

# ★ VETERANS DAY ★

## Honoring all those who served

SPECIAL TO THE AZLE NEWS/SPRINGTOWN EPIGRAPH

## From serving his country to serving his county



COURTESY PHOTO

Conley during his service on a sub tender supply ship for the U.S. Navy. Beside him is a torpedo sporting his mother's name.

### George Conley

BY JESSICA MCKINNEY  
jessica@azlenews.net

George Conley has been serving as a Parker County commissioner for Precinct 1 since 2008. He is known around Springtown and Azle for his sense of humor,

his eagerness to serve others, and for always leading the pledge of allegiance "loud and proud."

As a young man, Conley served on a sub tender supply ship for the U.S. Navy from 1976-1980. He was

SEE CONLEY, PAGE 17C.



COURTESY PHOTO

Conley spent his time with the navy overseas.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

After an ambush in Iraq in 2006, Clint Keeley pulls bullets out of his vehicle. Keeley served in the Army for 21 years.

## Veteran liked certain appeal from the Army

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

### Clint Keeley

Clint Keeley sums up his experience in Iraq in three words: scary, nerve-racking, sad.

He's not alone among service members who had difficulty dealing with the war in Iraq. But his experience in the military helped at the stage of life he has entered now.

Keeley grew up in Fort Worth and attended Happy Hill Farm for his three last three years of high school in Granbury. After high school, he joined the Army in 2001, just before 9/11. He wrapped up 21 years in the Army and retired and came back home. He joined the Army when he was 17.

Keeley, 39, of Azle, had a number of duty stations: Fort Polk,

Louisiana, (twice); Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Hawaii (twice); Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state; Fort Dix, New Jersey; and Fort Bliss in El Paso. He had three deployments, all to Iraq: 2004-05, nine months; 2006-07, 15 months; and 2010-11, 12 months. His last rank was command sergeant major.

Keeley joined the Army for practical reasons.

"I knew college wasn't for me and I was looking for more of a sense of purpose," he said.

He also picked the Army for pragmatic purposes.

SEE KEELEY, PAGE 2C.

## Azle fire marshal: Service was 'best time' of his life

### Kenny Wilson

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Many people find their niche in the military.

Kenny Wilson is among those people.

Wilson, who serves as Azle Fire Department's fire marshal, was born in Abilene but grew up in Grapevine and attended Grapevine High School. He started volunteering as a fireman beginning in 1981 and did that until 1987, when the department stopped using volunteers.

"So, I went in the Air Force because myself and a friend of mine decided to go in to together; however, he backed out at the last moment and I just went ahead and went in," he said.

Wilson thought joining the military was a "good way to get my life started and get some good training." He had an older brother who had been in the Air Force and his father and grandfather were in the Army.

"So, it just seemed like the right fit," he said, noting that his father was stationed on a Navy radio ship.

Wilson was in the Air Force from 1984 to 1988 and was stationed at Carswell Air Force Base all four years.

"Nothing like joining the Air Force to see the world and coming right back home," he said. "My grandparents lived a mile from the base."

He served as a Security Police Law Enforcement Specialist and obtained the rank of sergeant. While

SEE WILSON, PAGE 3C.

