



VETERANS DAY

HONORING
those who
SERVED

THE ORIGINS OF VETERANS DAY

By The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later

by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

ARMISTICE DAY CHANGED TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran,

organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on Nov. 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in Nov. 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed

alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that Nov. 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

NATIONAL CEREMONIES HELD AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphithe-

ater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater. Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans organizations. Governors of many states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

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GHS teacher held in German POW camp

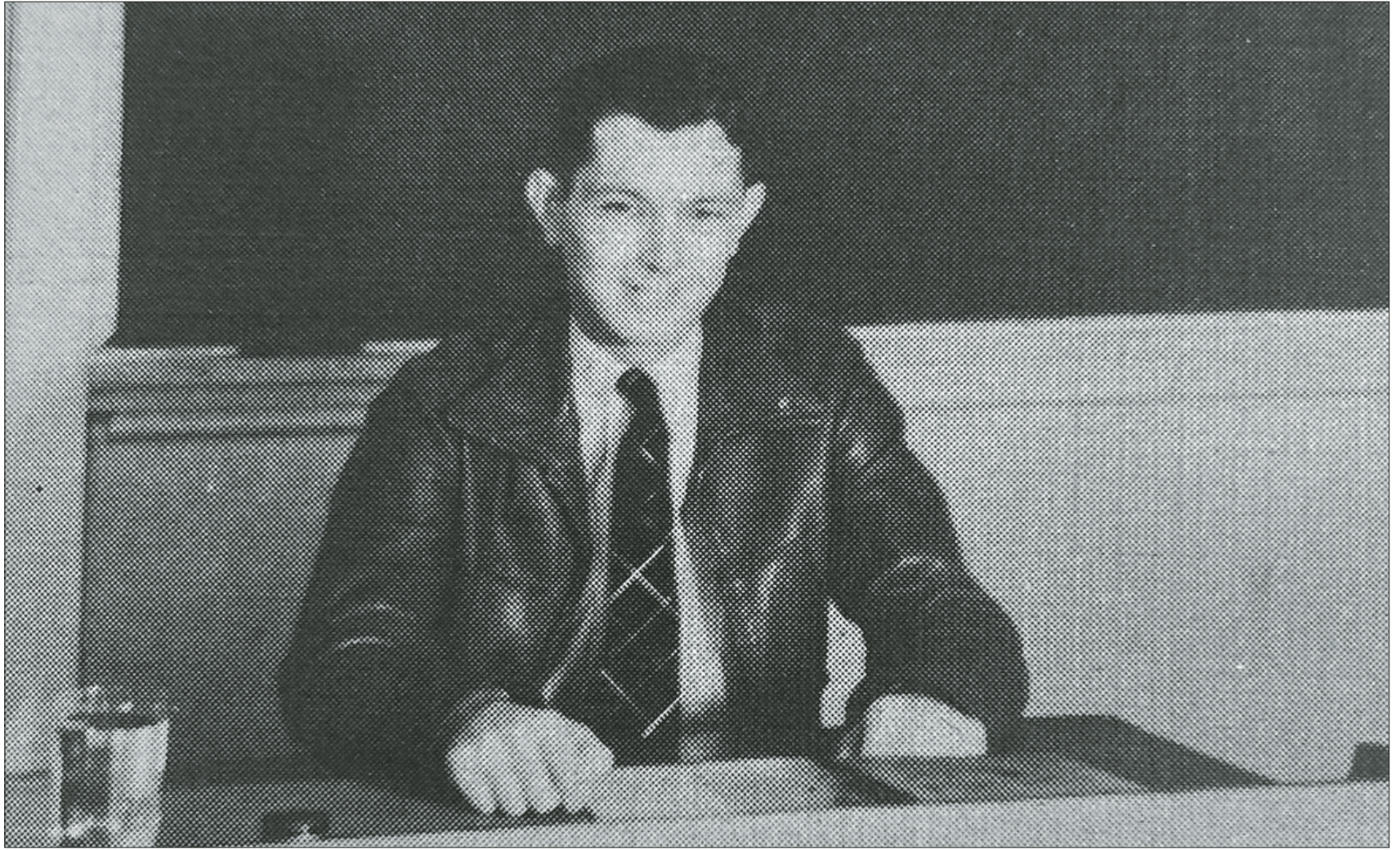
By David Scott

During World War II, young men across the United States were required to register to serve their country in time of need. Following registration, young men ages 21-45 could enlist of their free will or they could wait to be drafted by the U.S. Government.

