is a former victor Central School Board President, charter member of the Farmington AMVETS Post 332, and is a volunteer driver for veterans needing rides to doctor appointments.

For his service, Mr. Lew received the Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserves Components Achievement Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

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PAUL BUCHANAN

HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

U.S. ARMY

SERVED 1967-1968

NOMINATED BY
GARY BUCHANAN

What inspired you to join the military?

Mr. Buchanan wanted to serve his country.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

The death in war.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Mr. Buchanan's service ultimately developed into his career, culminating in over 30 years of service with the New York Army National Guard.

What do you love most about America?

Mr. Buchanan loved America and wanted to protect our freedoms.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Mr. Buchanan was someone I looked up to. I spoke with many fellow soldiers he helped train, and they all said he helped them survive in war and helped them to be better soldiers. He was a very dedicated soldier who loved the military. Not many were like him.

Respectfully shared from Mr. Buchanan's obituary:

After serving in Vietnam as a radio communication specialist with the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Paul found a home with the New York Army National Guard. Paul finished his military career with over 30 years in combined service at the Patriot Way Armory (Weidner Road) with the 1/142 Attack helicopter battalion (Blackhearts) as a Sergeant First Class. After his retirement, Paul continued his military service as a civilian contractor – working alongside his son in the Recruiting and Retention Battalion for over five years.

For his service, Mr. Buchanan received the National Defense Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.

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**JOHN "JACK" H.
AMBROSE, JR.**

U.S. ARMY
SERVED 1954-1956

NOMINATED BY
WILL AMBROSE

What inspired you to join the military?

I was drafted.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Spending 17 months in Swiebrucken, Germany.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Dedication to our country and giving back by volunteering.

What do you love most about America?

Serving our veterans.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Through his years of dedication to the VFW, Jack has been a leader on every level -- local, district, State and national. Additionally, he has spent years doing volunteer work at the Canandaigua VA.

Mr. Ambrose is dedicated to raising money for causes he believes in, such as Challenge 22 Veterans Suicide Prevention and Angel Tree. In 2008, Mr. Ambrose received the All State Commander Award at the 89th Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York Convention. He currently serves as Chaplin of the Canandaigua VFW Post 7414.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



**JOSEPH DONALD
TELARO**

U.S. ARMY

RANK: PV1

SERVED 1977-1982

**NOMINATED BY
VERONICA TELARO**

What inspired you to join the military?

Joseph always wanted to be a soldier and to drive the trucks that he saw on television during the Vietnam War.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Joseph had many memories but the one that he repeated is building bridges and guarding the wall in Germany during the Cold War Era.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Organization, discipline and how to lead.

What do you love most about America?

Joe loves our freedom and that we are allowed to express ourselves. As an American Sicilian, he appreciates that we are a melting pot, where freedom of religion is still practiced.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Joe is a wonderful father, husband and friend and can always be counted on to lend a hand, warm heart and compassionate ear. He is still a soldier and is very protective of our family and this country.

Mr. Telaro sponsored a WWII veteran for Honor Flight and served as his guardian, helped build a church in Italy, volunteered in the Patriot Guard Riders and taught three-year-olds religious instruction.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



ALEX PIERCE

U.S. AIR FORCE
SERVED 1996-2011

NOMINATED BY
**TOWN AND VILLAGE OF
NUNDA OFFICIALS**

What inspired you to join the military?

I was looking for an opportunity to better round myself as I have always wanted to serve in public office. I thought it was important to commit to this. I originally applied for the Army, but was diverted to the Air Force Medical.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

The most impactful moment was saying goodbye to my wife and two-year-old daughter. I wanted to ensure that I was a positive influence on this child. During my time, I met soldiers from all sides fighting for their countries. It was truly eye-opening to see all of us fighting for what we believed was important.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

The military taught me to be a better listener, more patient, and a better father, husband and neighbor. It also taught me great leadership, an all-hands-on-deck type of skill. The most important lesson was to learn the love for this environment, and how we need to find a balance to show the bigger picture of the country and world we live in.