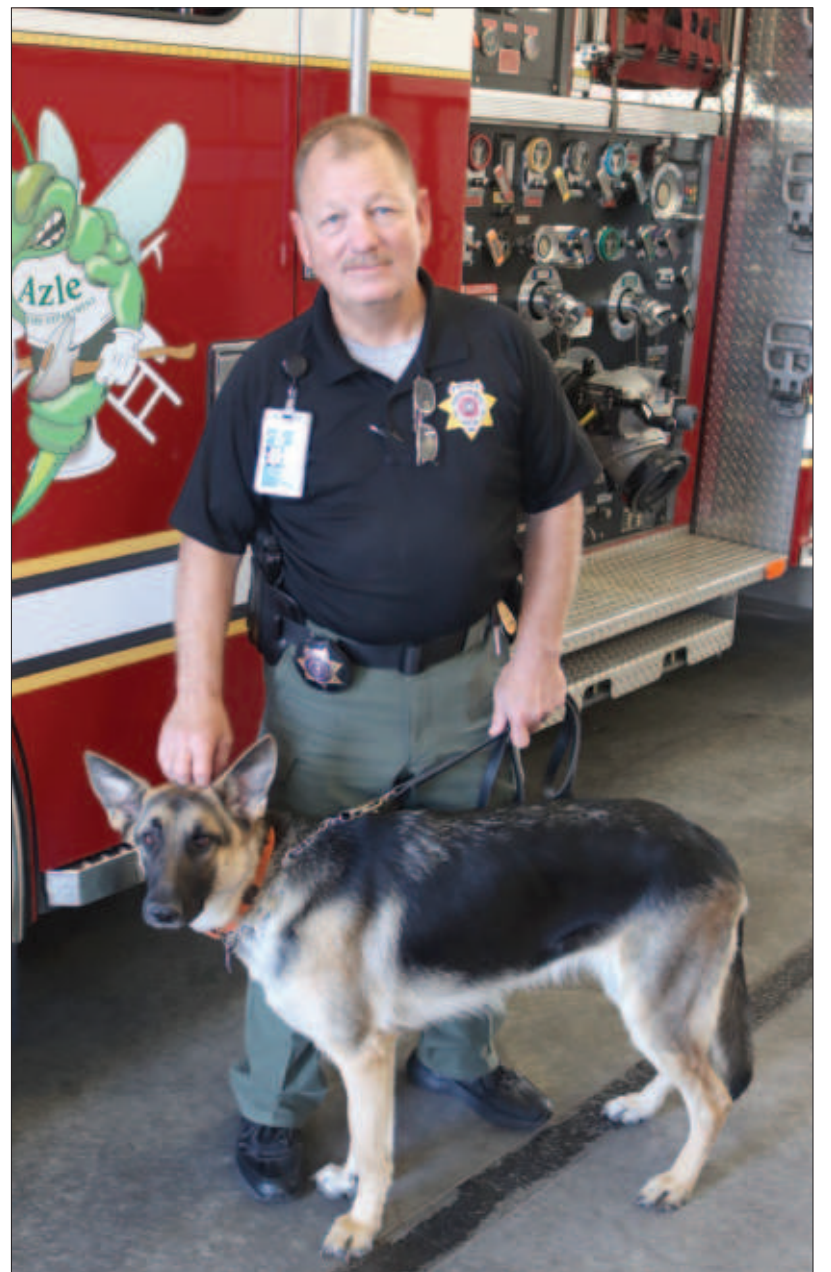


PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Kenny Wilson, an Air Force veteran, stands with dog Mila at the Azle Fire Department.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Above, Clint Keeley and another soldier perform a mortar shoot, and, right, on Thanksgiving Day 2019 in Grafenwoehr, Germany, he is with his family: Left is spouse Shanna and children Christian, left, Madison, middle and Benjamin, right.

### KEELEY FROM PAGE 1C

"Because I'd get too seasick with the Navy and the Air Force doesn't excite me," he said.

He further explained he wanted to join the Army because he wanted to jump out of airplanes and be a paratrooper.

"That was my calling - I wanted to jump out of airplanes," he said.

While in the Army, his three highest commendations were the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and the Purple Heart. As he looks back on his career, he said the sacrifices that sol-

diers and their families make stands out to him.

"The soldier joins the military, but their children never have any choice," he said. "And they go without their mom or dad all the time while they're deployed or in field training. They are willing to sacrifice and give up their parents for the nation also."

He said his wife Shanna celebrate their 20th year of marriage in December, and Keeley's oldest son, Jimmy, 23, was there during all the deployments. Keeley has 10-year-old twins - Madison and Christian - and 7-year-old Benjamin who were born after his last deployment.

Keeley is now a consultant with Propeller Consulting, and he enjoys the freedoms

that come with civilian life but said there's nothing quite like the close-knit community readily available that comes with living on an installation. He had a good experience in the service and would do it again in a heartbeat, he said.

"The military paid for my bachelor's and my master's degree, so it set me up for success, gave me skills to transition to private industry," Keeley said. "So, I just want people to know that there is a path to success because of military and I'm really thankful for it."

He earned his bachelor's in management from the American Military University and his master's in organizational leadership from the University of Texas at El Paso.



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# WILSON

FROM PAGE 1C

at Carswell, he was assigned to a specialized tactical team (SWAT) - referred to as emergency services team - and a competitive combat shooting team. The emergency services team activated several times, he said, including for nuclear protestors.

On the combat shooting team, he got to travel and attend competitions.

"I did that for about a year and a half," he said.

As a desk sergeant in the Air Force, his work entailed dispatching, overseeing the jail and taking reports over the telephone.

"But it took a lot of training for that qualification, and I was the youngest guy to obtain that at the time," he said.

After his stint in the Air Force, he was a police officer for Everman Police Department and spent a little over 10 years there.

After that, he went to paramedic school and firefighting school. The police chief in Everman needed a fire marshal, and even though Wilson was a police officer, he was the fire marshal there,

as well.

"That kind of started my career going here," he said.

He's been at Azle for 22 years and has been the fire marshal since 2004.

"I enjoy it - it's a challenge" he said about the fire marshal. "Right now, we're going through a lot of growth so we have to deal with reviewing building plans, reviewing plans for life-safety systems and then we go out and do the inspection on all the new businesses, and then we follow up and we do annual inspections for all the businesses."

He added that his office is its own law enforcement agency and has its own caseload, and he works with specific cases dealing with fire, explosions and environmental cases.

Wilson loved his time in the Air Force, noting it was the "best time of my life" and regrets leaving the Air Force and wishes he had stayed. He made a lot of lifelong friends in the Air Force, including Bob Spohn with the Azle Police Department, as they served on the emergency services team.

"To this day, we still talk to people we served with," he said.

# Air Force

The mission of the U.S. Air Force is to fly, fight, and win... airpower anytime, anywhere. Air Force history began when the Army acquired America's first military aircraft, the Wright Flyer, on August 2, 1909, designated Signal Corps Airplane No. 1. The "aeroplane" was designed and created by Orville and Wilbur Wright. The demonstration flight took place on Fort Meyer, Virginia. Initially formed as a part of the U.S. Army on Aug. 1, 1907, the USAF was established as a separate branch of the U.S. Armed Forces on September 18, 1947, with the passing of the National Security Act of 1947.



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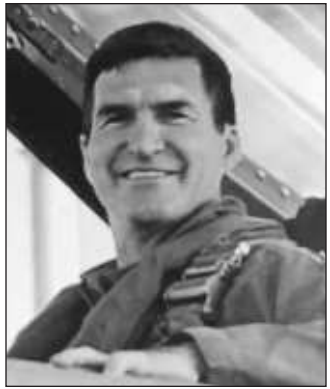
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# Springtown police officer, Army veteran reflects on career-long dedication to helping others

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

## Ken Hopkins

Springtown Police Cpl. Ken Hopkins has always wanted to help people.

That goal drove him to enlisting in the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old.

"It was just something I always wanted to do," Hopkins said. "I've always wanted to be in public service and help people."

Hopkins served in the Army from 1986 to 1992. He's had several relatives who have served in the military, including his father, who spent about 32 years in the Air Force.

Hopkins worked as a medic assigned to an infantry unit, and he served in a field artillery unit during Operation Desert Storm. By the time he was deployed during Desert

Storm, Hopkins was promoted to sergeant and led a platoon of medics. He was awarded the combat medical badge for treating soldiers in combat.

Hopkins' job as a medic was to tend to soldiers both in combat and in field training exercises by treating their injuries, providing first aid and coordinating an evacuation if necessary. He compared the job of an Army medic to emergency medical services and first responders.

