

June 18, 19, & 21, 2024

A TRIBUTE TO

America's

HEROES



Presented by:

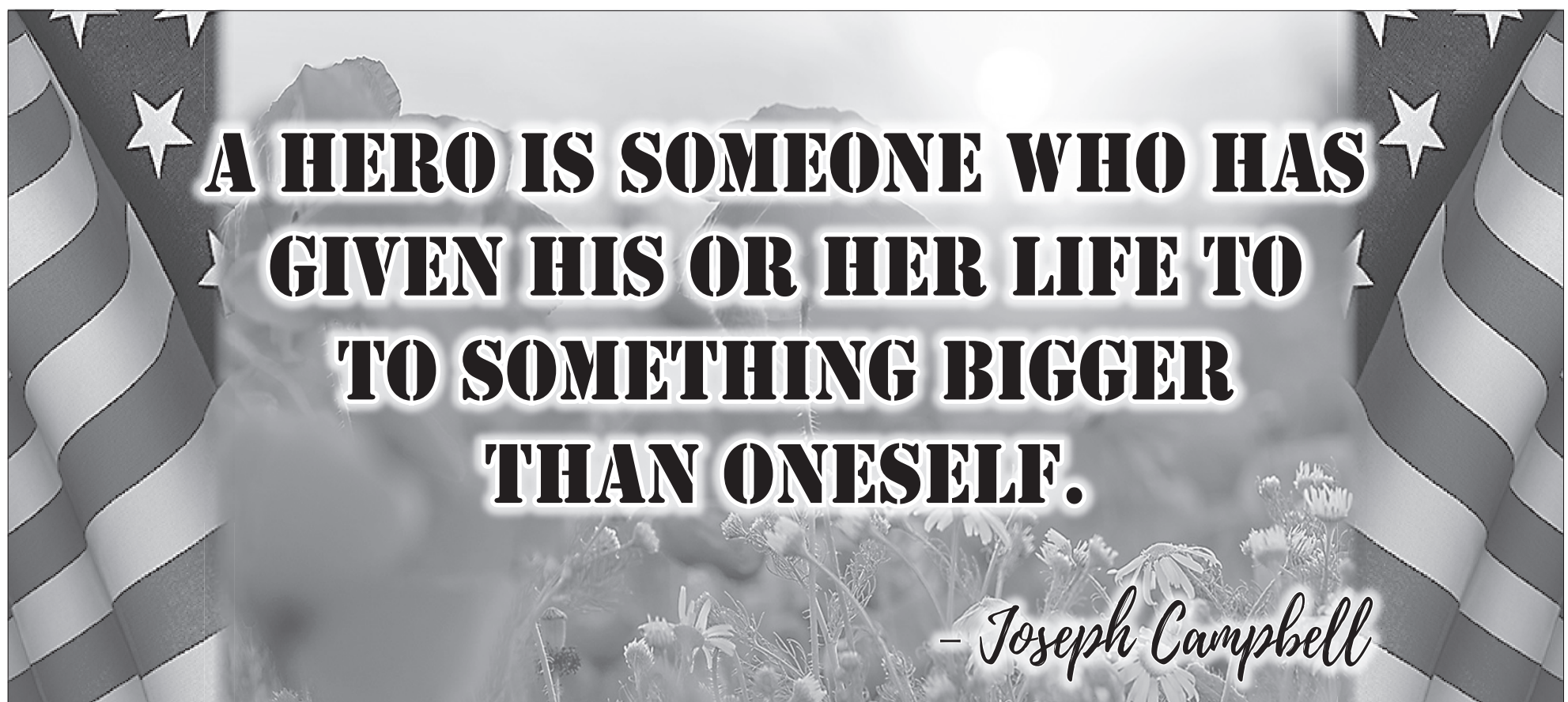
The Platte County Record-Times, The Torrington Telegram, The Guernsey Gazette



American Heroes



This publication is proudly honoring the men and women of our communities who have given their lives to keep us safe.



A HERO IS SOMEONE WHO HAS GIVEN HIS OR HER LIFE TO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN ONESELF.

- Joseph Campbell

American Heroes



CODY ALLEN

NAVY • 2001-PRESENT

(Silverdale, Wash.) Allen received training at Navy Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois; Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, Goose Creek, South Carolina; Nuclear Power Training Unit, Bolston Spa, New York; Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, Connecticut; and Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, Virginia. Allen has served as a nuclear engineer aboard the USS Nevada, USS Minnesota, USS Louisiana and USS Henry M. Jackson. He is currently stationed at Naval Submarine Base Bangor in Bremerton, Washington, and holds the rank of chief petty officer.



RICHARD G. ANDERSON

ARMY • 1966-PRESENT

(Wheatland) Richard G. Anderson has served in the Army, Army National Guard, Laramie Fire Department, Albany County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Marshal Service, as supervisor of all Wyoming State Parks Law Enforcement, and the Platte County Sheriff's Department. He trained at Fort Ord, Fort Hoenardwood, Wyoming State Law Enforcement Academy, and Camp Guernsey. Richard has attained the ranks of: Fire Chief, EMT, Police Chief and Captain. He has lived by JFK's words: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your county."



LEE ALLEY

ARMY • 1965 - 1968

(Wheatland) Lee spent three years in the military from 1965 to 1968. The most decorated veteran in Wyoming, Lee served in the Army 9th Infantry Division during Vietnam from 1967-1968. He co-authored a book, "Back from War, a Quest for Life After Death," that helps veterans and those who know them to understand how to deal with the emotional effects of war, from a veteran's perspective.



WILLIAM "BUD" BACK JR.

ARMY • 1988-1991

(Torrington) William (Bud) Back Jr. served in the United States Army from 1988-1991. He trained in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo, and completed his service with an E4 rank. Bud gained high secret clearance and helped plan troop movement in other countries in case of deployment.



DONALD ANDERSON

ARMY • 1968-1969

(Glendo) Donald Anderson was trained in Fort Ord and Fort Bliss, earning the rank of Sergeant. Anderson served in Vietnam in the 25th Infantry from Oct. 1968 to Oct. 1969. He received an Army Commendation Medal, Bronze Star, The Air Medal, The National Defense Service Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal and The Combat Infantry Badge.



JACQUES R. BAKKE

MARINES, USMCR, CALIF. & NAT GUARD • 1951-1954; 1958-1961; 1962-1965

(Wheatland) Jacques R. Bakke served in the United States Marine Corps, the United States Marine Corps Reserve and the California National Guard. He held the ranks of Staff Sergeant and Second Lieutenant. Bakke's tours of duty included Korea from May 1952 to 1953. He was a tank commander in Korea and a rifle and pistol instructor at Camp Matthews, LaJolla, Calif.

While serving as a tank commander in Korea, Bakke was selected to operate the battalion commander's 50-ton M46 tank for a four-day amphibious operation/demonstration for members of Congress off the coast of southern Korea in the fall of 1952. They boarded the tank on a landing craft, which in turn was dry docked on a larger naval vessel. The demonstration lasted one day but the tank crew, along with Navy CBs, slept between clean sheets, ate real butter and drank milk for four days. "A wonderful break and treat before returning to the front," Bakke said.



GEORGE ANDERSON

ARMY • 1942-1950

(Wheatland) George Anderson served in the 91st Division, 348th Field Artillery in World War II. He earned Africa and Italy Battle Stars at Rome-Arno, Northern pennines, P.O.Valley.

American Heroes

LESLIE BALCOM

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD • 1974-2014

(Wheatland) Leslie received basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Fort Dix, New Jersey. She joined in 1974 as a truck driver and belonged to the Women's Army Corporation. She has served for 28 years and for 24 of those years she was in active duty. After basic training, she was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, for two years. She has held several positions including: truck driver, administrative, unit supply clerk and property bookkeeper.

BENJAMIN D. BALTZ

MARINE CORPS. • 1988-1992

(Cheyenne) Benjamin D. Baltz served in the U.S. Marine Corp from 1988 to 1992. He received his training at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Baltz held the rank of Lance Corporal. His tours of duty included Desert Storm/Shield. He was promoted to PFC out of basic training as outstanding soldier. Baltz currently resides in Cheyenne.

BRYON D.J. BALTZ

ARMY • 1991-1995

(Toney, Ala.) Byron DJ Baltz served in the U.S. Army from 1991 to 1995. He received his basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. Baltz held the rank of SP/4. His tours of duty included Germany. While training in Fort Food, SP/4 Baltz was soldier of the month twice and soldier of the quarter once. He had to buy a car because they awarded him his own parking place. Baltz currently resides in Toney, Ala.

DANIEL JOHN BALTZ

ARMY • 1965-1967

(Guernsey) Daniel John Baltz of Guernsey served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967. He held the rank of SP/4. His tours of duty included Vietnam. Daniel spent 16 months in Vietnam as a crew chief/door gunner. He was awarded the Air Medal 28 times.

