

# Veterans Day

## 2024

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Star  Journal

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to  
**Veterans**



Navy veteran Thomas Gage of Ionia is proud of his 20 years in the Navy aboard carriers USS Forrestal and USS Carl Vincent. Gage is retired with his wife Deborah.

PHOTO BY CHRIS HOWELL | DEMOCRAT

# Navy veteran Thomas Gage proud of service on aircraft carriers

By Chris Howell  
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

**N**avy veteran Thomas Gage lives in Ionia, but grew up in Alamogordo, New Mexico. After graduating high school in 1975, he decided to follow his brother's footsteps and enlist in the military.

"My brother did it first," Gage said. "I wasn't real crazy about the other branches of service, so the Navy took me and I went. I started out as an Aviation Boatswain's handler; I handled the aircraft on the flight deck."

Gage worked on aircraft carriers, and it was his job to make sure planes were transported safely from place to place.

"I was Tractor King, I was the lead for all the tractor drivers," Gage said. "We were the ones that moved all the aircraft up on the flight deck. I did that for two years before I got out of the Navy in '79."

Gage served on both the USS Forrestal and USS Carl Vincent carriers over his 20 year career.

"It's a floating city, it's all self-

contained; we make our own water, we make our own power, the only thing we don't do is grow our own food," Gage said. "We load up and can carry enough supplies to get us through at least six months."

Only stopping for food occasionally, the ships could remain at sea for months.

"The only fuel that the nuclear carriers take on is flight fuel," Gage said. "They don't take on fuel for the boat because it's all nuclear power."

After his first four years in the Navy, Gage decided to try civilian life.

"I got out for nine months and said working in the oil field's too much like work and went back in," Gage said. "That was 1980, I finished out my career, did 20 years altogether."

Gage returned to the service as an Aviation Structural Mechanic and worked on structures and hydraulics of the aircraft.

"I did a lot more because I got qualified," Gage said. "I also had a brief time down in the arresting gear." Gage said. "But I didn't like the grease."



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Gage worked on the cable system used to stop landing aircraft.

"I caught the first F-14 that landed on the USS Forrestal," Gage said. "The arresting gear is just under the flight deck. It's big and it weaves the cable up to the flight deck. I ran the hydraulic side of it below decks."

The work took a team of qualified men to load and reset the arrestor after each launch and landing.

"I set the tension on it, the guy up on the flight deck that's watching everything from the catwalk he's the one that actually does the braking," Gage said. "Then down the end you've got a guy we call the hook runner, he makes sure that the cable comes off the hook, the cable comes back, and we do it all over again."

Gage said the Navy gave him opportunities he never imagined back in New Mexico.

"If you don't know what you want to do, the military is the way to go because you can learn a lot and not pay a dime," Gage said. "They'll send you to school, they'll train you, it's a great experience and it can make a man and a woman out of you."

The experience is waiting, it just takes

the right person to take advantage of the opportunity.

"It's all what you make of it," Gage said. "It can be tough, long hours, but things on the newer carriers are a lot better. You have good camaraderie, everybody knows when you pull away from port that the survival of everybody on the boat depends on camaraderie, the crew working together and just doing your job."

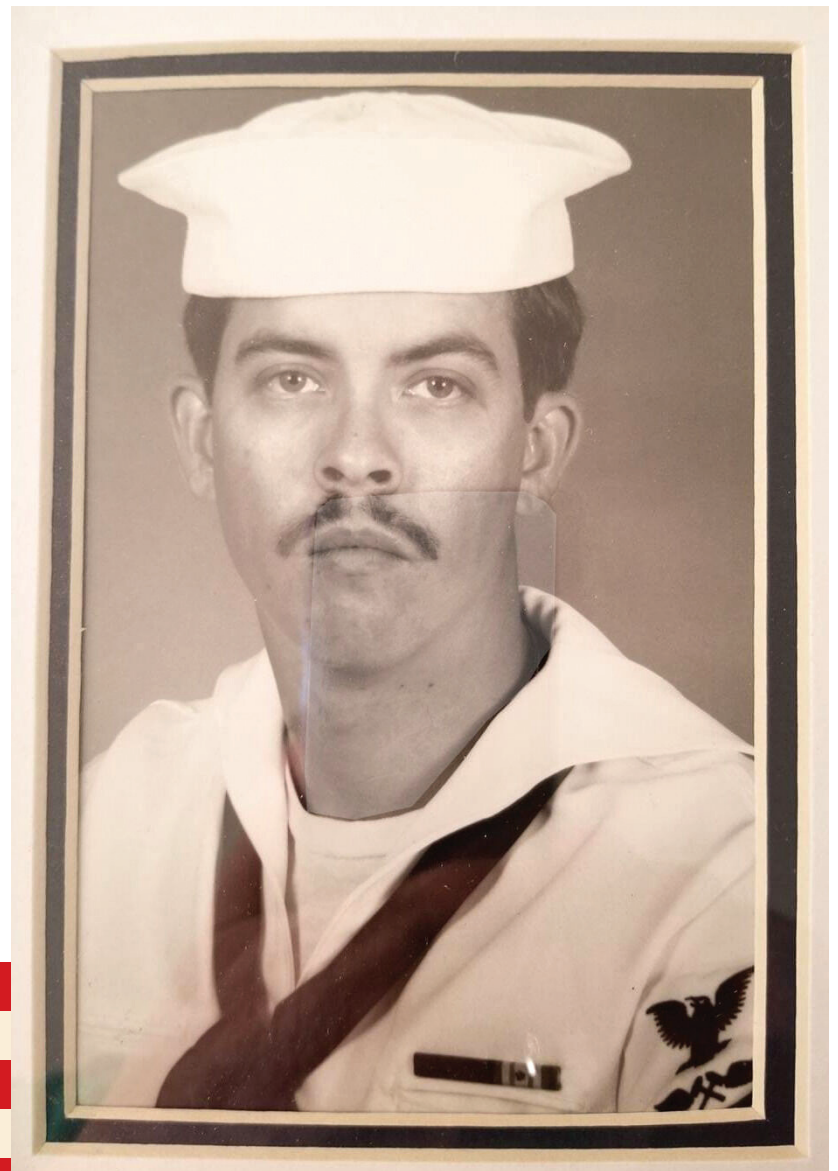
Gage gained confidence in his abilities and found his place in a carrier with over 5,000 other crew.

