

Name: Albert Thilges (Husband)

Resident Name: Eleanor Thilges

War Served in: WW2

Branch and Rank: Army, Honor Guard

Where served: Illusion Islands, Fort Benning, Georgia and Camp Blanding, Florida

Job:
Infantry/fighting/foot soldier



Reason for joining: Drafted

Memorable Experiences: On the illusion islands for 1.5 years and only had 8 prisoners during that time. It was a hard place to be – very cold and barren (no trees).

Towards the end, a plane dropped leaflets on the side of the illusion islands where the Japanese were – this was done in order to scare them. It worked. Albert brought back some of the leaflets and later sent them to a professor who contacted his brother in Japan to have it translated!

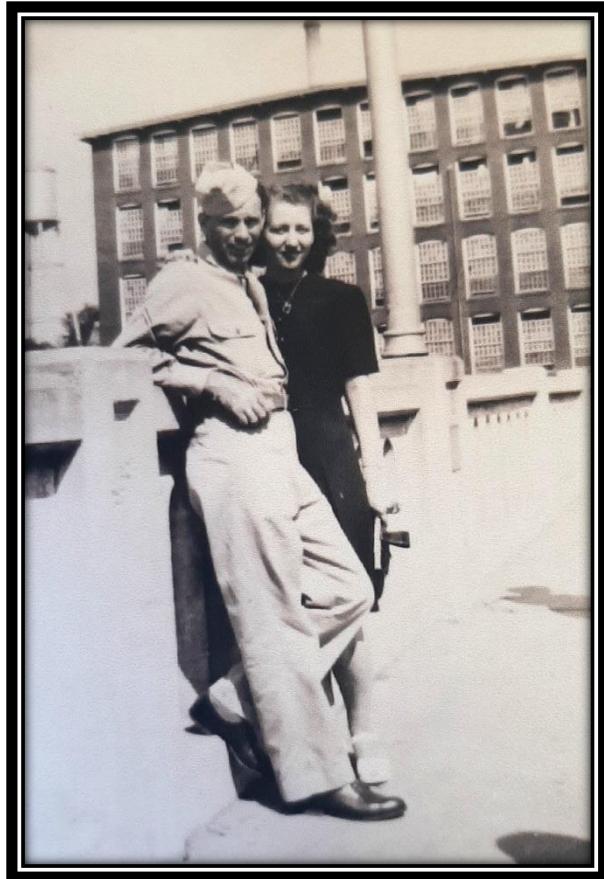
He was a member of the honor guard that marched behind the casket of FDR from little white house in Warm Springs, GA to the railroad station where FDR was put on board for his final trip to the US capitol and burial at High Park, New York.

Medals or citations: Battle of Kiska

Length of Service: 3.5 years (1942-1945)

Service impact on life:

Albert saw the world in a different light. This new insight came from traveling a lot and experiencing many different things – good and bad. He appreciated every minute of it looking back and was glad he could serve.



Name: Howard Hartsock (Resident)

War Served in:

Vietnam

Branch and Rank:

Army, PFC

Where Served:

Vietnam

Job: Combat Engineer

– spent a lot of time building and doing construction work for hospitals.

Reason for Joining:

Drafted.

Memorable

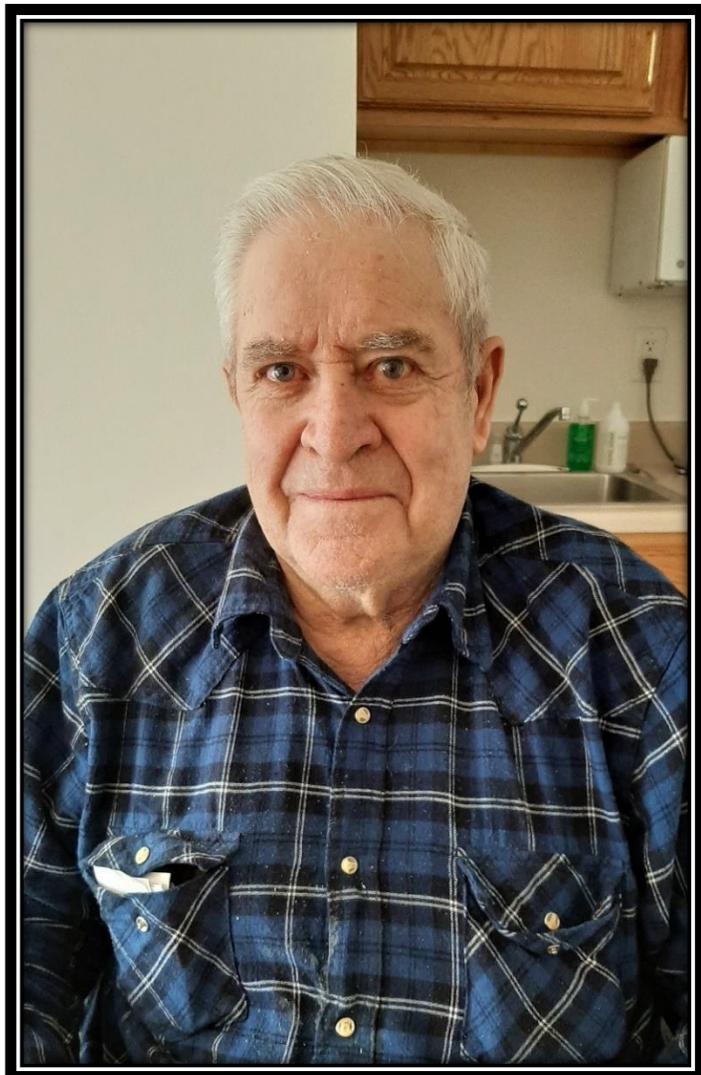
Experiences: I was

always picked for the kitchen police job. I had to wake up extra early to get things ready and then do the dishes.

Not sure how I always got picked!

Medals or citations: Expert Rifleman

Length of Service: 2 years (60's)



Name: John (Jack) A. Grady (Husband)

Resident Name:

Virginia Grady

War Served in: WW2

Branch and Rank:

Army, Sergeant

Where Served:

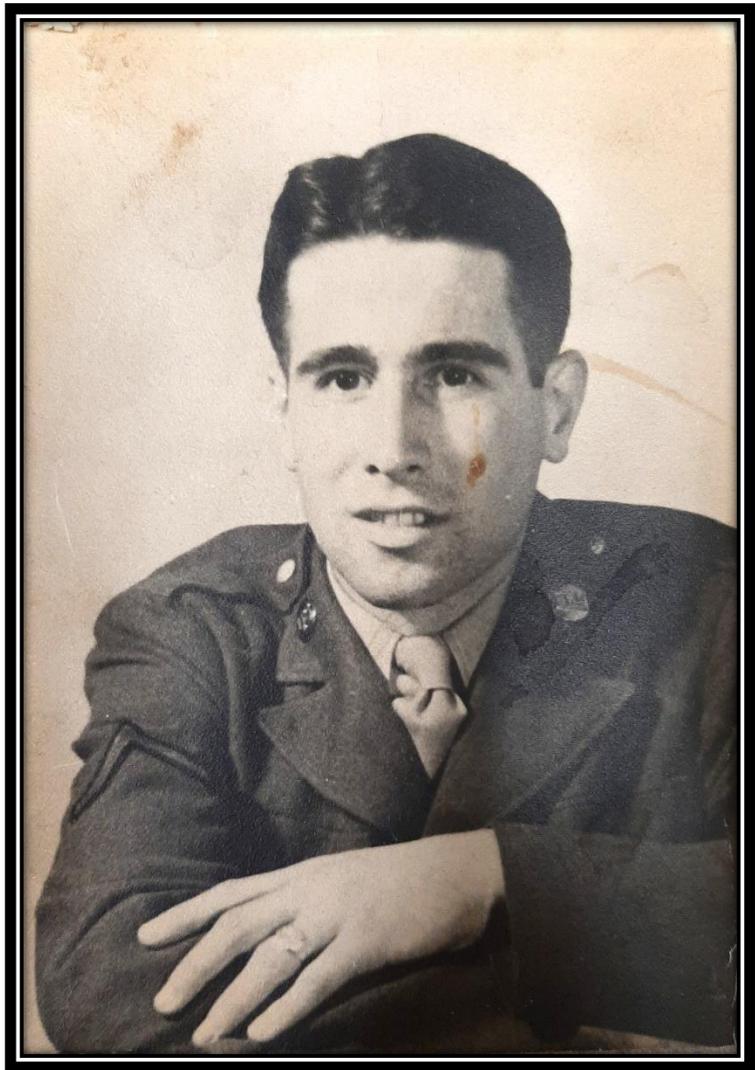
Europe

Job: At the frontline.

