



VETERANS

HALL OF FAME NOMINEES

SENATOR PAM HELMING, 54TH DISTRICT

★ 2023 ★



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



Dear Veteran,

One of my greatest honors as State Senator is to recognize the men and women who have served with distinction in the United States Armed Forces. Congratulations on your nomination to the New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame, which recognizes your extraordinary achievements in both military and civilian life.

As the daughter of a U.S. Air Force veteran and the mother-in-law of a West Point graduate who served as a U.S. Army Green Beret, I am eternally grateful for the commitment and sacrifice of our veterans and military families.

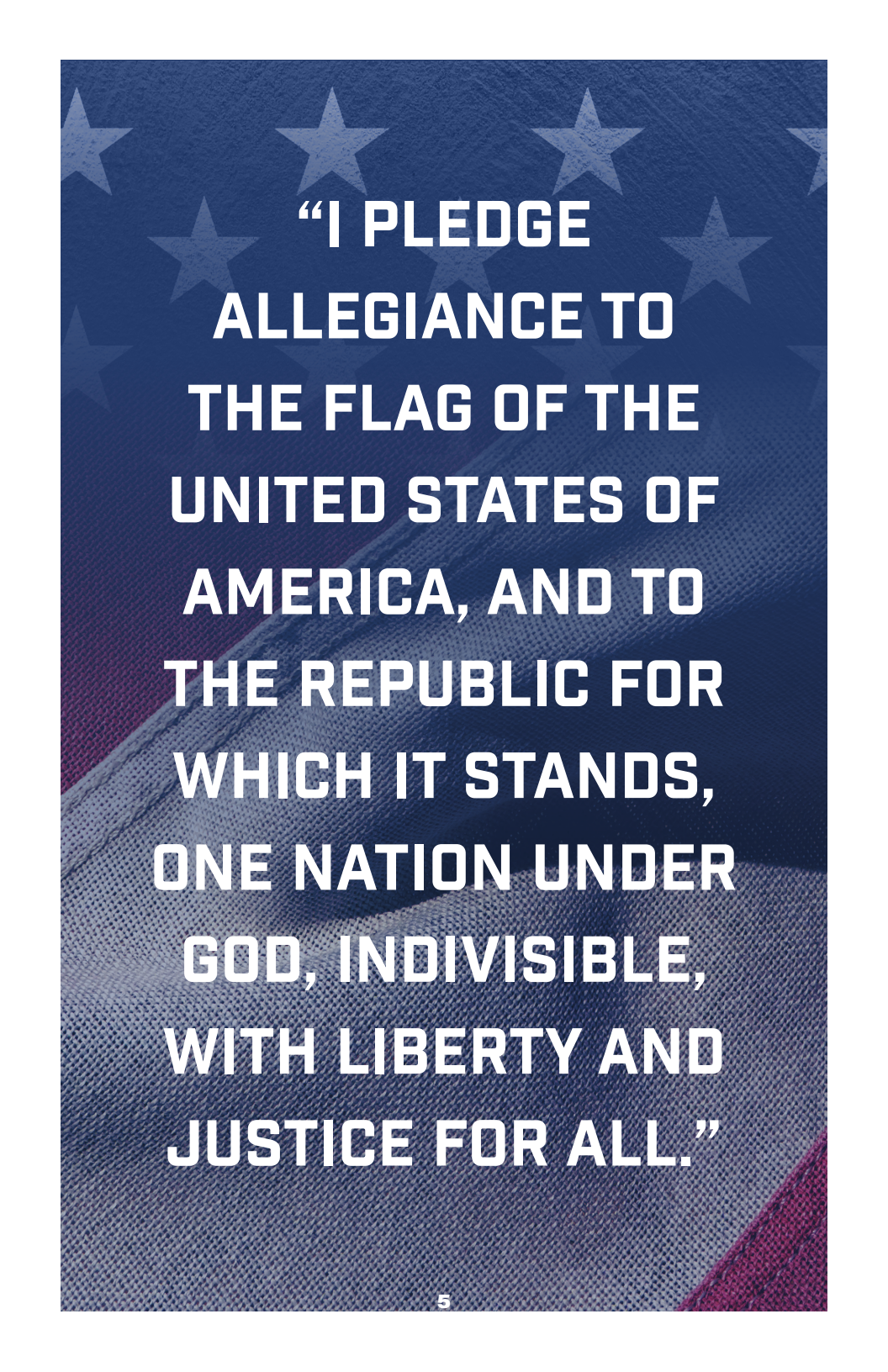
The proud Americans of the 54th District are indebted to you for your honorable service and outstanding contributions to our country, State, and the communities we call home. May God bless you and your family and the United States of America.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District