Hopkins has treated minor sprains, broken bones, gunshot wounds, injuries related to falling out of an aircraft without a parachute and vehicle-related injuries, among others.

"I've done every kind of injury you can think of," he said.

During his military service, Hopkins traveled around the U.S. as well as to Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm. He described his time in the Middle East as memorable.

"A lot of people don't realize there's different terrains out there. You got the Euphrates River valley, which is green and lush, and then you got all the desert stuff. Everybody just thinks it's all desert," Hopkins said.

Hopkins said it was a neat experience to interact with the local people in the Middle East as well as the foreign army units there.

"Until the bullets started flying and it wasn't fun no more," he said.

When Hopkins was deployed, he said he was nervous, but nonetheless, he did his job.

"It was tough leaving my family and going somewhere not knowing if that was going to be it, but I got on that plane, went and did my duty and came home, just like 99% of the rest of our military folks that do it every day," Hopkins said.

Hopkins wishes that everyone could have the chance to serve in the military. He said it gives people camaraderie, community, knowledge of what it's like to serve others and discipline.

"It gave me drive to always want to do your best and attention to detail and finishing what you start," Hopkins said.

Some of what Hopkins



COURTESY PHOTO  
Springtown Police Cpl. Ken Hopkins enlisted in the U.S. Army when he was 18 years old. Hopkins served in the Army from 1986 to 1992.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Army veteran Ken Hopkins has dedicated almost 30 years to law enforcement work at multiple police departments. He is currently a corporal at Springtown Police Department.



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
Springtown Police Cpl. Ken Hopkins chatted with locals at Springtown's National Night Out on Oct. 4 at Newby Pavilion.

learned in the military transferred well into his law enforcement career, which he has dedicated almost 30 years to at multiple police departments. His experience as a medic has been especially helpful when he has arrived on scenes with hurt people. He has been commended with life-saving bars while serving in law enforcement for performing CPR on people, stopping bleeding from gunshot wounds and doing rescue breathing on people until EMS arrived.

"Most of the time we get there before EMS anyway," Hopkins said, adding that sometimes service calls are different than how they were described on the phone. "It's a skill that has definitely transitioned."

To Hopkins, Veterans Day

is about recognizing military service members who did their duty and were willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice.

"I honor that day by honoring the people who along with me served," he said. "To me, it's a reflection on the people

that put their own personal lives on hold to go out and do a job that might have required them to even give their life for. And to me, it honors those people that were willing to put on the uniform and make that sacrifice."



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# Reno resident, Air Force veteran discusses how military experience equipped him for the workforce

BY MADELYN EDWARDS  
madelyn@azlenews.net

Ted Lyon

Reno resident Ted Lyon joined the Air Force at age 18 for two reasons – to serve his country and learn a trade.

“I’ve always been patriotic for my country,” Lyon said. “Also, I was out of high school, and I needed a trade.”

Lyon was in the Air Force from 1994 to 1999.

Why did he choose the Air Force?

“I guess the number one reason is I’ve always liked airplanes. I’ve always liked aircraft,” Lyon said. “My dad is a mechanic. He’s been a mechanic his whole life and so I had some of the mechanical background, which put me in a job specifically in the Air Force.”

And that job was working as an aerospace ground support equipment mechanic. He worked on equipment used to test airplanes and prepare them for duty while grounded.

For example, Lyon and his

team would use air conditioners to cool the electronics working on a grounded plane. He worked with a wide variety of equipment, including hydraulic pneumatic air conditioning, air compressors, heaters and hydraulic cartons.

Lyon said the opportunity to learn and work on a variety of equipment was helpful to him and prepared him for jobs that he would have after leaving the Air Force. Though he currently works for Lockheed Martin, Lyon has taken multiple jobs since he left the Air Force, including as an automation technician at Nokia, as a flat belt conveyor mechanic at Williamson-Dickie Manufacturing Company and at DFW Skylink.

“I didn’t work on one specific thing. I worked on a whole variety of different things,” he said. “That



COURTESY PHOTO

**Ted Lyon joined the Air Force at age 18 to serve his country and learn a trade. He served from 1994 to 1999.**

equipped me for the time when I got out of the Air Force and had to go out into the private sector to do different tasks because I was familiar with a whole variety of different things and that equipped me for that. It was a

SEE LYON, PAGE 9C.



PHOTO BY MADELYN EDWARDS

Reno resident and Air Force veteran Ted Lyon (right) smiles for a photo with his family. From left is his wife Krizhana and his daughters Grace and Hope.



PHOTO BY DON MUNSCH

Joe Friske served in the U.S. Army for 10 years. He now works for Tri-County Electric.

# Veteran was the first in family to serve country in military

BY DON MUNSCH  
don@azlenews.net

Joe Friske

Joe Friske was the first person in his family to accomplish something.

He was the first individual in the history of his family to serve in the military.

“It was unique – there was a lot of pushback from my family for joining,” said Friske, an Army veteran. “Because everybody went to college, and here I am, I joined the military instead.”

His family, though, is proud of his service, and Friske said he tried to talk one of his nephews from joining the military, but “that helped convince him

to join.” That nephew joined the Army and he recently got promoted to sergeant. He works at NATO headquarters.

Friske, fleet manager at Tri-County Electric Co-op, has worked at Tri-County for a little over 2 1/2 years. He grew up in northeast South Dakota and has been in Texas since 2003. He had been stationed at Fort Hood, near Killeen, from 1989 to 1994. He also was in Korea from 1994 to 1995 and Fort Irwin, California, from 1995 to 1998. He was in the

Army for 10 years and was a mechanic, doing tracked vehicle repair.

“It’s always been a lifetime goal of mine since I was kid to join the military,” he said. “I wanted to be a Navy pilot, but I wore glasses, so their recruiter said nope. So then I joined the Army, and then I had a high GT (General Technical) score, and they said, ‘We want you to go this school that’s about two years long.’ And I said OK, what’s the next (option) available? And they said we’ll we’ve got a mechanic (school). I grew up on a farm, so I was like, yeah, I

SEE FRISKE, PAGE 17C.