Invaded France.

Reason for Joining:

Enlisted. Believed it was just the thing to do and he wanted to be a part of it.



Memorable Experiences: One of his memorable experiences was when him and many others got off the boats and went in on land into France. They were being shot at.

Medals or citations: A bunch!

Length of Service: 3 years

Name: Dale A. Paul (Husband)

Resident Name: Virginia Paul

War Served in: WW2

Branch and Rank: Marine Corps, Corporal

Where Served: Pacific Islands

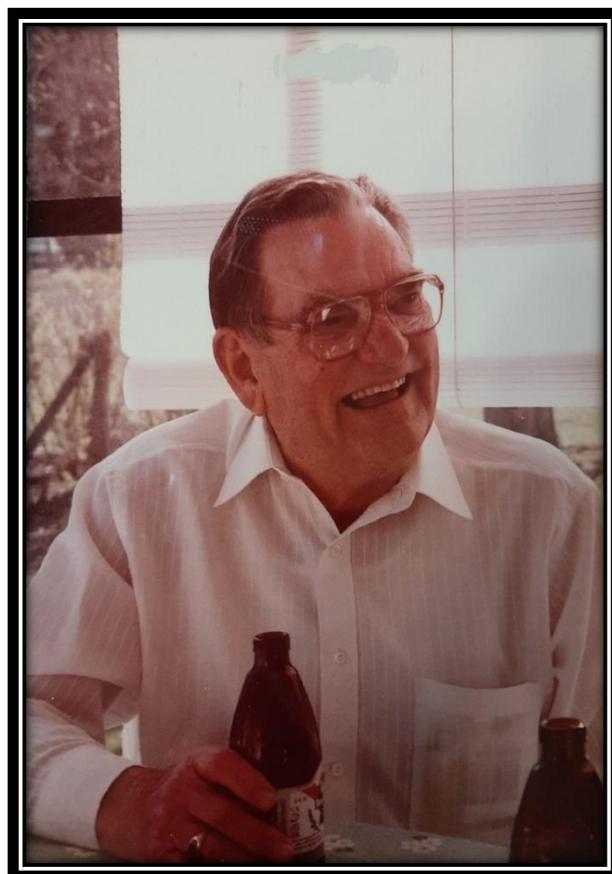
Job: Guard Duty after battles.

Reason for Joining: Enlisted. Because that is what everybody did.

Memorable Experiences: He made quite a few friends during his service. Served with his best friend – at 19 years old they both entered the marines on the same day.

Length of Service: 3 years (1942-1945)

Service Impact on Life: He remained upbeat after it all. He occasionally talked about his experience and was a very patriotic man his entire life. Overall, glad he served.



Name: Cleve Wilson (Husband)

Resident Name: Marilyn Wilson

War Served in: None!

Branch and Rank: Army, PFC

Where Served: Germany

Job: Driving troops or officers.

Reason for Joining: Drafted.

Length of Service: 25 months

Service Impact on Life: G1 loan got us our 1st home.



Name: Dennis Hrynkow (Resident)

War Served in: Vietnam

Branch and Rank: Marine Corps, Corporal

Where Served: California

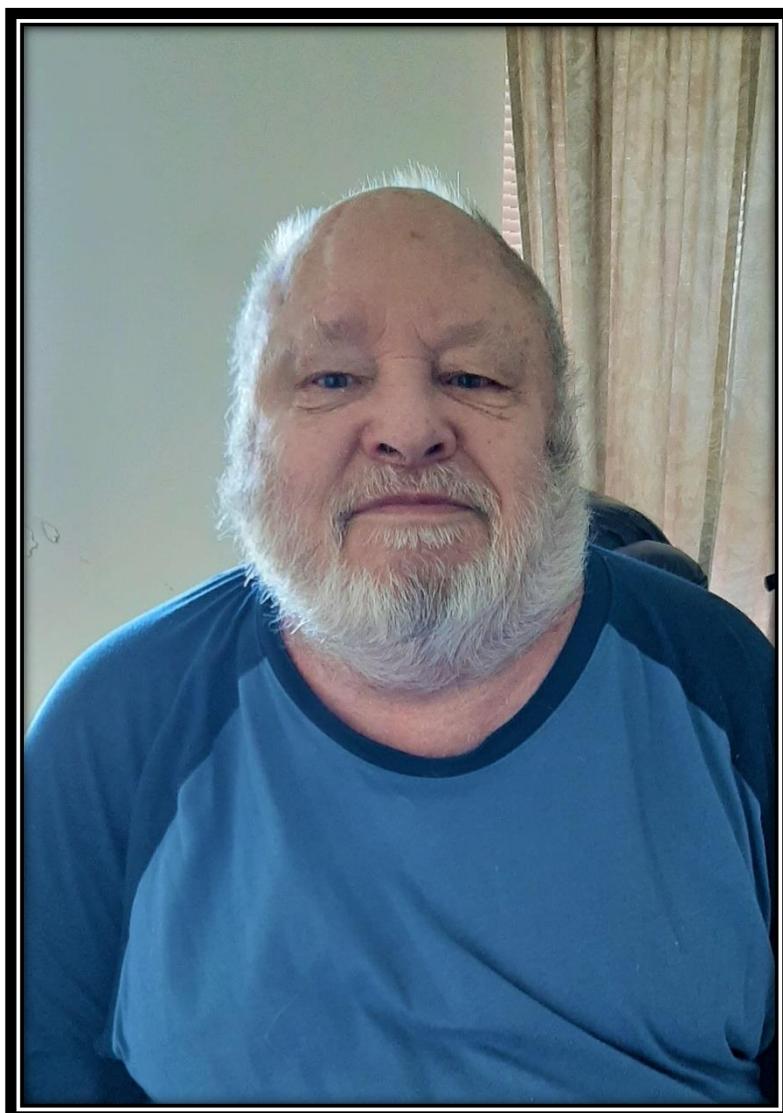
Job: Education NCO

Reason for Joining: Enlisted. Wanted to follow other family members who had done the same.

Most Memorable Experience: Doing security at the golf terminal.

Length of Service: 2 years

Service Impact on Life: It gave a different meaning to the military and how they really serve the country.



Name: Edward O. Anderson (Husband)

Resident: Pauline
Anderson

War Served in: WW2
and Korean

Branch and Rank:
Navy, Lieutenant

Where Served: Japan
and Stateside San
Francisco (Oak Land)

Job: Transport Pilot

Reason for Joining:
Enlisted. Always loved
planes.

