



July 2018

Dear Friends:

Created to honor past members of the United States Armed Forces, the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame recognizes the brave men and women who fought for our freedom and to make our nation a better place to live.

In the pages that follow, you will meet veterans who not only served with distinction—they also have given back selflessly to their local communities after their service.

I am humbled to take the opportunity to pay tribute to our region's heroes, and want to extend my congratulations and thanks for your service.

Sincerely,





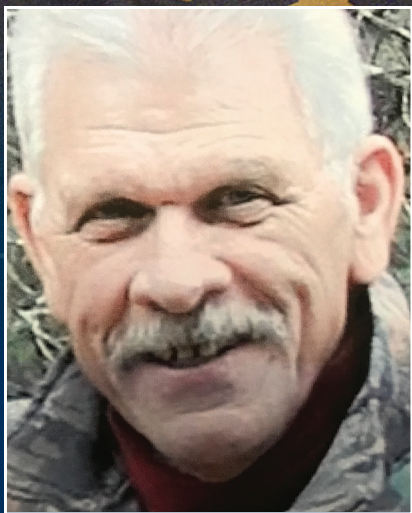
Joseph H. Brady

Joseph H. Brady fought in the historic Battle of Bulge, serving in the U.S. Army's 8th Infantry Division from May 1944 until June 1946. As a teenager, he had a summer job washing vehicles in the Army motor pool at Camp Drum, the military training facility that would become Fort Drum in 1974. He was drafted into the Army on his 18th birthday, the youngest soldier in his unit, H Company of the 121st Regiment. His unit safely crossed the Rhine River at the Remagen Bridge. Three days later, the bridge collapsed after weeks of attacks by the Germans. In 2015, he traveled as part of a Syracuse Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorials at the nation's capital.



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Randy L. Burke

During the Vietnam War, Randy L. Burke served in the Navy from 1965-1969 and received many awards. After his service, he served as the commander of the Canton VFW for 10 years and held several other offices within the organization. Randy is a life member of both the AMVETS and the Disabled American Veterans. He was instrumental in establishing the Wounded Warrior Sled Hockey Tournament hosted annually in Canton. In addition, Randy worked with the Blue Star Mothers to build a monument in Canton. He also helped fellow veterans establish a new AMVETS post and is a member of the VFW Color Guard. At area schools, he talks about his military experience and shares civic and military traditions with students. He is a founding member of the Northern New York Vietnam Veterans and was a past board member of the Canton Chamber of Commerce for 10 years.



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Samuel Cappione

First Sergeant Samuel Cappione was in the U.S. Army during WWII. During his time in the Army, he received a number of military awards including the American Campaign Medal, EAME Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and a World War II Victory Medal. After his service, Samuel became involved with the Elks Club and the Rotary Club where he participated in a variety of community projects. He also participated in Honor Flight Syracuse where he visited national memorials in Washington D.C.



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Lambert Coffin

During World War II, Lambert A. Coffin served in the U.S. Army Air Force (AAF). He was sent to Capodichino Air Base in Naples, Italy where he worked as an aircraft mechanic, truck driver, and mechanic in the motor pool. While in Naples, Lambert was sent to Heidenheim Ordnance Technical Training Center in Heidenheim, Germany where he received a certificate of proficiency in Internal Combustion Engines. Upon his return to Naples, he was made foreman and promoted from Private to Private First Class. Following his military service, Lambert was a volunteer firefighter with the Antwerp Fire Department for 5 years, served as the Antwerp Highway Superintendent for 10 years, and was a member of the Antwerp American Legion for 54 years.



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John W. Cosilmon

John W. Cosilmon served in the US Army in WWII and Korea. He served from 1946-1947 and was recalled to serve from 1950 to 1951. John received the WWII Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and Ribbon of Japan. After his service, John worked as a letter carrier for 30 years; he also served his community, as he was troop master for Boy Scout Troop 720 from 1966 to 1972, a little league coach, and served on multiple veterans associations, VFWs and a disabled veteran's organization. In 2017, John took part in Honor Flight Syracuse and this year he served on the VFW Legislative Committee for district 5.



