

BACKGROUND ON VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day. It is a federal holiday in the United States that is observed annually on November 11, for honoring honorably discharged military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

This holiday coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I. Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.

At the urging of major U.S. veteran organizations, Armistice Day was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.



CLAUDIA PEMBERTON

"America without her soldiers would be like God without his angels."

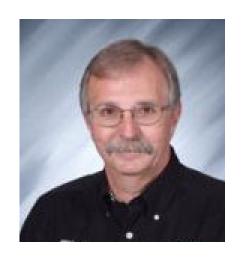




- ► Branch: Army
- ▶ Service Dates: 11 JUNE 1987 to 1 APRIL 2012 In addition Mark became a Coast Guard Academy graduate and an Ensign in June 2003. He served in intelligence, weapons policies and training, and operated on the Joint Terrorism Task Force out of NY. He served as a reservist in both the Army and Coast Guard and mobilized for onemonth stints, as needed.
- ► Conflict: N/A
- ► Highest Rank: LT-03 (Lieutenant)
- ► Activities: 31Charlie Single Channel Radio Specialist. Also received flight training on the UH-1D helicopter.
- Interesting Comment: I was a horrible pilot. I couldn't fly straight to save my life. But oddly I could land normally.





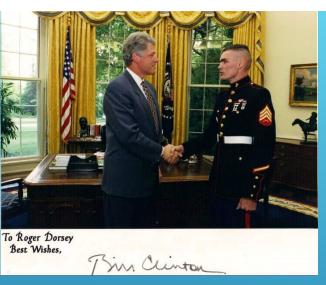






- Branch: US Air Force and Indiana Air National Guard
- ▶ Service Dates: 1972 to 1978
- ▶ Conflict: No Combat Deployment
- ► Highest Rank: E5 (Staff Sergeant)
- ► Activities: Field level maintenance and support for F-100 Super Sabre and J-57 jet engines.
- ▶ Interesting Comment: A typical stunt was to wait for an airman who was fresh out of tech school was on his first generator change to be 6 inches from an F-100 compressor blade and yell "This one is ready! Go ahead and crank it up. "

JIM BACKS



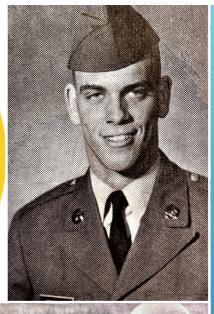


- ► Branch: USMC
- ▶ Service Dates: October 1988 to -September 1995
- ► Conflict: Gulf War
- ► Highest Rank: Sergeant E-5
- ► Activities: Served as a Military Police Officer and Presidential Security Specialist at Marine One Helicopter Squadron (HMX-1) and also served as Security Specialist under the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the pentagon.
- ► Interesting Comment: I served under US Presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton. I met many heads of state, Pope John Paul II (when he visited Denver, CO), Queen/ Elizabeth, Princess Diana, and many others.

ROGER DORSEY











- ▶ Branch: US Army
- ▶ Service Dates: December 1971 to November 1973
- ► Conflict: Vietnam
- ► Highest Rank: E4 (Corporal)
- ► Activities: I trained in Company A, 1st
 Battalion, 1st Brigade at Fort Campbell,
 KY. I received orders to move to
 Vietnam in July. Two weeks later that
 was changed to Korea. I served at
 Tongduchon (AKA Dongducheon)
 approximately 10 miles from the
 Demilitarized Zone.

MIKE GEBHARDT





- ▶ Branch: Navy
- Service Dates: September 1970 to September 1974, serving aboard USS Ramsey, a Destroyer, Guided Missile Escort (DEG-2) from April 1971- September 1974
- Conflict: Vietnam
- ► Highest Rank: E-5, Second Class Petty Officer
- ▶ Activities: While aboard the Ramsey: Two West Pac Cruises with service in the Gulf of Tonkin with escort duty for Carriers and Cruisers and Shore Bombardment duty on the second cruise. As an Operations Specialist, OS, we manned Combat Information Center, the operational nerve center of the ship. This involved surface, air, and submerged contact tracking navigation support, communication with the bridge and other ships and other duties.
- ▶ Interesting Comment: Life aboard ship was an interesting and varied experience. A clear starry night sky in the Pacific is awesome.