Most Memorable

Experience: The bombing of Dutch Harbor, Alaska in the early 40's. Rescued by a cruise ship three days after the bombing at the beginning of the war!

Length of Service: 23 years

Service Impact on Life: Loved planes till the day he died. We lived in California near the county airport (only 1 mile away).



Name: Mike McKay (Resident)

War Served in: Viet Nam

Branch and Rank: Airforce, Airman First Class

Where Served: Last two years at SAC Headquarters in Omaha. Had a 6-month assignment in Saigon. The wing I was assigned to found the missiles in 1962 showing that Cuba had installed Russian missiles. Proof was provided in photographs taken by U-2s.

Job: Was an electronic intelligence analyst. I analyzed data collected on enemy radars using systems on U-2s. Data was used in conjunction with photographs to help protect US aircraft from surface to air missiles and anti-aircraft weapons. My area of specialty was North Viet Nam.

Reason for Joining: Enlisted. I needed a change from college. Decided to join the air force while I determined what to do with my life.

Most Memorable Experience: I was put in charge of an analysis lab even though I did not have the rank to be in charge. It was a great experience that led me into pursuing business as a career.

Medals or Citations: Viet Nam Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal & Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

Length of Service: 4 years (1963-1967)

Service Impact on Life: My service paid off far more than I expected when I enlisted. I learned about electronics,

use of electronic analytical equipment, radars, US airborne surveillance systems, electronic warfare capabilities and supervision of peers.

After discharge have used benefits: GI Bill to complete BA and obtain MBA, home loan funding, VA medical services, pharmacy services, hearing aids and supplies. All were life changing and continue to provide economic benefits.



Name: Clarence (Pete) Peterson (Resident)

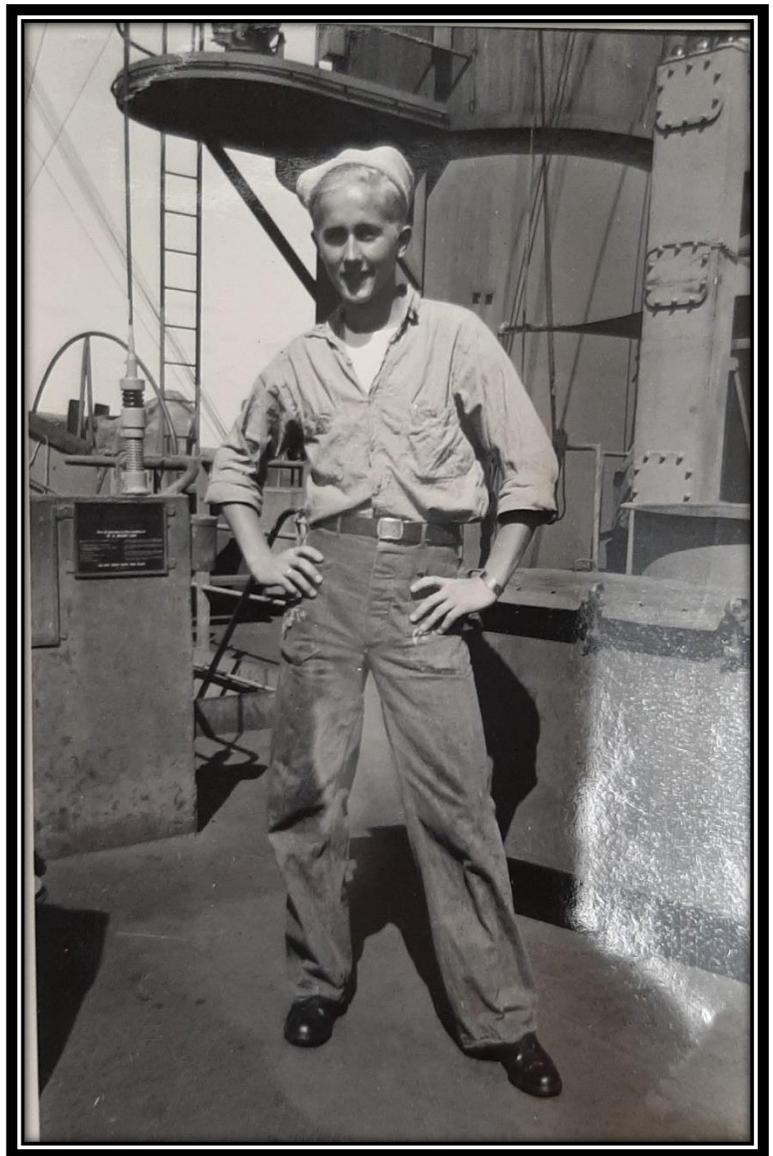
War Served in: WW2

Branch and Rank: US
Navy

Where Served: Pacific
Theatre

Job: Crewman on a
landing craft. After the
war, I painted and
maintained the ship.
Then switched to an
office job.

Reason for Joining:
Drafted in June 1944
upon graduating from
high school. I chose to
enlist in the navy.



Memorable Experiences:

While in Buckner Bay, Okinawa we had to exit the harbor when there were typhoons in the area.

We placed smoke generators in landing crafts located at the bow and stern to avoid being seen by visiting suicide planes while in the harbor.

Medals or citations: Good Conduct and Pacific Theatre

Length of Service: 3 years Regular Navy (28 months aboard ship) and 3 years Reserve Navy

Name: Alvin Olson (Resident)

War Served in: Korean

Branch and Rank: Air Force

Where Served: In many parts of United States
(Mississippi, Texas, Tennessee, Nebraska...)

Job: Traffic Control operator in the airport at the air base. Takeoff and landing planes.

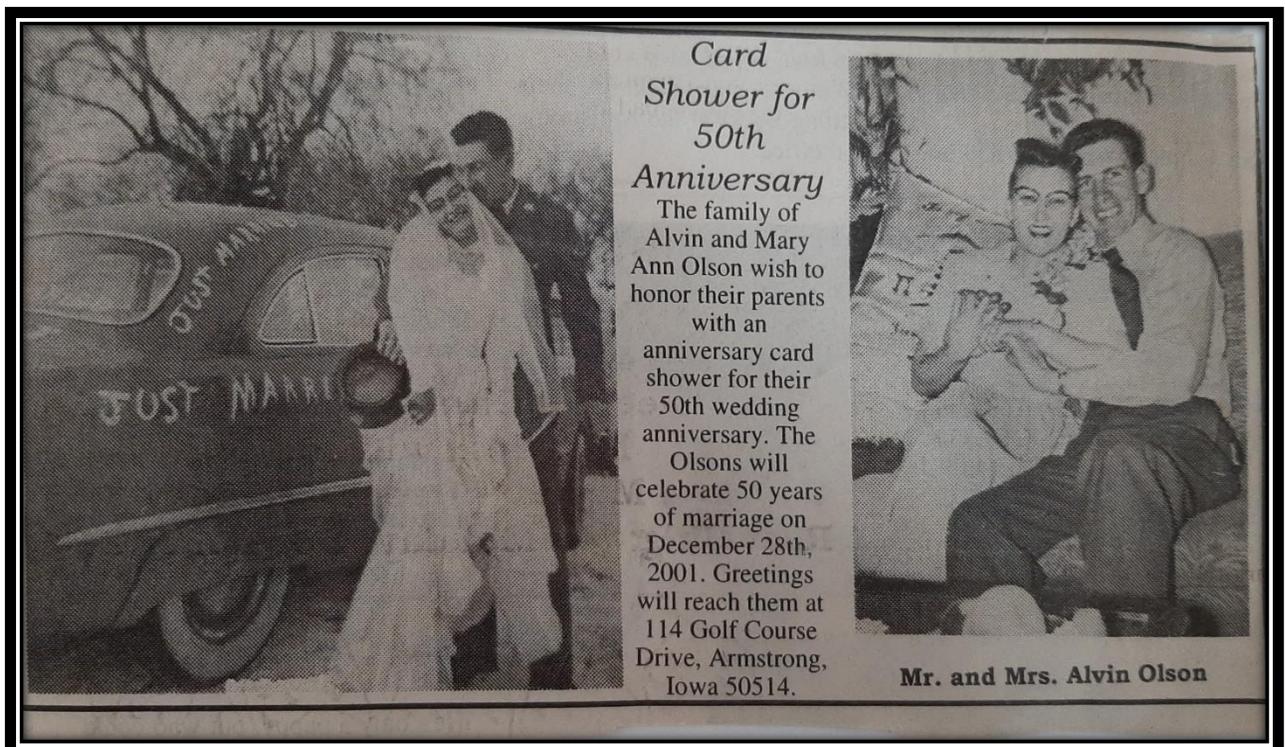
Reason for Joining: To serve my country and have freedom forever.