# Thank You

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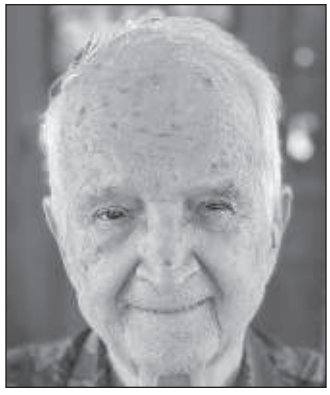
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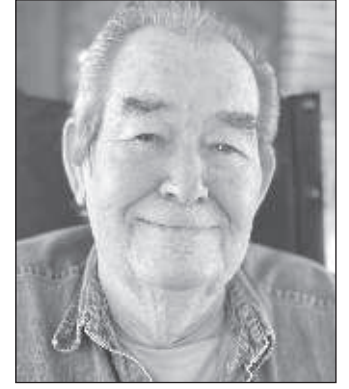
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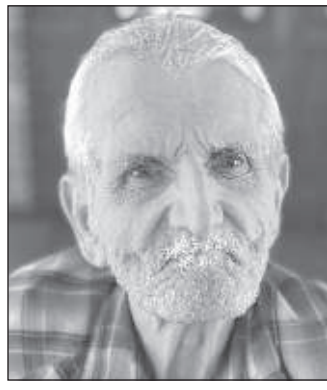
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**JOSE LUIS GONZALES**  
U.S. Army 1992-1998  
Corporal E4



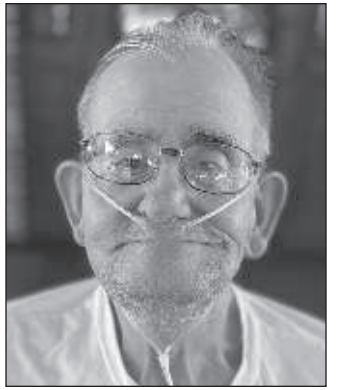
**HUBERT SONNY GOODE**  
U.S. Navy  
Vietnam



**RONNIE GOODE**  
U.S. Coast Guard  
1991-1995



**JOE GRANDMASION**  
U.S. Marine Corps Sgt 2004-2014 • TX Air National Guard  
Staff Sergeant • 2014-2021  
Fort Worth Police Department  
Officer 2015-Present



**DAN GRANT**  
U.S. Air Force E3



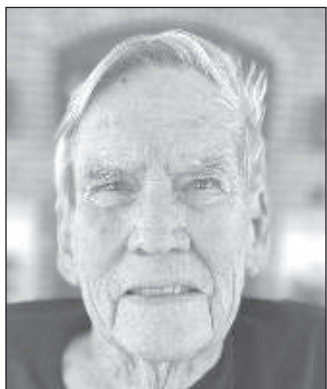
**ROBERT M. GUNN**  
U.S. Air Force • 1954-1962  
Navy Reserves • 1976-1992



**JAMES HACHTEL**  
Texas Army National Guard  
2010-2016



**WILLIAM EUGENE HALL**  
U.S. Army • 1950-1952 Korea  
Purple Heart,  
Bronze Star with Valor



**BILLY HAMILTON**  
U.S. Air Force  
Sgt 1st Class



**DENNIS HAMBLIN**  
U.S. Army 864th Engr Bn  
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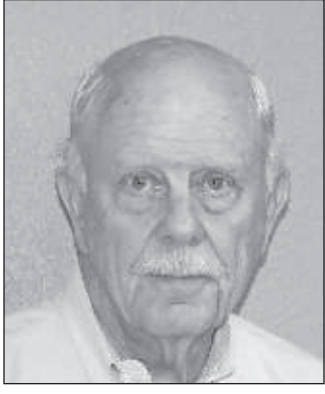
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U.S. Army Colonel  
1961-1988



**JAMES GIEB**  
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Vietnam



**CHRISTOPHER GILLILAND**  
U.S. Army  
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WWII



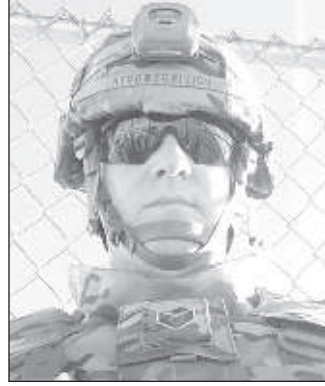
**EILEEN HARBOUR**  
U.S. Marine Corps • 1976-1980  
1975 Azle Graduate



**ROBERT BRADY HARTMAN**  
U.S. Army • 1st 503rd Airborne  
Infantry, 173 Airborne Brigade  
Medic, Afghanistan  
2008-2011



**JOHN HINOJOSA**  
U.S. Army 1988-1992 E4



**JOEY HOLLINGSWORTH**  
Texas Air National Guard  
15 Years



**HOWARD HORTON**  
U.S. Air Force  
1952-1968



**LEROY HORTON**  
U.S. Air Force



**ROSS HORTON**  
U.S. Army  
1955 - 1957



**JACK HORTON**  
U.S. Army, 2 years Vietnam



**ANDREW HOWARD**  
1962-1966 A1C Philippines



**SHIRLEY HUBBARD**  
Civilian Civil Service,  
32 yrs. in USAF



**AMY HUBENAK**  
U.S. Marine Corps 4 years



**JEFF HUBENAK**  
U.S. Navy 26 years



**DON HUGGINS**  
U.S. Air Force  
Airman 2nd Lt



**GEORGE HUTTON**  
U.S. Army • 1962-1970  
Vietnam



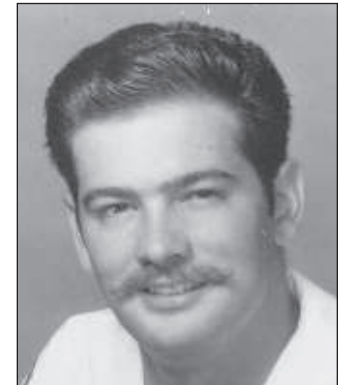
**JAMES D. IVEY**  
U.S. Air Force  
4 Years • 1954-1958



**RAY IVEY**  
U.S. Army Colonel  
30 Years • Vietnam



**MATTHEW JACKSON**  
U.S. Army  
2002-2006



**EDWARD JANTZEN**  
U.S. Navy  
1966-1969

**LYON**

FROM PAGE 6C

very educational experience."