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Joseph Crossman

Joseph Crossman served in the Army and during his service, was recognized numerous times for his acts of courage, sacrifice and leadership skills. He received three Bronze stars, the Purple Heart and other awards. Upon his military retirement in 2015, he started his own towing company in Watertown. Joseph has grown the company to include a fleet of trucks and a team of five employees assisting him with an immense workload. Whether on the battlefield or on the home front, Joseph is devoted to protecting others and stepping up during any moment of crisis.



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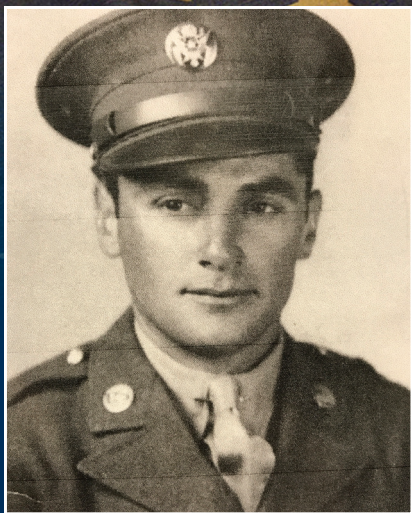
Donald H. Davenport

At the end of his military service, Donald Davenport was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army 9th Infantry Division. Donald received several military awards, including the Army of Occupation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Sharp Shooter Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. Donald has served in the Hannibal Volunteer Fire Department for 47 years as an active member and 23 years as an honorary member. He has also been involved in the Hannibal American Legion, VFW, Cato Senior Citizens and the Hannibal United Methodist Church.



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William Deban

In 1942, William Deban entered the Army and trained at Fort Niagara and Fort McClellan. In August 1944, he left for battles in France, Germany, Austria and Luxembourg where he was wounded. He was a member of the 26th Yankee Division of the 3rd Army under General George Patton. He received a Purple Heart, four bronze stars and others for his service and bravery.



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Glenn Dodge

During World War II, Glenn Dodge served in the Army, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge and securing Odeigne, France. After active duty, he joined the Army Reserve, retiring in 1967 as a Major. His military awards include the Bronze Star for Valor, Purple Heart and others. After his military service, Glenn went on to become a teacher, a career which he retired from in 1973. Glenn has been involved in many community organizations, including the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department, which created the “Glenn Dodge Community Service Award” in his honor. In addition, he was an integral force in the planning and construction of the Bayview, a much-needed senior housing project in Chaumont.



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Paul Fuller

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Paul Fuller joined the United States Navy. It was only a few months later, in June of 1942, when Fuller was called to action. While serving on the USS Liara, a supply ship stationed in Virginia, the ship was ordered to the South Pacific. It would remain there for 26 months. The ship, and Fuller, were involved in eight engagements with Japanese forces, including Iwo Jima, Guam, Manila, and Guadal canal. The ship would also arrive in Tokyo Bay for the historic landing at the Japanese Capital. Fuller was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1945. He married the love of his life, Marie and together they raised three daughters. The Fullers owned and operated a grocery store in Lacona, New York and later, a small diner in Sandy Creek. Later in his life, Fuller would take over his father's insurance business. Fuller was also heavily involved in his community, as a member of the Masons and volunteer fire departments. Today, Paul Fuller is 98-years-old, and still going strong. He recently visited Washington, D.C. as part of Honor Flight #11 out of Syracuse.



