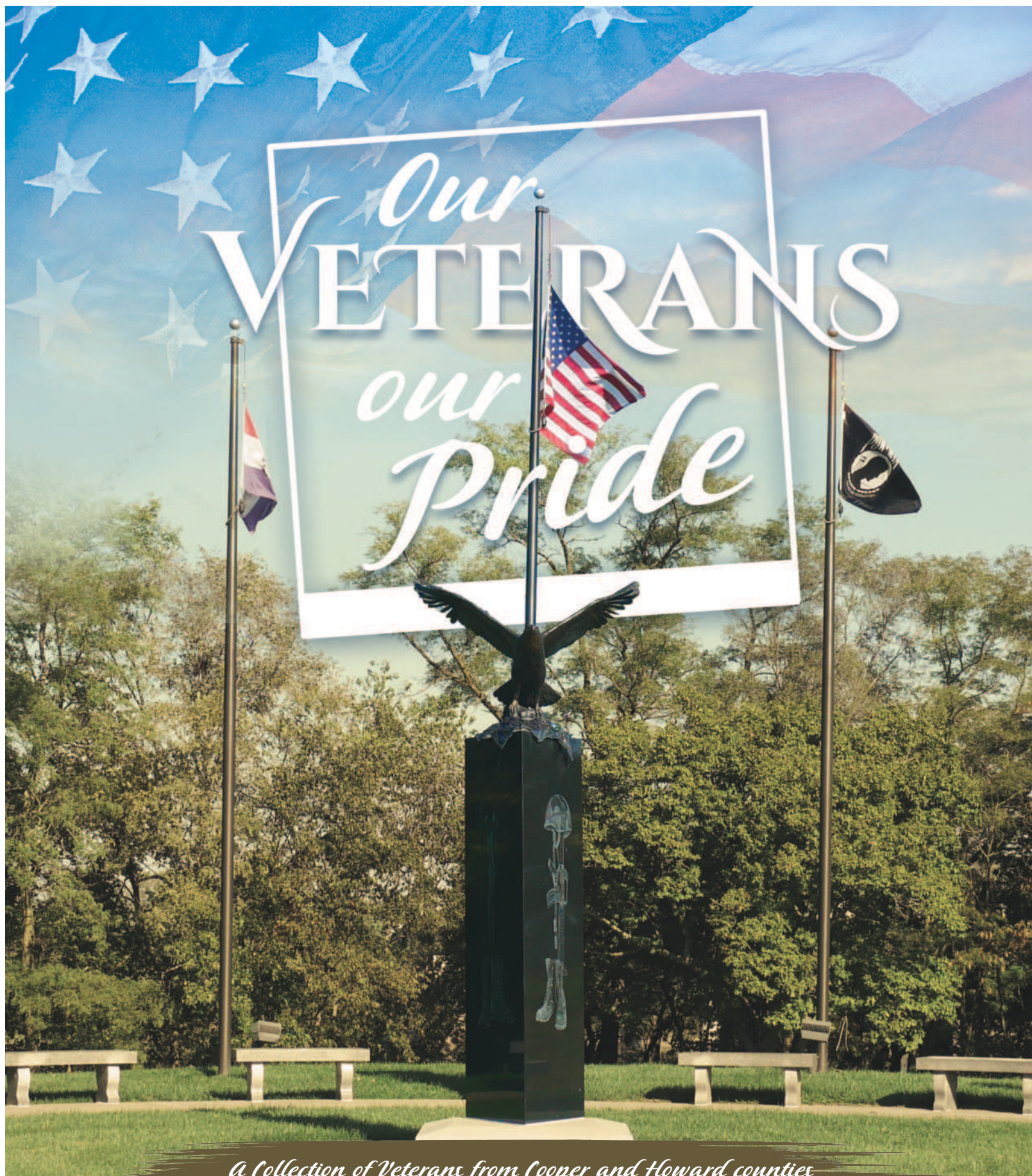




A Collection of Veterans from Cooper and Howard counties

VETERANS DAY 2025

A special publication for

BOONVILLE DAILY NEWS

To our veterans,

In this small way, we honor those who have served or are serving. The poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon states these words, "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

For veterans of all wars and those who served during times of peace; thank you for serving, for spending time away from your families in the name of liberty, for the indescribable physical and emotional struggles that returned with some, for allowing us to share your stories in an effort to keep memories alive.

We thank you for your service.

You are the real heroes,
The Boonville Daily News

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Jeremy Gulban

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Susan Duvall

Our Veterans, Our Pride
For more information, contact

BOONVILLE DAILY NEWS

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Honoring OUR VETERANS

Erected 2004 by Warnhoff V.F.W. Post No. 4072, City of Boonville, Isle of Capri, and Ameren UE.

Location. 38° 58.669' N, 92° 44.7' W. Memorial is in Boonville, Missouri, in Cooper County. It is at the intersection of Main Street (Missouri Route 5/87) and High Street, on the left when traveling north on Main Street.

Other nearby markers. At least 8 other markers are within walking distance of this marker: High Street Office Building (within shouting

distance of this marker); Cooper County World War Memorial (about 300 feet away, measured in a direct line); Cobblestone Street Park (about 300 feet away); Capture of Boonville (about 300 feet away);

Cooper County Korea - Vietnam War Memorial (about 300 feet away); Vietnam War Memorial Bench (about 300 feet away); World War II Memorial Bench (about 300 feet away); Old Trails National Highway Bridge (about 300 feet away).

Honoring OUR VETERANS



**GEORGE B.
APPLEMAN II**

In 1975, Appleman was 22. He served in the Vietnam War, was an E-2 in the U.S. Navy. He served from September 15, 1971 to September 30, 1993. He participated in the evacuation of Saigon, South Vietnam – April/May, 1975. Boonville is his hometown.



**RICHARD
"DIGGER" ARNOLD**

Captain Arnold is a 1971 graduate of Boonville High School. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975. He also attended the Naval Postgraduate School, Industrial College of the Armed Forces and Harvard Business School.