Joe Wayne Bradford, born in 1918 in Tarrant County, Texas, was the fifth and youngest son of Walter and Virgie Bradford. He grew up in Arlington where he graduated from high school in 1935 and would later become a graduate of Texas A&M University. Soon after he graduated from college, he married Margaret McLean in August of 1940, and they became the parents of one daughter.

In January of 1941, it was announced in The Gatesville Messenger that Joe W. Bradford was a new teacher added to the Gatesville High School faculty. He had been hired by the school district to become a vocational agriculture teacher as well as the director of the National Youth Administration, which provided vocational guidance to the youth. His photo appears in the 1941 GHS yearbook. His teaching career at Gatesville High School was to be short lived.

Deciding to support and defend his country, Bradford enlisted in the Selective Service on Oct. 8, 1942, in Dallas, where he had registered two years before. Newspaper accounts reflect that he entered service at Cameron College, Lawton, Oklahoma and also trained at the Waco Army Airfield and at Lamesa. It



GHS educator Joe Bradford seated at his desk at the high school.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GATESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

was also reported that he studied gunnery at Tyndall, Florida, completed overseas training at Sioux City, and was sent overseas in March of 1943.

It was reported that Bradford went on at least 19 missions over Nazi Germany as a B-17 tail gunner. A tail gunner or rear gunner was a crewman on the military aircraft who functioned as a gunner defending against enemy fighters or interceptor attacks from the rear, or "tail," of the plane. The "Flying Fortress" aircraft

was a heavy bomber used to strike every important city in Germany, which included the capital of Berlin. The mission on June 21, 1944 was the twelfth and biggest air raid on Berlin, with over 1,000 heavy American bombers escorted by 1,200 fighter planes. It was reported that the German anti-aircraft fire and fighter planes shot down 43 American bombers that day and 15 fighters.

After many missions, the ten-man crew, including Bradford, was shot down near Berlin.

According to one restricted investigative record at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., along with two other airmen, Bradford survived to parachute into captivity, and they instantly became prisoners of war. It was also reported that when the bomber was struck, he was seriously injured in his left hand and the left part of his face. One of the crew members who parachuted out would later recall that Bradford was pushed out of the plane by the radio technician, Sgt. Gerald

Quackenbush.

Back home in Texas, The Fort Worth Star Telegram reported on July 2, 1944, with a headline reading "Arlington Man is Missing." The article read, "Staff Sgt. Joe W. Bradford, formerly of Arlington, has been missing in action since June 21, his wife, now of Dallas, was notified. He is a B-17 tail gunner and has been on 19 missions."

Since news traveled slowly during World War II, news of his death did not reach his wife and parents until August of 1944, when it

was reported that following his parachute escape from the bomber, he had been placed as a Prisoner of War into a German prison camp where he died from his wounds on July 22. The Fort Worth newspaper stated, "Information of Sergeant Bradford's death was obtained through the International Red Cross."

Following his death, his body was buried in the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium. The Ardennes

PLEASE SEE **POW** | C7



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At **First National Bank**, we believe the strength of a community is built on the character of those who call it home. Today, we pause to recognize the courage, commitment, and sacrifice of our veterans. From one generation to the next, their service has ensured the freedom and opportunity we all enjoy.