Having a variety of experience also helped him land on his feet when trouble would arise. Lyon recalled telling his wife, Krizhana, that he was getting laid off from his job at Nokia, and because of his diverse training, she was undaunted.

"And she said, 'I'm not worried about it,'" Lyon said. "She said, 'You know so much. You're not going to have a problem finding a job.' I love

fixing stuff, working on stuff, and that's where it all began in the military."

But his military experience wasn't all about work. Lyon was also able to make friends and have fun while in the service. Of course, he said one of his best experiences in the Air Force was in 1998 when he married his wife. He met her at a party at his brother's house, and they got hitched while he was between Air Force bases.

"I can't exclude that (from the story). Boy, she'd be mad at me if I did that," Lyon said playfully.

Lyon said he has no regrets about joining the Air Force. In fact, he would encourage others to join up.

"I encourage anybody to join the military because of the simple fact that it makes you grow up," he said. "I was 18, and it pushed me to grow up fast and see the world outside. Coming from Mineral Wells, I saw stuff that I had never seen in my life, and it was a good experience."

Lyon's Veterans Day celebrations include going to church and recognizing other veterans in the congregation. He said he goes out of his way

to thank veterans for their service.

"I'm thankful for all the veterans, for everybody that has written the check, if you will. It's been told to me a long time ago that you write the check and whether the government cashes it or not is up to the government, meaning that you're willing to put your life down; you're willing to die for your country. Whether that happens or not is, in part, out of your control," Lyon said. "I admire somebody that is willing to sacrifice and do that. So, I have a real big respect for veterans."

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U.S. Navy • 1966-1973  
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**ESTLE JOHNSON**  
U.S. Air Force  
1951-1978 SMSgt



**MARY JOHNSON**  
U.S. Navy  
1965-1968



**BRIAN KILIAN**  
U.S. Air Force  
1987-2013



**GUNNER KESLER**  
U.S. Navy LCDR  
30 Years



**PHILLIP G. KOCH**  
U.S. Air Force  
6 Years 6 Months



**STUART LANKFORD**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
1992-2017 LtCol



**JAMES LAST**  
U.S. Army E5 Crewchief/  
Gunner • 1967-1970



**DESTIN LACEY**  
Army National Guard  
3 Years



**DERWIN ROYCE LANCASTER**  
U.S. Army  
1954-1956 • Korea



**RON LENNING**  
U.S. Navy 1967-1972  
Mail Clerk 2nd Class  
USS Epping Forest



**DOUG LETZ**  
US Army Texas  
National Guard • 22 Years



**JOE LIEB**  
Strategic Air Command  
Air Force • 1957-1962



**ZACHARY DEAN LUND**  
Army Reserves • 2014-2020  
2014 Springtown Graduate



**WILLIAM LYKINS**  
U.S. Navy 1966-1968



**WELDON B. MCDANIEL**  
459th BG • 15th Army Air  
Force • WWII



**EDDIE MCCRORY**  
U.S. Air Force  
1952 - 1956



**JEREMY MCCOLLUM**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
6 Years • 2002-2008



**JOHN MARTIN**  
U.S. Army  
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**RYAN P. MARTIN**  
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# Vietnam veteran relies on family to thrive

BY JEFF PRINCE  
jeff@azlenews.net

At 14, Roy Dean Foster was devastated after his parents divorced in the early 1960s.

The emotional baggage he carried afterward was heavy, and at 17, Foster dropped out of North Side High School in Fort Worth and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He attended basic training in 1966, learned basic infantry and was assigned to the mess hall as a cook.

His emotional baggage, though, continued to grow. He served until 1969, seeing plenty of action along the way. The military trained him

## Roy Foster

and others in his platoon to become killing machines and a "true piece of equipment that questions no orders," he said.

From January 1966 to January 1967, Foster was stationed near Marble Mountain south of Da Nang. He was medevacked after a North Vietnamese sniper fired into the military base where Foster was stationed, injuring his hand.

"I was in the barrel house, and a sniper was on the outside perimeter putting

rounds in there, and I got this finger crushed by a barrel of gasoline that fell," said Foster, who lives in Briar.

He received burns in the same attack and was sent back home to heal for months. The memories remain vivid all these decades later.

"If you've never been in a combat zone, you have no idea of what that's about," he said. "Just think of it this way: You can put the worst tornado, the worst hurricane, the worst traffic wreck and the worst fire all together and you might have some idea of what a combat zone is about. It makes an impression on you that you don't ever get over."

Foster comes from a military family and knows plenty of relatives who served, and he was proud to do his part. The repercussions, though, are still felt physically and emotionally.

"You live with that, and you have to go through life with your guard up," he said.

He and many others who served in the military struggled to keep emotions - particularly anger and depression - contained after their wartime experiences, he said.

"Through our documentation, they fully understand what PTSD is about," he said. "We had to pay those prices. I want people to know what we deal with in our lives after coming through one of those things."

Resolution was made more difficult by the sometimes-scornful reaction from the public that Vietnam veterans endured upon returning stateside.

For Foster, finding peace meant letting go of hate.

"Over a period of time, if you let hate stay in you, and if you let a disease such as anger or whatever destroy you, you have to overcome that," he said. "The only way you can overcome that is that



Roy Dean Foster enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965, served from 1966 to 1969 and saw combat in Vietnam.