A Surface Warfare Officer, Captain Arnold participated in many major U.S. military operations from the Cold War to the Global War on Terrorism. During his 34-year career, he was selected for three command assignments: Commanding Officer of the destroyer, USS Merrill (DD 976); Commodore of Destroyer Squadron Seven; and Commanding Officer of Tactical Training Group Pacific. Captain Arnold retired from the Navy in 2005.



**WILLIAM RICHARD
ARNOLD**

Staff Sergeant Arnold was assigned to 5th U.S. Army Air Force from January 1942-October 1945. Boonville is his hometown. Arnold spent 38 months in the Pacific Theater during World War II. He was part of the Allied Operations in New Zealand, Australia, and New Guinea. Arnold supported Southern Phillippines Liberation Campaign in Leyte and Luzon. He trained with the Allied Invasion Force (Operation Downfall) prior to Japan surrendering. Arnold is 24 in this photo.

DANNY E. BAILEY

Danny Bailey (on right) was an E4 in the Navy. He was 23 years old in this photo. He attained the rank of E5 before discharge. He is from Blackwater, MO. Bailey's service was from November 1975-November 1979. He spent 3 years on an aircraft carrier, the USD Constellation. He received the Navy Marine Corp Expeditionary Medal, Good Conduct Medal. He worked in the Machinery room aboard the ship.



HUBERT BAILEY

Bailey, Army Infantry. Unknown age in the photo. Served during the Korean War. Got frost bite while there. He operated a 50 caliber machine gun. He received a Marksman badge.



WOODROW BAILEY

Bailey, on the right. Age and dates of service are unknown. Navy Seabees E5 building roads and landing strips. Served in World War II. Lamine, MO was his hometown.

JACOB BAILEY

Bailey, on the left, is the younger brother to Woodrow. Around 18 in photo. He was a Pvt 1st Class. He served from February 1943-February 1946. Army Infantry, heavy machine gun operator. Received three Bronze Stars for Bravery Under Fire during World War II during major battles under Gen. Patton. Also operated a 30 caliber water cooled gun and was an ammo runner. Jacob and Woodrow met in California during their service and were hitch hiking when they were picked up and given a ride because it was unusual to see an Army GI and a Sailor together. Lamine, MO was also his hometown.



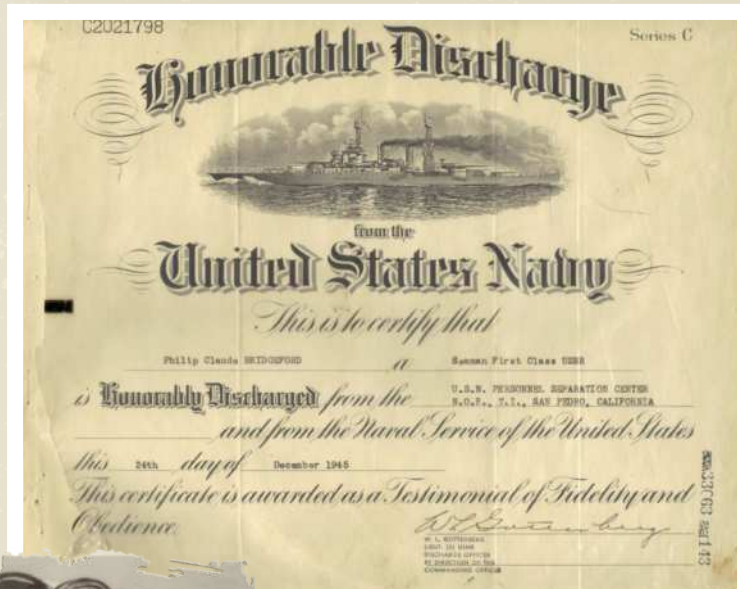
JACKIE R. BLANK

Blank was 18 in photo. Service dates: June 18, 1967-April 1970. He was deployed to Vietnam on Thanksgiving Day in 1967. He served there for two tours as head gunner on the 105, on the DMZ (De Militarized Zone). Blank was there during 3 Tet offenses. He received the Navy Unit Citation for Meritorious Valor, Marksman Medal, VietNam Campaign Ribbon. He was the son-in-law of Vancil Ranabargar.



TROY E. BLANK

Jackie R. Blank's son, age 18 in photo. Served from May 2008-May 2018. Rank in photo: Private. Attained rank of Sergeant prior to separation from service. He served two separate tours in Afghanistan. Blank also was a heavy equipment operator, building and repairing roads. He also build FOBs (Forward Operating Base) and Combat Outposts. He earned Expert Shooting badge among others.



PHILLIP CLAUDE
BRIDGEFORD

Bridgeford was 17 years old at enlistment. Hometown: Roscoe, California. He achieved the rank of Seaman First Class V-6 USNR (Rate 15165, AS, S2/c, S1/c) at the time of discharge. Foreign and Sea service during World War II. Served from October 7, 1942-December 24, 1945. He was awarded: Victory Medal World War II, Asiatic-Pacific Area- 3 stars and the Good Conduct Medal. Served on USS Draco. He received an honorable discharge.



LEE DONALD
(L.D.) BURTON

Burton was in the U.S. Navy from 1942-1946. He was 20 years old in photo. He served during World War II, off of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines. He moved to Boonville from Bevier to raise a family. LD's ship, the USS Johnston, was sunk during the war off of the Phillippine Islands. He spent 55 hours in shark-infested waters. As a result of this heroic battle, he was awarded a Purple Heart. LD is buried in Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville, MO.



DANIEL CARPENTER

Carpenter was part of the U.S. Marine Corp from 1979-1999. This photo was taken in 1996 when he was 40 years old. He ranked as a Major and served in the Desert Shield/Desert Storm War. His hometown is Boonville. He served with the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, aboard the USS Nassau, in 1990-1991. He led three public affairs offices from three Marines to 25 Marines in size. He received the Meritorious Service Medal.



LAURENCE "SKIP" CARPENTER

In 1953, Carpenter was 21 and a member of the U.S. Air Force. He was an Airman during the Korean War. He served from 1952-1956. Skip had several stories of his military experience and often said, "I wouldn't trade the experience for a million dollars, but I wouldn't go back for any amount of money." Skip left the service as an E-5 in 1956 and soon after made Boonville his home. After he passed at the age of 82, he was buried at Holder's Chapel Cemetery in Cool, Texas.