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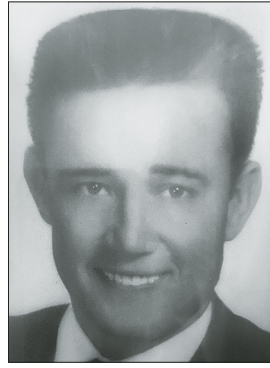
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Earl W. Allen
Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
1952-1956



Billy Ament
Specialist 2
United States Army
1959-1961



Donald Baize
Sergeant
United States Army
1958-1967



Robert "Bobby" Blanchard
Lieutenant Commander
United States Navy
1976-2000



Charles M. Bratton
Captain
United States Air Force
1963-1969



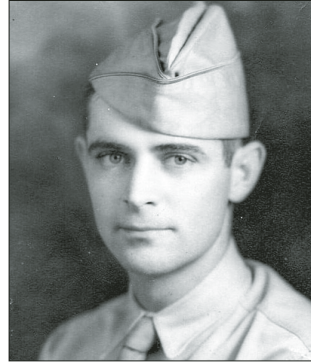
Billy Carl Brown
Colonel
United States Army
Vietnam



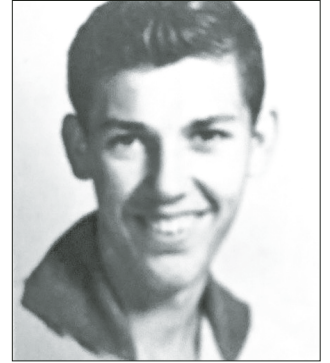
David Isaac Ray Brown
Unknown
United States Navy
5 years



Flavil Lee Brown
Sergeant
United States Army
Korea



Robert Lee Brown
Master Sergeant
United States Army
1941-1945



Bobby Bush
Sergeant
United States Army
1957-1991



Mary Caldwell
E-4 Senior Airman
United States Air Force
1992-1997



Whitney Canady
Unknown
Space Force
2001



Sammy Clark
Major
United States Army
1957-1978



Felix Cole Jr.
Combat Engineer
United States Army
1943-1945



Leo Corona
Sergeant First Class
United States Army
1995-2015



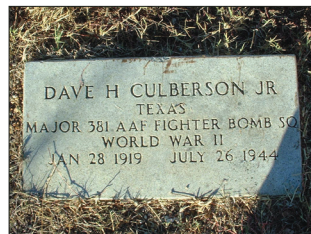
Byrom Coward
Private First Class
United States Army
WWII



Coley Milton Coward
CFL
United States Army
1942-1945



Nobel Sam Coward
Tec 5
United States Army
WWII



Dave Culberson Jr.
Major
United States Air Force
WWII



John Davidson
Boatswain's Mate, First Class
United States Navy
1942-1946



George Duncan
Corporal
United States Marine Corps
1961-1976



Charles Loyd "Jack" Elam
Corporal
United States Army



Ralph Etchison
Unknown
United States Army
1942-1945



Edwin Travis Floyd
E5
United States Navy
1977-1983



Bert Allen Floyd, Sr.
Unknown
United States Army
1943-1945

Mousing Around?



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FROM THE TEAM AT



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Bunk Forrest
Construction Battalion
United States Navy
1936-1940, 1943-1946



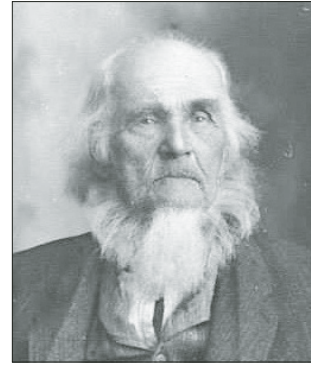
Elisha King Forrest
Musician
United States Army
Civil War



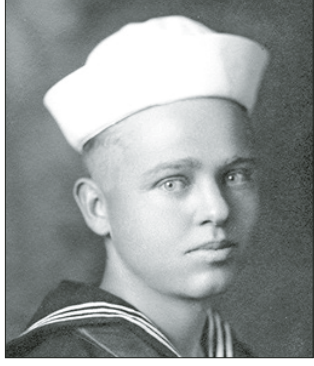
Ernest Louis Pat Forrest
Unknown
United States Army
WWI



Fisher Loyd Forrest
Photographer
United States Air Force
WWII



Richard Oziah Forrest
Unknown
United States Army
Mexican War



Thomas Fisher Forrest
Pharmacist Mate
United States Navy
1917-1919



Charlie Cecil Foust
Unknown
United States Army
Unknown (Pictured in 1946)