Memorable Experiences: Working in the control tower and landing and sending planes off was a rewarding experience each day.

Medals or citations: Airmen 2nd Class

Length of Service: 3 years

Service Impact on Life: Made me a better man and appreciate the meaning of freedom and respect for our country and the American Flag.



Name: Elaine Nicholson (Resident)

War Served in: Korean

Branch and Rank: Airforce, 1st
Lieutenant

Where Served: Training in
Montgomery, Alabama and
stationed in Savannah,
Georgia. United States
Airforce Nurse Corps (USANC).

Job: Registered Nurse at a
Hospital and Family Clinic for
people in the service and
dependents of those people.



Reason for Joining: Enlisted. I had two brothers who
were in the army and navy and I wanted to compete with
them so I joined the air force!

Memorable Experiences: There was one night at the
hospital where there was no doctor in that night and I
had to deliver 3 babies by myself! The 1st was in a car
outside, the 2nd in the emergency room and the 3rd in the
elevator of the hospital!

Medals or citations: I believe that I should have gotten a
medal for the night I delivered 3 babies by myself!

Length of Service: 2 years

Service Impact on Life: I met my husband to be at the
hospital we both worked at. The day that I discharged
from service, I married my husband! He still had another
year of service left, so I stayed at the hospital working as
a civil service nurse since they were short on nurses at
the time and to support my husband.

Name: Donald Nicholson (Husband)

Resident: Elaine Nicholson

War Served in: Korean

Branch and Rank: Airforce, Staff Sergeant

Where Served: Training in Montgomery, Alabama and stationed in Savannah, Georgia.

Job: Worked in laboratory in the hospital. Was very good at taking blood and was always called in when others were having trouble hitting the vein.

Reason for Joining:
Enlisted. Wanted to serve country after the Japanese bombed.

Memorable Experiences:

Many times, he was the one to get blood from newborn babies. He came into the nursery and was having trouble with one of the babies, so Elaine (his future wife) came to help hold the baby. That was the first time they met – or at least how he always told the story!

Length of Service: 3 years

Service Impact on Life: He met his wife to be! The day that she discharged from service, they got married!



Name: Anthony Martonosi (Son)

Resident: Mary Martonosi

War Served in:

Afghanistan, Yugoslavia,
and Tanker War (Iran
Iraq War)

Branch and Rank: US
Navy, Commander

Where Served:

Afghanistan; Italy;
Yugoslavia; San Diego;
Key West, Fla.; Newport,
R.I.; and aboard the USS
George Philip; USS Gemini
and USS Halyburton.



Job: Weapons/Combat systems officer (engineering) on 3 ships and embedded trainer (advisor) for Afghanistan

Reason for Joining: During his youth, always knew he would serve. Always liked boats and the water. Wanted to do something different and interesting.

Memorable Experiences: First deployment to the Western Pacific and Persian Gulf. Trans Pacific on a guided missile frigate. Stops in Hong-Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Philippines -- big adventure for a 21-year-old!

Chasing drug smugglers in the Caribbean, while serving on a hydrofoil missile boat in Key West.

Serving in Southern Afghanistan for 12 months as an embedded trainer/advisor with the Afghan National Army.

Medals or citations: Meritorious Service Medal; Navy Commendation Medal; Navy Achievement Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; NATO Medal; Sea Service Deployment Ribbon; Coast Guard Operations Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation

Length of Service: 25 years (Navy 10 years; Naval reserve 15 years)

Service Impact on Life: “I met a bunch of truly wonderful people. Got to do a lot of interesting things. It made me realize that we are capable of more than we would have thought possible.” After leaving the Reserve, he returned home to a teaching job.



Name: Stephen A. Simpson (Resident)

War Served in: None. Standoff with Russia in May 1959.

Branch and Rank: Army, Spec 5

Where Served: Budigan, Germany

Job: Special Weapons (nuclear)

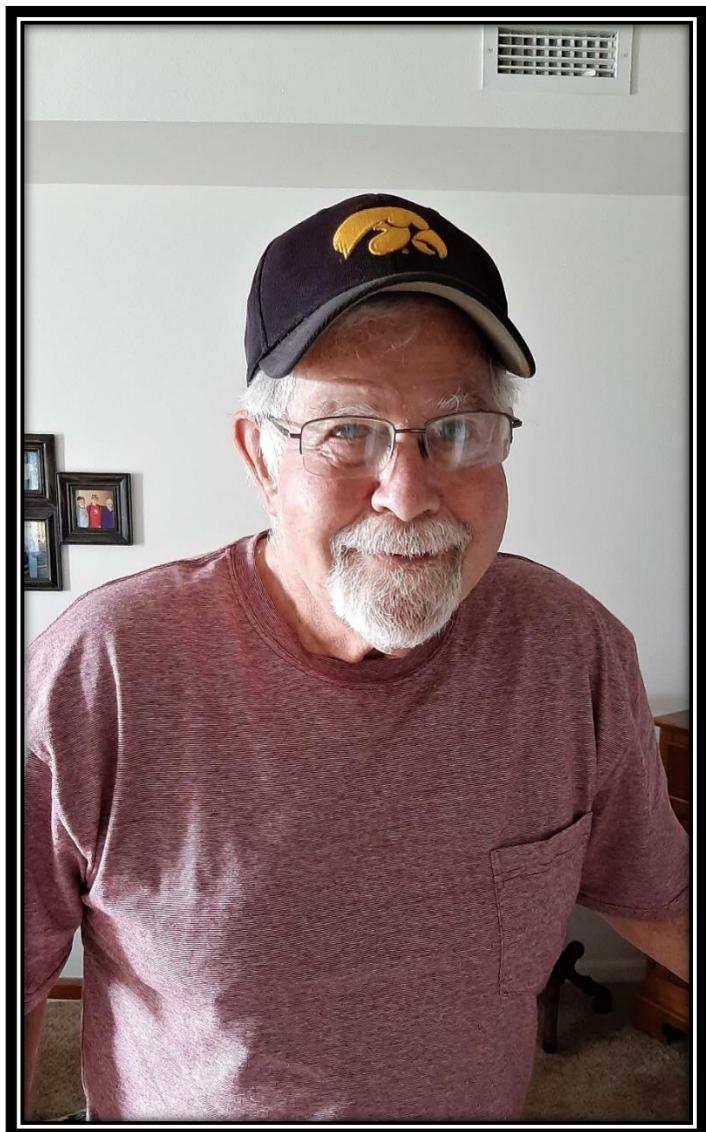
Reason for Joining: Enlisted in October of 1958 since I was about to be drafted.