PHOTOS BY JEFF PRINCE

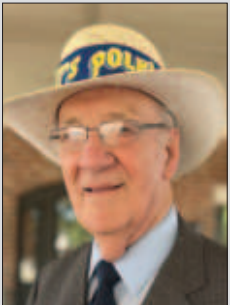
Patches and pins on Roy Dean Foster's leather vest help tell the story of his service.

you have got to communicate. You get it out of your system."

Foster credits his wife of 50 years, Judy Lynn Foster, and their daughters - Deanna, Laura, and Jessica - for helping him find happiness.

"I could not be me without the support of my wife of 50 years and my family, my girls," he said. "They carried a lot of brunt and a lot of things to help get through this."

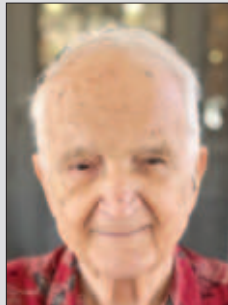
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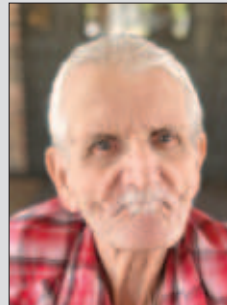
Bobby Baker



Truman Davis



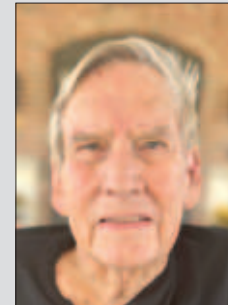
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Carmon Finney



Dan Grant



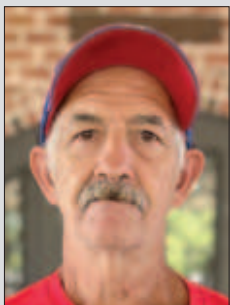
Billy Hamilton



Don Huggins



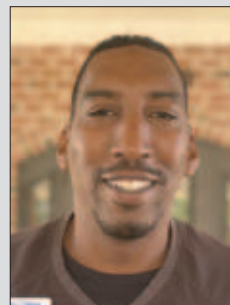
Anton Pappas



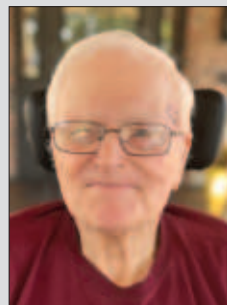
Mark Shrum



Donald Sims



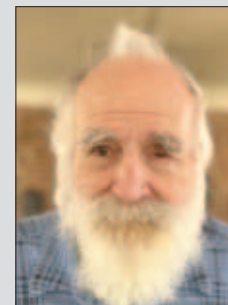
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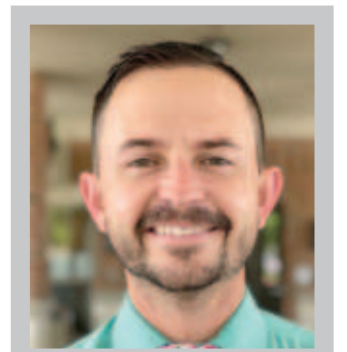
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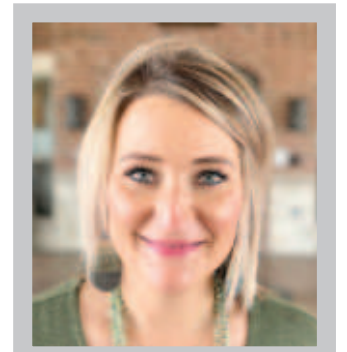
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# Veteran's Day Timeline

- 11 p.m. November 11, 1918**
- November 11, 1919**
- June 4, 1926**
- May 13, 1938**
- 1945**
- June 1, 1954**
- 1971**
- 1978**

The Great War (WWI) is formally ended when armistice with Germany was signed.  
 U.S. President Woodrow Wilson addresses the nation on first "Armistice Day."  
 Congress adopts resolution for annual presidential proclamations and ceremonies.  
 Congress passes law to make November 11 a holiday "to be dedicated to the cause of world peace... known as 'Armistice Day.'"  
 WWII veteran Edmund Weeks leads delegation to extend Armistice Day to all veterans, not just those of WWI.  
 Congress passes law, replacing "Armistice" with "Veterans" for the national holiday, at the urging of veterans organizations.  
 Veterans Day moves to the fourth Monday of October, in line with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.  
 Veterans Day is moved back to November 11 and becomes a day to honor all who have served.



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VETERANS DAY

2022





# Women soldiers: Serving in the Armed Forces since nation's birth

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

Women represent the fastest-growing population in both military service and the veteran community.

Today, in greater numbers than ever, women are stepping up to serve in new, critical and formidable roles contributing to our nation's national security.

But women soldiers are not new to the military. In the history of our nation, women have served alongside men since the Revolutionary War. When militias were forming and Gen. Washington's army was gaining numbers, mothers, wives, sisters and daughters accompanied their men, performing many of the service roles they would do at home—laundry, mending, cooking, tending to the sick.

Women became part of the victory, either by acting as spies or disguising themselves as men and fighting in the battles.

During the Civil War, women's military roles expanded. The role of battlefield nurse was formalized, and many women fought on both sides of the conflict.

By April 1917 during WWI, the U.S. Army Nurse Corps - formally established in 1901 - had 403 nurses in its active-duty ranks. But by June 1918, just over a year later, there were more than 3,000 American nurses deployed to British-operated hospitals in France. Conditions were often dangerously close to battlefronts, and while women could not vote, they were now serving openly in military service.

During this time, the "war at home" provided an opportunity for women to break out of traditional nursing and domestic military service. They began to replace the men who went overseas in much-needed jobs such as radio and telegraph operators, translators and other clerical duties. The Navy enlisted 12,000 "yeomanettes."