What do you love most about America?

Everything. America is the greater beacon that motivates and attracts the best. It also gives those who may not have great opportunities to do better for themselves and their families. The American ideal is important to live by and express to others.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Mr. Pierce works in administration in Canandaigua. He continues his service, leadership, and advocacy for both veterans and their families in various capacities as a lifetime member of the Air Force Sergeants Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion-National Veteran and Military Service Organizations.

See next page.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

For his service, Mr. Pierce received the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal (3D), Air Force Achievement Medal (1D), Air Force Good Conduct Medal (2D), Joint Service Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (1D), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, NATO Service Medal, and the 4th Fighter Wing Airman and Military Family of the Year, awarded by the Governor of North Carolina.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



MICHAEL O'CONNELL

U.S. NAVY

RANK: SONAR TECHNICIAN
SUBMARINE THIRD CLASS

SERVED 1964-1968

NOMINATED BY
RICHARD GATTO

What inspired you to join the military?

A neighbor was a submariner on the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, and it sounded interesting, so I enlisted in the Navy.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

My final mission, searching for the remains of a nuclear submarine, the USS *Scorpion*, SSN589, that did not return from the Mediterranean. We went all the way to the Azores and back, but were ultimately unable to locate the remains.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

You have to live by the decisions you make every day. In a submarine, you are in a confined environment 24/7 and need to learn to get along with those around you.

What do you love most about America?

I love the freedom to come and go as we please and freedom of speech. I am glad to be a veteran.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Mike O'Connell has had a profound effect on my service to the American Legion. As a fellow Legion member and Chaplain of our Post, Mike has inspired me to take a more active role in the Legion and the community. His dedication to helping others and his leadership have been an inspiration to me and to his fellow Legion members.

Mr. O'Connell is the President of the Honeoye Falls Mendon Senior Citizens' Club, where he advocates for the senior community. As the Chaplain for American Legion Post 664, he offers guidance and solace to fellow veterans. He was an outstanding New York State Trooper, serving from 1977-2000. After the tragic events of September 11th, 2001, he was called back into service with the New York State Police in a counterterrorism capacity.

For his service, Mr. O'Connell received National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Dolphin Pins.

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VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



SALVATORE MARCERA

U.S. ARMY
SERVED 1953-1956

NOMINATED BY
DAVID DUNNING

What inspired you to join the military?

I was drafted. My oldest brother was a B17 bomber in WWII, and my two other brothers served in the National Guard.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Taking care of my fellow soldiers. I saved 14 men in Vietnam, and I thank God every day for being there with us.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Be nice to people.

What do you love most about America?

This is our Homeland.

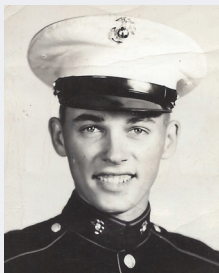
Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

He has taught me to be nice to others.

Mr. Marcera was honorably discharged after being wounded in action. For his service, Mr. Marcera received the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, and the Bronze Star.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



THOMAS E. PARKER

U.S. MARINE CORPS

SERVED 1951-1953

NOMINATED BY

MARGARET "PEGGY" GOCHENAUR

What inspired you to join the military?

It was 1951 and the Korean War was raging. My two buddies and I felt it was our duty to serve our country. We all survived the war and continued to stay in touch throughout the years.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

On my first day, the bus arrived on Parris Island with a full load of recruits. I was up near the front when a corporal boarded and yelled orders to get off and form two lines. I was knocked to the floor and was trampled on. Last off the bus, the corporal yelled, "Where have you been? Get in line." I knew my place from there on.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

I learned to respect others and to follow orders. I became skilled in the use of the M1 Garand rifle and learned to launch grenades. Physical fitness was a Marine's life and that has continued.

What do you love most about America?