JOHN J. BALTZ

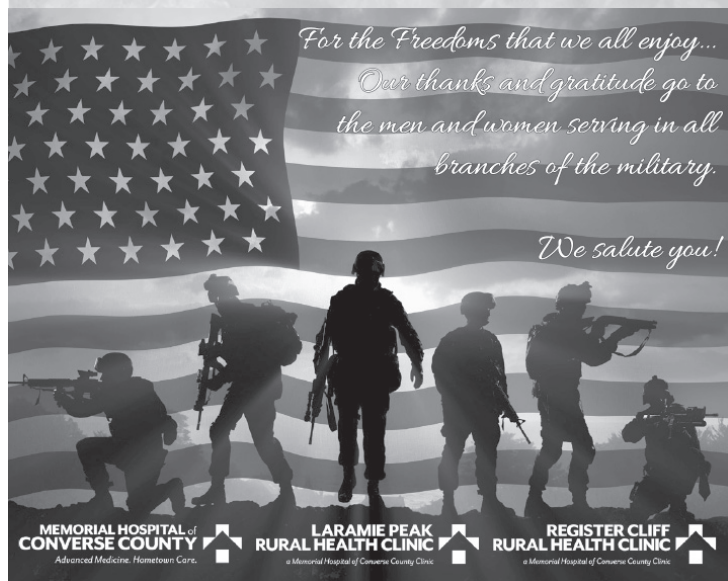
ARMY AIRBORNE COMMAND

(Guernsey) Daniel John Baltz of Guernsey served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967. He held the rank of SP/4. His tours of duty included Vietnam. Daniel spent 16 months in Vietnam as a crew chief/door gunner. He was awarded the Air Medal 28 times.

TAMALYA L. BARTOW

NAVY • JULY 1981-JULY 2001

(Guernsey) Tamalya L. Bartow served in the United States Navy from July 1981 to July 2001. She held the rank of CTMI. Her tours of duty included Kamiseya, Japan; Key West, Fla.; Homestead, Fla.; Keflavik, Iceland; Diego Garcia and Brandywine, West Virginia..



"This will remain the land of the free so long as it is the home of the brave."

- Elmer Davis

"Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it."

- Unknown

American Heroes



ALAN E. BENNETT

MARINES

(Wheatland) Drafted into the Marine Corps at the age of 19, Alan Bennett received his basic training at the Recruit Depot and then later at Camp Pendleton, both in San Diego, California. He was based at "The Rock Crusher" (LZ Baldie) south of DaNang, Vietnam. He was a "mortar man" and after nine months in the service, a mine was set off and he was injured by the blast. He was sent to a base in Guam, then transported to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego where he spent another nine months before being honorably discharged. He received two Purple Hearts.



BILLY E. BENNETT

MARINES

(Deceased) Billy was designated as a "rifle sharpshooter" and "truck driver" after basic training. He was an "Anti-Tank Gunner" during battle, and participated in operations against enemy forces on Iwo Jima, V.I. from February 19, 1945 to March 16, 1945. Billy was in the 4th of 5th wave of soldiers in the battle at Iwo Jima. He was also in one of the first troops in Japan after they dropped the Atom bomb. He received the Presidential Unit Citation



MATTHEW BERRY

WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

- 2001-?

(Lingle) Capt. Matthew Berry has served with Operation Iraqi Freedom from Dec. 2006 to April 2007, and returned to Iraq in April 2009 to April 2010.

He has served in the Airborne Fort Benning in 2000, as a warfighter in Hawaii in 2003 and a warfighter in Japan of 2004.

Berry's basic training took place in Fort Lewis, Washington, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Fort Hood, Texas.



DAVE BIRKLE

UNITED STATES ARMY

(Wheatland) Great Grandpa served in the Army during World War II and during his service he received two purple hearts. One was from being shot in the face, the other one was for being shot in his bottom. He did intelligent recon as an interpreter and a spy for the United States. His rank was a PSE.



JONATHAN T. BIRKLE

NAVY • 2004-PRESENT

(Wheatland) Jonathan has received his training at Great Lakes NTC and Camp Pendleton MTC. He is currently stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and serves as chief hospital corpsman. His awards and decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and Achievement Medal; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Medal; Iraqi Campaign Medal; Combat Action Ribbon; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.



RODNEY A. BIRKLE

NAVY, WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD • 1968-1972; 1976-1994

(Wheatland) Rodney received his basic training at the San Diego NTC and served in the Navy from 1968 - 1972 and was in three tours of Vietnam. He joined the Wyoming Army National Guard in 1976 and has since then retired with 20-plus years of service on his record. He is actively involved with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Knights of Columbus. He was elected to a four-year term on the VFW's National Council of Administration in 2016.





**Thank You
Service Men & Women!**



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Sun: Closed

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"If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

- Martin Luther King Jr

American Heroes

MILTON BLAIR

ARMY • 1915-1918

(Deceased) Milton Blair served in World War I in the 28th Infantry Division, whom Gen. Pershing called the "Iron Division" because it comprised "men of iron." They fought in the battles of Meuse-Argonne, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne and Ypres-Lys.

HARVEY BONER

(Wheatland) Harvey enlisted May 20, 1918 and received the Legion of Honor Frances highest award. He was in France when the Armistice was signed November 11, 1918. Company O 21st Engineers at Fort D. A. Russell.

JOE BOWEN

ARMY (AIR BORNE) • 1943-1945

(Deceased) Joe served in the Air Borne division of the Army during WWII. He was ranked Private First Class and served tours of duty in France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

During his term in the service, Bowen received two Bronze Stars, one Bronze Arrowhead, Good Conduct Ribbon, The Purple Heart, European African, Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Victory Ribbon and the American Theatre.

On Feb. 8, 1945, while on volunteer duty of removing land mines, Bowen was wounded. He was sent to a military hospital in Belgium and then sent to a military hospital in England. He was later transported home on the hospital ship Queen Elizabeth to a hospital in Brigham City, Utah, where he was discharged with 100 percent disability from Bushnell Hospital on Dec. 20, 1945.

STAFF SGT. RICHARD E. BOWER

MARINES • 1971-1979

(Deceased) Richard first trained at Parris Island, S.C. He served three tours of duty in the Western Pacific and five tours of Duty in the Atlantic. He was a Drill Instructor at Parris Island. Richard was chosen by Wheatland

sculptor Carl Jenson to be the model for the Marine Corps statue for a veterans memorial monument that was unveiled in Thermopolis in May 2005.

GEORGE BRANSCOM

ARMY, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
• JAN. 8, 1958 - JULY 29, 1995

(Wheatland) George Branscom served in the U.S. Army and Army National Guard from 8 Jan. 8, 1958 – July 29, 1995.

He trained in Fort Carson, Colorado, and Augsburg, Germany, and held the rank of CW4 Chief Warrant Officer. He was a member of the Newcastle, Laramie and Wheatland Guard units. He served as the administrative supply technician at the Wheatland Armory before becoming the camp supply officer at Camp Guernsey in 1975, where he remained until he retired in 1995.

Branscom served in four tours of duty. He also served on the Wheatland Volunteer Fire Department for 16 years, and 11 years served as secretary. He's been a member of the National Pony Express for 20 years and was the ride captain for the Southeast Wyoming Pony Express for 10 years.

CHARLES BILL W. BROKAW

NAVY • DEC. 1943-JAN. 1947

(Wheatland) Charles W. Brokaw was inducted into the U.S. Navy on Dec. 23, 1943 and voluntarily enlisted as an apprentice seaman in the U.S. Navy for a period of six years.

First Class Seaman Brokaw traveled aboard the LST to Pearl Harbor where he was transferred to a receiving ship for a short time. From there he was transferred to the carrier U.S.S. Windham bay for further transfer to the Island of Guam where once again was transferred to a receiving ship on Sept. 15, 1945.

On March 1, 1946, his rating was changed from Seaman 1st class to SKV3 (Store Keeper Aviation, petty officer Third Class)

On Nov. 12, 1946, he was transferred to post demobilization separation from naval service Vallejo, Calif. On Jan. 14, 1947, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy.

He's authorized to wear the American Campaign Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Ribbon.

CHUCK BROWN

ARMY, ARMY SECURITY AGENCY •
1954-1956

(Wheatland) Chuck Brown served in the U.S. Army, in the Army Security Agency, from 1954 – 1956. He trained in Fort Ord, California, and Fort Devens, Massachusetts. His tour of duty took him to Korea.

"Our duty station was south of the 38th parallel, and our job was to intercept and collect Morse Code messages that were being transmitted between the Chinese Communists and the North Korean Communists – very interesting duty!"