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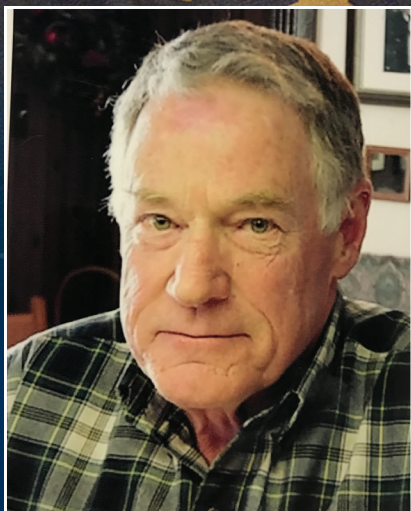
James A. Gardner II

James A. Gardner II was in the Army from 1966-1969 and then served in the Army Reserve until 1995. During his military service, he received several medals and ribbons. James has held many offices at Local AMVETS Post #4 in Massena, including commander three times. In recent years, he has been part of the Post's rifle squad and does parades and military funerals. James was the Department of New York State Commander of the AMVETS until this July. In all his roles, he has dedicated his life to veterans who are active and retired.



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James R. "Jim" Halpen

During his 21 years of Navy service, James R. "Jim" Halpen was involved in the communications field while aboard destroyers, cruisers and aircraft carriers and was an instructor in San Diego. Jim served three tours in Vietnam while on the Navy's Swift Boats and the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk and received several awards, including three Bronze Stars for his service and bravery. After his military career, he became an emergency nurse at Massena Hospital and later worked at the Massena Alcoa Operations before retiring in 1994. He also has served on the Madrid Town Board and on the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators. In addition, Jim has been involved with the Madrid American Legion Post, Ogdensburg AMVETS and VFW.



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William H. Hosmer

During World War II, William H. Hosmer served in the Air Force as a ball turret machine gunner in a B-17 bomber. At the end of his military service, he was a Staff Sergeant and a gunnery instructor. He survived 30 missions over Germany and the Balkans, including his plane being shot down in the Adriatic Sea. His awards include: Purple Heart, two Bronze Stars, one Silver Star, Distinguished Unit Badge, three bronze oak leaf clusters, and the air medal.



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Richard Kavanaugh

Richard Kavanaugh served in the United States Navy from May of 1944 to May of 1946. Kavanaugh was a Radarman, 3rd Class, required to operate and maintain the installed radar and electronic warfare equipment on his vessels. Radarmen are trained in emergency repair procedures because their vessels went into combat areas. For his service, Kavanaugh was awarded the Philippine Liberation Medal with two stars for his efforts in helping liberate the Philippine Islands. He was also awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with two stars in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre. With his service mission complete, Kavanaugh joined the John B. Lyman American Legion Post 904, where he has been a member for more than 50 years. He currently lives in Alexandria Bay.



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Vernon Neal Kenworthy II

Vernon Neal Kenworthy II enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1995 at the age of 17 and joined the Army in 1997, where he served in the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea. After this tour, he was sent to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum and was deployed to Saudi Arabia, Bosnia and Kuwait. In a different unit, he was later assigned to Iraq and then was a Ranger Instructor at the U.S. Army Ranger School. Over the years, he was sent to other places, including Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division again. He has received 23 different military awards for his service and valor. Since his 2017 retirement, Vernon serves as a volunteer peer counselor at River Hospital's River Community Wellness Program, which helps soldiers and veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other combat-related illnesses.



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Frederick D. LaClair

Hospital Corpsman Frederick D. LaClair entered the Navy in December 1950 during the Korean War and served his country with pride. Assignments included hospitals on the U.S. East Coast as well as a one-year remote assignment to the Naval Station on Kwajalein Island in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific. He departed active duty in October 1954. Then he served as Commander of the Klock-Smith American Legion Post 1788 in LaFargeville during 1970-1971. Fred is a life member of the American Legion and has diligently served in various Legion positions for more than 50 years. Today, Fred and his wife Dani are retired farmers residing near Stone Mills. They raised nine children together and celebrated 67 years of marriage this May. With his brother Henry, Fred traveled to Washington D.C. to see our nation's memorials via Honor Flight Mission 011 in April.



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Henry R. LaClair, Sr.