"I'm proud of the service that I performed," Gage said. "I was kind of one step ahead and one step behind being in conflicts, but I support our men and women that are in the military, I worked with a lot of them out of Whiteman, I worked with a lot of them over in Afghanistan because I was a contractor over there."

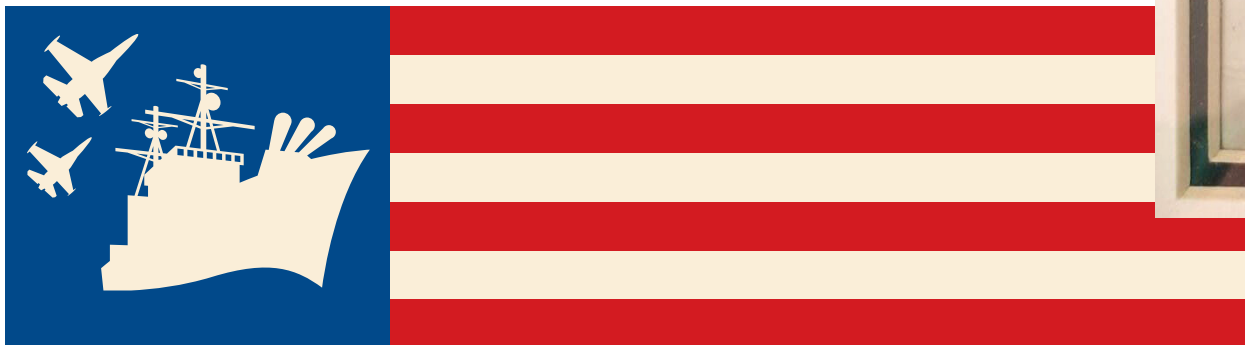
Gage's brother, Fred, also had a distinguished career and put 29 years into the service. Gage also has a son-in-law in a tanker squadron.

He loves spending time with his wife Deborah, playing with his grandkids and riding his Harley.

Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.



USN Aviation Boatswain Handler Thomas Gage was a 'Tractor King' on navy flight decks moving planes from one location to another. PHOTO COURTESY THOMAS GAGE



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# Retired Marine Corps Major John Schwent helps veterans find purpose after their service

By Zach Bott  
zachb@warrensburgstarjournal.com

**J**ohn Schwent admits that, like many teens about to graduate from high school, he didn't know where his life was going.

Growing up in Arkansas with his single mother to rely on, he wanted a sense of direction and belonging.

All signs from his family tree pointed him toward serving for his country.

"My grandfather was a World War II veteran in the Navy and I had uncles in (the) Vietnam (War)," Schwent said. "We were a very patriotic family."

Schwent's turning point was after a chat with his cousin, who was four years into his service in the Marine Corps and had returned home on leave.

"(He said) training with a bunch of other Marines was tough. I'm an athletic guy, so I excelled when being challenged," Schwent said. "He convinced me that the Marines were the best, and I wanted to be part of the best."

Schwent was 17 when he signed up for the Marine Corps in 1986 and headed off to San Diego for boot camp. Afterward, he was shipped off to Jacksonville, North Carolina, the home of the 246-square-mile Camp Lejeune.

"I spent about six years in North Carolina, end up deploying on a warship in

1990 and also the USS Saipan," Schwent said. "(We) ended up getting called out of the Mediterranean (Sea) to go take part in what would be called Operation Sharp Edge in Monrovia, Liberia."