American Heroes



CHARLES "BLACKIE" BUDD

MARINES AND WANG • 1953-1956
U.S. ARMY GUARD: 1975-1995

(Deceased) Charles "Blackie" Budd was trained in San Diego, Calif., at the MCRD. His tours of duty included Korea service, and a United Nations defense.

He served in the Wyoming National Guard 133rd ING in Wheatland, as well as the Third and Fourth Field Artillery in Douglas and Casper. Budd has also served in the 495th District Support BN of Riverton.



ORA CALL

1918 - 1918

Ora was born in Peabody, Kansas, on March 5, 1896, the third of three sons born to Will and Kate Call. His family moved to Wyoming in 1912 where they homesteaded on a place three miles west of Dwyer.

He was called into service on June 27, 1918, following the U.S. Declaration of War against Germany on May 18, 1917. On that date Congress passed a Selective Service Act for the enrollment of military service of all men between 21 and 31, and in 1918 another bill extended the enrollment to all men between the ages of 18 and 45. Ora was

22. He underwent training at Camp Lewis in Washington and by September 1st was in France. By September 30th, he was presumed dead in the Argonne Forest battles. He had been in the service 3 months and 3 days.

Ora was the first casualty from Platte County, Wyoming, and the only soldier from the tiny neighborhood of Dwyer to be killed in action in WWI. He received a fine community memorial on June 29th, 1919, at the Dwyer Church. During the service his devotion and care for his parents and his thoughtfulness to all, especially children, was praised.

The minister said, "The whole community feels that each and every one has had a personal loss, and they also feel proud to have known and loved one who so manfully met his duty wherever it might be and one who gave his life for the principles of liberty which shall never perish from the earth as long as men have the high standards of truth, morality, and reverence for the better things of life that point wandering humanity to a high plane. All these things were characterized in the life and death of Ora Call."

He was buried at family plot in the Gard Cemetery a few miles where he was born and went to school. He lies next to his grandfather, a Civil War Veteran.



KENNETH CAREY

ARMY • 1948-1951

Kenneth Carey served two-and-a-half years active duty in the U.S. Army and five years in the reserves during World War II. He served in Japan during his active duty.



BRAD CHAPMAN

U.S. ARMY • 1987 – 2013

(Wheatland) Brad Chapman Served in the United States Army from October 1987 to October 2013. He was an E6 rank that toured Iraq Freedom, Honduras. He served in Illinois, Wyoming, Colorado, and on flood duty in Missouri and Louisiana. Brad continues to serve his community as a volunteer firefighter for the Wheatland Fire Department. Brads son, Captain Scott Chapman, is currently serving our county and was deployed overseas in 2019.



GARY L. CLARK

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

(New Knoxville, Ohio) Gary received his army basic training at Ft. Sill, Okla. He holds the rank of Staff Sgt. Gary has been involved in the Air Force Military Police, Has been deployed to Germany and is now in the Ohio National Guard. He was deployed to Kuwait in February of 2004. He was deployed to Iraq for a one-year tour on July 8, 2009. Gary is the son of Sandra K Alford of Wheatland.



RICHARD "DICK" CLOUSE

ARMY • 1951-1954;
1954-1959 • NEBRASKA NATIONAL
GUARD

Richard (Dick) Clouse served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1954 and the Ne. National Guard from 1954 to 1959. He held the rank of Staff Sgt. E-5 in the Army and SFC E6 in the Neb. National Guard. His tours of duty included Japan and Korea. Clouse has been a member of the American Legion of NE Post 29 for 29 years.

**He loves his country best
who strives to make it best.**

-Robert G Ingersoll

American Heroes

E. LUKE CORL

ARMY



(Deceased) E. Luke Corl, Wheatland, was assigned to the First Cavalry when it was a horse battalion. As part of the 82nd Field Artillery unit, Corl was shipped to Australia where he was assigned as liaison between the Australian Army and the 82nd for six weeks. Corl was among the first troops to enter the Phillipines. He entered Manilla and helped free American and Phillipino soldiers at the University of Santo Tomas. He received a double Bronze Star for his efforts in the Phillipines. He achieved the rank of Sergeant.

Corl comes from a long list of Corls who have fought for America. A grandfather and two uncles fought in the Civil War at Gettysburg. Another grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. A brother and two nephews fought in World War II and a son in Vietnam.



DONALD D. DINGMAN

ARMY • 1948-1953

(Wheatland) Dingman trained at Camp Rucker, Alabama, and served in the Army from 1948-1953. His rank was sergeant 1st class. Dingman saw two tours of duty: Korea summer of 1951, early winter of 1952. During his service in Korea with 1st Cav Div.- North Korea pushed South Korea south to Seoul and Ingaon.

"Our military furnished support to Republic of Korea. US pushed North Korea back to 38th Parallel. Battle of Heart Break Ridge was fierce-I will remember always as I was awarded a bronze star for my service."

CHARLES E. COX II

MARINE CORPS • 1988 - 1992



(Wheatland) Charles E. Cox II served in the United States Marine Corps from 1988-1992. His rank was CPI. His tours of duty included Okinawa, Japan, Korea and Thailand.

CHARLES EDWARD "ED" COX

ARMY • 1964 - 1966



(Wheatland) Charles Edward (Ed) Cox served in the United States Army from 1964-1966. His rank was SP4. His tours of duty included Vietnam.

SERGEANT MAJOR THAD S. EHDE

115TH FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE • 1987 - PRESENT



(Wheatland) CSM Thad Ehde currently serves as the State Command Sergeant Major of the Wyoming Army National Guard. As the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Wyoming Army National Guard, he is responsible for the professionalism, readiness, and well-being of the organization. He recently returned home to Wyoming from a 3-year assignment in Arlington, Virginia where he served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Army National Guard G-9, Installations and Environment. He previously served as the Command Sergeant Major of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade located in Cheyenne, WY; where he deployed his unit to the Middle East as the United States Army Central Command (USARCENT) Force Field Artillery Headquarters in support of Operation Spartan Shield (OSS), Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR), and Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS).

ARNOLD 'BUCK' EVANS

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 1967-1981
WHEATLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
1968-1970
WHEATLAND POLICE DEPT. 1971-1985



(Wheatland) Arnold "Buck" Evans completed his Army National Guard basic training in Fort Lewis, Washington, and AIT at Fort Lee, Virginia. He was discharged as a sergeant.

Evans was one of the first trained emergency medical technicians in Wheatland. He also served as chief of the Wheatland Police Department from 1977-1984.

These baby faces are protecting our America, so we can have freedom. Some of them won't make it home. These are the **HEROES!**



Wheatland REA
SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS!

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

NEVER IN
THE FIELD
OF
HUMAN
CONFLICT
WAS SO
MUCH
OWED BY
SO MANY
TO
SO FEW.

-WINSTON
CHURCHILL

American Heroes

KENNETH FLETCHER

ARMY

(Deceased) Kenneth Fletcher served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

LARRY FLETCHER

AIR FORCE

(Chugwater) Larry Fletcher trained at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He attained the rank of Staff Sergeant.

VICTOR FLETCHER JR.

ARMY

(Excelsior Springs, Mo.) Victor Fletcher, Jr. served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War with an artillery unit.



EINAR FRANZEN

ARMY • APRIL 1942 - MAY 1945

(Deceased) Einar Franzen earned the rank of corporal during his duties, mainly in Amchitka, Alaska, with the 173d MP Company.



JOSHUA FRANZEN

AIR FORCE • MAY 1992 - PRESENT

(Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage, Ak.) Joshua has earned the rank of a Senior Airman in the U.S. Air Force. Thus far his serving has taken him to Desert Storm and the South Korean Mountain. His home air force base is Seymour Johnson AFB.



LEWIS FRANZEN

ARMY • 1968-1972
NAVY • 1984-PRESENT

(Wheatland) Lewis, over the years has received the title of Sergeant First Class. Currently in the 67th Army Band, he has dedicated time to both the 194th and 1041st Engn Det (Util). He has also worked with the WY RIT, Det 2 HQSTARC, 133nd Engn Company, U.S. Navy (USS Arneb) and (ACU2 in Little Creak, Va.)



MICHAEL A. GOODMAN

MARINE CORPS • 1964-JULY 1967

(Deceased) He was ranked Private First Class and he served in Vietnam.

He and three other men tried to take a machine gun nest. Mike and another man took the machine gun out by flanking it. There were able to throw and throw grenades at it.

Lieutenant of their company requested they both be given a Silver Star. The request was denied. He is buried in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.