Henry R. LaClair Sr. entered the Navy in 1952 during the Korean War and served his country selflessly as a hospital corpsman. He was aboard the U.S.S. Mt. Olympus and hospitals on the U.S. East Coast. Henry departed active duty in March 1957 and the Reserve in 1960. After this service, Henry served as Commander of the Klock-Smith American Legion Post 1788 in LaFargeville during 1965–1966. As a retired farmer, he resides with his wife Kathleen in Clayton. They celebrated 33 years of marriage this July and raised nine children between them. Henry is a 50-year plus member of the American Legion and is today a member of the Clayton's Colon-Couch Post 821. Henry, along with his brother Fred, traveled to Washington D.C. to see our nation's memorials via Honor Flight Mission 011 in April.



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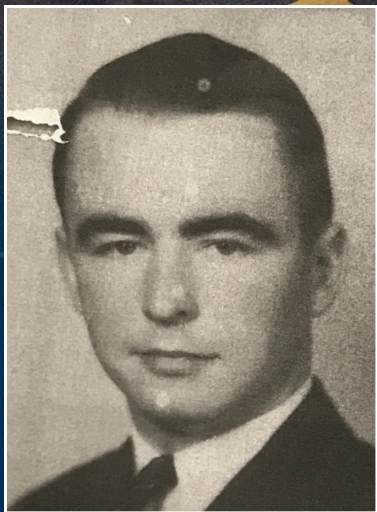
Francis M. "Frank" La Duc

Francis M. "Frank" La Duc served in the original 10th Mountain Division with E Company as part of the 86th Regiment that fought in the Apennine Mountains in northern Italy and valiantly took control of Mount Belvedere from the Germans during intense combat. As a 19-year-old in 1943, he had volunteered to serve in this elite mountain force that was formed that year as an alpine division, and where troops learned to ski, rock climb and perform all other aspects of mountain warfare. After the war in Europe ended, Francis's outfit was selected to be part of the force to invade Japan, but before they could be sent to the Pacific, the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb. In 2015, he traveled as part of a Syracuse Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorials at the nation's capital.



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Henry B. Lantry

During World War II, Henry B. Lantry served with the Army in France and received the Bronze Star for his valor and the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in the Nordwind Offensive. His bravery was featured in George A. Fisher's 1947 book "The Story of the 180th Infantry Regiment," which his family recently discovered. After the war, he became a U.S. Customs officer in Massena and a successful dairy farmer. He was a lifelong resident of Helena.



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William Earl LaPoint

In 1958, William Earl LaPoint volunteered and enlisted with the Air Force. During his four years of service, he was a drill instructor at Lackland Air Force Base and he studied Russian at Syracuse University. William also flew reconnaissance missions from the Baltic Sea to Tehran, Iran, volunteered to be stationed at the Berlin Wall in 1963 because he spoke German and received several awards. After he was discharged, he served 27 years as an officer with the New York Forest Owners and has lobbied in Albany and Washington, D.C. for Forest Conservation and Management. In 2012, he was given the “President’s Call to Service Award,” signed by President Barak Obama. In addition, he has been involved with the Boy Scouts, 4-H, Special Olympics and the Elks.



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Daniel J. McCarthy

For the last 20 years, Daniel J. McCarthy has had a distinguished military and civilian career. His military service includes the Army's 82nd Airborne Division and later with the New York Army National Guard Bravo Company. In the Bravo Company, he was awarded the Bronze Star for his valor in Iraq in 2004 when he led his unit through enemy ambushes. Daniel has received many military decorations and certifications. As a civilian, Daniel has held several jobs related to his military education and training, including assistant professor of military science and an instructor for the General Dynamics Corporation at Fort Drum. In addition, he is a consultant who provides counseling to veterans of the Armed Forces offering career and job research assistance.