BILLY ROSS CHILDERS

United States Army World War II veteran. Armstrong, MO - hometown.



WILLIAM SANFORD CHILDERS

Childers is a Vietnam Army veteran. Armstrong, MO – hometown.



JOHN WILLIAM DODSON

Airman First Class Dodson is 18 in this photo. He was born in Howard County but grew up in Boonville. He joined the Air Force in 1954. He served his country from 1954-1959. He was stationed at Lake Charles Air Force Base in Louisiana. He was overseas in England for two years. He got out of the Air Force in 1959, but was in the Reserves until 1962.



HOWARD EMBRY

Embry was 19 in photo. Served as an SP4 in the U.S. Army, Aidman/Medical Services. Service dates: 1960-1962. Glasgow, MO – hometown.



**BARCLAY SCOTT
GAMEL**

Gamel served from 1987 to 1991 in the Marine Corp. His rank was Corporal. Aged 19 in photo. Boonville is his hometown.



**BRAYDEN
MICHAEL GAMEL**

Gamel enlisted in the Marine Corp in 2022 and is still serving. He is a Lance Corporal. He is 18 in photo.



**GARRETT SCOTT
GAMEL**

Gamel served from June 2015 to September 2020. He was a Sergeant in the Marine Corp. 18 years old in the photo. Boonville is his hometown.



ALBERT JOSEPH (JODY) GERHARDT

Jody was drafted into the Army in 1954. He took Basic Training at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas. He then had the honor of being chosen to go to Washington, D.C. to be a member of the Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery. He was responsible for guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Later he was deployed to Germany. While stationed there, he was able to visit his Gerhardt relatives and see where his Gerhardt grandparents lived before coming to America. He was honorably discharged in 1956, but remained in the Reserves for 6 more years. He received the rank of Sergeant.



HERMAN EDWARD (BUD) GERHARDT

Bud was drafted into the Army in 1951. He took Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He was then deployed to Europe where he was with the heavy equipment division. During deployment he was able to travel to Germany to visit Gerhardt relatives and see the birthplace of his grandparents before they immigrated to America. He reached a rank of Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1953.



ROBERT MICHAEL GRISSUM

SFC Grissum joined the U.S. Army in 2006 and is still active at Fort Leonard Wood, where he started his basic training. He then was on to Fort Benning, GA, then Vicenza, Italy, back to Fort Benning then Fort Leonard Wood.



ROBERT DONALD GRISSUM



REMEMBERING COOPER COUNTY'S HEROES

Cooper County memorializes the heroes from our area with memorial markers on the courthouse lawn.





**LANE
HAGEN-KEERAN**

In photo at the age of 18. He joined the Marines on September 12, 2022. He is still serving in Jacksonville, North Carolina.



LESTER M. HARMON

PFC Harmon is 21 years old in photo. He was drafted into the U.S. Army on October 9, 1951, did basic training in Virginia. Harmon was shipped overseas and stationed in France and Germany. He came home to Pilot Grove on September 16, 1953. Active duty: October 19, 1951-September 16, 1953. He was in the reserves until Honorably Discharged on February 13, 1960. Lester was a member the American Legion Honor Guard.



JAMES B. HODGES

Bunceton, MO native is 20 years old in this photo. Private First Class Hodges served in the Army from 1944-1946. He received the following medals: European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon, with three Bronze Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, three Overseas Bars, Glider Badge and Rifle Qualification. He fought in Central Europe, Rhineland Ardennes with the 101st Airborne Glider Division.



RONALD J. HODGES

Sergeant ES Hodges is 20 years old in the photo and Boonville is his hometown. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969-1971. He received the following medals: Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He fought with the 25th Infantry Reconnaissance Unit, Vietnam.



JD HOLMAN

In this photo, taken in 1950, Holman is 21 years old. He was a Private in the U.S. Army, during the Korean War. He served until 1952. Holman's purchase of German bread while getting supplies on assignment, cod-ed "Operation Frostbite." He was stationed in Germany and his main job was being the Jeep driver for superiors and supplies. He shared stories with his granddaughter about the "Good Ol Days" – from life in Smith-land, KY to Army life and courting his bride (even while deployed), to how they raised their family in Boonville.



**GEORGE MCCUE
LLEWELLYN HOLMES**

Holmes was born and raised in Boon-ville. He served in the U.S. Navy from 2003-2011. Petty Officer First Class ET1 USS John C. Stennis CVN74, Re-actor Department. Photo was taken in 2011.



**WALTER R.
HUNDLEY, JR.**

Hundley, Machine Gunner Light 604, is 21 years old in the photo. Hundley was a World War II veteran, serving Au-gust 15, 1944 to discharge on October 4, 1945. He received a Bronze Service Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal and World War II Victory Medal. Home-town – Boonville.



**Inspired by
their courage.
Humbled by
their sacrifice.
Blessed by their
service.**

**To all who have
served, past and
present,
thank you.**



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scdieselllc@gmail.com



BRANDON J. HURT

Boonville native Hurt graduated from Boonville High School in 2000. He was active in the U.S. Navy from 2003-2007. He served as a Petty Officer 3rd Class (ABE3) on the USS Abraham Lincoln. He is the son of Billy Hurt and Mary Lou Hurt of Boonville, MO



CLARENCE E. HURT

This photo was taken in 1943. Hurt served in the Marine Corp as a Lance Corporal E-4, from 1943-1946, in the South Pacific. His hometown was Boonville, MO.



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dwightsplumbing@outlook.com



MICHAEL P. HURT

This photo was taken in 1971. He served from 1970-1972 as a Sarge E-5 in the Army in Vietman. His hometown – Boonville, MO.

**ARTHUR KING IVY**

Serving with honor for the United States of America. In 1946, Ivy was 29. He served in the Army as a Sergeant during World War II, 1946-1947. Hometown – New Franklin, MO. “Best Grandpa! Everyone called him ‘King.’ Inspiration to so many!”