WILLIAM BOYD GRAVES

ARMY • KIA 1967

(Deceased) Capt. William Boyd Graves entered the United States Army and served in the 225th Aviation Co., 223rd CAB, 17th CAG, 1AVN BDE. Graves was a recon pilot (Mohawk OV-1C) and he, along with his systems operator, Heinz Tapio, were killed in Vietnam in 1967. Graves will always be remembered by his family and friends for the sacrifice he made for our country. His name is on Panel 23E, Line 107 of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. This photo of Capt. Graves was taken three days before his last mission by Maj. Tom Cote.

"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid,"
-Franklin P. Jones

American Heroes

DONALD GUDAHL

ARMY • DEC. 1950 - SEPT. 1952

(Wheatland) Donald Gudahl served in the U.S. Army from Dec. 1950 – Sept. 1952. He was a Sergeant when he retired from service. He trained in Camp Roberts, Calif., and served his tour of duty in Korea.

Donald was awarded the infantry badge, and the Bronze Star with Valor, as well as the French Croix deGuerre.

“Private Gudahl was with a unit engaged in combat with a determined hostile force – during this action the enemy launched a devastating concentration of mortar and artillery fire on the friendly elements. So intense was this fire, that the friendly unit was forced to withdraw to a more tenable position. In the course of this movement, Private Gudahl observed a seriously wounded comrade lying in an abandoned forward position exposed to the hostile fire.

“Without hesitating, and unmindful of the risk involved, Private Gudahl advanced over the hazardous terrain to the side of his comrade. At this point, he placed the wounded man in the partially covered emplacement and remained there with him providing encouragement. So intense was the hostile fire that Private Gudahl picked up the wounded soldier, completely undaunted by the shells that were flying around him, and carried his comrade to a position of comparative safety and remained there until a litter team arrived. Private Gudahl’s heroic conduct, devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the life of his comrade and brought great credit upon himself and the military service.” ~Taken from the original report of Gudahl’s actions during the Korean conflict.



LARRY L. HOBBS

NAVY - ARMY • 1955-1983

(Wheatland) Larry Hobbs served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army from 1955-1983. He trained in San Diego, California, and Fort Lewis, Washington, and held the rank of AE5/ SFC- E7.

His tours of duty were in the Far East and the USA.

Larry was a law enforcement officer for about 34 years and is still active. He served in the fire department for almost 10 years. Larry is married to Carrie (Wright) Hobbs for over 55 years. They have three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



WILLIAM R. HOFFMAN

US ARMY • 1943-1949

(Wheatland) Sgt. William R. Hoffman served in the United States Army 1943 to 1949, 504 82nd Air Born Division. When he went in, he was stationed at Camp Wolters, Texas. He served one year in 1945 Frankfurt, Germany. He was one of the guards for General Eisenhower where he was stationed. When he came back to the states, he was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. When he got out of the service, he joined the V.F.W.

AL HAMBURG

ARMY • 1951-1967



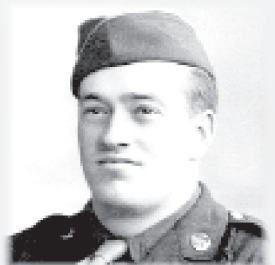
(Deceased) Al received his basic training at Fort Riley in Kansas, and Camp McCoy in Wisconsin.

He served in 1951 in Japan, 1952 in Korea, 1953-54 in Germany, 1956-57 in Japan and 1967 in Vietnam.

In 1952 in Korea, Al was attached to a Co. B Belgium Biv., as a forward observer that was part of U.S., Seventh Regiment of Third Infantry Division. Forty-one years later, the Belgium Army gave Al a Belgium War decoration, the Korean Medal of Honor.

GEORGE HILL

ARMY • 1942-1945



(Deceased) George Hill served in the U.S. Army from June 3, 1942 - Oct. 5, 1945. He trained at Camp Walters, Texas; Camp McCoy, Wisc., and was Sergeant Machine Gun Squad Leader

His tour of duty was in the European Theatre of

Operations

George was on the second wave of combat to land on Omaha Beach.

“Land of the free, home of the brave.”



JOSEPH E. HOLCOMB

ARMY • APRIL 1946 - MARCH 1949

(Deceased) Joseph E. Holcomb was in charge of QMC Motor Pool, Supply Depool in Rome, Italy. He worked at the American Grave Restoration in Leghorn, Italy before returning to U.S. with a lung infection. Upon release from a year stay at Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Denver, was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas where he was a motor vehicle inspector.

THEN JOIN HAND IN HAND, BRAVE AMERICANS
ALL! BY UNITING WE STAND, BY DIVIDING WE FALL.

-JOHN DICKINSON

American Heroes



FAYE BELDEN HONHOLT

ARMY

(Deceased) Faye Honholt served in World War II. She was in the Women's Army Company as a chief file clerk in the psychological warfare division of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force in

London and Paris.



THOMAS H. HOWSHAR

AIR FORCE • 1952-1976

(Deceased) Thomas H. Howshar served in the United States Air Force. His dates of service include 1952-1956 ROTC, 1956-1976 Reg. Commissioned Officer.

Howshar held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

His tours of duty include UCLA; Tokyo, Japan; Greenville, S.C.; Montgomery, Alabama; Amarillo, Texas; Ent AFB Colorado Springs; Aviano, Italy; Duluth, Minn. and Canto, Vietnam.

Howshar served as a meteorologist at each assignment after receiving training and certification at UCLA. He served as staff meteorologist on ORI team.

Howshar also served as detachment commander in Italy and Duluth, Minnesota.



CLIFFORD CHARLES JOHNKE

ARMY • 1953-1955

(Deceased) Clifford Charles Johnke served in the U.S. Army. He trained for service in Panama. He served from July 15, 1953 thru June 6, 1955, and held the rank of PFC ER55413564 MPC-USAR

His tour of duty was with the 23rd MPCO Ft Clynnton

Canpl zone

Clifford was honorably discharged on July 14, 1961. He received National Defense Service Medal.



DONALD JOHNKE

ARMY • 1969-1974

(Wheatland) Donald Johnke was in the U.S. Army from October 1969 until May 1974 and earned the rank of corporal. He was trained at Fort Campbell in Kentucky and Fort Carson in Colorado. Johnke completed two tours in Vietnam and was stationed in Germany and Alaska.



JOE JOHNSON

ARMY AIR FORCE • 1943 - 1945

(Deceased) After graduating from high school in Ducan, Okla. in 1943, Joe went into active duty in the U.S. Army Air Force.

He received his training at Fort Sill, Okla., and was assigned to the 13th AAF, 307th Bomb Group, 424th Bombardment Squadron. His AAF played a significant part in defeating the Japanese and was labeled the "Jungle Air Force".

Joe flew 42 combat missions, each averaging 11.5 hours for a total of 480 combat hours. He was a tail gunner on a B-24 Liberator in 1944 and 1945.

He participated in the battles for New Guinea, Western Pacific, East Indies, Southern Philippines and Luzon Island. He flew over two continents and 10 seas. Out of the 10 crew members he started with during the war, only four finished the war; the others either killed, grounded or refused to fly.

Joe was awarded the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, one Silver Service Star and two Bronze Service Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, and the Presidential Unit Citation with an Oak Leaf Cluster.



CHARLIE KNUDSON

NAVY • FEB. 1944 - JUNE 1946

(Wheatland) Charlie Knudson served in WWII as a Seaman First Class in the United States Navy from February of 1944 to June 1946. He received his training at Camp Farragut in Idaho. Charlie is married to Lucille Knudson and currently resides in Wheatland.

"THE WILLINGNESS OF AMERICA'S VETERANS TO SACRIFICE FOR OUR COUNTRY HAS EARNED THEM OUR LASTING GRATITUDE."

— JEFF MILLER

American Heroes



LLOYD H. KOERWITZ

ARMY AIR CORP • 1944-1946,
1950-1952

(Wheatland) Lloyd H. Koerwitz served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. His dates of service include 1944 to 1946 and 1950 to 1952. Koerwitz served as a Sergeant in Korea with the 89th Tank Battalion 25th Infantry Division.

His tours of duty include German Occupation, 1945 to 1946 and Korea, 1951 to 1952.

After enlisting in the Air Corp, on the way to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Koerwitz met a fellow cadet from Veteran, Wyo.

"We became the best of friends and remained so until his death in 2007 at Veteran. This shows friendships made while in the service really do last — sometimes forever."



JOHN W. LABERTEW

AIR FORCE • 1942 - 1945

(Deceased) John was trained at the Texas Cadet Schools. He served in World War II as a B-29 pilot in the South Pacific, Marina Islands. He was also the pilot over Iwo Jima on April 24, 1945. He was shot down and did a belly crash with his 10-man crew, but everyone walked away unhurt. He passed away in July 2003.



