

# Salute to Veterans

November 5, 2019

The Wilmington  
**Rotary**  
Club



## Veterans share their histories of military service

In advance of Veterans Day 2019, members of the Wilmington Rotary Club were asked to describe their time in the

armed service and comment on what it meant to them. Here are their answers.

**Joseph F. Augustine**

**U.S. Army, Private First Class**



My education at UNC Chapel Hill was interrupted when I enlisted in the United States Army. I was sent to Medical and Surgical Tech School at Fort Sam Houston. Upon completion of the requirements, I became a member of the Medical Corps. I was sent to the 98th General Hospital in Munich, Germany and was in the WWII Army Occupation. For 14 months as a physi-

cal therapy instructor, my duties were to help rehabilitate injured soldiers. At that time Munich was 95% destroyed from the bombings and had not been reconstructed. My ability to speak fluently in German gave me a unique opportunity to get to know the local people of Munich.

Later, I was a major in the Civil Air Patrol as well as commander of the Chapel Hill Civil Air Patrol. I was the pilot on many NC missions where we searched for missing civilian and military aircraft.



**Scott Betz**

**U.S. Navy,  
Petty Officer Second Class**



I served in the United States Navy from 1970 to 1979. I was stationed aboard the USS *John F Kennedy*, CV-67, for three and a half cruises. For two and a half cruises I was a member of Attack Squadron VA-72 where I worked on the jets' radar and bombing

computers. For my final cruise I was a member of Ship's Company. It was an incredible time in my life. The experiences and places I traveled shaped my adult life. I was honorably discharged and am still proud of my service to our country.





**Kathryn Bruner**  
**U.S. Coast Guard,**  
**Operations Specialist**



Unit, in Oregon at a Search and Rescue Air Station and finally in North Carolina working for the Command Center for the State. Serving in the Coast Guard was an honor and I would do it all over again if I could.

Joining the U.S. Coast Guard felt like my calling. I have a younger sister I wanted to set an example for. I had the great privilege of working in Washington at a Small Boat Search and Rescue



**Bunny Donohue**  
**U.S. Navy, Lieutenant**

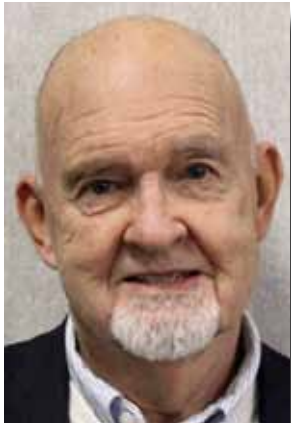
I served in the United States Navy Nurse Corps from 1969-1973. I began at the hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia as an ICU nurse. I then served on the USS *Sanctuary* hospital ship in Vietnam where I worked in the Intensive Care Unit 18 hours a day taking care of wounded U.S. soldiers and Vietnamese Nationals that were brought in on helicopters. I then served at the Subic Bay Air Station in the Philippines where I took care of men and women assigned to the base and those arriving on incoming ships. Finally, I served on Parris Island in South Carolina where I took care of Marine recruits and I met my husband who was a Navy doctor. I grew up in a Navy family. My dad served in the Navy for 30 years and both of my parents are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



**James L. Edge**  
**U.S. Army, Sergeant First Class**



I served in the United States Army 82nd Airborne Division from 1952 to 1955 and for six years as an active reserve. This included combat action



in Hay Street Bars. I grew up in and around Fort Bragg and always planned to be a trooper and earn a GI bill.

**William Bryan Fuller**  
**U.S. Navy, Lieutenant**



After finishing Officer Candidate School, I served as an officer aboard a ship where we replenished the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. My



main job was performing officer of the deck bridge watches. I served active duty from 1964 through 1967.

**Robert Greer**  
**U.S. Coast Reserve,**  
**Port Securityman Second Class**

I joined the US Coast Guard Reserve in the mid-sixties. I was going to college and worked as a lifeguard at Wrightsville Beach in the summer. We worked closely with the Coast Guard. I was getting close to graduation and the draft was in play. I decided on the Coast Guard rather than be drafted. I stayed in the reserves until September of 1972 when I was honorably discharged with the rank of Port Securityman Second Class.