**EARL EDWARD
JAEGER**

Jaeger applied for the draft on July 1, 1941. He enlisted in the Army on August 19, 1942. When he was discharged on October 2, 1945, he ranked as Sergeant – Warrant Officer. His wife, Frances White Jaeger and their four daughters were Barbara Holtzclaw, Merilee Grigsby, Nancy Hoff and Kathleen Reed.

**ELMER HERALD JAEGER**

Elmer Herald Jaeger, U.S. Army Air Corp, was 20 in 1941, in this photo. He was a Lieutenant during World War II. He served from 1941-1945. Jaeger's hometown was Boonville. He attended pilot school and graduated as a pilot in 1943. He was sent to Carlsbad, New Mexico, to train fighter pilots for deployment overseas. Elmer passed away at the age of 93 and is buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Honoring Our
HOMETOWN HEROES



THOMAS WAYNE JAEGER

Jaeger's hometown was Boonville. He was 30 in 1975, when this photo was taken. He was part of the U.S. Army Special Forces, with a rank of Lieutenant Colonel (LTC). Jaeger was part of the U.S. Special Forces raid to free American prisoners of war from North Vietnamese prison camps during the Vietnam War. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Air Medal.



WAYNE HERALD "SKIP" JAEGER

In 1967, Jaeger was 19. He was an Airman 3rd Class in the U.S. Air Force. He served from 1966-1970. He called Boonville home. Skip was a heavy equipment operator. He trained at McCord AFB, Washington and then was stationed in Phu-Cat, Vietnam. He was part of the 819 Horse Squadron.



CLYDE G. JOHNSON

Johnson served for 20 years, 1941-1962, in the United States Marine Corps as a GySGT – Gunnery Sergeant. He was a lifelong resident of Cooper County. The younger photo was his USMC Basic Training Graduation photo. He left high school to enter the Marines. At a later date, the Marines allowed him to return to Boonville to finish and graduate, then he returned to serve in the Pacific during World War II.



**WILLIAM P.
JOHNSON**

This photo was taken in 2007. He is retired from the United States Army as a Colonel, May 1978-October 2009, 31+ years. Boonville, MO is his hometown. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at age 19 and was one of the youngest ever commissioned officer in the U.S. Army since 1978. The highest award he received was the Legion of Merit.



FAITH KEMP

Kemp was a Hospital Corpsman HM3/E4 when serving from March 1994 to March 1999. She was born and raised in Richmond, MO and calls Boonville, MO home.



FOREST KEMP

Kemp was in the U.S. Navy, Security Forces LT/O3E 6490 Retired. He served from July 1994-December 2015. He was born and raised in Richmond, VA, and calls Boonville his home. He served in enlisted ranks E1-E7 Chief before commissioning under the Limited Duty Officer program 649X.



HAROLD KEMP

Kemp is 18 in this photo His hometown is Boonville, MO. He was drafted and became a Private First Class, being drafted from 1945-1947, 120th AACs Sq. He went through Basic Training in Sheperd Field, Texas, schooled at Scott Field, IL and Langley Field, VA. He served in Adak, Aleutian Islands.



**RAYMOND LEE
(BUSTER) KUECKELHAN**

Corporal Kueckelhan was drafted into the Army in 1952. He took his Basic Training at Camp Crowder in Missouri. He was then stationed at Southwestern Signal Replacement Center at Camp San Luis Obispo, California. He was deployed to Japan during the Korean War where he was assigned as a mechanic until he was honorably discharged in 1954. Buster remained in the Army Reserve for six years following his discharge.



JAYME LACHNER

Lachner is 20 in this photo, taken between 2004-2006. Lachner was in the Navy, ranked as an E-3. Served during OIF/OEF. Service dates: 2004-2008. Hometown – Prairie Home, MO.

ARMED FORCES DAY

is celebrated the third Saturday in May. It is a holiday dedicated to honoring the armed forces. It was created in 1949 by President Harry Truman and first observed in 1950.

MEMORIAL DAY

is the observed on the last Monday in May. Originally known as Decoration Day, the first observance was in 1868 to honor those who were lost during the Civil War. The holiday specially honors those who have died while in military service.

VETERANS DAY

is observed annually on November 11. It originated in 1919 on the first anniversary of the end of World War I. It became a national holiday in 1938. It pays tribute to the service of all U.S. veterans



BILLY MIKE LEGRANT

LeGrant served from 1967-1971 in the U.S. Air Force as an Airman First Class. He was 19. On active duty 1968-1969 at the TET Offensive. He was stationed at Tuy-Hoa Vietnam. Hometown - Boonville, MO.



RAYMOND EDWARD MAUPIN



Maupin served from 1966-1968 in the U.S. Army, E-4, during the Vietnam War. He was 22 when graduating from Basic Training and 24 at the time of battle.

Message from granddaughter: Papa was so much more than a Veteran – he was the heart of our family. He served his country bravely in Vietnam, but his courage didn't stop there. At home, he lived with a deep sense of duty to the people he loved. He was strong, brave, kind and unshakably loving. He has a way of making everyone feel safe and seen.

He stood up for what was right without hesitation and never turned away from someone in need. Whether it was for his neighbors, his friends or total strangers, if there was a wrong to right, Papa was already there. He was our family's hero long before we ever knew the full extent of what he sacrificed overseas.

We lost him too soon – due to the lasting effects of Agent Orange and COVID in December 2020. But his legacy lives on in every act of love, every moment of quiet strength, and every stand taken for what's right. He was – and will always be – our whole world.

TIMELINE:

20TH CENTURY WAR ERAS

1900

1910

World War I

July 28, 1914 - Nov. 11, 1918

World War I began in 1914, after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, and lasted until 1918. During the conflict, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (the Central Powers) fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Japan and the United States (the Allied Powers). Thanks to new military technologies and the horrors of trench warfare, World War I saw unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction. By the time the war was over and the Allied Powers claimed victory, more than 16 million people -soldiers and civilians alike- were dead.