VERN M. LACKEY

ARMY • 1951-1953

(Deceased) P.F.C Vern Lackey served in Korea. He was severely wounded during his service on Oct. 4, 1954. This caused 12 years of heart problems. Lackey had heart attacks, two separate open-heart surgeries, also angioplasty, then congestive heart failure; finally, a heart transplant, the first in this area, then recovery. Vern was a proud veteran, a wonderful husband and father.



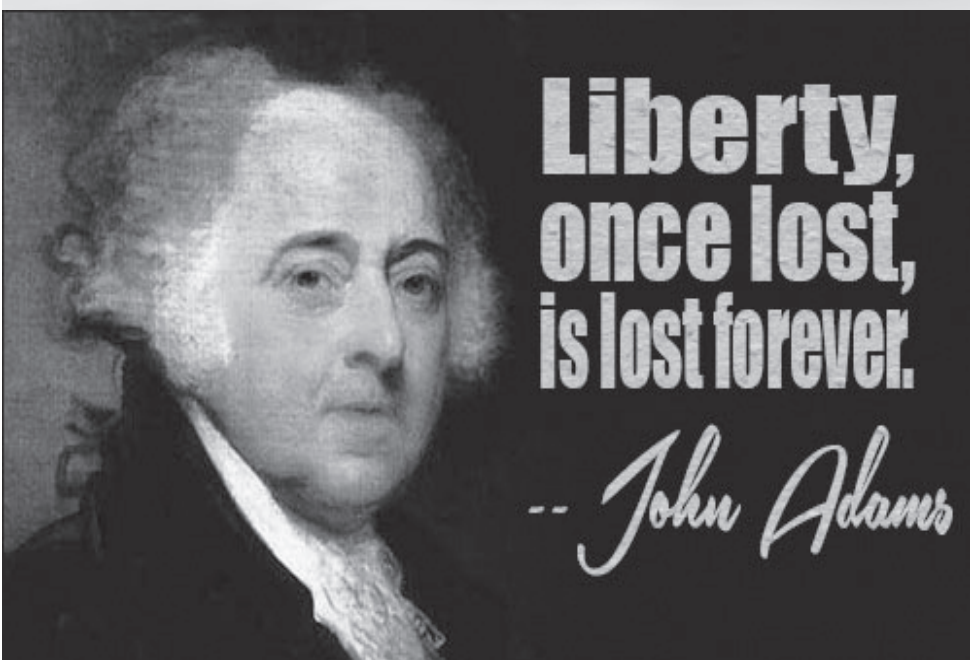
WILLIAM LARRY LEGERSKI

MARINE • 1952-1954

(Wheatland) William Legerski served with the United States Marine Corps-SS, 3rd Battalion. He trained in San Diego California- Boot Camp, Infantry outfit and studied tanks- Camp Pendleton.

William served from April 30, 1952, until his Honorable Discharge in April 23, 1954, at which time he had achieved the rank of Corporal.

His tours of duty were as follows: Korean War with the 1st Marine Division. Originated in Poland, the Legerski family ranched in Sheridan, then William settled in the Wheatland area. William is one of 11 children: eight sons and three daughters. Of the eight sons, six provided faithful service and three of which suffered wounds: shrapnel to the knee, prisoner of war weighing less than 90 pounds when rescued, and William received a purple heart for a gunshot wound to the neck from a sniper as he performed his duty at an outpost..



How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!

-Maya Angelou



May we never forget freedom isn't free.



216 E. 19th Ave.
Torrington
532-2796

American Heroes



HUGO A. LENZ

AIR FORCE • 1951-1955

(Wheatland) Hugo A. Lenz served in the United States Air Force from Jan. 8, 1951 until Jan. 7, 1955. His rank was Staff Sergeant. During his tours of duty, Hugo held the rank of Duty Sergeant and First Sergeant. Hugo received his training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and F.E. Warren Air Force Base

in Cheyenne. He served during the Korean Conflict.

Lenz has been a member of the American Legion for over 30 years. He became the first vice commander of the American Legion Department of Wyoming.



JEFF LOSEKE

U.S. NAVY • 1977 – 1981

(Wheatland) Jeff Loseke served in the U.S. Navy from August 1977 to August 1981. He did bootcamp training in San Diego, Calif. Jeff served in both the Atlantic Fleet and Pacific Fleets. He was a radioman second class (E-5). His tours of duty included service aboard the USS Nitro AE-23 and the USS Jouett CG-29. Jeff served with the 7th Fleet off of the coast of Iran during the hostage crisis of 1979.



KYLE LENZ

AIR FORCE • 2009 - PRESENT

(Wheatland) Kyle Lenz is currently serving with the U.S. Air Force. He was appointed to the USAFA May of 2009.

Kyle trained at the following locations: US Air Force Academy, Vance AFB Enid, Oklahoma; Fort Rucker, Alabama; Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico;

Malmstrom AFB, Great Falls, Montana.

Current rank is major. He is currently stationed at Randolph AFB in San Antonio, Texas.



BRETT MCCARTNEY

NAVY • 2002 - 2009

(Wheatland) Brett McCartney served in the United States Navy from July 2002 to 2009. He held the rank of Petty Officer Third Class and was in the field of Aviation Ordnance. Brett is currently listed as inactive reserves.



TONI LEWIS

ARMY • 1979-1980

(Torrington) Toni Lewis served in the U.S. Army from March 1979 to August 1980, trained at Fort. Jackson, S.C. and served at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. She received the Good Conduct Medal and a Honorable Discharge as Clerk Typist.



JOSH MCDANIEL

WYOMING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD •
2011-PRESENT

(Wheatland) Josh McDaniel is currently serving in the Wyoming Army National Guard. He joined in 2011. McDaniel is stationed at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia and holds the rank of E2.

McDaniel finished BCT at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He completed AIT at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia.

The veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment.

-Judd Gregg

Thank you to all who have served and are serving to protect our country!



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American Heroes



MARK S. MCDONALD

AIR FORCE

(Wheatland) US Air Force veteran Staff Sgt. McDonald attended basic at Lackland AFB Texas and taught Electronics at Lowry AFB, Denver. During his time at Lowry he taught thousands of multinational forces (Iranian, Germany, Japanese, Saudi, Kuwaiti and American servicemen and women) students in basic electronics. SSgt. McDonald helped to develop and implement other Air Force electronics course and tests. He earned Master Instructor status while at Lowry during late 1970s. SSgt. McDonald earned the USAF Commendation Award for his work on modernizing course development and training techniques. He brought the use of personal computers to the classroom, writing many tracking programs and modernized methods of training. Currently, Mr. McDonald is the Town of Wheatland Municipal Judge and president of the Wyoming Conference of Municipal Courts and is active in his church.



JIMMY "JIM" D. MILLER

AIR FORCE • 1960-1964



JARED MOORE

AIR FORCE • 2007 - 2019
AIR NATIONAL GUARD • 2019- PRESENT

(Torrington) Jared Moore joined the Air Force in 2007 through Officer Training School after graduating from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, with a BS in Aviation. He also has a MA in Aviation Education.

He is currently stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska where he is serving in the US Air Force as a Traditional Guardsman in the Alaska Air National Guard as a pilot on the C-17A Globemaster III. He was previously stationed in South Carolina, Alaska, and Canada.

This plane is used for transporting military troops and cargo throughout the world. It can operate out of small austere airfields as well as airdrop supplies to Forward Operating Bases. The range of the C-17A is nearly unlimited, as it can be air to air refueled during flight. He has over 4400 hours in the C-17A, 1200 plus Combat hours, and has earned seven air medals.

Jared holds the rank of Major and is a Formation Lead Airdrop Instructor Aircraft Commander.

His military tours of duty have been OEF, OIF, OND, OIR as well as serving in several Canadian Military Operations in the Arctic, Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

He also currently flies freight worldwide for UPS as a Boeing 747 pilot.



SUSAN MCDONALD

ARMY

(Wheatland) US Army veteran Specialist 4 McDonald taught basic electronics in the Audiovisual Maintenance Repair School located Army Signal Corps Detachment at Lowry AFB. Over the course of her enlistment Specialist 4 McDonald was a member of the Army Reserves, Army National Guard and the Active Army component. Specialist McDonald served as an Administration Clerk as well as Audiovisual Repairmen. She attended the Army Administration School at Fort Jackson S.C., audio visual repairmen course at the Army Signal Corp detachment at Lowry AFB, Colo. the Air Force instructor training course at Lowry as well as the Army's small arms repair course at Fort Lewis, Wash. She was also stationed at Fort Knox, Ky. where she worked in the 514th Maintenance Company. Currently, Mrs. McDonald is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Wyoming Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force where she volunteers mentoring youth in Aerospace and Leadership, and she maintains the Wing's supplies, where she earned the 2009 Wyoming Wing Logistician Award. She also administers the Wing's Drug Demand Reduction Program and was selected as the Drug Demand Reduction Administrator of the year for both Wyoming Wing and the Rocky Mountain Region in 2008 and is active in Cub Scouting at her church.