As the First Liberian Civil War broke out in Dec. 1989, U.S. diplomats and citizens were refused exit from the country through the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. Navy and Marines were tasked with Operation Sharp Edge, a noncombatant evacuation of the embassy. The 22nd and 26th Marine Expeditionary Units evacuated personnel and were supported by the USS Saipan, Schwent, and other U.S. ships.

The evacuation was completed in Jan. 1991, and almost 2,500 people were safely evacuated out of Liberia.

Schwent returned to the U.S. from that deployment for independent duty at a Marine Corps reserve duty station in Alabama. However, three days after checking in, his unit was mobilized to California in support of Operation Desert Shield.

"We were going to get a five-week desert package before we took our artillery unit overseas," Schwent said.

Schwent's unit was not sent to Iraq to help in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. Instead, they returned to Alabama, where Schwent decided to pursue the college education he had missed when he joined the Corps.



John Schwent



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“While in Alabama, where I had been three years there, I submitted some paperwork to be to become an officer. It was the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP),” Schwent said.

MECEP students like Schwent were allowed to attend a four-year college full-time while maintaining active-duty status. Schwent chose the University of Memphis for his bachelor’s degree in finance and graduated in 1996.

“By the time I graduated from college, and I got commissioned as the second lieutenant, and I’d been in about 11 years at that point, and (soon) I was a staff sergeant.”

Schwent was 28 at the time he became a staff sergeant. He retained his role as a Marine Corps officer for 12 years, working as Deputy Director of the Marine Corps Total Force Systems and remaining active in marksmanship as the officer in charge of the Kansas City Marine shooting team.

He also earned a master’s degree in business administration from Webster University in 2002 and a master of science degree in information systems from Naval Postgraduate School in 2003.

Schwent retired as a Major in Dec. 2008 at his last station at Richards-



Gebaur in Kansas City. Liking his surroundings, Schwent decided to stick around and live in Missouri.

“I loved a small town,” Schwent said. “I’ve been in San Diego, Chicago, Atlanta, and Dallas, (but) I’m attracted to just a smaller, more rural area and I love the outdoors, hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and you have all of that stuff here.”

After retiring from the Marines Corps, Schwent’s adventures never seemed to stop.

In 2009, he became the Chief Executive Officer of Iron County Hospital (now Iron County Medical Center) in Pilot Knob.

“The hospital was failing and it was recommended that I give it a shot,” Schwent said. “You know, I’m not a hospital guy, but it just comes down to leadership.”

Putting his degrees and past leadership experiences to the test, Schwent helped get the hospital back on its feet before he retired from the position in 2012.

“It was a four-and-a-half-year-old hospital, (but during those) four and a half years, it only had four profitable months,” Schwent said. “I came in and revamped everything, and we went 27 consecutive months in the black and the hospital became stable.”

Schwent served as head coach of the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Shooting Team which won 65 medals over four Warrior Games, a Para-Olympic competition for all military services, from 2010 through 2014. He has also served as the head coach of the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) Wounded Warrior Shooting Team since 2016.

However, throughout all his successes, Schwent’s *pièce de résistance* was the creation of Camp Valor Outdoors.

Beginning in 2013, Camp Valor Outdoors in Kingsville, serves as a getaway for wounded and disabled veterans and veterans with PTSD.

Through outdoor activities like art, beekeeping, hunting and competitive shooting, retired veterans—both young and old—can share their service experiences with like-minded individuals, compete in friendly competitions, and find peace of mind.

“It’s saving lives and changing lives, both the combination of active duty and veterans who participate,” Schwent said. “Seeing how adaptive sports and the outdoors had such an impact on their lives, that was kind of what was going through my mind when I started up Camp Valor Outdoors.”

Schwent, a 23-year Marine Corps veteran, saw the firsthand effects of being a serviceman occur with his fellow Marines, some of whom he has lost to suicide.

This experience motivated him to lead a hospital, to coach the Wounded Warrior Shooting Team, and ultimately to start Camp Valor Outdoors.

“It’s very fulfilling to see these warriors come through our program and be hesitant to open up and be standoffish and to see how once they get together they realize, ‘I’m not different here. They’re just like me. I’m not alone,’” Schwent said. “Oftentimes, they’re not getting what they need at the (Veteran’s Affairs office), but because we’re veterans, they tell you they’re so thankful for providing this opportunity.”

Camp Valor Outdoors is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with programs for retired veterans that include shooting sports, fishing events and its newly established honeybee program that produced 650 pounds of honey last year, with all sales being reused to buy equipment to produce more.

The organization is also building tiny homes for homeless veterans in Kingsville. It is aiming to build 10 completed homes along with a community center fit with washers, dryers and desktop computers.

“I’m the one receiving the gift of joy when I see the difference in their lives and the smiles on their faces,” Schwent said. “I could tell you stories about what these guys have shared. They were suicidal, and they were just waiting to get here. The only thing that held them was the knowledge that they had an event to attend with other people like them, and that was what they held on to hope for.”

For more information or to volunteer your time at Camp Valor Outdoors, visit its website [campvaloroutdoors.org/](http://campvaloroutdoors.org/) or Facebook page.