Luther Walter Foust
Medic
United States Army
WWII



Rodney Frye
Sergeant First Class
United States Army
1982-2008



Jesus Garcia
TSGT
United States Air Force
1960-1980



Robert Holderby
Spec 5
United States Army
1967-1970



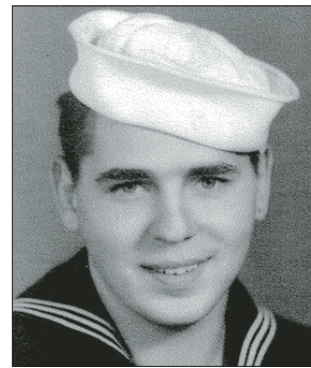
Madalene Holloway
2nd Lieutenant
United States Army
WWII



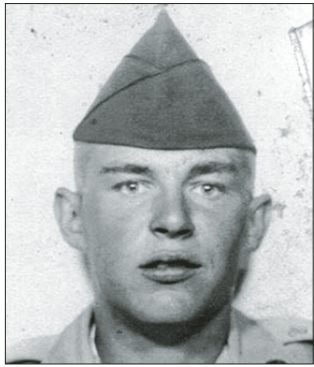
Michael Hoover
CW4
United States Army
1980-2022



Michael Hunsicker
Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
8 Years



Edward Jackson
Unknown
United States Navy
WWII



James C. Jackson
Spec 4
United States Army
1969-1971



Paul H. Jackson
Unknown
United States Army
WWI



Milton Duane Keele
Helicopter Pilot
United States Marine Corps
Vietnam



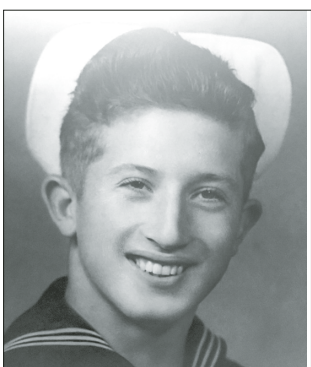
Robert Douglas Landry
Unknown
United States Army
1961-1963



Billy Edwin Laxson
Unknown
United States Air Force
1951-1954



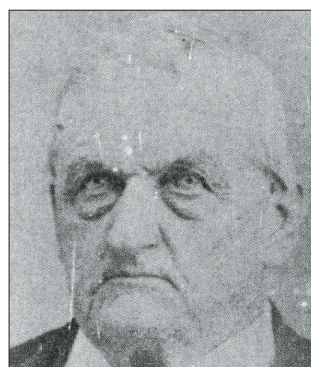
William Travis Laxson
Unknown
United States Navy
1942-1945



Bill Loggins
Unknown
United States Navy
1944-1946



Alexander Hawkins Love
3rd Corporal
United States Army
Civil War



David Love
Private
United States Army
1846



Leonard Love
First Lieutenant
Confederate Army
Civil War (Confederacy)