1920

1930

1940

1950

World War II

Sept. 1, 1939 - Sept 2, 1945

World War II was the biggest and deadliest war in history, involving more than 30 countries. Sparked by the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, the war dragged on for six years until the Allies defeated Nazi Germany and Japan in 1945.

Korean War

June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953

On June 25 1950, the Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China-or even, as some warned, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some 5 million soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the war. The Korean peninsula is still divided today.



TIMELINE:

20TH CENTURY WAR ERAS

Vietnam War

Nov. 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975

The Vietnam War was a long, costly and divisive conflict that pitted the communist government of North Vietnam against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States. The conflict was intensified by the ongoing Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. More than 3 million people (including over 58,000 Americans) were killed in the Vietnam War, and more than half of the dead were Vietnamese civilians. Opposition to the war in the United States bitterly divided Americans, even after President Richard Nixon ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973. Communist forces ended the war by seizing control of South Vietnam in 1975, and the country was unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the following year.

1960

1970

1990

1980

Gulf War

Aug. 2, 1990 - Feb. 28, 1991

The Persian Gulf War was an international conflict that was triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, ordered the invasion and occupation of Kuwait. The potential threat Iraq then posed to Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, prompted the United States and its western European NATO allies to rush troops to Saudi Arabia to deter a possible attack. Egypt and several other Arab nations joined the anti-Iraq coalition and contributed forces to the military buildup, known as Operation Desert Shield. A sustained aerial bombardment, named Operation Desert Storm, destroyed Iraq's air defenses. Operation Desert Sabre, an allied ground offensive, was launched on Feb. 24, and within three days, Arab and U.S. forces had retaken Kuwait City. Meanwhile, the main U.S. armored thrust drove into Iraq and attacked Iraq's armored reserves. By the time that U.S. President George Bush declared a cease-fire for Feb. 28, Iraqi resistance had collapsed.



KEMPER MILITARY SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

Boonville and Cooper County has had a long history of military service.

In June of 1844, Frederick T. Kemper opened the Boonville Boarding School, an all-male school designed to educate sons on the frontier.

What started as a one room schoolhouse, blossomed into a world-renowned institution in the century to come. By the fall of 1844, the school had grown to include over 50 students and continued to climb from there.

With the success of the school came changes to not only the school's campus but the name of the institution as well. Kemper changed the name of the school quire regularly from 1844 – 1899. It was known as Boonville Boarding School, Malle Collegiate Institute, Kemper Family School, Kemper & Taylor Institute, and finally Kemper Military School and College.

During the Civil War, the school was one of the only institutions to remain open. This was largely in part to Kemper's willingness to accept female students for the first time. Following the war, the school returned to an all-male establishment and would remain that way for the coming decades.

Kemper's successor, Thom-

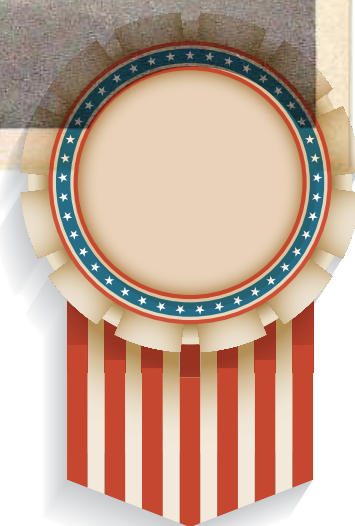
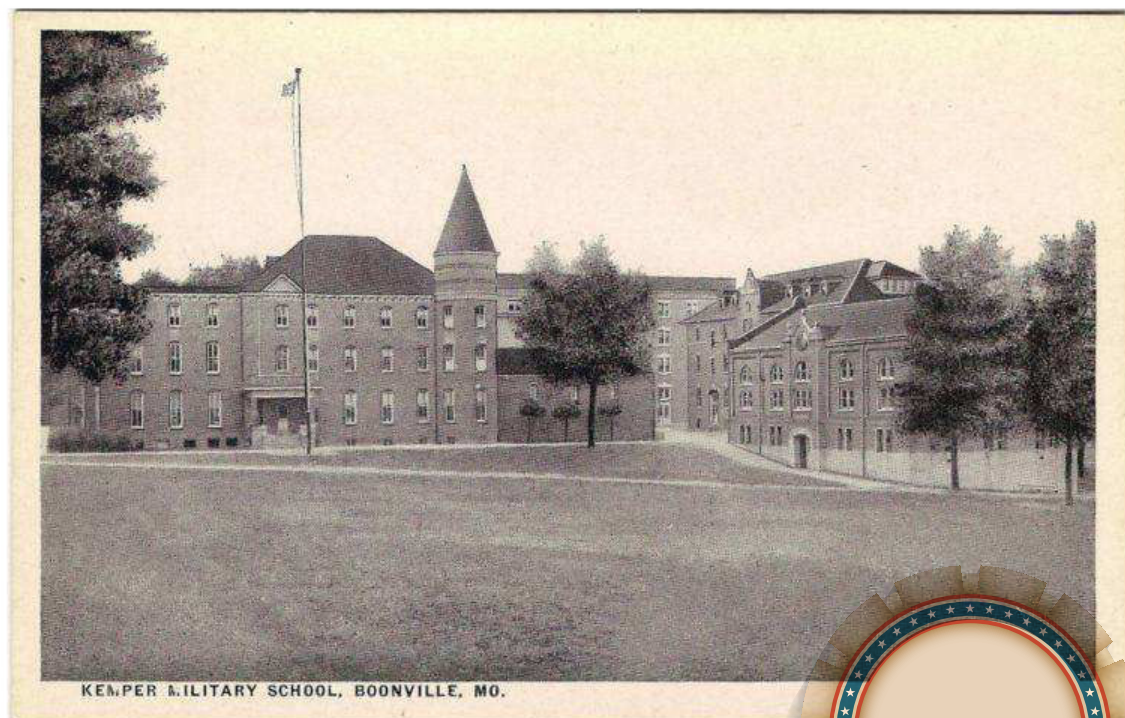
as Johnston, guided the school through its largest period of growth and helped it gain its national reputation. He oversaw the transition to a military school. From 1900 to 1925, the campus experienced more growth with the addition of B Barracks, Math Hall (originally a gymnasium), A Barracks, D Barracks, and Johnston Field House with indoor pool. Student enrollment soared during this time, with peak enrollment occurring during World War I and then again during the Vietnam War, reaching over 500 students.