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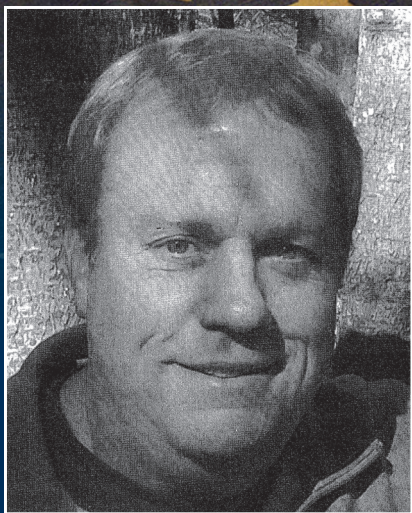
Patrick W. McCarthy

Commissioned in the Army in July 1980, Major Patrick W. McCarthy served with the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg and later at Fort Drum in January 1985. He was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division three times in his career before retiring. He served a tour in Darmstadt, Germany and also served two tours in Somalia. Patrick was also part of the recovery for Hurricane Andrew in Florida. He has received numerous military awards for his service. After he left the military, he worked with New York's Department of Corrections until his retirement in June 2017.



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Craig A. McNamara

Craig A. McNamara served for 24 years in the Army before retiring as a Major. He has two decades of aviation operational flying, training and safety experience which enabled Craig to be deployed many places across the globe, including Kuwait to train the Kuwaiti Army. With the 10th Mountain Division, he was sent to Kosovo and with another unit, he went to Iraq. In another unit, he was a senior mentor to the Afghan National Army. In addition, he was a lead investigator at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness and Safety Center. Currently, he works as the educational coordinator for Veterans Service at Jefferson Community College. He conducts academic advising and coaching for student veterans and teaches them to appreciate their service and use their experiences to instill confidence and awareness as they move back into civilian life.



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Francis J. Mitchell

Francis Mitchell, a US Navy WWII veteran, was an Honorary Chief at the end of his service. Francis, or “Mitch”, served from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 on the U.S.S. Oneida. He went on to serve in the U.S. Naval Reserves for 39 years. In the reserves, he served as an instructor in training and a recruiter. Mitch received two letters of commendations from the Secretary of Navy during his time in the reserves. During his service in WWII, Mitch received nine medals. These medals include the Naval Reserve Merit Service Medal, the China Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Occupation Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Domain of the Golden Dragon and the Ancient Order of the Deep.



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Charles "Chuck" Mosher

Charles "Chuck" Mosher served in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam War from 1970-1974 and received two awards. Stateside, he patrolled Lake Michigan but was later sent to the Kwajalein Island in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific for one year. Then he was stationed at the Coast Guard Base in Buffalo. After his service, he became active in the American Legion, serving in different roles, including Commander, and most recently, as the Jefferson County American Legion Commander. In addition, he volunteers as a counselor for Boys State, the American Legion's educational program of government instruction for U.S. high school students.



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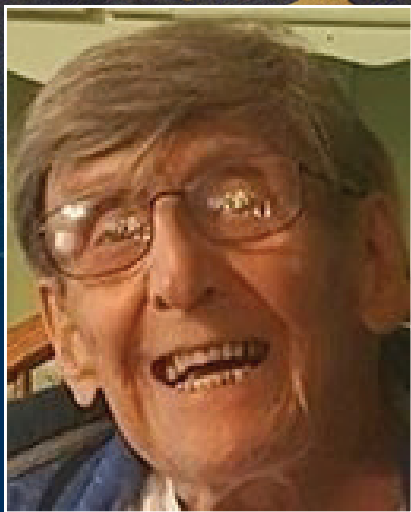
William Pearson

During World War II, William Pearson was Ship Cook for the U.S. Navy. He spent 13 months at sea where he took part in a number of invasions including an invasion at Okinawa. William has been a member of the American Legion for 71 years. He also serves as a member of the VFW and Disabled American Veterans and supports the Paralyzed Veterans of America. William was able to travel to Washinton D.C. through Honor Flight Syracuse to see the nation's memorials dedicated to those that sacrificed for our freedom.