When WWII began, men were sent overseas creating openings for non-combat stateside jobs. At this point, all four branches of the Armed Forces had women in their ranks, some 350,000 who served in uniform in that war.

At this point, in all four

branches of the Armed Forces, women's military units were permanently established.

**Army:** The Army formed the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, or WAACs, which was later renamed and restructured to form the active-duty Women's Army Corps, the WACS. The branch also formed the Army's Women Airforce Service Pilots, called WASPs.

**Navy:** The Navy formed the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, WAVES.

**Marine Corps:** The Marines enlisted women in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

**Coast Guard:** The Coast Guard formed the Women's Reserve, SPARS, which stood for the Coast Guard motto - Semper Paratus - "Always Ready."

In addition to clerical and medical jobs, women worked in cryptology, they drove trucks, they flew airplanes, they rigged parachutes and they trained their male counterparts in aerial combat tactics.

But women also served overseas in hazardous duty.

Some 57,000 women worked in the Army Nurses Corps. In total, 432 women were killed in the line of service during World War II and 88 were taken as POWs.

During the Korean War, some 120,000 women were serving in active-duty positions from 1950-1953. Although they could not serve in combat, they undertook new roles such as military police officers or engineers.

The Vietnam War saw the expansion of women's roles in the Armed Forces, allowing them to train for more technical jobs such as air traffic controllers and intelligence officers. By 1972, women were able to be promoted and even to command units that included men.

Since the Vietnam War, there have been many "firsts" for women as the military opportunities expanded, but soon it became routine for women to serve, to receive promotions and medals, to work in roles traditionally done by men.

By 2013, the ban on women serving in direct combat areas was lifted. By 2015, it was



PHOTO COURTESY USO.ORG.

**Airman 1st Class Jessica Keith, 17th Training Wing, renders a salute as the United States Flag goes by during the San Angelo Veterans Day Parade Nov. 6. Airman Keith participated in the parade to honor the men and women who have served before her.**

fully implemented, opening up thousands of jobs for women in the military, including the opportunity to train and qualify as Navy SEALs and Army Rangers.

More than 300,000 women have served in Iraq and

Afghanistan since 9/11, and more than 9,000 have earned Combat Action Badges.

Today, women make up 16% of our nation's Armed Forces, proudly serving in every branch of the U.S. military.

Source: uso.org.



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U.S. Army  
1967-1968 • Vietnam



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U.S. Navy  
1970-1981



**HAROLD PANKEY**  
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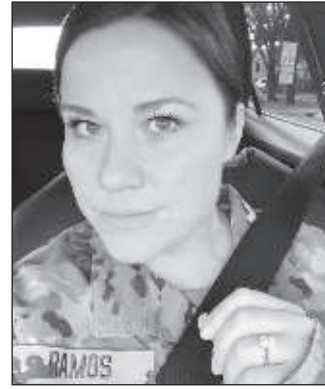
**JOHN PECK**  
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U.S. Navy  
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**AARON PINKSTON**  
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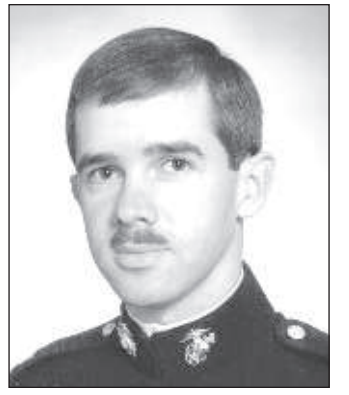
**OTTO ROESICKE**  
U.S. Army Air Corp WWII



**JOSEPH ROGERS**  
U.S. Air Force Capt 4 Years



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Corporal, Army



**DENNIS W. RILEY**  
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**ROEL F. ROTHENBERGER, JR.**  
U.S. Navy Medic HM2 1959-1963 • USS Yorktown



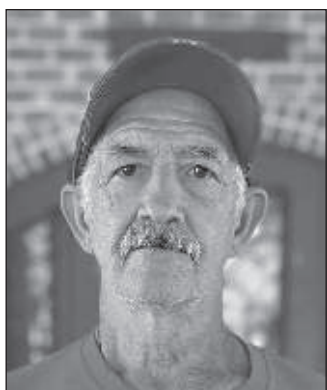
**BILL SELLMAN**  
U.S. Navy WWII



**JEREMY T. SHERIFF**  
U.S. Army Paratrooper 4 Years



**DENNIS SHERRILL**  
U.S. Navy 1965-1969



**MARK SHRUM**  
U.S. Air Force E3



**DWAYNE D. SIMON**  
U.S. Army 1952-1954 Cpl. Band 179th & 5th



**GARY S. SMITH**  
U. S. Marine Corps 1st Sgt. 1981-2001





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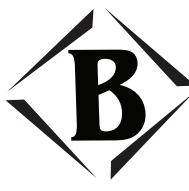
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U.S. Air Force  
1990-1994



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U.S. Army  
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U.S. Coast Guard Ship  
Captain • 4 Years  
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U.S. Army  
1964-1966



**STONEY STONEBRAKER**  
U.S. Army 1968-1996 LtCol



**ASHLEY STRICKLAND**  
U.S. Navy ABE3  
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**CHARLES STRICKLAND JR.**  
1966-1969 Combat Engineer



**JOHN SUTTON**  
U.S. Navy  
Active Duty • 4 Years



**STEVEN STUTSMAN**  
USAF Master Sergeant  
1976-1991 U.S. Navy Reserve  
Petty Officer • 1996-2004



**WILLIAM WESLEY SHORES**  
U.S. Army  
1942-1945 • WWII



**JAMES SWAN**  
Army



**FRANKLIN TAYLOR**  
Sergeant, Navy



**HOUSTON M. TAYLOR**  
U.S. Army SFC • 6 Years  
2005 Azle Graduate  
KIA Oct 12, 2011, Kunar  
Province, Afghanistan



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U.S. Army  
1968 - 1971



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U.S. Marine Corps  
2008-2012 E4