Having survived the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American

War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, the school started to see a decline in enrollment in the late 20th century leading into the 21st century. Applying different tactics to try to raise enrollment: admitting female cadets, reviving a junior college football program, instating more liberal admission policies, the school was unable to weather the changes and attitudes in society and poor management practices.

The school shuttered its doors and closed in 2002.

Today the campus stands as a reminder what was once a world-wide institution. The property itself is now home to the Boonslick Heartland



YMCA, State Fair Community College – Boonville Campus, the Central Missouri Cancer Memorial Park, and the future home of the Boonslick Regional Library. A and D Barracks are undergoing renovation to become future senior housing.

If you close your eyes and listen closely, you can still hear the cadence of the cadets as they march across the parade field.



ALLISON MCGUIRE

McGuire is 18 in this photo. She was a Specialist in the Missouri Army National Guard, serving from May 2020-2024. Boonville, MO is her hometown.



JORDIN MCGUIRE

Jordin was 18 in this photo. Serving since May 2019, as a Specialist in the Missouri Army National Guard and Army Reserves. Boonville, MO is home.





ERNEST MCMILLIAN



BOBBY MEADOWS

Meadows was in the Army, killed in Vietnam. He was the son of retired Army Sergeant Bill and Marie Meadows. He would have graduated from Boonville High School in 1967.



Melkersman was a World War II veteran. His family consisted of Julia Melkersman, wife; Edward Melkersman, Joyce Melkersman Wessing and William Melkersman. He enlisted November 29, 1944 and was discharged August 22, 1946. He was 22 years old when he enlisted. Photo is a club he ran for enlisted men while in Germany.

WILLIAM E. MELKERSMAN

[illegible]



HERBERT JOHN NIEBRUEGGE

Niebruegge was 23 at the time this photo was taken. His rank: MOMM3C (Motor Machinist Mate 3rd Class) SV6 USNR. Served from January 23, 1945 to June 29, 1946. Lone Elm, MO was home. Niebruegge graduated from Boonville High School in 1941. He worked on the family farm until he was drafted in 1945. He received his training at Great Lake Naval Training Station and in San Diego as a Motor Machinist Mate. On his overseas duty, he served on the USS Cabell, a cargo supply ship taking reinforcements to service men stationed on US bases throughout the Pacific Islands and in Japan. He often stated he was "the only sailor in the US Navy that never learned to swim."



JERRY PULLIAM



SEAN M. PRIDGEON



Let us not forget the countless lives lost in the name of freedom, liberty, peace and justice. On Memorial Day and always, we remember the courage, service and sacrifice of our fallen heroes. We owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

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

– Anonymous



Public Health

Cooper County Public Health Center

Boonville, Missouri

17040 Klinton Drive, Boonville, MO

660-882-2626



Flags representing the branches of service line the driveway as veterans enter BHS for the annual Veterans Day program sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. **Photo by Laura Wax**

HONORING OUR LOCAL HEROES

For over 20 years, the Hannah Cole Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, along with the Boonville R-1 School District, holds a breakfast and program celebrating local veterans on Veterans Day.

The morning starts off early with an 8 a.m. breakfast served by members of the Boonville High School Student Council and National Honor Society. For veterans however, many begin filling the parking lot and lining up at the door as early as 7 a.m., before the DAR ladies or students are even there to let them inside. They are so eager to reminisce with friends, some of which they haven't seen since the previous year's program.

The annual program, held in Windsor Gymnasium, is something the administration, faculty, and staff at Boonville High School look forward to each year, as do the members of the Hannah Cole DAR. According to BHS Principal Dr. Brent Hodge, "this is a day that as a high school we look forward to every year. It is an opportunity to say thank you and to show our appreciation for the service of our country. We really want to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we hope to see you again next year."

Following breakfast, the veterans and their families move to the gym for the main program. Lead by the Student Council President, the annual event features a keynote speaker, the JROTC, Boonville High School Chamber



Air Force veterans stand to be recognized during the BHS Silver Pirate Band's performance of "Armed Forces Salute."

Photo by Laura Wax

Choir, Boonville High School Silver Pirate Band, BHS faculty, staff, and the Children of the American Revolution. Hannah Cole Primary Students lead the patrons in the Pledge of Allegiance.

One favorite part of the program each year is when the BHS Silver Pirate Band performs "Armed Forces Salute." During which, veterans are encouraged to stand, wave, cheer, whistle, etc. to show pride for their branch of service when their

song was played. Veterans are met with rounds of applause when they stand for their respective branches. Of the six branches of service, typically four are represented as the Coast Guard and newly formed Space Force do not generally have veterans present.

All area veterans and their families are welcome to attend. To receive an invitation, please call Boonville High School have the veterans name added to the annual invitation list.



The art department made commemorative seals for the branches of service. They are displayed during the annual Veterans Day program.

Photo by Laura Wax



The JROTC present the colors at the beginning of each Veterans Day presentation held at Boonville High School.

Photo by Laura Wax

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***Sincerely
thanks all of
our veterans
for their
service and
sacrifices.***

**JERRY QUINLAN**

In this photo, from August 1953, Quinlan is 20 years old. He was in the Army and served as a Corporal during Post Korean. He served from 1953-1955 and six years in the Reserves. Pilot Grove, MO was home before serving; Boonville, MO afterwards. He participated in the last 16 week cycle of basic training at Ft. Riley, KS, August-November, 1953 (now, this is an 8 week cycle). He served at Camp Hale, CO in the 10th Infantry Mountain Training – Mule Pack Division where he experienced cold weather survival skills, snow skiing and instructing, mountain climbing and repelling and mule pack outings – Missouri Mules, of course. He served at Fort Drum, NY as a cook. Quinlan boarded USS Latimer at Fort Devens, MA during a hurricane for amphibious-landing training at Norfolk, VA. He spent a tick-filled stint at Fort Bragg, NC, where he won a few boxing matches. Later in the reserves, he received a “letter of commendation” for running a “Superior Mess Hall” at Camp Ripley, MN.