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Wade Love

Private
Kentucky Militia
War of 1812



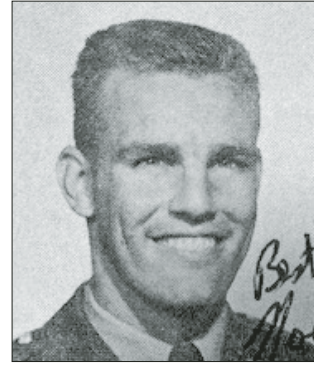
Edward Marty

Major
United States Army
1967-1988



Roy McGaugh

Corporal
United States Army
1951-1953



Noel Ray McLaughlin

Colonel
United States Army
1961-unk



Willis Grady McLeod

E6
United States Army
1947-1966



Willis Grady McLeod

Electricians Mate EM2C
United States Navy
1943-1945



Francis Marion Miller

Corporal
United States Army
1942-1945



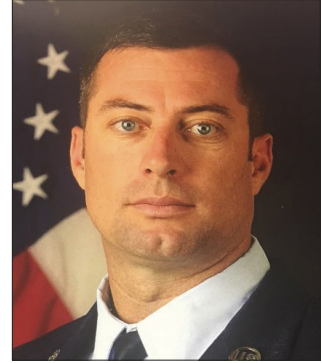
Mary Catherine Mitchell

Commander
United States Navy
1966-1986



Aaron Dale Mohler

Airman 1st Class
United States Air Force
1961-1964



Matthew Dale Mohler

Sr. Master Sergeant
United States Air Force
2000-2020



Willis Aaron Mohler

SV6 - Ship Cook
United States Navy
1943-1945



R Q Moore

PFC
United States Army
1941-1944



James Clifton Petty

PFC
United States Army
WWII



Bert David Wells Pollard

Unknown
United States Navy
WWI & WWII



Milton Bud Pollard

Private
United States Army
1942-1945



Robert A. Pollard

Private
United States Army
Civil War



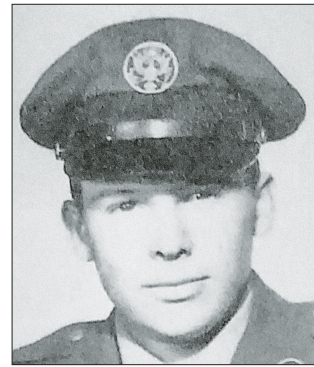
Thomas Preston

SP 5
United States Army
1969-1970



Donald Wayne Pruitt

Airman 2nd Class
United States Air Force
1948-1952



J.F. "Jeff" Pruitt

Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
1950-1954



Al Penn Rabb

Unknown
United States Navy
WWII



Elaine Andrews Rabb

Unknown
United States Navy
2 years



Louis Rabb

Unknown
United States Navy
1951-1971



Roger Rabb

Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1979-1983



William Robinette

Sgt, First Class
United States Army
1958-1978



William Robinette Jr.

MS2 E5
United States Navy
1987-2000

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Frederick Roest, Jr.
Chief Boatswain's Mate, E7
United States Navy
20 years



Ted D. "Bubba" Satcher
Lieutenant Colonel
United States Air Force
1989-2009



Ted J. Satcher
SFC
United States Army
35 years



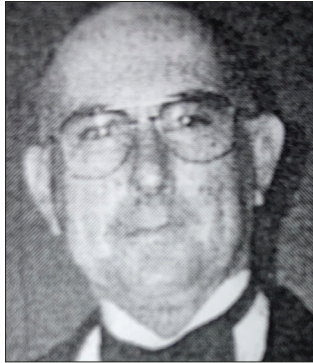
Robert J. Schultz
LT. Colonel
United States Army
1994-2001



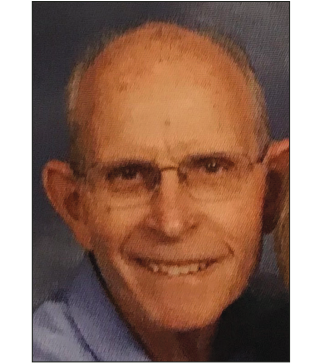
Don Baker Scott
Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
1951-1955



William Scott
Private
United States Army
WWI - KIA Nov 5, 1918



Robert Gene Shelton
Mechanic
United States Army
1967-1997



Eugene Shirley
E3
United States Marine Corps
1960-1963



Joe Frank Shirley
Unknown
United States Army
1958-1964



John Carroll Shirley
Sp4 E4
Texas Army National Guard
1957-1962



Arlice D. Smith
PFC
United States Army Air Corps
1942-1945



Benjamin R. Smith
Chief Warrant Officer 4
United States Air Force
1948-1985



Rufus C. Smith Sr.
Signal Corp
United States Army
2 Years



Carl "Butch" Stevens
SSG Staff Sergeant
United States Army
1988-2008



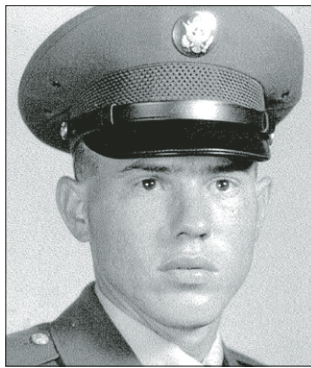
Stephen J. Stroud
Unknown
United States Army
2000-2004