MARK MATHES

- ▶ Branch: US Air Force
- ▶ Service Dates: April 1961 to April 1965
- ► Conflict: N/A
- ► Highest Rank: Airman 1st Class
- Activities: I was a sentry dog handler. My dog Rusty and I guarded sites where nuclear bombs were stored and the perimeter of the Lincoln Air Force Base where B-57s were loaded and ready to fly. I worked only at night.
- ► Interesting Comment: My dog Rusty had to be euthanized around the time of the Cuban Crisis. I was assigned a new dog who was not used to me. If he was alarmed, he might attack me at that time. Later we became best of buddies.







DAN MESSAROS

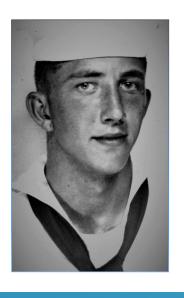
- Branch: Marines
- Service Dates: September 1997 through October 2003
- * Conflict: Kuwait and Iraq (Operation Enduring Freedom)
- Highest Rank: Sergeant
- Activities: I operated military post offices and led and trained Marines. I spent half of my time overseas.

CHRIS PYANOWSKI

Latin for "Always Faithful," Semper Fidelis is the motto of every Marine—an eternal and collective commitment to the success of our battles, the progress of our Nation, and the steadfast loyalty to the fellow Marines we fight alongside. Established in 1883, this motto distinguishes the bond developed and shared between Marines. It goes beyond words that are spoken, as it is a warriorhood that is lived.











- ► Branch: Navy
- ▶ Service Dates: 1954 to 1972
- ► Conflict: N/A
- ► Highest Rank: Second Class Engineman
- Activities: As an engineer in the engine room, I took instrument readings and adjusted and repaired the machinery.
- Interesting Comments: I served on the USS Whitehall out of the Cleveland Naval Station. I come down the St. Lawrence Seaway with this ship. Other stations included Pittsburg, Galveston, and Norfolk. I was on the USS Yancy troop transport vessel and did maneuvers on Mike boats (like the D Day landing boats) and did mine sweeping maneuvers in the Gut of Mexico. I was on the WWII ship USS tong Beach my favorite ship.
- ► I really enjoyed serving my Country. God Bless the USA!

CARL WAGNER



► Branch: Army

▶ Service Dates: January 1968 to December 1970

▶ Conflict: Vietnam

► Highest Rank: Specialist Fifth Class (E-5)

▶ Activities: MOS — Stock Control and Accounting Specialist (76P20).

In Da Nang Vietnam I worked in the US Army Depot. I processed the requests for supplies from the field units.

In Germany I worked with four other servicemen that operated the US Army Commissary in a military dependent housing development. In other words, I helped run a grocery store.

Interesting Comment: From Vietnam I remember exactly all the words of an entire Sunday sermon. By 11:00 AM that day it was already 100 degrees. The Sermon was "Remember, it is hotter than this in Hell". That was the total sermon for the day.

While in the military I traveled 2/3 of the way around the world (from Vietnam to Germany for a change of duty station) and visited 7 different countries.

CLARENCE WILLS







- ▶ Branch: United States Navy
- ▶ Service Dates: 1974-1977
- Conflict: Vietnam
- Highest Rank: Petty Officer 2nd Class
- Activities:

1975: Worked on the flight deck in Aviation Boatswains Mate Fuels division (ABF), fueling and defueling aircraft.

1976: Quality Control Fuels Petty Officer, sampling fuel from aircraft looking for contamination problems.

1976-77 Med Cruise Flight Deck Control Fuels Petty Officer. Managed 17-18 three man fueling crews responsible for all aircraft fueling readiness. 88+ aircraft.

I entered service in United States Navy at the very end of the Vietnam war. I was assigned to the USS Minitz aircraft carrier and made two Mediterraneon cruises. I had never flown on a plane, sailed on a ship, or left the state of Ohio before joining the United States Navy. Visited 9 countries throughout Europe and Northern Africa. Some of the best times of my life. No regrets.

ASSISTANT DISTRICT GOVERNOR

ANTHONY CUEVAS



HARRY S. TRUMAN

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude."