**“I PLEDGE
ALLEGIANCE TO
THE FLAG OF THE
UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, AND TO
THE REPUBLIC FOR
WHICH IT STANDS,
ONE NATION UNDER
GOD, INDIVISIBLE,
WITH LIBERTY AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL.”**

OUR FORCES

ARMY

The largest and oldest service in the U.S. military, the Army provides the ground forces that protect the United States.

MARINE CORPS

A component of the Department of the Navy, the Marine Corps maintains amphibious and ground units for contingency and combat operations.

NAVY

On, above and below the water, the Navy is America's forward-deployed force and is a major deterrent to aggression around the world.

OUR FORCES

AIR FORCE

The Air Force provides a rapid, flexible, and lethal air and space capability that can deliver forces anywhere in the world within hours.

COAST GUARD

The Coast Guard provides law and maritime safety enforcement, marine and environmental protection and military naval support. Part of the Department of Homeland Security during peacetime, the Coast Guard operates under the Navy during times of war.

NATIONAL GUARD

Comprised of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard, the National Guard is a versatile force, supporting combat missions, domestic emergencies, humanitarian efforts, homeland security operations and more.

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GEORGE BECKER

U.S. NAVY, ELECTRICIAN'S
MATE SECOND CLASS

SERVED 1942-1946

NOMINATED BY

**MONROE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR STEVE BREW**

What inspired you to join the military?

I always wanted to join the Navy and serve my country. I enlisted when I was old enough at 17 years of age.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Two and half years in the South Pacific serving on the USS Emory, a destroyer escort ship, supporting our war effort and navigating through the huge typhoons.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Respect authority, get along with people, be patient and appreciate what you have.

What do you love most about America?

Our freedom.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

I have known George for 30-plus years through his dedication and service to our community. He has inspired me and others to give back and serve our communities.

George was born on February 22, 1925 and turned 98 years young this year. He is in excellent health and lives independently with his family and neighbors keeping a caring and watchful eye out. George takes care of his house, including his large lawn, which he continues to mow.

George is a World War II veteran and member of The Greatest Generation. For his service, he received the World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.



VETERANS

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DAVID LEE BELL
(HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY)
**U.S. MARINE CORPS,
MASTER SERGEANT**
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
WILL AMBROSE

Master Sergeant David Lee Bell passed away on August 18, 2023 and is recognized posthumously.

His nominator, Will Ambrose, shared:

David was active in the Canandaigua VFW, and he was recently recognized as the oldest surviving Vietnam veteran in the Canandaigua 2023 Memorial Day parade. I respect his commitment to his community and his work to support children.

Senator Helming respectfully shares this from Mr. Bell's obituary:

David's family moved into Ontario County over 200 years ago. He worked on the family farm, which is now part of Finger Lakes Community College. David retired as a Master Sergeant from the military after serving his country for over 21 years in both the Air Force and the Marines. He was a Vietnam vet, with three tours of duty in Vietnam. He also retired from Exxon/Mobil as a maintenance engineer and worked at Victor Hills Golf Club as a groundskeeper.

David was an active member of the Canandaigua Moose Club. For over 25 years, he worked year-round holding raffles and seeking donations for the Angel Tree Program, which he and his wife, Bernice, established. The collections and donations were used to obtain food, clothing and toys for the needy who may go without during the holidays. He worked with local school administrations to obtain a list of names in need of a little extra help during the holidays.