Memorable Experiences: Traveled around Europe to nuclear depositories to rotate old and dated material and then send back to US for re-manufacturing. Taught classes on nuclear handling and distribution.

Medals or citations: Good Conduct, Expert Rifle, and Nuclear Clearance

Length of Service: 2 year active (1958-1960), 4 years inactive reserve

Service Impact on Life: Great experience, lots of travel, very fortunate was in peacetime!



Name: Leonard Eugene Roberts (Husband)

Resident: Jo Roberts

War Served in: Korean

Branch and Rank: Army,
Sergeant First Class

Where Served: Fort Riley,
Kansas; Korea; United Nations
Command Security DMZ

Job: Supply service in Kansas.

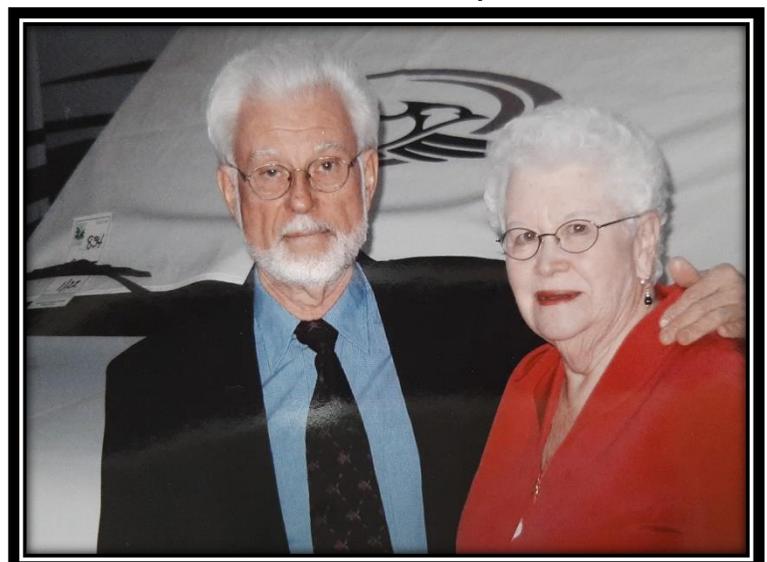
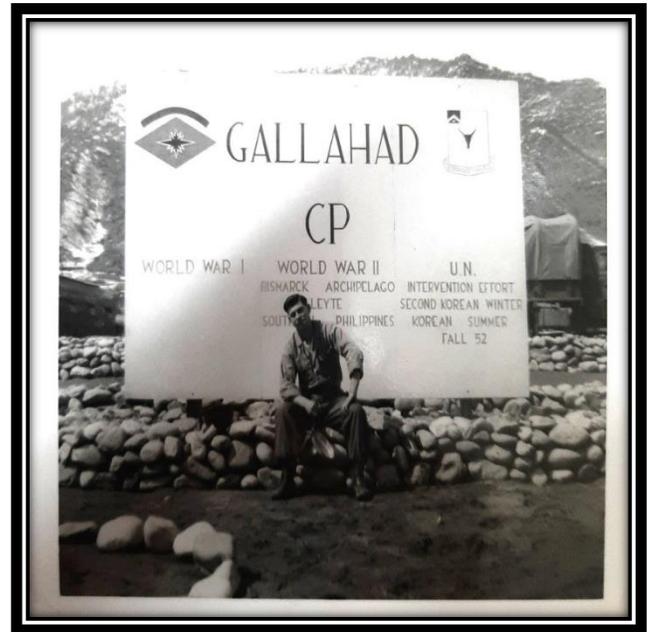
Personnel Records in Korea – recording where people served and records for wounded and casualties.

Reason for Joining: Enlisted here in Johnson County, Iowa. Opportunity to serve country and opportunity for future education.

Memorable Experiences: Bitter winters in Korea; Leading a motorized group over mountain roads in the winter in Korea. On a return visit to Korea, sponsored by veteran group in 2007, a kind gentleman thanked me for bringing “Wolf Blitzler” along. Maturity is not all bad! -Jo

Length of Service: 3 years (1951-1954)

Service Impact on Life: He stated the Army gave him the opportunity to demonstrate administration capabilities necessary in his peace time lifetime career as a Teacher, Principal and Superintendent of schools in Iowa and Illinois.



Name: Wil Green (Resident)

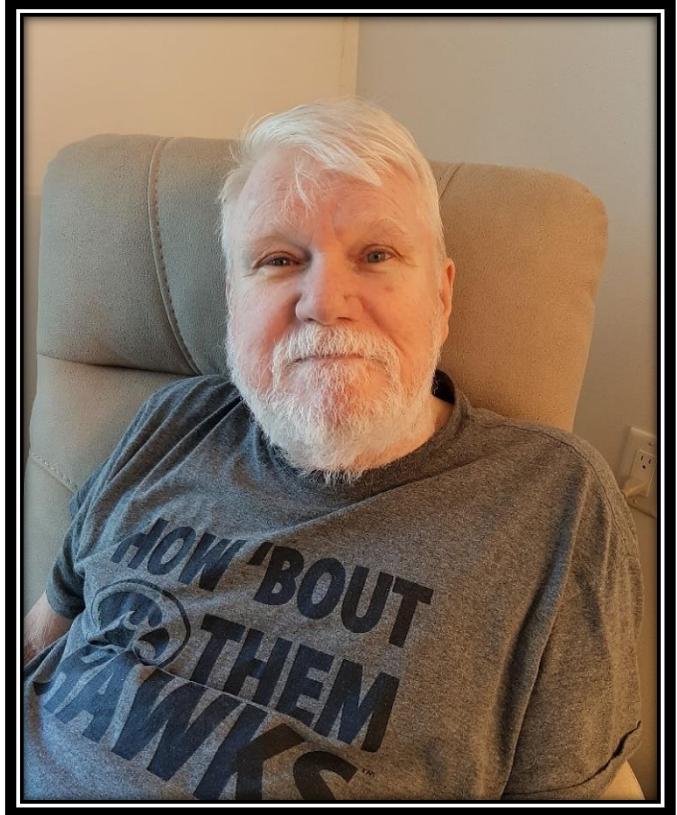
War Served in: Vietnam

Branch and Rank: Army,
Sergeant

Where Served: Germany

Job: Hospital

Administration – ran
evacuation department by
arranging transportation
for those leaving the
hospital (either back to
where they came from or
to the closest hospital to their home)



Reason for Joining: Enlisted at 22 years old after I finished school at the University of Iowa in hospital administration. I would rather join before being drafted so I got to pick my job.

Memorable Experiences: I liked working with the Airforce – I had to know all about the flight and their arrival and departure time so I could arrange transportation for those in service.

I also took trips all over Europe (Spain, Italy...) on my time off and enjoyed exploring those areas.

Medals or citations: Good Conduct Medal

Length of Service: 3 years (all in Germany)

Service Impact on Life: Widened my scope of different customs and what went on in other countries – it was a pretty good education. After my service, I returned to work in hospital administration.

Name: John Gottlieb (Resident)

War Served in: None.

Branch and Rank: US Army Reserve, Drill Sergeant

Where Served: South Carolina for Basic Training and then traveled to several different bases to train others (Louisiana, California, Missouri...).

Job: To teach the methods of being a soldier, get people in shape, and how to shoot.

Reason for Joining: Enlisted – didn't want to get drafted and they said they needed a drill sergeant.

Memorable Experiences: It was fun meeting lots of different people and I even ran into some people later in life.