DELMAR MORRIS

AIR FORCE • MARCH 1957 - JULY 1980

(Torrington) Delmar Morris joined the National Guard in Scottsbluff, Neb. in March 1957 then transferred to Torrington 960th ORD and went active USAF in August of 1960. Basic at Lackland AFB, Texas. From there to Yokota AFB, Japan, he was there two years. After that, Delmar was sent to Lincoln AFB, Neb. Closed basic in 1966 and was sent to Castle AFB, Calif. Was there two years and was transferred to Tahkli, Thailand for a year and went to Homestead AFB, Fla. In 1968, from there went TDY to Kansan AFB Korea (K-8). From there to Spangdahleon AFB, Germany, then TDY to Aviano, Italy and Zaragoza, Spain, then back to Homestead FAA, in 1975 and retired July 1, 1980, moved back to Torrington. Delmar retired with the rank of TSgt E-6.

Your Friends. Your Neighbors. Your News.

TORRINGTON TELEGRAM

American Heroes



DONALD D. NASH

ARMY • 1992 - 2014

(Torrington) Sgt. 1st Class Donald D. Nash trained in Torrington and Lander. He toured from 2005-2006 in Iraq, and 2009-2010 in Kuwait. He is a 20-year veteran with 960th BCO out of Torrington. He was promoted to sergeant 1st class with BBRTY 2-300 in Lander in 2013. He serves with WANG.



DONALD NICHOLS

ARMY • 1952 – 1955

(Wheatland) Donald served in the Army from 1952 to 1955, earning the rank of Corporal. He trained in Fort Ord, California and served in Panama and the Korean War.



RICHARD NEDENS

ARMY • 1968-1970

(Lingle) Richard Alan Nedens was drafted in Hardin, Mont., and went to basic training in Fort Lewis, Wash., then on to advanced training at Fort Eustis, Va. for helicopter school. He was a Specialist 4th Class.

He had a year tour in Vietnam based in out of Da Nang, serving with the 142nd Assault Helicopter Company.

Richard's rank was Specialist 15 as a helicopter crew chief and maintenance and security, using an M-60 machine gun on a Medi-Vac helicopter.



JOHN R. NEWTON

ARMY • 1952 - 1955

(Wheatland) John served in the 24th Infantry Division. He received his training at Ft. Riley, Kan. John served one tour of duty in Korea.

"Heroism doesn't always happen in a burst of glory. Sometimes small triumphs and large hearts change the course of history."

- Mary Roach

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American Heroes



J. ROBERT'S NOYCE

ARMY • 1945 - 1947

(Wheatland) In the spring of 1945, I was given two week's notice to finish high school and graduate before I had to report to duty to the US Army. I was sent to Fort Hood, Texas for basic training and then went to Fort Ord, Calif. We went by railroad troop train

from California to New York City. From there we sailed on a small fishing boat. For seven days and seven nights we sailed in a terrific storm. We were glad to get off that ship at LeHarve, France where we spent a period of time searching for bombs, guns, land mines and am-munition. From there we went to Belgium where we slept on straw in a horse barn. In Belgium, we again spent our days searching for mines, guns, land mines and ammunition in homes and farm buildings. We did the same in Frankfurt, Germany. Then I was shipped to LaHarve, France once again as an engineer with the task of rebuilding docks. I spent some time in Paris as an MP before going back to Frankfurt still working as an MP. While in Frankfurt I was the escort for General Patton shortly before he was killed.

After my tour of duty was over, it was time to fly home. This did not turn out to be an uneventful trip either. We flew from Frankfurt to Massachusetts, USA in a four- engine plane. The seats were made of canvas on a pipe frame along each side of the plane. We could either tolerate these or lie on the floor. Even so, it was bet-ter than the boat ride on our way over to Europe until someone looked out the window and noticed that the engine closest to the window was on fire. When we saw that, we decided that perhaps the boat ride wasn't so bad after all. We kept flying, as there were no airstrips in the North Atlantic. We finally landed in Iceland and stayed there until our plane could be repaired. We finally landed safely in Boston where we were issued our farewell papers from Uncle Sam. I boarded a train for Cheyenne. Hitch-hiking was illegal in Wyoming in those days, so I used my thumb to get to Wheatland. This was a period of my life that I will never forget. I'm glad that I had the confidence that Christ was my Savior and that He was with me each step of the way help-ing me with each and every trial and temptation I faced. It says in Matthew 19:17 *"And He said unto him, 'Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God; but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.'"*



BRYCE G. ORR

MARINES • 1944 - 1950

(Deceased) Bryce received his training at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, Calif. He served in WWII where he was wounded in action during the invasion of Okinawa, April 1945. Bryce became the first Platte County WWII veteran to join Wyoming National

Guard following the war. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Conduct and American Defense Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Medal and Bronze Star. He was Master Sergeant of the Wyoming National Guard. He was honorably discharged in August of 1950.



JOHANNES K. OLIND

ARMY • 2013 - PRESENT

(Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri) Capt. Johannes K. Olind, graduate of the United States Military Academy Class of 2013. At West Point, Olind graduated as a

Distinguished Cadet, Dean's List, Honors Graduate and the Superintendent's award for achievement. The Superintendent's award is a prestigious award given to cadets who prove themselves to be outstanding simultaneously in all three programs (academic, military and physical). At West Point, Olind competed on the marathon team where he ran the Richmond Marathon in 2010 and 2011. He ran the Boston marathon in 2012 and 2013 clocking his Personal Record of 2:47:13 and with his West Point teammates, the Baton Death March Marathon at White Sands Missile Base in New Mexico. Olind graduated with a Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering with honors

After his graduation in 2013, during his leave Olind rode his bicycle cross country from Astoria, Oregon, back to West Point, New York, in 38 days, stopping in Wheatland along the way to visit his family.

In September 2013, Olind reported to Engineer Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. EBOLC is an intense 20-week program. The course provides all newly commissioned engineer officers with the technical and tactical knowledge and skills that are essential to success as a platoon leader. Upon Completion of EBOLC, Olind attended Sapper School at Fort Leonard Wood where he earned the prestigious Sapper Tab. Sappers are combat engineers who advance with the front-line infantry, and they have fought in every war in American history. For example, they played a vital role in securing Omaha Beach on D-Day, and that incident is faithfully re-created in "Saving Private Ryan."

Olind is a member of the All Army Triathlon Team. He is completing his Master of Science in environmental engineering at Missouri S&T University, as well as his captain's career course.

EUGENE PENICK

ARMY AIR CORPS

(Deceased) Eugene Penick served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a waste gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew five missions and was shot down on the Hamburg raid. He spent 17 months as a POW in a German POW camp.

WILLIAM R.E. PENICK

ARMY • JAN. 1998 - MARCH 1999

(Ooltewah, Tenn.) William R.E. Penick was trained in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He achieved the rank of E-4, serving a tour of duty in Korea.

American Heroes

TIMOTHY PHELPS

AIR FORCE • 2005 - 2014

(Wheatland) Timothy Phelps served in the Air Force from 2005 to 2014. He trained at the Lackland Air Force Base. His rank was Sergeant. He was in Osan Korea from 2012 to 2013. Timothy also served seven years at the F.E. Warren Air base in the Missile Field as Security Forces.



VERN ROBINSON

UNITED STATE ARMY

(Wheatland) Great Great grandpa served in the Army in World War I, as an ambulance driver in France. During the war he gave his gas mask to an injured soldier which caused him to be sick the rest of his life and eventually dies from Mustard gas

poisoning.

LOUIS R. PIPER

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE •
1966 - 1970



(Wheatland) Louis served in the United States Air Force from March 11, 1966 to January 9, 1970. His training took place at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas and was ranked E4. He served in the Philippines and Vietnam as a propeller mechanic. He met and married his wife, Nancy, at Norton Air Force Base, California.



RICHARD R. RUSSELL

ARMY • SEPT. 1944 - JULY 1946

(Wheatland) Sgt. Richard R. Russell of Wheatland served in the United States Army Infantry (11th Armored) from Sept. 14, 1944 until July 31, 1946. He received his training at Camp Blanding in Florida. His tours of duty include Central Europe Rhineland. Near the end of the war in Europe, he was with the division that liberated Mathausen Concentration Camp — a sight he will never be able to forget. He was awarded the Bronze Star for combat action.

NANCY PIPER

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE •
1968 - 1971



(Wheatland) Nancy Piper served in the United States Air Force March 8, 1968 to October 29, 1971. She trained in Lackland and was an E4 rank. Nancy served in Norton Air Force Base, California as a dental assistant. She met and married her husband Lou at Norton AFB.