For over 65 years, David volunteered to work with children's charities, beginning with his time in the military. He never needed accolades or thanks, as he truly did it for the children.



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THOMAS W. BIEBER

U.S. NAVY, E-6
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
TRACY BIEBER

What inspired you to join the military?
Career opportunities.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?
Sailing the Seven Seas.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?
Order, discipline, accountability, leadership, commitment, and fellowship.

What do you love most about America?
Our freedoms and opportunities.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?
Tom has made our life together very special with all his experiences and travel. We have many friends across the country due to the Navy. He is very patriotic. It's been an amazing journey.

Tom is an outstanding husband and father to me and our girls. He has many achievements from the Navy, and it has made him who he is today. He works hard at his day job at Seneca Stone, and also as a part-time contractor and carpenter. We are very proud of him.



VETERANS

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DANIEL BISSELL

(HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY)

REVOLUTIONARY WAR
VETERAN

NOMINATED BY

DONALD V. HOYT III

Daniel Bissell, a Revolutionary War veteran, died in Richmond, NY in 1824 and is buried in Allens Hill Cemetery. His tombstone is inscribed, "In Memory of Daniel Bissell, Who Died August 21st, 1824, Aged 70 Years, He Had the Confidence of Washington From Whom He Received a Badge of Merit."

Mr. Bissell is considered to have been an inspiration for George Washington's design of the Purple Heart. He was a soldier and spy for the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, and he was awarded the Badge of Military Merit by General Washington.

As reported, on General Washington's direct orders, Mr. Bissell posed as a deserter and served in the British Army under Benedict Arnold in New York City from August 14, 1781 to September 29, 1782, relaying valuable information to the Continental command.

Washington is credited for designing the Purple Heart, but the design is said to have originated with Mr. Bissell. At a ball with Washington, Mr. Bissell was dancing with his future wife when he stepped on her purple dress and ripped a piece off. It's said that he took the piece of fabric, folded it into a heart, and told her to keep it. When Washington learned of this, he was inspired to make the Purple Heart.

During the Quasi-War with France (1798–1800), Mr. Bissell was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the 16th Infantry Regiment on March 3, 1799. He was discharged on June 15, 1800.

Mr. Donald V. Hoyt III shared, "As a student of history, the sacrifices of our forefathers in founding our great Nation inspires pride and respect. This gentleman was part of the inspiration for an award that no veteran wants to receive, but holds in high esteem when they are awarded one. As a U.S. Navy veteran, I'm extremely proud of those who came before me and left a rich legacy."



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ROBERT CASE

U.S. AIR FORCE
SERGEANT
4 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
LORETTA CASE

What inspired you to join the military?

I was inspired in the aftermath of President Kennedy's assassination and decided to serve my country.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

I was part of a classified support operation that resulted in nine MiGs being shot down.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Discipline and electronics.

What do you love most about America?

America is a free country.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

We have been married for 58 years, and we have raised our children to respect our country and other people.

Robert spent 44 years with the fire service – 18 years as a volunteer firefighter, 20 years as a career firefighter, and six years as the City of Canandaigua Fire Chief.



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CHRIS EDGERTON

U.S. AIR FORCE
SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT (E-8)
24.5 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
CARA EDGERTON

What inspired you to join the military?

I had a calling for service and to start a new path in life.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Talking to an Afghan Air Force Security Forces officer after the fall of Kabul in 2021. I learned how he and his men utilized the training my team and I had given them and how that training saved their lives, helping them to evacuate HKIA/ Kabul while fighting the Taliban.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Never turn down an opportunity, especially one that you have sought out yourself.

What do you love most about America?

Freedom and opportunity.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Chris showed me how the Air Force's core values can actually be achieved in real life.

My husband put his heart and soul into his career, and balanced his home life very well. We had seven different assignments and made each one memorable, and we brought two beautiful boys into the world.

For his service, Chris received the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Commendation Medal with Valor, and Combat Action Medal.