Length of Service: 1 year active, 7 years inactive

Service Impact on Life: Learned to treat people the way I wanted to be treated and saw many different points of view. The south was different than I expected it to be, so it even changed my point of view in that way.



Name: Robert D. Huffman (Husband)

Resident: Martha Huffman

War Served in:

WW2

Branch and Rank:

Army, 946 Quarter
Masters

Where Served: The

European Theatre

landed on

Normandy to

Liberation of Paris,

The Battle of the

Belgium Bulge and Germany.



Job: Clerk and German Interpreter

Reason for Joining: He was drafted out of High School.

He had tried to enlist in the Navy but his vision was impaired so he went to California to work in the War Effort but drafted out of Keokuk County, Iowa.

Memorable Experiences: He talked about how it was very scary in the Belgium Bulge. He would go into towns in the evening and it was noisy and you never knew if some of the people there were German troops.

Medals or citations: Several.

Length of Service: 2 year active, 4 years inactive reserve

Service Impact on Life: He didn't want to go back to Europe with me since he had already been there!

After service, he was a social worker at the VA in Iowa City, IA.

Name: Lynn Popham (Husband)

Herbert Sawyer
(Father)

Richard and Jim
(Brothers)

Resident: Gloria
Popham

War Served in: WW2
(Lynn and Herbert)

Branch and Rank:
Army, PFC (Lynn)

Navy, Chief Motor Machinist (Herbert)

Airforce (Richard and Jim)

Where Served: Stationed in Cheyenne, Wyoming;
Virginia; 2 years in Canada - White Horse Yukon Territory
(Lynn)

Italy (Herbert)

Japan (Richard)

Turkey (Jim)

Job: Driving truck, wrecker and Chauffeuring people like
the general around (Lynn)

Communications (Herbert and Jim)

Reason for Joining: Drafted. (Lynn)

Enlisted. Didn't want to do army. Choose the navy since
he said he would always have a place to sleep. (Herbert)

Memorable Experiences: A couple of us were going to
rope a cub bear at a trash site and then though it might
not be such a good idea! (Lynn)



Lynn and Gloria

On a mine sweep with 40 crew members. He was also the barber on the ship. (Herbert)

Medals or citations: Some but don't remember the names. (Lynn)

Purple heart. (Herbert)

Length of Service: 3 years and 1 month (Lynn)

March 1942-October 1945 (Herbert)

1952-1960 (Richard)

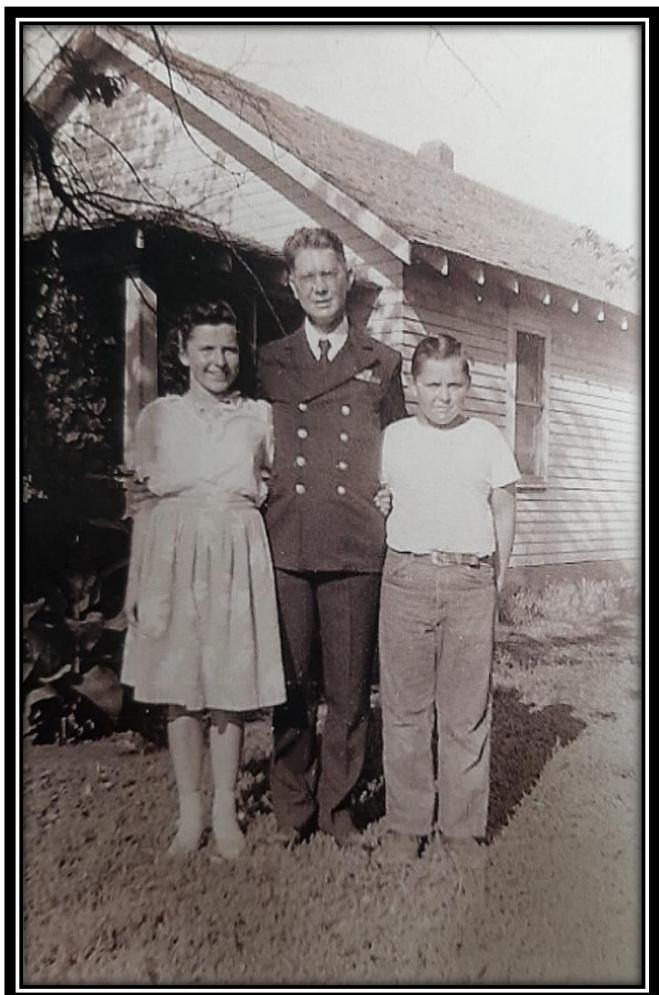
4 years (Jim)

Service Impact on Life: He was a farmer after returning from service. (Lynn)

Had shrapnel in ribs from service. He never liked to talk about his service time much. He worked in a grocery store and didn't like it so then worked as a janitor at a school and did that for 27 years. (Herbert)

Went to art school and then started his own printing business. (Richard)

Went to art school and then worked in the printing business. (Jim)



Gloria, Herbert and Richard

Name: Richard (Dick) Henderson

War Served in: Korean

Branch and Rank: Air Force, Corporal

Where Served: Tokyo, Japan; Omaha, Nebraska

Job: Auto Mechanic

Reason for Joining: I just wanted to join.

Memorable Experiences: I was impressed by how General MacArthur communicated with the Japanese people.

Medals or citations: Good Conduct Medal; Japanese Occupation; Korean Conflict

Length of Service: 4 years

Name: John Joseph Ketterer

Resident: Margaret
Ketterer

War Served in: WW2

Branch and Rank: Navy,
Lieutenant JG

Where Served: South
Pacific

Job: In charge of standing
watch (night and day).

Reason for Joining:
Drafted in after college.

Memorable Experiences:

During service he was
mainly on ships – when anchored he could see the flag
put up after Hiroshima.

At the end of the war, he had to go to a hospital in New
York because they thought he might have TB. He had to
stay in the hospital for 1 year, but no TB and he just got
better!

Length of Service: 3 years (1942-1945)

Service Impact on Life: After service, he became a
Biology Professor.

Two of his brothers were also in the service. Charles
Albert Ketterer was in the Navy and was a chef for a
major general. Robert Spencer Ketterer was in the Army
in France and was killed in action during WW2 (buried in
Normandy).



Name: James Andrew Lowe (Husband)

Resident: Gwen Lowe

War Served in: WW2

Branch and Rank: Army

Where Served: USA

Job: Infantry

Reason for Joining: Enlisted. Just the thing that all young men were doing.

Length of Service: A couple years.

Service Impact on Life: He was glad that he joined the service.