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Dante Antony Raponi

In World War II, Dante Antony Raponi served with the Army Rangers and USA-Canada First Special Service Forces in the European Theatre of Operations. He was awarded numerous awards, including the Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters for wounds in combat. Dante was a member of several organizations, including the U.S. Army Association and Disabled American Veterans. After he left the service, he owned and operated Oswego Valley Constructors and for many years was a promoter for Oswego Speedway and Fulton Speedway. In addition, he was president of Summa-Magna 1 Corporation and invented and patented Estacron, a composition construction material for structural units.



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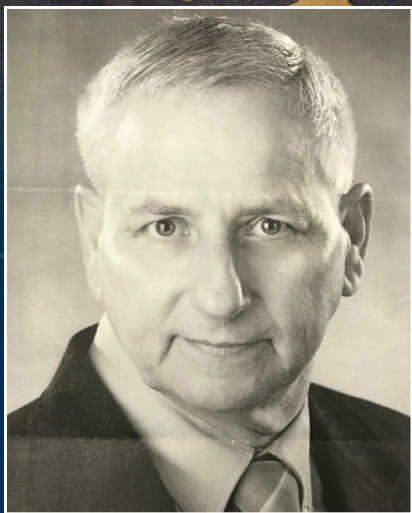
Jerry Reed

Jerry Reed served in the Army from 1966-1969 and spent a year in Vietnam. After that, he was in a medical unit of the Army Reserve where he served for 22 years. During his service, he received several awards, including the NYS Conspicuous Service Medal from Gov. Mario Cuomo in 1983. In addition, he served for 10 years with the Ogdensburg Volunteer Rescue Squad and was chief in 1979. Jerry also served as a member of the Ogdensburg Elks Lodge 772 and was the exalted ruler in 2004-2005. For more than 20 years, he helped provide First Aid for the Ogdensburg Free Academy sport teams.



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**Charles F. "Chuck"
Ruggiero, Jr.**

For four years, Charles F. "Chuck" Ruggiero, Jr. served in the Army during the Vietnam War and then remained in the Army Reserve until 1974. After that time, he served in the NY Air National Guard and then transferred back to the Army Reserve when he relocated to Fort Drum as a civilian employee. In 1990, he was reactivated to duty to participate in Operation Desert Storm. Then in 1993, he reenlisted with the Air Guard. After the Sept. 11th terror attacks, Chuck reactivated to duty as a trainer. For all his military service, he received many awards. Currently, he is an educator at Jefferson Community College and a volunteer firefighter. Recently, he retired as a Cape Vincent police officer.



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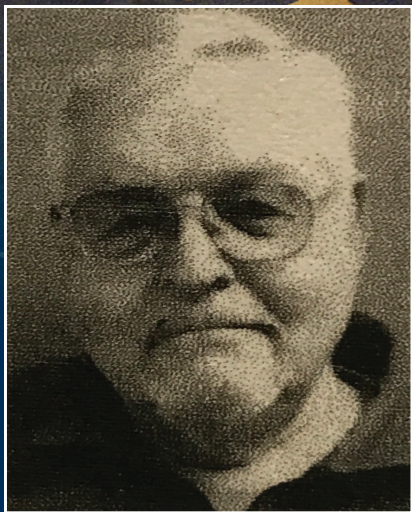
Carl E. Seymour

Carl E. Seymour enlisted in the Navy in 1944-1946 and won several awards for his service. When he left the Navy, he became a funeral director and ran Seymour Funeral Home in Potsdam with his wife Evelyn and family for many years. In this role, he went to local schools to talk about death and dying. Since one of his son's suffered from vision issues, Carl got involved with the Potsdam Lions Club. Later, he joined the Free Masons. He was also a Little League Baseball coach and helped with the junior hockey league with coaching and ice rink maintenance. As a 20-year cancer survivor, he recently began an informal cancer information meeting with some hospice volunteers and it has grown into a source of support for cancer victims and their families.