Jerry and his wife, Loretta, have raised five children in Boonville. Their family includes fifteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Jerry left A&P Tea Co. as Head Meat Cutter in the early 1960s for a career in real estate as a Broker/Owner of Quinlan Agency. He served as past City Treasurer and as Cooper County Treasurer. He spent many nights coaching youth baseball teams and attending various activities of his family and friends. All of his family thank him for his service and his love!

HAPPY
VETERAN'S DAY
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



**CLETUS E. RANABARGAR**

Ranabargar is the oldest son of George E. Ranabargar. Age in photo: 18. He served from April 20, 1944 to June 11, 1946, during World War II and again during the Korean War from January 7, 1951 to January 4, 1955. He was from Blackwater, MO. Airman 2nd Class. He served in World War II, overlapping with his father and in the Korean War, overlapping with his younger brother.

**GEORGE E. RANABARGAR**

Ranabargar is 39 in this photo. He was drafted into World War II six months short of being too old to be drafted. He was from Blackwater, MO and served from January 1944 to May 1945 as Seaman Class I.

**VANCIL
RANABARGAR****WILLIAM G. (BILL)
RICHEY**

Richey served three active duty years – 1993 to 1996 following Optometry School. He was a Captain at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX.

**WILLIAM RICHEY**



LARRY ROBERTS

Roberts' hometown is Thayer, MO. He is 18 in this photo. He served in the 82nd Airborne Division as a U.S. Army Corporal. He served from 1985 to 1992 at Fort Bragg, NC and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.



This photo was taken in 1966 when Root was 21. He was part of the Army Transportation Company, earning the rank of Private during the Vietnam War and served in Germany from 1966-1968. Blackwater, MO is his hometown.



THOMAS ELDON ROOT



KRIS SCHMIDT

This photo was taken in 2021. Schmidt was 51 at the time. He serves in the National Guard as a 1st Sergeant. He served in Kosovo in 2008-2009, Afghanistan in 2011-2012 and Kuwait 2017-2018. Currently residing in Otterville, but he grew up in Tipton. Schmidt has numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), the Army Achievement Medal (5th Award), Army Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award), the Reserve Component Achievement Medal (7th Award), the Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with 2 Campaign Stars, the Article 5 NATO Medal (2nd Award), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (3rd Award), the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon (3rd Award), the Missouri Basic Training Ribbon and a Meritorious Unit Citation.



THEODORE P. SCHNEIDER

Schneider was a Sergeant in World War II PH. SGT 231 ARMD. He was born December 21, 1918 and died October 23, 1944. He was the son of Emil and Marie Schneider.



EVAN J. SCHUSTER

Schuster has lived in Boonville all his life. He was part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2009-2010 and the Army National Guard from 2005-2012.



RICARD T. SMITH

Smith was born in Boonville in July 1888 in the family quarters of the Cooper County Jail. His parents were Sheriff Leslie Smith and Fanny Thompson Smith, both from Boonville families. Smith was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for bravery by General "Black Jack" Pershing during World War I while serving in France. This photo is of the battlefield ceremony, taken in 1917. Smith would have been in his late 20s at that time. He died in Kansas City in 1962.

Major Ricard Smith served in World War I in France with the Rainbow Division of the American Expeditionary Force. He commanded the 117th Field Battalion Signal Corps and was decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre by France. His wife, Bethine Smith, donated his papers, medals and photographs to the World War I Museum in Kansas City, MO.



HARPER STOCK

Age 21 in photo, Stock is a Lance Corporal E3 in the Marines, stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC. He is presently serving, beginning March 4, 2024. Boonville is his hometown.



TED STOCK

Stock was in the Army as a SPEC 4, third recon sqdn 14th A/C BAD Hersfeld Germany. He served from January 17, 1967 to December 22, 1968. He is 20 in this photo and Boonville is his hometown.



GEORGE E. TROUPE

Bunceton is Troupe's hometown. He was in the United States Marine Corps, ranking as Sergeant of Ammunitions, 1980-1984. He was stationed at Paris Island, SC and Camp Schwab, Okinawa. Picture was taken at USMC boot camp in



San Diego, CA. He was 22 on his birthday, then he went into the Marine Corps on March 13, 1979 and honorably discharged on November 5, 1985.



JOSEPH G. TURLEY

Turley, 1969-1973, two tours of Vietnam Conflict, DCFN, (BLUE WATER NAVY), 20 years old in photo from Boonville, MO.



WILLIAM PAUL TURLEY

1922-1991. Lamine, Cooper Co., MO. WWII Army - Tech/4. Served 1943-1946. Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon, American Theater Campaign Ribbon.



JOHN, CHAD AND SHANE TWENTER

Photo shows John, his wife and their two sons, Chad (left) and Shane. Taken September 2009 after Shane graduated from boot camp.

John and wife.

Chad (left) and Shane (right) while they were both stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC.

John is a Marine Corps Veteran serving from 1984 until 1988. Lori also served in the Marine Corps from 1985-1989. John served as a Bulk Fuelman and Lori was an Admin Clerk. They were both stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC and both received honorable discharges, both ranking as

Corporal (E4). They moved to Boonville after being discharged from the Marine Corps.

Chad, still active duty, joined the Marine Corps in 2006 after graduating from Boonville High School. After boot camp and Marine Combat Training, he went to Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood. He has been stationed in North Carolina, California, Okinawa, Virginia and Kentucky. Serving in Afghanistan and on a MEU. After obtaining his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, he was selected to the Officer Candidate School in Quantico, VA and

attended Officer Military Police School, also at Fort Leonard Wood. His current rank is Captain.

Shane joined the Marine Corps after graduating from Boonville High School in 2009. After boot camp and Marine Combat Training, he went to Aberling Proving Grounds, Maryland for welding school. He was sent to 8th Engineers Support Battalion, Camp Lejeune, NC. He served two tours in Afghanistan and was honorably discharged in 2013 as a Corporal.