VETERANS

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JAMES A. FENWICK

U.S. ARMY
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
SERVED 1968-1970

NOMINATED BY
CATHRYN ISAACSON

What inspired you to join the military?

Patriotism.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Switching from Military Police work to walking point with a scout dog on ambush and recon patrols.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Trust in the men around you.

What do you love most about America?

My freedom to think as I please.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

We met in college and still share most interests, especially travel and family. James received the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal. He is a true animal lover, especially of dogs.

For his service, James received the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal.



VETERANS

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LUKE FORD

U.S. MARINE CORPS
SERGEANT

9 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
HALEY FORD

What inspired you to join the military?

I wanted to do something to better myself and learn more than I would have by going to college.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

The timeless bond that is created with all others that served before me, with me, and after me.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

The military showed me the importance of understanding that, in order to complete any mission or task, you cannot always rely on yourself. You will, at some time, need to work with or need the support of others to reach the goal. It is not always about what one person has done.

What do you love most about America?

Although America is not the only free country in the world, it is the one I was born and raised in. It is the country that I have been willing to put my life on the line for because I do believe that America is still a place where you can make anything happen if you are willing to fight for what you want.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Luke is my husband, and is not only my spouse and my rock, but my partner and best friend in this life. He has taught me so much about adversity and living life to the fullest, despite challenges and impairments. He is an amazing father and has overcome so much with both his mental and physical health since leaving the military, but never forgets the lessons that he learned. He instills those important lessons every day with his children and in his own life. Luke is certainly someone to look up to and to respect for what he has brought to this world and what he continues to do every day.

Luke continues to serve his country and fellow veterans as an employee of the VA. He is also an active member of Palmyra American Legion Post 120.



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HOWARD M. HANCE

(HONORED POSTHUMOUSLY)

U.S. ARMY, CORPORAL

SERVED 1941-1945

NOMINATED BY

**MARION TOWN COUNCILMAN
RON LONNEVILLE**

Mr. Hance, a World War II veteran and member of The Greatest Generation, is recognized posthumously. Among his military honors, he received the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal.

His nominator, Ron Lonneville, shared:

It is with great honor as a patriotic American and Marion Town Board member that I posthumously nominate Corporal Howard Hance. As a lifelong resident of Marion, I have always known the Hance family. They have always been part of the fabric that held the Town together and made Marion prosper.

Howard graduated from Marion Central School. After his military service, he married and started a family in Marion. He worked for Sure Crop Fertilizers and Corenco Fertilizers. Al Curtis and Howard started the Snow White laundromat. Howard also served on the Marion Town Board.

Compiled and written by Dakota and Craig Hance:

Howard Hance was drafted in April 1941, before the United States was at war. He served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Army Air Corps. Trained as an infantryman, Hance received further training in repairing radar.

After basic training, Howard was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On the morning of December 7, 1941, he went to Sunday morning church service. After the service and on his way back from breakfast, he recalled, "My buddies and I were swinging our mess tins around to get them to dry off, and BOOM." Howard and his fellow servicemen were confused as to what was going on. They would soon realize that this was the real deal.

Howard was assigned to an anti-aircraft battery on Hickam Field. His crew was credited with shooting down seven Japanese aircrafts. "It was awful, bodies were everywhere, in the water, some were in pieces." Howard survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and soon found himself in many spots around the Pacific repairing radar stations in places such as Guadalcanal, Guam, and other parts of the Philippines.

Howard returned to the United States to help train incoming troops and was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Because he broke his ankle playing volleyball, he was spared from going to the Battle of the Bulge in Europe. Howard continued his service until the war ended in 1945.



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ED HEMMINGER

U.S. AIR FORCE
CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
23 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
**FARMINGTON TOWN SUPERVISOR
PETER INGALSBE**

What inspired you to join the military?

Duty to our country during the Vietnam War.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

We created the first command post for the modern-day 1st Air Force.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Leadership and time management.

What do you love most about America?