MATHIAS J. SANCHEZ

NAVY • MAY 2000 - PRESENT



(Bremerton, Wash.) Mathias J. Sanchez enlisted in the United States Navy in May 2000.

He completed his first tour onboard the fast attack submarine U.S.S. Jefferson City (SSN 759) homeported in San Diego, Calif., where he completed a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific/Indian Ocean. During his tour onboard Jefferson City, he advanced to Petty Officer Second Class.

Petty Officer Sanchez currently serves onboard the U.S.S. Seawolf (SSN 21) homeported in Bremerton, Wash. as the Leading Yeoman and Command Career Counselor. Onboard Seawolf, he completed his second six month deployment the Western Pacific Ocean in June 2009.

He is authorized to wear the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (two awards), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal (three awards), Navy Battle "E" Ribbon (two awards), Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation and the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal (five awards).

Petty Officer Sanchez resides in Australia with his wife, Jill Sanchez and two daughters, Destiny and Addison Sanchez.

His parents are Gilbert (deceased) and Sally Sanchez of Wheatland. His grandparents are Charles (Bill) and Shirley Brokaw of Wheatland.

ROBERT A. RICE

NAVY • FEB. 1944 - OCT. 1945

(Deceased) Robert A. Rice served in the U.S. Navy from Feb. 1944 – Oct. 1945. He trained in Jacksonville, Fla., and completed his duty with a rank of Seaman First Class. His tours of duty were in Fla. and Cuba.

"Bob was a radioman and gunner flying on SBD Dauntless Dive Bombers and SB2C Dive Bombers. Toward the end of his enlistment, he was a guard in a German POW camp.

Most importantly, he is my hero and my dad." ~ Charlene Fahey

American Heroes



DON SHERARD

ARMY AIR CORPS • 1943 - 1945

(Deceased) Don Sherard served during World War II with the United States Army Air Corps from Feb. 15, 1943 to Oct. 15, 1945.

He received his basic training at Jungle Area near St. Petersburg, Fla. He went on to receive training at Keesler Field in Southern Mississippi, and was then sent to college training detachment at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. Don received his pre-flight training in Santa Anna, Calif. He attended gunnery school in Kingman, Ariz. Don received his air-to-air gunnery training in Yucca, Nev. and his advanced bombardier training in Victorville, Calif.

Don was commissioned as a First Lieutenant after completing 29 combat missions.

He received three Air Medals and the Combat Ribbon.



HOMER W. SHERWOOD

MARINES • 1940 - 1946

(Deceased) Homer W. Sherwood served in the U.S. Marines from 1940 to 1946. He was a member of "Carlson's Raiders," and landed at night in a rubber boat from submarines on Midway Island on June 4, 1942.



DONALD E. SMITH

AIR FORCE • 1982 - 1984

(Wheatland) Sgt. Donald E. Smith served in the U.S. Air Force from 1982 through 1984.

He served in the Air Force Communications Command in Alaska as a weather equipment technician supporting remote radar sites, which are a vital part of our early warning system in the event of nuclear attack.



DONALD R. SHERWOOD

MARINES • 1969-1972

(Shady Cove, Ore.) Donald R. Sherwood served in the U.S. Marines from 1969 to 1972. He also served in the California President's Guard.

Donald received his training in San Diego and Camp Pendleton, Calif.



MARK SPUNGIN

ARMY, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD •
1964 - 1967; 1975 - 2004

(Guernsey) Mark Spungin served in the United States Army from 1964 to 1967. He is pictured above during his tour in Vietnam, 1965 to 66. He served in B 1/7 Cavalry. Mark received the Combat Infantryman's Badge during this tour. He took Basic training in Fort Dix, N.J. He also served in Germany 1964 to 1965. He joined the Wyo. Nat'l Guard in Feb. 1975, retiring Dec. 2004. He retired as an E-8 Master Sergeant. He was the State Marksmanship Coordinator from 1999 to 2004.



JAMES SHERWOOD

MARINES • 1955-1959

(Newberg, Ore.) James Sherwood served with the U.S. Marines from 1955-1959 and was on call for another five years. He was based at Camp Pendleton, California, and reached the rank of E-3.



ROLAND F. "CORKY" SHERWOOD

ARMY • 1949 - 1952

(Deceased) Roland F. Sherwood of Wheatland served with the U.S. Army for three years during the Korean Conflict, reaching the rank of sergeant 1st class.



HAROLD H. STEELEY

ARMY • 1943 - 1945

(Deceased) Harold received his basic training at Camp Blanding, Fl. He served from Dec. 10, 1943 to Nov. 28, 1945. He had tours of duty in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. He was 18 years old when wounded at Normandy, France. He spent one year and 28 days overseas. He operated the bazooka as a machine gunner. He was a life member of the VFW and DAV.

American Heroes



RON STUGART

FBI, WHEATLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

(Wheatland) Wheatland native and fourth generation Platte County resident Ron Stugart recently retired from a career in law enforcement that spanned over four decades. Ron's career began in 1974 following college where he was recruited by multiple agencies, including the FBI. His service included several years with the Wheatland Police Department where he ultimately became the chief of police.

Ron includes his graduation from the FBI's Command College and the FBI National Academy as two major highlights. He was asked to coordinate and command several multi-jurisdictional law enforcement incidents. He also coordinated several security details for multiple high profile national individuals during their terms in office, including President Gerald Ford.

During his retirement ceremony in Gillette, Stugart was recognized as having had one of the longer and more decorated careers in Wyoming law enforcement. Ron and his wife, Barbara, have returned to live here in Wheatland, and are happy to be nearby his mother, Joan.



AL TEEL

ARMY / COLORADO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD •

1968-1972 / 1982-2004

(Wheatland) Al entered active service in 1968, enlisting in the U.S. Army. He left active service in 1971, and in 1982, after an 11-year break in service, enlisted in the Colorado Army National Guard. He spent his entire military career in Special Forces, retiring in January 2004 as the Command Sergeant Major of the Fifth Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, Colo. Nat'l Guard. He served in the Republic of Haiti in 1995 during "Operation Uphold Democracy", and served in Afghanistan in 2002 to 2003 in the "Global War on Terrorism" during "Operation Enduring Freedom".

SHAWN STURGEON

NAVY • 1999-2012

(Gulfport, Miss.) Shawn Sturgeon served in the U.S. Navy from 1999 to 2012, reaching the rank of E6. Shawn had five tours of duty.



BRADFORD S. TETER

NAVY, ARMY ACTIVE RESERVE
1986 - 1992 / 1993 - 2005

(Wheatland) Bradford S. Teter served in the U.S. Navy from 1986 to 1992 and the U.S. Army Active Reserve from 1993 to 2005.

His Naval awards include Navy Achievement, Navy Commendation and Naval Expeditionary Award. Teter also received Army Achievement, Army Commendation and two Army Expeditionary Awards. Teter held the rank of staff sergeant in the Army and 3rd class petty officer in the U.S. Navy. His tours of duty included Operation Enduring Freedom and Mediterranean Cruise.

Teter served overseas from February 2003 to March 2004. He was part of the first wave of servicemen deployed and part of the "Shock and Awe."

Teter's wife, Brenda, said they used to rely on "snail mail" and satellite phones. Her husband would get up at 3 a.m. and walk 1 1/2 miles to use a phone to talk for 20 minutes. "It was our big 'date' night," she said. "I was working 12-hour shifts and my co-workers and fellow RNs would make sure I was off shift on time to make the call."



JAMES L. TAYLOR

AIR NATIONAL GUARD •
2004 - PRESENT

James was trained in Wichita Falls, Texas and is ranked as a Technical Sergeant in the Wyoming Air National Guard. He has completed multiple tours of duty in the Middle East and Europe. He is currently a pilot for a defense contractor in the Middle East.



JEFF TAYLOR

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD • 1990 - 2010

Jeff completed basic training at Ft. Dix, N.J. and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. He achieved the rank of Sergeant first class before retiring. He toured with Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism. He is employed as a project manager for Northrop Grumman overseeing upgrades and modifications on the B-2 Stealth Bomber stationed at Whiteman AFB in Missouri.



Thank you
Heroes!



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American Heroes



PFC JAMES THORNTON

SUBMITTED BY
ANNA THORNTON

"Do you know an American hero?" Why, yes, I do know an American hero. On Aug. 7, 2015, James Walton Thornton graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. It was a graduation like every other, thousands of young men earning the coveted Eagle, Globe and Anchor and marching the parade deck every Friday. But it was also part of a legacy, a personal, spiritual and mental challenge, a confirmation that nothing is impossible.