**Wilbur D. Jones, Jr.**  
**U.S. Navy, Captain**



gon and served on the staff of the chief of naval operations as the Navy's weapons systems integrated logistics support coordinator. I retired in 1984 after 28 years of service. I served the Department of Defense nearly 41 years as a Navy officer and civilian, including seven and a half years at the Pentagon.



**Bill Humphrey**  
**U.S. Army, Corporal**

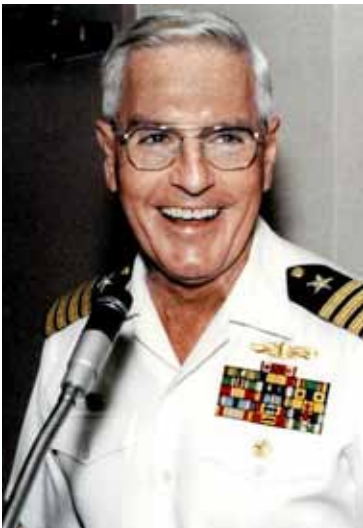


the Army, which was the highest classification they had. I was an S3 corporal and served at a well-secured location.

I served for two years during the Korean War doing cryptography code work under the "for eyes only" classification for



**Howard H. Loving Jr.**  
**U.S. Navy, Captain**



officers serving at sea starting with underway officer of the deck responsibilities in a battle group in unscripted situations. My family's complete support during my four command tours and their willingness to live overseas on four occasions meant the most to me during my career.

I am a retired United States Navy captain. I served from 1960 to 1990. I served in combat during the Vietnam War from 1971 to 1972 and in the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Sea from 1980 to 1981. During my career I had four tours as a commanding officer. The Navy provides significant leadership opportunities to young





**Richard McGraw**  
**U.S. Air Force, Major**



served in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. For me, the service was all about growing up, teamwork and looking out for your brothers-in-arms.

I served in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1983 both as an enlisted man and as a public affairs officer. I retired from the Air Force Reserves as a Major. I



**Nick Rhodes Jr.**  
**U.S. Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel**



completing graduate school, I became an R&D systems acquisition management officer in the satellite communications office at Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts. I then attended the Air Command Staff College at Maxwell AFB in Alabama before returning to Hanscom AFB as an acquisition and information technology officer in the Space Surveillance System Directorate. I returned to Seoul, South Korea as director of logistics for the Air Force Military Assistance Group and finished my career at the Pentagon as the program manager for the Saudi Arabian AWACS Procurement.

I served in a variety of positions for the Air Force from 1966 through 1987. I was commissioned into the Air Force through the ROTC program at North Carolina A&T State University. I served on active duty beginning as an aircraft maintenance officer at Chanute AFB in Illinois, Kunsan AFB in South Korea and Norton AFB in San Bernardino, California. After completing graduate school, I became an R&D systems acquisition management officer in the satellite communications office at Hanscom AFB in Massachusetts. I then attended the Air Command Staff College at Maxwell AFB in Alabama before returning to Hanscom AFB as an acquisition and information technology officer in the Space Surveillance System Directorate. I returned to Seoul, South Korea as director of logistics for the Air Force Military Assistance Group and finished my career at the Pentagon as the program manager for the Saudi Arabian AWACS Procurement.



**Matt Mylott**  
**U.S. Marine Corps, Captain**



I enlisted and was later commissioned in the Marine Corps from 1999 to 2008. I was a critical skills operator at 2d Reconnaissance Battalion and ultimately with 2d Force Recon Company. My team was one of the very first American elements in Afghanistan and my battalion ran point for 2d Marine Division in the invasion of Iraq. I returned to both countries later as a platoon commander and company executive officer. I left the Marine Corps as a junior captain. I was most passionate about being accountable for the lives of my brothers, for fighting tyranny and evil and fighting for those who can't fight for themselves.