Our freedom here in the United States.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Above all, Ed is a charter member and Commander of Farmington AMVETS Post 332. He is a great leader and very concerned for local veterans' needs. He also serves on the Farmington Planning Board as Chairman and is an active member of the Farmington Board of Assessment Review.

Ed is a former Ontario County employee who managed the Axxess Ontario fiber ring in the County for many years. For his service, he received multiple Meritorious Service Medals.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



JOHN DAVID KERR

U.S. NAVY, HOSPITAL CORPSMAN
SECOND CLASS

SERVED 1966-1970

NOMINATED BY
**CELINE-MARIE PASCALE
AND BARBARA STAHL**

What inspired you to join the military?

As a boy, I imagined a life as a pharmacist. When I got my second draft notice, I decided to make the most of the moment for myself and my country. I felt the Navy was my best choice because there was a good history of training, offering a medical position identified as Pharmacist Mate.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

The first defining moment came when I arrived in Vietnam. I was sent to Hill 881, the first line of defense for the Khe Sanh Combat Base. On the third day of patrol, a fire fight broke out. Forty-three men went out; I was one of only seven to return to base. In the face of devastating losses, for the next month as the only corpsman for the company, I went on every patrol.

The second defining moment came during the Tet Offensive of 1968. For 77 days, the base of 5,500 Marines held against 20,000 North Vietnamese troops and relentless artillery bombardment. The horror, sacrifice and bravery of these moments shaped the rest of my life. Many years later, I was compelled to write my memoir, entitled *Breaking Silences: The Memoir of Hospital Corpsman HM2 John David Kerr at the Battle of Khe Sanh*. I wanted to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of the men with whom I served.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Compassion, gratitude, and a continued desire to serve combat veterans. As a result of my experience, a career in medicine became obvious to me. As a psychiatric nurse for the Canandaigua VA, I spent my 46-year career caring for veterans who carried the heavy emotional and physical burdens of war. I learned that every day is a gift for having survived my time as a Combat Medic. I also recognized the power of service and fellowship.

Continued on next page



VETERANS

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What do you love most about America?

I appreciate the freedom, opportunity and beauty that characterize the country.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

John is a good neighbor and friend and participates in the Really Reads Them Book Club. John is a humble, quiet man. In his actions, you will find a proud American whose faith in the country has only grown stronger as he served those badly wounded by our wars.

John's former colleagues at the Canandaigua VA praised his compassion and dedication as a staff member and a volunteer supporting veterans, having touched many lives. Among his military honors, John received two Presidential Unit Citations.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



ANDREW KUJAWSKI

U.S. NAVY, E-7
21 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
LAURIE KUJAWSKI

What inspired you to join the military?

Family.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

My three combat tours.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Learning to manage people.

What do you love most about America?

Freedom.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Raising our family together, patriotism, and dedication to the country. We both have a long line of family who served this country and have done so with honor.

Andrew received commendations from the Navy, Army and Air Force for his service.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



ERIC LINKE

U.S. ARMY, SERGEANT
20.5 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
MICHELE LADUE

What inspired you to join the military?

My mother. She was orphaned during World War II, and her heroes were American soldiers. From a very young age, I wanted to join the U.S. Army because I believed so strongly in its mission.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

I suffer from PTSD, and while in combat, I remember situations where I thought I was going to die. I've learned humility, professionalism, and a desire to help the weak succeed.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

The military taught me life lessons about perseverance that I have continued to use in civilian life. I now work for the Town of Victor and feel proud of my service in Afghanistan and Panama. I also was sent to assist during 9/11, the L.A. Riots, and Hurricane Wilma. I am a disabled combat veteran who still finds joy in serving my community.

What do you love most about America?

The freedom to choose how you want to live. In America, there is an opportunity for anyone who wants to work hard and do what it takes to be successful.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Eric's whole life has been about serving the public and his country. He has selflessly dedicated his time so others can enjoy an easier, more comfortable way of life.