Zach Bott can be reached at 660-747-8123.

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E-4 James Marcum  
Army  
1969-1970  
Vietnam



Master Sgt. Adam Marcum  
Army  
2008-Present  
Afghanistan



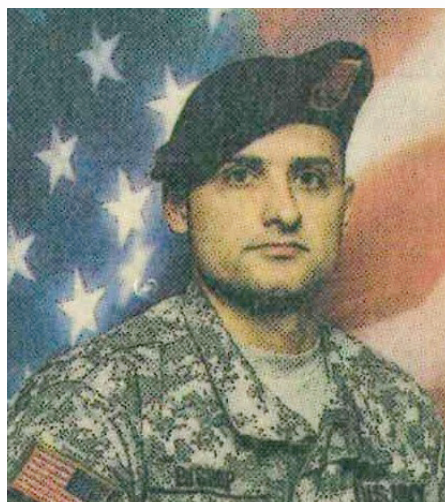
E-4 George Marcum  
Army  
1969-1970  
Vietnam War



Maj. Jerry Ricker  
Army Security Agency  
1965-1967  
Vietnam



Pfc. Gwen Fields  
US Army  
1974-1976



Staff Sgt. E-6 Aaron C. Bishop  
Army  
1995-2015



E-4 Adam Ramey  
Army  
2002-2005



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**Capt. Dr. Alan Allmon**  
Army  
1972-1975



**Alexander Kresse**  
Army  
Spc. E-4  
2016-2020



**Spc. 4 Alvin P. Franklin**  
Army  
1965-1968  
Vietnam



**Staff Sgt. Bill Parris**  
Army  
1981-1995



**Lt. Col. Bryan Tippie**  
Army  
1968-1989  
Vietnam War



**Capt. Cecil Farris**  
American Expeditionary Forces |  
France  
1917-1919  
World War I



**E-4 Charles Bond**  
Army  
1942-1944  
World War II



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*Sergeant 1st Class Logan Gleason ★ Pvt 2nd Class Riggin Anderson*

*US Marine Corps Cpl Taylor Evans*





Spc. E-4 Brandon Folsom  
(no pic)  
Army



Staff Sgt. E-7 Carl A. Green  
(no pic)  
Army



Spc. 4 Charles Ed Sanders  
Army  
1967-1969



Charles H. Smith  
Army  
1945-1947  
World War II



Cpl. Christopher A. Bemiss  
Army  
2001-2007  
Afghanistan and Iraq



Command Sgt. Maj. David C. Gail  
Army  
1987-2021  
Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation  
Spartan Shield; Operation Enduring  
Freedom



Spc. David Desmond  
Army  
2014-2019

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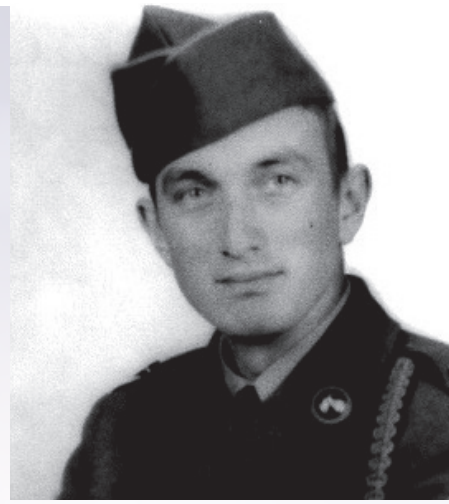




Sgt. David Henderson  
Army  
1969-1971  
Vietnam War



Sgt. E-5 David Scheid  
Army  
1969-1970  
Vietnam



Sgt. Donald G. Thiele  
Army  
1952-1954  
Korean War



Sgt. David A. Bishop (no photo)  
Army/Air Force

ARMY



Tech. Sgt. Homer C. Anderson  
Army Air Corps  
1942-45



Sgt. Homer "Mutt" Embree  
Army  
World War II



Cpl. Jack D. Daleen  
Army Artillery Division  
1952-1954  
Korean War



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# ARMY



Spc. 5th Class Jack Vansell  
Missouri National Guard  
1953-1960



Spc. 5 James Dale  
Army  
1967-1969  
Vietnam War



2nd Lt. James Farrow  
Army/Navy  
1971-2015  
Vietnam War



Staff Sgt. Jesse L. (Jake) Summers  
85th Army Infantry  
1943-1946  
World War II



Cpl. John J. Cornine  
Army  
1943-1945  
World War II



Spc. Karlie Shockley  
Specialist  
2014-2018



Sgt. Kenneth Blen  
Army  
2001-22



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E-4 Kent Schroeder  
Army  
1972-1973