Veteran's Name: Charles Zinkula (Husband)

Tony Zinkula (Son)

Allan Zinkula (Son)

Andy Zinkula (Son)

Wayne Zinkula (Son)

Resident: Rose Zinkula

War Served in: WW2
(Charles)

Vietnam (Tony)

Dessert Storm (Andy)

Branch and Rank:

Army, PFC (Charles)

Army, Sergeant (Tony)

Army, First Sergeant
(Allan)

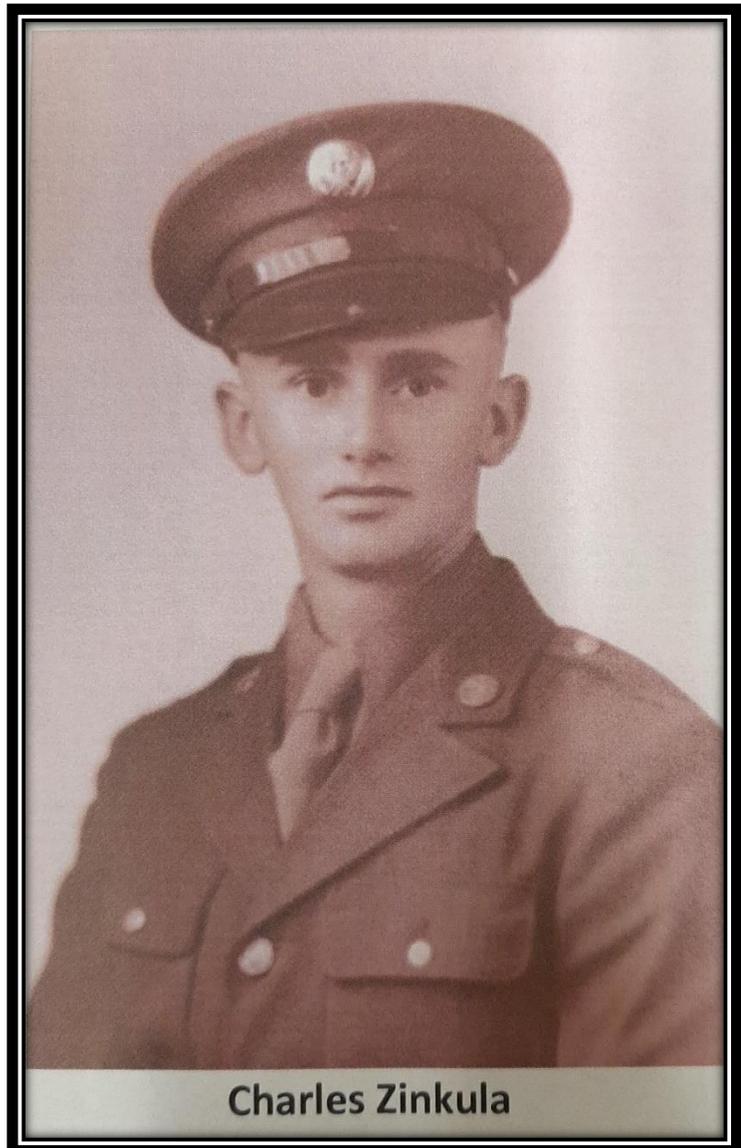
USMC, Sergeant
(Andy)

Army, Private (Wayne)

Where Served: Jefferson Bks, MO; Cp Myles Standish,
MA; Ft. Bliss, TX; Cp Robinson, AR; Ft. Meade, MD; Las
Cruces, NM; France, Germany Belgium, Austria, England
(Charles)

Ft. Leonard Wood, MO; Ft. Hood, TX; Ft. McCoy, WS;
Germany (Tony)

Ft. Gordon, GA; Ft. Bragg, NC; Washington DC; Pt Mugu
NAS, CA; Defense Depot Ogden, UT; Korea (Allan)



Camp Pendleton, CA; 29 Palms, CA; Okinawa, Thailand;
Subic Bay, Philippines; Wilmington, DE (Andy)

Bamberg, Germany
(Wayne)

Job: Infantry (Charles)

Armor (Tony)

Signal Corps (Allan)

Security

Forces/Infantry/Heavy
Equipment Mechanic
(Andy)

Truck Driver (Wayne)

Reason for Joining:

WW2 (Charles)

To learn about
communications (Allan)

Tried to join the army
to follow my father and brothers in the Army but was
turned down because of a heart murmur, but the
Marines took me instead. (Andy)

To serve my country. (Wayne)

Memorable Experiences:

Being selected for White House duty at age 20 and
meeting three US Presidents face to face. Also, returning
to regular duty and serving as a First Sergeant and
helping young soldiers become successful in their career.
(Allan)



Experiencing other cultures like in the Philippines, Japan and Thailand. (Andy)

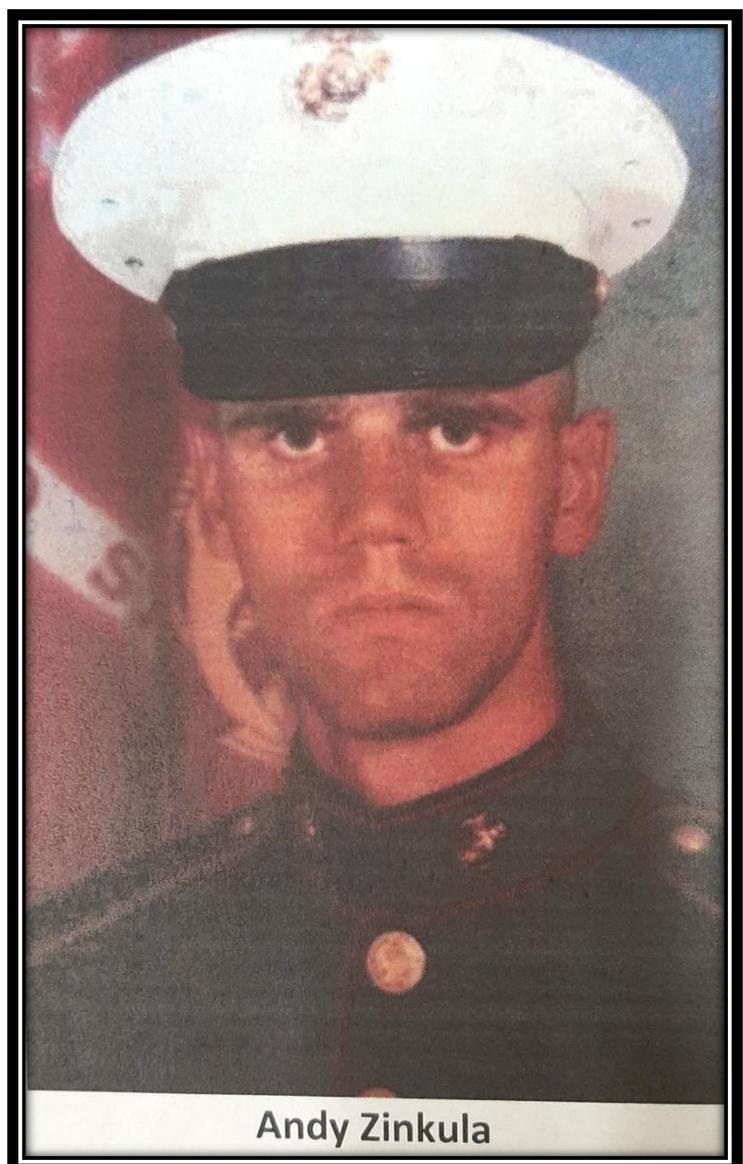
Driving on Germany's curvy road was very beautiful and interesting. We hitched a ride to a concert with some nice Germans. (Wayne)

Medals or citations: V-Medal, EA & MET Ribbon, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Overseas Bar (Charles)

Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal – 2, Army Commendation Medal – 3, Army Achievement Medal – 4, Joint Meritorious Unit Award – 2, Good Conduct Medal – 7, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal – 2, NCO Development Ribbon – 3, Army Service Ribbon, Presidential Service Badge (Allan)

Overseas Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal – 4, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Certification of Appreciation – 4, Certificate of Commendation, Commanding General's Certificate of Commendation (Andy)

Length of Service: 22 months (Charles)



Andy Zinkula

4 years (Tony)

22 years (Allan)