Our Freedom.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

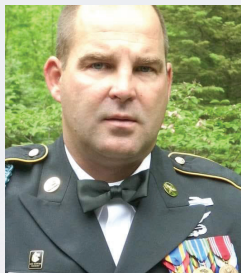
Tom continues to be someone who quietly gets things done without fanfare. For many years, he was responsible for installing the memorial podium in Elton Park for Memorial Day ceremonial activities. He was very involved with our local veterans' organization, American Legion Post 970. He made sure that the services were available to veterans of all ages.

Mr. Parker was a career mason contractor and is a longstanding member of the East Bloomfield Historical Society. For his service, Mr. Parker received the National Defense Service Medal and the U.S. Marine Corps Service Commemorative Medal.

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ERIC SIEGFRIED LINKE

U.S. ARMY

RANK: E5 SERGEANT

SERVED 1988-1992, 2005-2016

NOMINATED BY

MICHELE ANN LADUE

What inspired you to join the military?

My mother, Lelo, was an orphan in Germany during World War II, and her heroes were American soldiers. I believed when I was growing up that I was going to join the Army because I believed the system makes sense. I tried to become an American hero to my mother.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

I suffer from PTSD. From the jungle to desert, I distinctly remember three situations where I thought I was going to die. I learned to be very humble, professional, intelligent and to help the weak to succeed.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

My time in the military prepared me for life.

What do you love most about America?

Freedom and life in America is what you make of it. America offers opportunity for all, and with enough hard work, anyone can be successful.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Eric is unselfish and has given his life so that others can live easier and more comfortably. He gives his 100 percent at work and in the community.

Mr. Linke has worked for the Town of Victor serving and assisting our community at the recycling plant. He has earned many medals during his years in the service and has contributed to a book called A Leap of Faith--The Men and Women Who Served Post 9/11.

For his service, Mr. Linke received the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Conspicuous Service Medal, NATO Medal, Long and Faithful Service Medal, Medal for Merit, Defense of Liberty Medal, NY Humane Service Medal, and the Master Combat Badge.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



**ROBERT "BOB"
HAGGETT**

**U.S. ARMY
RANK: E5 SERGEANT
SERVED 1965-1967**

**NOMINATED BY
JOE M. CORSI**

What inspired you to join the military?

I signed up for the U.S. Army out of a deep sense of duty and a desire to serve my country. I was motivated by the opportunity to protect and defend the freedoms that define the Nation, while also seeking personal growth, discipline and a sense of purpose.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

I treasure the work I have done with my community in the years following my military service. From environmental conservation to supporting fellow veterans, it has been the most rewarding part of my post-Army life.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Having served as a Tropospheric Radio Repairman, I gained a range of highly specialized technical and problem-solving skills during my military service. I developed a deep expertise in maintenance, repair, and troubleshooting.

What do you love most about America?

I have a profound sense of pride in having defended my homeland and contributed to preserving the freedoms Americans enjoy.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Bob was instrumental in securing Victor's Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation. This, along with his coordination of Wreaths Across America, ensuring that wreaths are placed on service members' graves in local cemeteries, are among his many contributions.

Mr. Haggett continued to honor his commitment to fellow veterans as the Finance Officer of American Legion Post 931. He was also recognized for his service with an Honor Flight, a poignant tribute to his enduring contribution to the Nation and its veterans.

VETERANS

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DAVID "DAVE" BRISBANE

U.S. MARINE CORPS

RANK: CORPORAL E-4

SERVED 1964-1967 (ACTIVE DUTY),
1967-1970 (INACTIVE RESERVE)

NOMINATED BY

**GINA DECK AND MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
468 DETACHMENT**

What inspired you to join the military?

My older brother was in the service, and when I was old enough, I joined. I was a country boy, and that's what the guys did when they were big enough to do it; they served.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

In the service, we were exposed to many different kinds of people, and from different areas.

What do you love most about America?