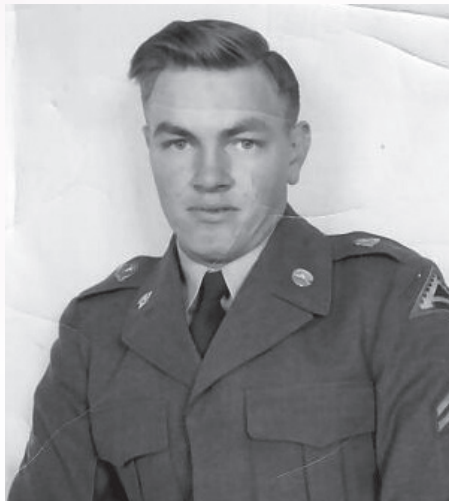
Spc. Khristian Green  
Army  
2012-2023



Maj. Lara Briseno-Kenney  
Army  
2004-2011



Sgt. 1st Class Larry Elliott  
Army/Army National Guard  
1966-1991  
Vietnam War



LeRoy L. Bugh  
Army  
1953-1955



Capt. Mendy (Rinehart) Peters  
Army  
1997-2003



Sgt. Michael Jones  
Army  
1991-2018



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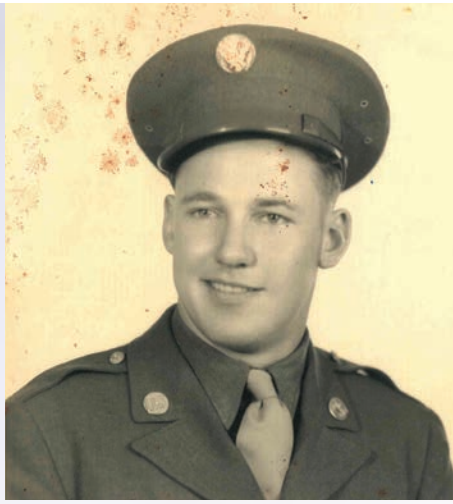
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Tech. 5 Orville F. Jennings  
Army  
1942-1945  
World War II



Spc. E-4 Paul R. Watring  
Army  
1961-1964



Philip A. McGivney  
Union Forces  
Civil War



Ralph A. Kurtz  
Army  
1943-1948  
World War II



Sgt. Randall Woods  
Army  
2008-2013  
Operation Iraqi Freedom



Ray Bell  
Army  
1981-1992



Staff Sgt. Raymond Warbritton  
Army  
1944-1946



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Spc. 4 Rick Dyer  
Army  
1969-1971  
Vietnam



Capt. Rik Hill  
Army  
1981-1994



Staff Sgt. E-6 Oscar Lee Green  
(no photo)  
Army  
1974-1994



Pvt. Raymond Bell  
Army  
1957-1958  
Korean War



Sgt. Robert L. Hicks  
Army  
1968-1982  
Vietnam War



Pfc. Robert F. Inman  
Army  
1943-1945  
World War II



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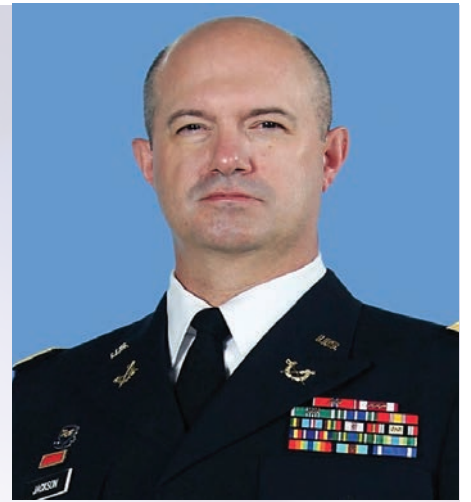
Sgt. Robert L. Bohm  
Army  
1966-1968  
Vietnam War



E-5 Ronald W. Anderson  
Army  
1968-1971



Lt. Col. Russell H. Miller  
Army  
World War II



Lt. Col. Russell Jackson  
Army  
Iraq and Afghanistan  
1997-2020



Sgt. Shane Cowgill  
Army National Guard  
1996-2011



Sgt. E-5 Thomas Arley Taylor  
Army  
1958-1961



Staff Sgt. Tom Fairfax  
Army  
1983-1990



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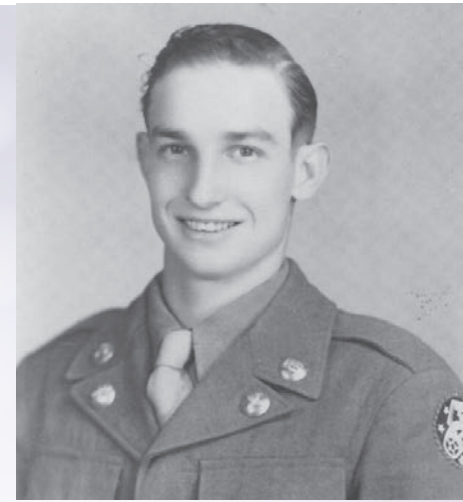
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Spc. 5th Class Virgil Kurtz  
Army  
1958-1961