James, or PFC Thornton as he is currently known, has continued a legacy that has molded and forged a lifestyle, a way of thinking and a work ethic like no other. James' grandfather, William W. "Whit" Lester, joined the United States Marine Corps in 1958, a year after graduating from high school. Reared in the era of patriotism and loyalty to God and country following World War II and the Korean War, Whit sought to serve and to honor. His brother, Hugh Lester, served in the United States Air Force, Strategic Air Command, fighting in Vietnam and maintaining a long career as an officer in the Air Force. After graduating from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island ("where real Marines train"), Whit went on to become a part of the Marine Corps' elite Force Recon, serving in the Second Force Reconnaissance Company, Force Troops, FMFLan (Fleet Marine Force Atlantic.) He became a paratrooper, a scuba diver, endured cold weather training and lots of hot weather training, spent endless months aboard a submarine, and had the privilege of traveling to faraway places like Okinawa, Japan and to the Virgin Islands during the height of the Cold War. Most importantly though, Whit acquired physical, mental and spiritual strengths which have carried him through to this day and have set the precedent for his family to always endure, to always pray, and to always work your hardest and do your absolute best with honor, courage and commitment.



WALTON THORNTON

James' father, Walton C. "Walt" Thornton, III, came about the United States Marine Corps in a little different way. His father, Walton C. "Dub" Thornton, Jr., served with the United States Army in Vietnam. Walt joined the Corps at age twenty-seven after witnessing the lasting impression his father-in-law had made on his family. He graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island in 1999. An avid "cowboy" and beef cattle specialist, Walt chose to serve in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, first being a part of 4th Battalion, 14th Marines, Lima Battery (Artillery Unit) of Bessemer, Alabama and finished his 6 year contract with MACS-23, MAG-48 (Air Control) in Aurora, Colorado. Walt served as a radio operator and finished his contract as a Platoon Sergeant for Communications and Electronics at MACS-23. The months and years following "9-11" in 2001 saw members of this and many other units called to defend against a new enemy on the home front, and built a comradery among these patriots to fight for a new kind of freedom. Walt's Marine Corps experience continued the precedent for his family to always endure, to always pray, and to always work your hardest and do your absolute best with honor, courage and commitment.

And so PFC James Thornton has continued that legacy, that personal, spiritual and mental challenge, that confirmation that nothing is impossible. When he was four years old, he put on his father's combat boots and said he wanted to be a Marine. When he was fourteen years old and "planning" a career, he said he wanted to be a Marine. High school brought personal challenges that caused James to question his ability to serve his country and to realize his dream, but he never gave up hope. A year after high school graduation, James joined the United States Marine Corps.

PFC James Thornton is currently stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in Beaufort, South Carolina. He is attached to the MAG 31, VMFA-115 "Silver Eagles," as an O-level powerhouse mechanic for a squadron of F-18 Hornets. He and his wife, Courtnee, live in Beaufort with their three dogs. James will be deployed in July for a Pacific Rim tour with his unit. Although it may at times be difficult and uncertain, James will continue the legacy with endurance, prayer, a strong work ethic, and with the honor, courage and commitment passed on to him to protect...

Yes, I know an American hero.

The Guernsey Gazette



Our Veterans, Our Heroes

**Thanks, Veterans.
We salute you for your
extraordinary courage and
dedication to your country.**



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American Heroes



ANTHONY URBANEK

ARMY • 2009 - PRESENT

(Torrington) Anthony Urbanek is currently serving in the U.S. Army. He holds the rank of specialist 4. Anthony completed two tours in Iraq. Anthony is the squad leader for his mine disposal unit in Iraq. He is the fourth generation of his family to serve in the military.



JOHN W. WAITMAN

AIR FORCE, ARMY, WYO. NAT'L GUARD,
ARMY ACTIVE RESERVES •
1957-1962 / 1974-1998

(Wheatland) John W. Waitman served in the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army, Wy National Guard and the U.S. Army Active Reserves. He spent 30 years of his life serving in the military and held the rank of Sergeant.

Tours of duty for Waitman include Germany, France, Saudi Arabia and Minot, N.D.

Waitman also served as a volunteer fireman in Wheatland for 20 years.

He's currently the quartermaster for the local VFW. Waitman is a former little league baseball manager and coach as well as a former hunter safety instructor.



S. DUANE WALKER

NAVY

(Laramie Peak) Duane Walker, currently a resident of the Laramie Peak area, served on the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard for the US Navy in the early 1950's during the Korean War. After completing his military time, Duane was employed by the US Forest Service, where he became a wildland fire

fighter until his retirement in 1983. He currently serves as a volunteer fireman for the Laramie Peak Fire Zone.



MATTHEW WALSH

MARINES • 2011 - PRESENT

(Twentynine Palms, Calif.) Lance Corporal Matthew J. Walsh joined the Marine Corps on Feb. 14, 2011, where he started boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), San Diego. Three months later upon graduation he received a meritorious promotion to Private First Class (PFC) and also received an award for the Platoon High PFT — Physical Excellence Award denoting that he was the most physically fit Marine in his company. On May 25, PFC Walsh started his training with the School of Infantry West at Camp Pendelton, Calif. Two months later, PFC Walsh graduated and received the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of an Anti-Tank Guided Missileman (0352), commonly referred to as a TOW gunner. He received two awards upon his graduation and was again meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal and graduated at the top of his section at the School of Infantry.

He received orders to report to First Tank Battalion, stationed at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) in Twentynine Palms, Calif. After four months of training in Twentynine Palms and in L.A. with the L.A. SWAT Team, LCpl Walsh was assigned to an NTM-A training and advising team set to deploy to northern Afghanistan. The team deployed in Nov. 2011 and served seven months in Kabul, Afghanistan.

LCpl. Walsh was awarded the Certificate of Commendation for his actions throughout the deployment.

On June 2, Matthew returned home from Kabul, Afghanistan and was reunited with his mother, brother and sister for the Welcome Home celebration in Twentynine Palms.

His mother, Mary Hayes Walsh, was raised in Wheatland. His proud grandparents are Gene and Phyllis Hayes.



EDWARD WARD

ARMY • 1975-1979

(Sidney, Neb.) Edward Ward served in the U.S. Army from 1975 -1979. He completed basic training in Missouri. Edward saw a tour of duty in Panama. He was honorably discharged with the rank of master sergeant. During his service, Edward was a medical specialist, and also worked in special weapons.



BYRON WARD

NAVY • 2002 - PRESENT

(Cheyenne) Byron Ward is currently serving in the U.S. Navy, and joined in 2002. He trained for service in Chicago.

Byron has completed tours of duty in Bahrain, and is currently a recruiter at the Cheyenne office. He is an E5 2nd Class Petty Officer.

"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation."

- General Douglas MacArthur

American Heroes

BOB WHITTON

AIR FORCE 1974



(Wheatland) Bob Whitton attended the U.S. Air Force Academy, class of 1974. He was a major in the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed in the United Kingdom, Korea, Philippines, Okinawa, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada. Whitton was a fighter pilot and flew the F4 Phantom, AT-38B Talon, F-5E Tiger II and the F-15 Eagle.

MORGAN WICKAM

ARMY • 1969 - 1972

(Wheatland) Morgan Wickam trained at Fort Campbell Kentucky and Fort Belvoir Virginia. He served tours in Korea and Germany and attained an E-5 rank. His job was a gas or diesel generator mechanic and was in charge of shops.

Morgan is proud to serve with the VFW at military services for deceased veterans.

JACK WILSON

ARMY • 1993 - 2013



(Wheatland) Jack Wilson served in the Army from 1993 – 2013. He trained in Kentucky, Maryland and Fort Riley, Kansas. Jack completed three tours of duty in Iraq, and one tour in Afghanistan.

He retired from Fort Riley with the rank of

sergeant.

"Thank you, Jack."

WILLARD M. WOODS, M.D.

ARMY MEDICAL CORPS



(Wheatland) Willard Woods was appointed a reserve commissioned officer status in 1968 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, which enabled him to complete his medical school education at the University of Oklahoma until 1971, when he became active duty in the Army Medical Corps. He was selected for the Army Senior Medical Student Program in 1970. He completed an internship at Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii in 1972-1973, and served as chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Irwin Army Hospital at Fort Riley, Kansas, until 1979. He received the National Defense Service Medal, and was discharged at the rank of major.

When You See a Soldier

By Kelly Roper

**When you see a soldier
Be sure to shake his or her
hand,
And let that soldier know
you're grateful
For the protection the military
affords our land.**

**But most of all, express your
thanks
For every soldier's personal
sacrifice.
In order to serve our country,
They risked their entire lives.**



American Heroes

In Flanders Field

BY JOHN MCCRAE

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

American Heroes



God Bless
**Our Military
& Their Families**