William Matthew Trine
SGT
United States Army
2016-Present



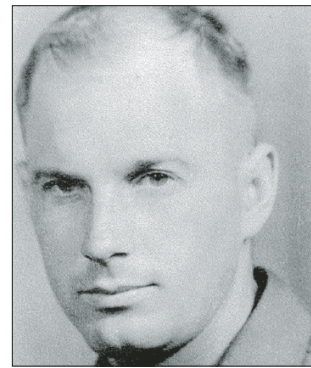
George Walters
1SG
United States Army
1982-1998



James L. White
Spec 4
United States Army
1965-1967



William Floyd White
Spec 5
United States Army
Vietnam



William Franklin White
Unknown
United States Army
WWII



Benjamin Franklin Wilhelm
Private
United States Marine Corps
1918-1919



Clarence Edwin Wilhelm
LT. Colonel
United States Air Force
1941-1947, 1949-1969



Herschel Troy Wilhelm
Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1942-1945



Steve Gary Wilhelm
Captain
United States Army
1967-1973



Brad Williams
E5
United States Army
1997-2001

We Salute our Veterans



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POW

FROM PAGE C2

American Cemetery is the final resting place for 5,162 Americans, with 65% of those being fallen airmen of the U.S. Army Air Forces.

His death was mourned by his wife and his parents. His daughter, Joann, who was just a one-year-old child at the time, would have no memory of her father.

Following the war, the U.S. Government would create "Missing Air Crew Reports" where soldiers were interviewed to ask about the POW's and those Missing in Action. One of the informants about the final moments on the bomber was the radio operator, Sgt. Gerald Quackenbush.

When Quackenbush came home, he traveled to Michigan to visit with



PHOTO COURTESY OF U.S. AIR FORCE

Photo of a B-17 Bomber used during World War II during the attacks on Nazi Germany.

his B-17 crewmate, Perry Raymond, who was also held as a POW. The two were the only survivors of the bomber's crew. In a historical account about Quackenbush titled

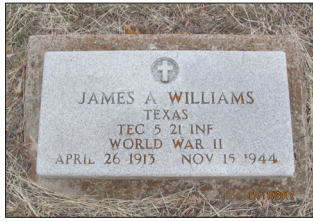
"A Marriage Born from Tragedy" by Jeff Rand, he wrote that Quackenbush had one last important visit to make. "It was a very different encounter because Joe Bradford had died in a

German POW camp." Rand continued, "Quackenbush made a 'condolence' visit to Bradford's widow and young daughter in Texas. That meeting led to something more, and they ended up getting married." Rand wrote that within three months of meeting for the first time, Gerald Quackenbush and Margaret McLean Bradford were married on Oct. 31, 1945, at the Baptist Church in Dallas.

Quackenbush adopted Joe and Margaret's daughter, Joann. She had a father at last. Joann's birth father, a man who she never knew, was replaced by an adoptive father who had flown with Bradford and attempted to save his life on that fatal day when the bomber was shot down. Gerald Quackenbush stepped forward and became a father to the child of his fallen comrade.



Frank E. Williams
E5
United States Army
1964-1968



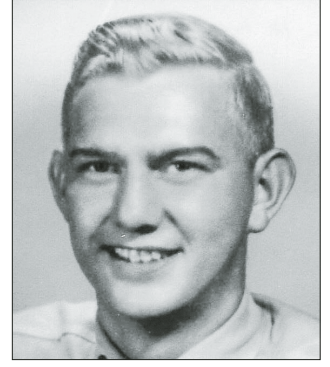
James Arthur Williams
Medic
United States Army
WWII



Charles Carroll Wilson
Staff Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1943-1945



Charles Daniel Wise
Unknown
United States Navy
7 Years



Lawrence H. Woodlock
Master Sergeant
United States Air Force
1954-1966



Timothy B. Woodlock
Seaman
United States Navy
1993-1995



Timothy J. Woodlock
Master Sergeant
United States Air Force
1961-1981



Washington T. Woodlock
Private
United States Army
WWI



James Thomas Yows, Sr.
Colonel
United States Army
1943-1977



John Zimmerman
SGT
United States Army
Vietnam



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