Eric was featured in the book, A Leap of Faith: The Men and Women Who Served Post 9/11. The book features a collection of stories about military veterans, each sharing their own story about suffering from PTSD. For his service, Eric received the National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Service Star, and the Hourglass Air Medal meritorious achievement. Eric would like to honor his great-grandfather who died in World War II and his mother, Lilo Nibbelink.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



JOHN E. MACKENZIE

U.S. MARINE CORPS
CORPORAL E-4
SERVED 1965-1971

NOMINATED BY
DEBORAH ERB

What inspired you to join the military?

Soldiers were needed for the Vietnam War, and I felt it was my duty to enlist.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Being wounded in 1966 near Da Nang, Vietnam, and the excellent care given to me in the Da Nang field hospital.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

To follow orders and to never leave anyone behind. To always be available to help someone in need.

What do you love most about America?

Freedom, and the ability to become what you want to be.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Always being there for me, and never saying no if I need him.

John is an all-around great individual who is always there to help anyone. He has been an active volunteer firefighter for the past 54 years, a past American Legion Post Commander, and has worked with a volunteer ambulance company.

John is a recipient of the Purple Heart and Presidential Unit Citation.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



CHRISTOPHER T. MCFIGGINS

U.S. MARINE CORPS
CORPORAL

6.5 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
FRANK BERETTA

What inspired you to join the military?

The events on 9/11.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Meeting a gunnery sergeant who came into our hole in Fallujah after the position he had just left was mortared, resulting in casualties.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Initiative, responsibility, and respect.

What do you love most about America?

The people who continue to practice and promote traditional values.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Chris's success in overcoming his post-service adjustment has been an inspiration. He is one of those people I take pride in calling a friend.

He has tirelessly assisted people in the Ontario County Drug and Veterans Courts as a Finger Lakes Area Counseling and Recovery Agency (FLACRA) peer. He has given hope to many people seeking to overcome addiction.

For his service, Chris received the Meritorious Mast Certificate of Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, and Presidential Unit Citation.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



MARK POTTER

U.S. ARMY, SPECIALIST 4

3 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
RANDY BOYLAN

What inspired you to join the military?

It was a childhood dream, and pride in my country.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

It was a day I will never forget. My team was on a recon mission when one of our guys lost his rucksack. We didn't hesitate to go back and get it. Two of my teammates and I headed out to recover the lost gear. There was a minefield we walked back through. One member of the team hit a mine and in seconds, it detonated, blowing all of us backwards. I took shrapnel to both legs, which would take years to recover from.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Leadership, teamwork, and selflessness.

What do you love most about America?

The freedoms we enjoy every day.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Mark is one of the most humble people you will ever meet. He served his country, never asking for anything in return. He continues to be an inspiration every day. I am proud to call him my friend.

Mark is a Purple Heart recipient, and among his military honors, he also received the Iraq Campaign Medal and Achievement Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



JOHN H. SCHLESING

U.S. AIR FORCE
TECHNICAL SERGEANT
21.5 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
**WENDY SCHLESING-OSEGUERA
AND JACKIE EATON**

What inspired you to join the military?

To serve my country.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

The Vietnam War.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

To honor all men and women who dedicated their lives to serve our country; law enforcement and security.

What do you love most about America?

Our freedom.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

My dad loves his country so much. He is a dedicated veteran. - Wendy Schlesing-Oseguera

We enjoy traveling together. He has had a positive impact on respect for our country. - Jackie Eaton

For his service, John received the Bronze Star, Gallantry Cross, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the National Defense Service Medal.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



PAUL R. STATSKEY

U.S. NAVY, CAPTAIN

29 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
MICHAEL STATSKEY

What inspired you to join the military?

Flying Navy jet aircraft off of aircraft carriers.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Dive-bombing through anti-aircraft artillery in the Vietnam War.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Leadership of people and scheduled maintenance of equipment.

What do you love most about America?

Based on the freedoms we enjoy, we are given the opportunity to succeed.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

As a parent, he raised me to carry on the same morals he gained from his experiences. As a friend, he has provided advice, support and motivation. Through this, he has set me up for success, and now I will always strive to accomplish as much as I can, like he did.