The freedom to do what you want and be what you want. I started as a machinist at Gleason, took college courses, and retired from that profession.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Dave exercises humility and demonstrates servant leadership as he continues to dedicate his life to serving veterans. He has volunteered consistently at the Canandaigua VA for 13 years. His impact is consistent and has touched thousands.

As a member of VFW, American Legion Post 256, and Marine Corps League 468, Mr. Brisbane participates in many community activities, including toy collections, organizing the Color Guards for the annual Memorial Day and 4th of July parades, and providing military honors at funerals by participating with the Honor Guard units of American Legion Post 34 (Shortsville) and 256 (Canandaigua). He was instrumental in getting Wreaths Across America at Sampson Veterans Memorial Cemetery. For his service, Mr. Brisbane received the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge, National Defense service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, Navy Meritorious Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, and the Purple Heart Medal.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



NORRIS "DOC" CONKLIN

HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY

U.S. NAVY

SERVED 1967-1969

NOMINATED BY

TOM WHIPPLE

What inspired you to join the military?

His father was in the Navy. He wanted to serve his country like his dad and so many others did.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Having to go to Vietnam, it was a matter of life or death. He carried significant guilt from not "doing enough" and surviving the experience while others did not make it home.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

He was an LPN when he went to Vietnam, but had to do a lot of the things the RNs did. This inspired him to go on to become an RN after coming home.

What do you love most about America?

That it's a free country.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

His compassion and care for veterans was outstanding, knowing his own struggle with PTSD from Vietnam. His selfless focus to take care of our veterans was a testament of his character. I knew Norris from 1979-2020.

Mr. Conklin worked 28 years in VA services as an RN. He completed numerous combat missions in Vietnam, and Oliver North was his Platoon Leader. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal mentioned in North's book, Under Fire.

For his service, Mr. Conklin received two Bronze Stars with Combat V.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



SEAN EDMUNDS

U.S. ARMY

SERVED 2004-2009

NOMINATED BY
DONNA EDMUNDS

What inspired you to join the military?

I grew up in the United Kingdom, and my wife is from New York. When we got married, I went through the naturalization process to get my green card and eventually become a U.S. citizen. After being allowed to live and work in America, I felt I wanted to give back to this country to say thank you! I had been offered a gift to be able to build a life and raise my family in America, and being able to contribute to this country was important to me.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

The brotherhood and camaraderie of the men I fought alongside, many whom lost their lives as heroes.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

I was a combat medic and received valuable medical training, as well as how to stay calm and focused under pressure. Leadership skills are the most-used skills I think I took away from the military. We are raising four boys and two girls, and they look up to me daily!

What do you love most about America?

I am grateful I was able to build a life here in this great country from scratch, and experience the freedoms and liberties not found elsewhere.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Sean has had an immeasurable impact on not only our local community, but also the veterans community at large. We are a certified foster family in Wayne County, and Sean has been a fantastic mentor and support to over 25 foster children who have lived in our home, as well as becoming a permanent father to two children we have adopted. Sean recently completed a bicycle ride from Buffalo to NYC in an effort to raise funds for needed medical equipment for our disabled son. In 2012, he organized a fundraising endeavor and ran from Oregon to Iowa to raise funds for two veterans charities.

See next page.

VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★

Sean also serves as a deacon in our church and seeks to support and serve all whom he comes in contact with in daily life. His impact on our own childrens' lives is seen daily as he exemplifies the U.S. Army core values of loyalty, duty, respect, leadership, and selfless service.

Mr. Edmunds was wounded in Iraq in 2007 and spent a considerable amount of time recovering at Walter Reed Medical Center. He has overcome many obstacles that others deemed impossible. His injuries only seemed to push him forward each day with a new resolve to come back stronger. After receiving a medical retirement from the Army, Sean used the GI Bill to go back to school and earn a degree in mental health counseling. He endeavors to work with veterans who struggle with PTSD and moral injury from war.

For his service, Mr. Edmunds received the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Campaign Star, Two Overseas Service Ribbons, Combat Medical Badge, and Parachutist Badge.