Cpl. Walter E. Bopp  
Army  
1942-1945  
World War II



Pfc. William E. Howe Sr.  
Army Air Corps  
1940-1942  
World War II



1st Sgt. William M. Jackson  
Army  
1942-1945  
World War II



Staff Sgt. William T. Parris  
Army  
1981-1995  
Operation Desert Storm

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 And to build the Nation's might,  
 And The Army Goes Rolling Along  
 Proud of all we have done,  
 Fighting till the battle's won,  
 And the Army Goes Rolling Along.  
 Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!  
 The Army's on its way.  
 Count off the cadence loud and strong (TWO! THREE!)  
 For where e'er we go,  
 You will always know  
 That The Army Goes Rolling Along.  
 Valley Forge, Custer's ranks,  
 San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks,  
 And the Army went rolling along  
 Minute men, from the start,  
 Always fighting from the heart,  
 And the Army keeps rolling along.  
 Men in rags, men who froze,  
 Still that Army met its foes,  
 And the Army went rolling along.  
 Faith in God, then we're right,  
 And we'll fight with all our might,  
 As the Army keeps rolling along.



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## Missouri Veterans Home-Warrensburg

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Mental health care: 573-814-6486

## Warrensburg VA Clinic

702 E. Young Ave., Warrensburg  
Main phone: 816-922-2165  
Mental health care: 816-861-4700 ext. 52641

## Jefferson City VA Clinic

3430 W. Edgewood Drive, Jefferson City  
Main phone: 573-635-0233  
Mental health care: 573-635-0233

## Sedalia VA Clinic

981 Winchester Drive, Sedalia  
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Mental health care: 660-826-3800

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canLegionPost131

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warrensburgvfwpost2513.org  
www.facebook.com/VFWPost2513Warrens-  
burgMO

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vets@ucmo.edu  
www.ucmo.edu/future-students/military-and-  
veterans-services

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Hopkins Student Services Center Room 736  
finaid@sfccmo.edu  
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www.sfccmo.edu/admissions-financial-aid/finan-  
cial-aid-and-veteran-services

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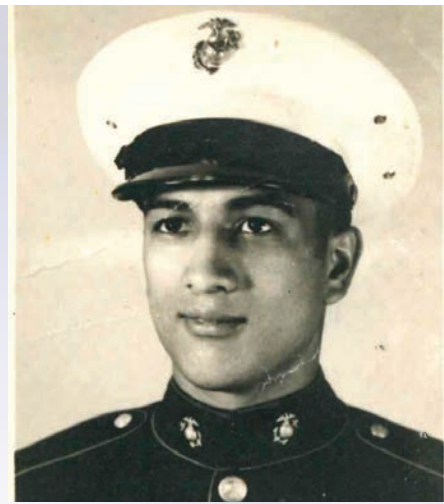
Sgt. Bart Kuhns  
Marines  
1987-1991



Lance Cpl. Chance Jennings  
Marines  
2018-2022



Sgt. Cordel E. Bell (no pic)  
Marines



Cpl. Earnest Buso  
Marines  
1954-1957



Gunnery Sgt. Brian Dyer  
Marines  
1998-2019  
Operation Enduring Freedom



Sgt. Kristin (Pack) Dyer  
Marines  
2010-2017



Gunnery Sgt. Larry Gray  
Marines  
Vietnam War



Sgt. E-5 James E. Inman  
Marines  
1956-1961



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Maj. John Schwent  
Marines  
1986-2008



Hospital Man 3rd Class Lynn R. Middleton  
United States Navy  
Marines/Navy  
1967-1971  
Vietnam War



Sgt. Randell L. Baugus  
Marines  
1968-1970  
Vietnam War



Robert L. Rinehart  
Marines  
1962-1966  
Vietnam War



## THE MARINES' HYMN

From the Halls of Montezuma  
To the shores of Tripoli;  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land, and sea;  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title  
Of United States Marine.  
Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in every clime and place  
Where we could take a gun;  
In the snow of far-off Northern lands  
And in sunny tropic scenes,  
You will find us always on the job  
The United States Marines.  
Here's health to you and to our Corps  
Which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve.  
If the Army and the Navy  
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded  
By United States Marines.



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Alexandria Roberts  
Navy  
2014-2024



E-7 Austin Freed  
Navy  
2017-2023



E-7 Bruce Meyer  
Navy  
1972-1994  
Vietnam War



MoMM3c Clarence Hohne  
Navy  
1942-1946  
Korean War



MoMM2c Dale Milton  
Navy  
1943-1946  
World War II



Seaman Dick Suiter  
Navy  
1960-1963



HM3 Eva Eubanks  
Navy  
1979-1983



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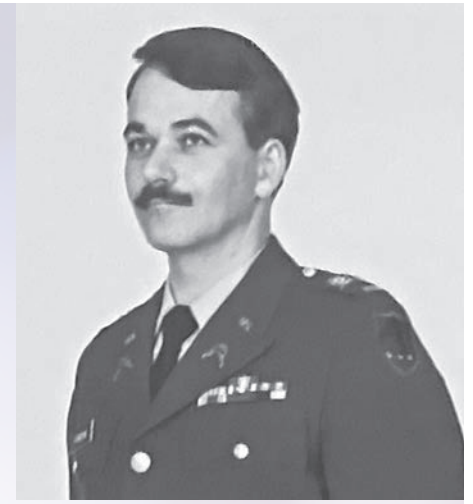
Petty Officer 2nd Class Glenda Rice  
Navy  
1989-1996