During his Navy career, Captain Statskey flew more than 10 types of aircraft. He flew in combat operations in the Vietnam War, and he played a supporting role during the Gulf War, delivering supplies and personnel to deployed aircraft carriers. He had the honor of commanding two Navy squadrons overseas. Paul also served in the Naval Personnel Command, the Pentagon, and as 7th Fleet Air Operations Officer. He retired in 1995 as Chief of Staff, Naval Air Training Command. He earned numerous awards for his military service, including the Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit with gold stars.

Paul lives in Huron, NY with his wife, Petra. He is a Vice Commander of Wolcott American Legion Post 881, serves on two committees for his local parish, is a member of the North Rose-Wolcott School District Board of Education, and is an assistant coach for the high school baseball team.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



CHARLES STATUCKI

U.S. AIR FORCE
TECHNICAL SERGEANT
20 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
VICKI MCBRIDE

What inspired you to join the military?

I was drafted.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Leaving San Francisco in 1967 for Vietnam, and hearing on the PA system, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Doing things my way was not necessarily the right way! I have many regrets, but based on the results of my decisions, I think I made the right choices.

What do you love most about America?

Our freedom. This is due to seeing what other countries offer. There are a lot of nice places to visit, but there is no place like America.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Love of country, service to others, rule of law and, most importantly, love of family!

My father recently turned 90 years old. He has always been an inspiration to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He has traveled the world and has so many stories to share.

For his service, Charles received the Bronze Star, USAF Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



THOMAS WALLACE

**U.S. ARMY
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS
SERVED 3 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY
AND 17 YEARS RESERVE**

NOMINATED BY
**BARBARA ANN VAN SICE ON BEHALF
OF THE DAR, CANANDAIGUA CHAPTER**

What inspired you to join the military?

I was drafted and then re-enlisted.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

When Major General Bowers presented the Army Commendation Medal for building a post office in Prum, Germany for 800 military personnel and their dependents.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Building and operating a post office in Prum, Germany.

What do you love most about America?

The freedom to go where you want and do what you want.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Tom is my life partner. Throughout our relationship, we have actively supported veterans, active military, and many veterans' activities as volunteers at Canandaigua VA Hospital, Farmington AMVETS Post 332, Honeoye Falls American Legion Post 664, Wreaths Across America, and Honor Flight Rochester.

Tom is always willing to assist the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Canandaigua Chapter, to which I belong, with all of our volunteer service projects. He is tireless and truly dedicated to our Nation and those who have served and are serving in the military.



VETERANS

★★★ HALL OF FAME ★★★



MARK WATTS

U.S. NAVY
SENIOR CHIEF
PETTY OFFICER E-8
29 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOMINATED BY
G.W. LISK CEO ED MAIER

What inspired you to join the military?

My father served in the Navy from 1952 to 1956.

What moment in your service do you remember the most?

Returning to Bangor, Maine at 3:00 a.m. to a large group of people, veterans, and the general public, welcoming us home from a deployment to the Middle East in June 2008.

What valuable lessons or skills did you learn from your time in the military?

Take care of the people around you, do the right thing every time, be honorable in your actions, and be able to laugh at yourself.

What do you love most about America?

The opportunity to pursue whatever you dream of; to be able to chase your dreams.

Nominators, what impact has the nominee had on your life?

Mark has inspired me, not only by the sacrifices that he and his family have personally made in service to our country, but by his continued dedication to other veterans. Mark has been a dedicated G.W. Lisk employee for 17 years, but I'm sure we only see a small part of what he does in support of his fellow veterans. In January, Mark coordinated care packages, filled with donations from Lisk employees, that were sent to a Rochester-based active reserve unit that was mobilized. In December, he loaded trees into trucks for the Trees for Troops program. He actively supports suicide awareness for veterans, and when I tried to meet with him regarding this nomination, he was unavailable as he had already committed to working a homeless veterans event in Rochester that day. Mark is an inspiration to me personally, to our company, to our community, and I'm sure to countless veterans and their families.

Mark's military honors include the Navy Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and numerous personal and unit awards.





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