FRANK H. VIERRA

Vierra was a EM3 (Electrician Mate 3rd Class). The head and shoulders picture was taken shortly after boot camp. The other was taken at the gang plank of the USS Chanticleer shortly after returning from the WestPac cruise.



AUGUST W. WASSMANN

Wassmann served in the U.S. Army from 1942-1945. Aged 34 years in photo. He received the following medals: Good Conduct Medal and five Overseas Bars. He was stationed at the 33rd Station Hospital as a Medical Technician, Private First Class.



GEORGE (EDDIE) WASSMANN

Wassmann is 18 years old in this photo. He served in the U.S. Army, 1969-1970. He had his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, advanced training in artillery at Fort Sill, OK. He served in Vietnam, worked as PLL Clerk (parts clerk in motor pool). He was honorably discharged in December 1970 with rank of E-4.



RYAN WATRING

Specialist Ryan Watring (18) U.S. Army National Guard from Blackwater, MO. He was a Sergeant upon discharge. He served as an MP (Military Police), received Expert Rifle and Pistol Badges along with an Airborne Badge. Grandson to Jacob Bailey and great-grandson to George Ranabargar.



Watts was a Corporal in the U.S. Army. His hometown was Boonville and he served from December 12, 1944 to November 18, 1946. Watts always said that Harry Truman "saved his ass" by dropping the bomb as his unit had just been deployed to Luzon, Philippines, in anticipation of the next massive ground assault. He received the following medals: Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, Japan Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon, Bronze Battle Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Victory Medal. He ended his service as a Driver for a General and was proficient with a rifle and all other weapons as required. He is approximately 20 years old in the photo.

In photo with several men, Watts is top left.

With Japanese lady, Watts in on the left.

RAYMOND WATTS



UNITED STATES VICTORY-ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO
FROM YOKOHAMA, JAPAN
SEPTEMBER 26, 1945





GROVER FRANKLIN WILLIAMS

Williams served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He is 19 years old in this photo. He served as a Staff Sergeant from 1940-1945. He completed basic training at Ft. Logan, CO and was assigned to the USS Dorchester Troupship Army 18th Engineers, CO B in the European Theater. His hometown was Clarksburg, MO (Cotton Community). He also had 3 brothers serving in World War II.



JAMES ROBERT WILLIAMS

Clarksburg, MO (Cotton Community) was home for this 26 year old Williams. He served as a PFC in the U.S. Army during World War II, from 1942-1945. He was stationed at New Guinea, Bismark, Archipelago and Luzon. He was a Military Police in the 782 Engineer Co. He was one of four brothers serving in World War II.



PAUL REED WILLIAMS

Williams is 19 in this photo. His hometown was Clarksburg, MO (Cotton Community). He had three brothers serving at the same time. Williams was in the U.S. Navy, during World War II as a SK2C, from April 23, 1943-June 4, 1946. He attended boot camp in Farragut, Idaho; Service School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center and Amphibious Training Base at Little Creek, VA. He went aboard the USS Satyr (ARL23) at Mayport, FL. He served in the Pacific and Occupation of Japan.



**PORTER BRENT
WILLIAMS**

Williams served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He is 33 in this photo. Bunceton, MO (Cotton Community) was his hometown. He served from April 15, 1942 to November 3, 1945. He was at Ft. Robinson, Arkansas for basic training. He was part of the 25th Infantry as Medic in the 46th General Hospital, CO B 105th. He served in England, France, Germany, Belgium and Normandy. In April, 2009, he was awarded the State of MO "WWII Veteran's Medal for Patriotic Service" and "Jubilee of Liberty". He celebrated his 100th birthday on August 17, 2009. He also had three brothers who served in World War II.



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VICTOR KELLY
WILLIAMS

Williams is 19 in this photo. His home was in Bunceton, MO (Cotton Community). He served from 1948-1952 in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He attended boot camp in Arkansas. He served as a Cpl. E4 Infantry E-Com. 29th Co., Chief Cook. He received the following medals: Japan Army of Occupation, Korean Service Medal with 3 Bronze Combat Stars, Korean Presidential Citation, Good Conduct Medal for GO #2 HQ 10th Infantry Regiment and Combat Infantry Badge.



Thank You, Veterans!

We salute your service, *and wish you a* happy Veterans Day.

FALLEN SOLDIERS REMEMBERED AND HONORED

Often, fallen and missing soldiers are remembered at Veterans Day with a special table.

The Fallen Solider table is a tribute to those members of arms missing from our midst. It is a way of honoring the members of arms missing from our midst. The tradition started in the Vietnam era out of concern and respect for all those soldiers who died and those who were Missing in Action or Prisoners of War. It is meant to remind those present viewers of those

fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. Military Service Members.

The table is reserved to honor fallen comrades. It is traditionally set for one, to show the fragility of the missing or fallen soldier. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase a top the tablecloth reminds us of the blood that those service members have shed on

our behalf. It also reminds us of the life of each of our fallen comrades, and the loved ones and friends of these comrades who keep the faith. They are held in the highest respect for that's what they deserve. The vase is tied with red and yellow ribbons. The yellow ribbon represents loyalty in waiting for those who are serving away from home. While a red ribbon symbolizes the memory of and search for those missing in action.

The glass is inverted, because they cannot toast with us at this time. A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the duty of the bitter fate of those captured or missing in a foreign land, and who will never return. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by the families of those who have sacrificed all.

The lit candle stands tall to reflect our hope for their return, either alive or dead. The bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as "One Nation Under God". The chair is empty because they are no longer with us."

Fallen Solider or Missing Man tables, are sometimes adorned with hats of the branches of service

The remembrance ended with lines from the poem 'For the Fallen' (1914) by Laurence Binyon. "They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."

To those fallen or missing, "you have done your duty. To honor you, is ours."



The Fallen Solider table is in honor of those who fell or are missing from our midst.

Photo by Laura Wax



CASINO • HOTEL
BOONVILLE

A CAESARS REWARDS DESTINATION

“ WE DON’T KNOW
THEM ALL, BUT WE
OWE THEM ALL. ”