MMF E-2 Helena Howe Newsome  
Navy  
1996-1997



E-5/HM2 Corpsman Herbert Robertson  
Navy  
2010-2020



2nd Lt. James Farrow  
Navy/Army  
1971-2015  
Vietnam War



E-4 Jessica Bronson  
Navy  
2001-2005



Storekeeper Third Class John Knaus  
(no photo)  
Navy  
1944-1946  
World War II, South Pacific



E-3 Lawrence B. Howe  
Navy  
1980-1984



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Lloyd Howe  
Navy  
1977-1988



Loyde T. Canida  
Navy  
1948-1951  
Korean War



Hospital Man 3rd Class Lynn R. Middleton  
United States Navy  
Navy/Marines  
1967-1971  
Vietnam War



Mason Jasper  
Navy  
2020-2023

NAVY



MA1 Patrick D. Boswell  
Navy  
1987-1992



Robert (Bob) Bishop (no photo)  
Navy  
1961-1965



Machinist Robert E. Bishop Jr.  
(no pic)  
Navy



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PAST AND PRESENT,  
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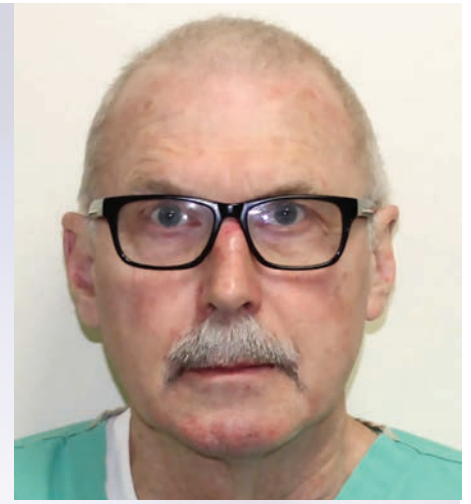
Ronald "Ronnie" Shaw  
(no pic)  
Navy



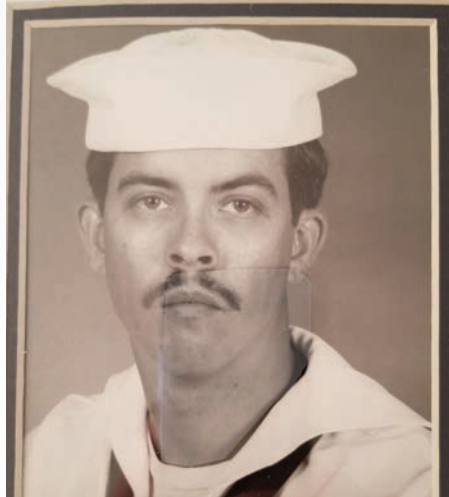
Paul E. Roberts Jr.  
Navy  
1955-1957



E-4 Sam Samsal  
Navy  
1985-1989



Capt. Steve Foster  
Navy  
1962-1994



Thomas Gage  
Navy  
1975-1995



Petty Officer 2nd Class Virgil Koechner  
Navy  
1947-1952  
Korean War



ETN2 William Anderson  
Navy  
1961-1967



Today, and every day, we honor the brave men and women who have served our country with courage and dedication.

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Stand Navy out to sea,  
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 We'll never change our course,  
 So vicious foe steer shy-y-y-y.  
 Roll out the TNT,  
 Anchors Aweigh.  
 Sail on to victory  
 And sink their bones to Davy Jones, hooray!  
 Anchors Aweigh, my boys,  
 Anchors Aweigh.  
 Farewell to foreign shores,  
 We sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay.  
 Through our last night ashore,  
 Drink to the foam,  
 Until we meet once more.  
 Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.  
 Blue of the mighty deep:  
 Gold of God's great sun.  
 Let these our colors be  
 Till all of time be done, done, done, done.  
 On seven seas we learn  
 Navy's stern call:  
 Faith, courage, service true,  
 With honor, over honor, over all.

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**We offer a sincere message of thanks to our service men and women for their courage and dedication.**

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Tech. Sgt. Andrew Darrah  
Air Force  
1981-2003



Senior Master Sgt. Bob Blacklock  
Air Force  
1984-2012



Maj. Daron Olmsted  
Air Force  
1996-2010



E-4 Darold Schroeder (no photo)  
Air Force  
1959-1963  
Cuban Missile Crisis



Sgt. David A. Bishop  
(no photo)  
Air Force/Army



Staff Sgt. Douglas B. Bultemeier  
Air Force  
1988-1996  
Desert Storm



E-5 Harlan Schroeder  
Air Force  
1965-1969

## Our Sincere Thanks To The VFW Post 2591 Honor Guard



# THE U.S. AIR FORCE SONG

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,  
Climbing high into the sun;  
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,  
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!  
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,  
Off with one helluva roar!  
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!  
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!  
Brilliant minds fashioned a crate of thunder,  
Sent it high into the blue;  
Valiant hands blasted the world asunder;  
How they lived God only knew!  
Boundless souls dreaming of skies to conquer  
Gave us wings, ever to soar!  
With scouts before and bombers galore. Hey!



Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!  
Here's a toast to the host  
Of those who love the vastness of the sky,  
To a friend we send a message of the brave who serve on high.  
We drink to those who gave their all of old,  
Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold.  
A toast to the host of those we boast, the U.S. Air Force!  
Off we go into the wild sky yonder,  
Keep the wings level and true;  
If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder  
Keep the nose out of the blue!  
Fly to fight, guarding the nation's border,  
We'll be there, followed by more!  
In echelon we carry on.  
Oh, nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!

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Senior Airman E-4 Jason VanNatta  
Air Force  
1995-2001



Tech. Sgt. James Stablan (no photo)  
Air Force  
2001-2014  
Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom



Sgt. Jesse Hamilton  
Air Force  
1968-1972



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Butler  
Air Force  
1981-2003



Staff Sgt. Larry Oehrke  
Air Force  
1967-1971  
Vietnam



2nd Class Louis Barkacs  
(no photo)  
Air Force  
1955-1959



Maj. Mike Carozza  
Air Force  
2006-09



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*We Stand with Our Veterans!*



Airman 1st Class Melody Raines  
(no photo)  
Air Force  
2001-2004  
Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom

Col. Mike Shipp  
Air Force  
1982-2021

Mitchell VanNatta  
Air Force  
2002-2013

Sgt. Randy Smith  
Air Force  
1979-1983



Tech. Sgt. Richard Maxwell  
Air Force  
1975-1987  
Vietnam, Desert Storm

Sgt. E-4 Rob Ayers  
Air Force  
1987-1992

Staff Sgt. Roy A. Bemiss  
Air Force  
1975-1981

Dale M. Gail  
Air Force  
Korea and Vietnam

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*Veterans*  
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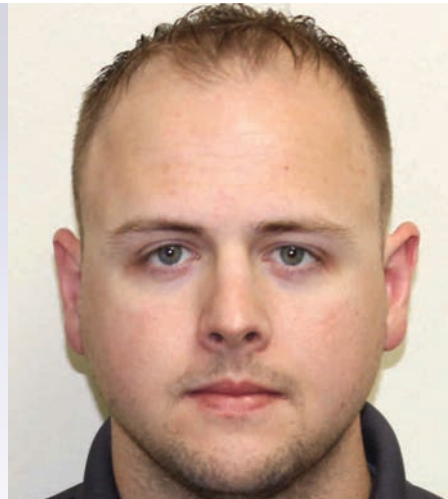
Sgt. Stephen Ready  
Air Force  
1967-1971



Steven Mersky  
Air Force



Tech. Sgt. Teddy L. Smith  
Air Force  
1955-1974  
Vietnam War



Tech. Sgt. Tim Jackson  
Air Force  
2007-2019



Master Sgt. Todd Nappe  
Air Force  
1984-2010



E-5 Trista Hutchison  
Air Force  
2004-2013



Maj. William Decker  
Air Force  
1991-2004



E-4 Valerie Honoshofsky  
Air Force  
2016-2022

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# SEMPER PARATUS

## First Verse:

From Aztec Shore to Arctic Zone,  
To Europe and Far East,  
The Flag is carried by our ships  
In times of war and peace;  
And never have we struck it yet  
In spite of foemen's might,  
Who cheered our crews and cheered again  
For showing how to fight.

## Chorus:

We're always ready for the call,  
We place our trust in Thee.  
Through surf and storm and howling gale,  
High shall our purpose be.  
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,  
Our fame, our glory too.  
To fight to save or fight and die,  
Aye! Coast Guard we are for you!

## Second Verse:

SURVEYOR and NARCISSUS,  
The EAGLE and DISPATCH,  
The HUDSON and TAMPA,  
These names are hard to match;  
From Barrow's shores to Paraguay,  
Great Lakes or ocean's wave,  
The Coast Guard fights through storms and winds,  
To punish or to save.

## Third Verse:

Aye! We've been always ready!  
To do, to fight, or die  
Write glory to the shield we wear  
In letters to the sky.  
To sink the foe or save the maimed,  
Our mission and our pride.  
We'll carry on 'til Kingdom Come,  
Ideals for which we've died.



E-3 Robert B. Campbell Jr.  
Coast Guard  
E-3  
1966-1972  
Vietnam



Electrician E-5 Tom McCormack  
Coast Guard  
1968-1972  
Antarctica Service



ER DDS Ralph E. Younger  
Commissioned Corps, Coast Guard  
1967-1970 Active Duty  
1970-1989 On Call  
Vietnam



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