**Robert 'R.B.' Richey**  
**U.S. Navy, Lieutenant**



serving as a strategic deterrent during the Cold War with the Soviet Union and shipyard duty involved refueling and retrofitting other nuclear submarines. I left the Navy after five years of active duty as a lieutenant, USN, upon concluding that submarine patrols during the Vietnam War were not the best way to raise a family.

Following graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1964 and temporary duty as a computer instructor during Plebe Summer at the Academy, I entered the Navy's Nuclear Power Program and became a nuclear submarine officer. I served aboard two ballistic missile submarines and as the senior nuclear ship superintendent at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. Submarine patrols related to



**R. Joe Rogers**  
**U.S. Army, Colonel**



in Korea from 1952 to 1953. I served as an aviation battalion commander in the First Aviation Brigade in Vietnam from 1965 to 1996. I served as chief of staff of the First Aviation Brigade in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972. I retired as a colonel.

I grew up at the Army post in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas where my father served in the Army. So it was a natural that I would make the Army a career where I served from 1945 to 1976. I served as an infantry rifle platoon leader and infantry heavy weapons company commander in the Third Infantry Division





Jacob N. Shepherd  
U.S. Army Air Force, Captain



Air Force in Alaska and I was raised in Greensboro which had a large airport.

I was a captain in the Eighth Air Force, which now serves as the Air Force's Global Strike Command. During World War II, I was stationed in England and was a first pilot, flying 27 bombing missions over Germany in a four-engine B-17 bomber named Bottle Baby. I was always interested in flying. I had an uncle who served in the



Frederick Willetts III  
U.S. Coast Guard,  
Petty Officer Second Class



two weeks of deployment each summer where I was assigned to the Coast Guard Captain of the Port inspecting ships at the Port of Wilmington and served at the Reserve Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia. I was honorably discharged in 1975.

In 1969, I did a six-month tour of active duty at Cape May, New Jersey, Yorktown, Virginia and during the Vietnam War on Governors Island in New York where I was involved with the loading of explosives. I then served five more years in the Reserves doing monthly drills and



Julie Wilsey  
U.S. Army, Captain



Bragg. I completed service in 1998 as a captain, earning airborne and jumpmaster qualifications.

I was commissioned as an engineer officer directly after graduation from West Point in June, 1992. I served in construction and combat engineer units in Germany, Macedonia and Fort



# A history of Veterans Day: 1919-2019

World War I—known at the time as “The Great War”—officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations . . . .”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

**Whereas** the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

**Whereas** it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

**Whereas** the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday:

**Therefore** be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended

the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation” which stated: “In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, administrator of Veterans’ Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA’s General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee’s chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

~ SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

# Rotarians will participate in Southeastern North Carolina Veterans Day Parade



Please be a part of this inspiring event  
11 a.m. Saturday, November 9, 2019  
Front Street, downtown Wilmington

## For Veterans

Ride the club's float. All members of the club who have served in the U.S. armed services are invited to take a place on our float.

Please arrive between 9:45 and no later than 10:00 a.m. at the corner of Second and Hanover Streets. Committee members will be there to assist you getting on the float. Water and bundtini cupcakes will be provided. Please call David Grandey at 910-352-2935 if you need assistance.

The parade will conclude at the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center at South Second and Orange Streets.

## For all other Rotarians

Assemble with us in front of the Post Office at 152 North Front Street by 11 a.m.

A limited number of chairs, water and bundtini snack cakes will be provided. Feel free to bring your own food, beverages and chairs.

For more info: [sencveteransparade.com](http://sencveteransparade.com)

## Special thanks to:

- Rotary Veterans Committee – Scott Betz, Matt Mylott, Noah Woods, and David Grandey
- Noah Woods for providing the parade float and driver
- John Meyer for layout and design of this publication
- John Lyon for printing the float banners and this publication
- Cat Marinich for providing refreshments
- Wilbur Jones for securing U.S. Representative David Rouzer as the speaker at the November 5 "Salute to Veterans" meeting, and much other assistance.
- Lifepoint Church for providing chairs and table for the float and viewing area.
- President Eric McKeithan and the club's Board of Directors for approving this project.