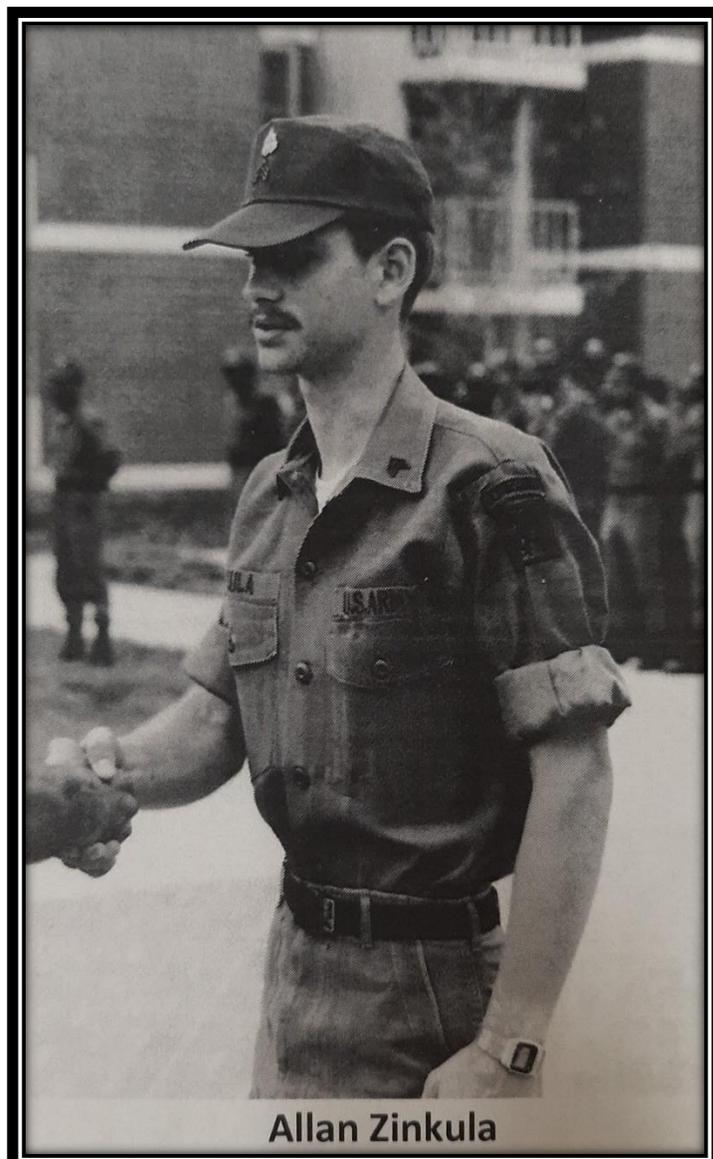
13 years (Andy)

2 years (Wayne)

Service Impact on Life:

I never intended to make a career in the Army, but there was always something new to learn around the corner, so I stayed. After becoming a First Sergeant 16 years later, I found that the most rewarding part of my career would be training young soldiers and knowing that I played a small part in guiding them in their future life and career. (Allan)

Glad I did it, enjoyed my time and would do it again.
(Andy)



Allan Zinkula

Name: David Archibald (Resident)

War Served in: Vietnam

Branch and Rank: Army, Lt. Col.

Where Served: Vietnam and Bases in the US

Job: Pilot and Gunship – repairing helicopters and trained others on how to fly safely.

Reason for Joining: Enlisted right out of high school (1961). Wanted to do my best. Wanted to be a pilot.

Most Memorable Experience: Heavy Combat in Vietnam. Flew a chinook (a big helicopter that could hold 30-40 troops). 2 times my aircraft was shot down, but we had parachutes. There were times that I had to pull fellow troops out of a helicopter that had crashed.

Medals or citations: 3rd
highest medal in
combat

Length of Service: 24
years (1961-1985)

Service Impact on Life: I
wanted to make the best
of life.



Name: Loran Brandsma (Resident)

War Served in: Korean

Branch and Rank: Army,
Corporal

Where Served: Germany (1
year), Ft. Benning, GA (2 years)

Job: Printing Plant – put
together books/pamphlets for
the army

Reason for Joining: Enlisted.
Knew I was going to be drafted
so just joined.

Most Memorable Experiences:
While in Frankford, Germany
bought an MG (auto) to take
home with me. I paid \$1375
for it in 1951.

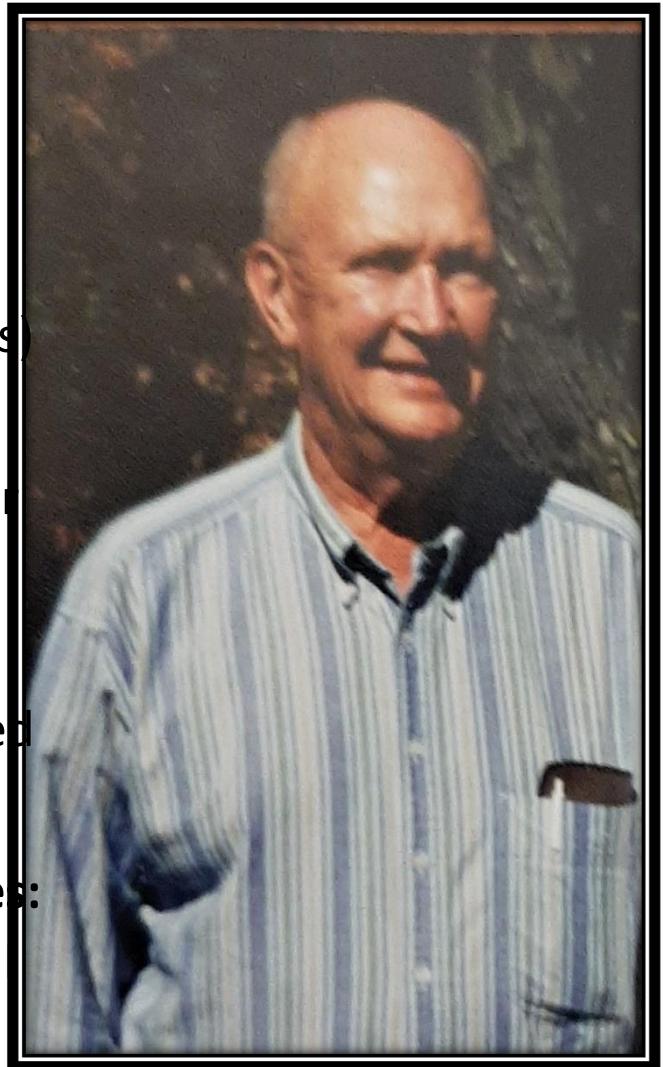
Later, I drove to the Netherlands in my MG to visit family.
I have Dutch heritage.

Length of Service: 3 years (1950-1953)

Service Impact on Life: After service, I went back to finish
college (2 years left). Got my degree in agriculture.

Then worked for Funk Brothers Seed Company for 10
years until they closed.

Then worked for the USDA in the ASCS county office.



Name: Hugh B. Kotowske
(Husband)

Resident: Regina Kotowske

War Served in: WW2

Branch and Rank: Army,
Sergeant (87th Mountain
Infantry/10th Division)

Where Served: Alaska; Kiska
Island; Africa; Italy; Germany
(was on a boat to the South
Pacific when the war ended)



Job: Radio Operator and Company Clerk.

The 87th was sent to the front to fight through the Alps to Germany.

Reason for Joining: Drafted.

Most Memorable Experiences: In Alaska following the General with full gear and big radio pack. He had to drop his bed roll to keep up with the general. That night he had to crawl into a sleeping bag with his buddy.

Trying to deliver an important message to the general and suddenly realized he was behind enemy line!

Medals or citations: Bronze Star; Service above and beyond duty

Length of Service: 3 years (late 1942-August 1945)

Service Impact on Life: After service, went to business college and was studying to be a CPA. Was offered to be an office manager towards the end of his college years – he accepted and did that for several years. Wanted to get out of that so he became a sales man.