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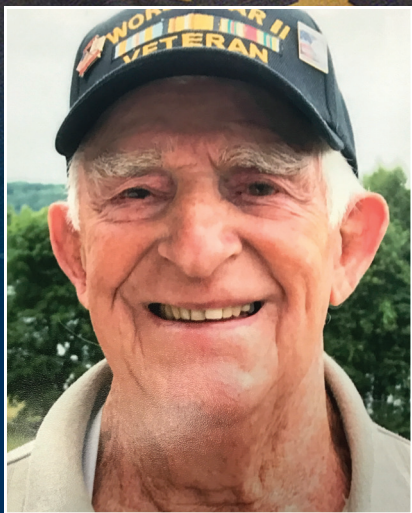
William "Sky" Skye

During his 30-year career in the Army Reserve, William "Sky" Skye served in several divisions and was an instructor for eight years at the Command and Staff School at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. He enlisted in 1951 when he was a student at Syracuse University where he also played football. When he graduated in 1953, he was drafted by the New York Giants and played several games. He left football and became a coach and teacher in several school districts in central and northern New York. For 18 years, William was the assistant principal at Watertown High School before he retired in 1989.



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James D. Smith

James D. Smith served as a 1st Sergeant in the 256th Field Artillery Battalion in WWII and received many honors for his service including, the American Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and WWII Victory Medal. James is part of the National Grid Retirees Club and the Gray Wolves Hockey Team.



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Norman Smith

One day after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, Norman Smith was shipped off to war with the Navy halfway through his senior year in high school. He served on a motor torpedo boat in the South Pacific and became a hero after 17 airmen were shot down and he and other soldiers went in rubber rafts in the middle of the night and saved all of the men. Since service in the Navy prevented him from finishing high school, he was recently presented with an honorary high school diploma from the Fulton City School District at a special ceremony at St. Luke's Nursing Home.



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Dr. William J. Twining

While in the Army from 1944-1946, Dr. William J. Twining was an Army medic and a military police officer who guarded the White House and Pentagon. He marched in the funeral procession of President Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 14, 1945 in Washington, D.C. Dr. Twining became fond of animals while growing up in Copenhagen, Lewis County, on the farm of his father, William A. Twining, a World War I veteran, who also ran a feed mill. After leaving the military, he went to Cornell University to become a veterinarian. He has had his own veterinarian practice since 1966 and is still practicing at the age of 91 in Gouverneur.



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Lauren “Larry” E. Vogt

A 1967 Copenhagen graduate, Lauren “Larry” Vogt, served with the Army in Vietnam from 1969-1970. For his service, he received several awards, including the Purple Heart for wounds he sustained in a multi-day attack on a base where his unit served and provided security for the refugee village at Hiep Duc.



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**James "Jim"
Winterbottom**

As a highly decorated soldier during World War II, James Winterbottom was attached to the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. Jim's unit fought in North Africa, Italy and finally Germany. In the mountains of Italy, during the battle for Po Valley, Jim was wounded and his unit suffered many casualties. Jim's awards included the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars for Valor, Purple Heart, and many others. He served three years in the Korean War as an artillery advisor. Jim returned to Canton where he and his wife Sylvia raised their daughters and he became an officer with the state Department of Environmental Conservation in the Canton area, retiring after 33 years. He also served as a member of the St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Citizen Patrol.



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Stuart W. Yerdon

After Stuart W. Yerdon graduated training in Fort Dix and Fort Eustis, he was sent directly to Vietnam. Stuart was entering Vietnam as his brother was boarding a flight to come back home. While in country, Stuart was assigned to the 195th Helicopter Combat Assault Company and became a skilled helicopter repairman. In the fall of 1969, Stuart was reassigned to the 48th Transportation Unit, 87th Maintenance Battalion, which was located just outside of Stuttgart in the Bavarian Alps in Germany. He received many awards, including the National Defense Service Medal and Sharpshooter. After his Army service, he was a volunteer firefighter with the Redfield and Lacona departments for more than 20 years.



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