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U.S. Marine Corps  
1961-1967



**CLIFFORD W. TEAGUE**  
U.S. Army  
1956-1958



**RICH TERRETT**  
U.S. Navy LCDR  
1990-2014



**ARTHUR SCOTT TURNER**  
U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel  
1945-1978



**TERRY R. THORPE**  
U.S. Air Force • 1962-1982  
Vietnam • Bronze Star



**DAVID UTTER**  
U.S. Air Force Sgt



**SHAUN WAITS**  
U.S. Marine Corp  
1988-1992



**JERRY WALDEN**  
U.S. Air Force • 1965-1969  
Vietnam



**JERRY E. WALSTON**  
U.S. Marine Corps Lance  
Corporal • 1960-1966



**ROBERT WARREN**  
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# Five ways to really thank a veteran

**BY JAY ANN COX**  
Staff Writer

The U.S. is indeed a grateful nation. A 2019 survey by the Cohen Veterans Network with the Harris Poll showed that 91% of civilians have thanked a service member. However, nearly half of the veterans and active-duty service members polled (49%) were uneasy when told "thank you for your service." Mostly, they were uncomfortable because they were unsure how to re-

spond to civilian thanks.

Here are some ideas for how to support veterans and bridge that awkward gap that might be caused by the very best intentions.

Ask about their duties in the military, where they have been stationed and when they served. And then listen. It's as easy as striking up a conversation with any other stranger.

If your club or civic group has regular speakers at meetings, invite a veteran to speak

at the event. Veterans have great experience with crisis management and leadership, and maybe some funny stories to boot.

Hire a veteran or a military spouse for your business. Supporting military families through gainful employment helps active-duty spouses keep their skills sharp and provides veterans with that leg-up in the job market after their service.

Donate your time, money and even your frequent flier

miles. Local veterans and wounded warrior organizations might need legal or accounting pro bono hours. Many groups have raffles, auctions, fish fries that benefit veterans as well as their community. Check into the Hero Miles program at Fisher House (fisherhouse.org), which helps veterans and their families with transportation between home, medical centers and duty stations.

Use veteran-owned businesses or veteran entrepre-

neurs for goods and services. If you own a business or are responsible for purchasing decisions, consider adding these businesses to your supply chain.

Despite the unease some may feel when thanked, veterans have a decided need for validation of the sacrifice - for all the missed holidays, soccer games, school plays and anniversaries; for the loss of limbs and eyes; for the bones broken and com-

rades lost. So if all you have at the moment is "thanks for your service and sacrifice," go ahead and say it. It will be appreciated.

During an inspiring speech several years ago, former Green Beret John Wayne Walding, a wounded veteran, said his response to "thank you" is to simply reply "you're welcome. You, and this country, are worth it."



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U.S. Navy • 1961-1966



**MAYLYNN HURD WHITLOCK**  
U.S. Navy 4 Years



**BILL WHITE**  
U.S. Air Force 1959-1963



**DAVID WHITE**  
U.S. Marine Corps 1962-1966



**RICK WHITE**  
U.S. Air Force • 1988-1992



**CHARLES WHITLOCK**  
U.S. Navy • 4 Years  
U.S. Marine Corps • 4 Years



**RUSTY WHITT**  
U.S. Army Special Forces  
2003-2009



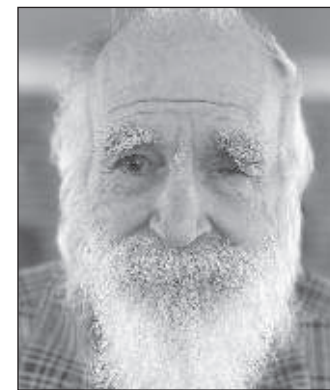
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**KIMBERLY WINSTON**  
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COURTESY PHOTO  
One of Conley's favorite duty stations was in Italy.

### CONLEY FROM PAGE 1C

a petty officer third class. "I was a torpedoman," he said. "We tended to the torpedoes of the submarines of the U.S. Navy. We made sure they were ready for action." Conley said that the most memorable part of his time in service with the Navy was all of the different countries that he was able to go, like Italy. "I was overseas the whole four years in different places," said Conley. "Two years in the Mediterranean Sea then two years in Guam." He said that what kept him

going while he was so far from home as he served in the Navy was the excitement of the job, the oceans that he crossed, and the different countries that they visited along the way. Working with torpedoes was an exciting part of the work he did in the Navy. His most memorable moment, he said, was when he went out on a submarine on an exercise shot of a torpedo and he was the one that was able to push the button to eject it at a target. Conley's own father served in the Army during the Korean War, and he feels that military service is something that "every young man"

should have to do for at least two years. "It teaches you respect for others," he said. After the Navy, Conley came home and started a water well company, which he ran for 30 years before running for county commissioner. He has been serving in that post now for 14 years. Conley has two daughters and four grandchildren who are all very special to him. Though he isn't traveling the world these days, he does get to spend time with them while he's closer to home. "I have lived in Springtown all my life — what a great place to live."

### FRISKE FROM PAGE 6C

like mechanics." He said he liked the camaraderie and atmosphere of the service, a place where service to others is essential. "We knew we were there keeping our freedom for everybody," he said. "It's just always been my thing

- freedom." He joined the Army's delayed entry program. "I was 17 when I showed up for basic training, turned 18 when my first week of basic training," he said, noting he had basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He is still friends with people he knew in the military, although everyone is scattered now. While in the military, his

job gave him an opportunity to meet people from a number of rank backgrounds. Friske, whose last rank was staff sergeant, was the head tracked vehicle inspector for all the rotation units that showed up to Fort Irwin. "I interacted with everybody, from the colonel on down to a private," he said. "I helped train them on how to work on the tracked equipment."

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- Shane Wall, Owner - Physical Therapist

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(left to right) Jackie “Jack” Smith, Staff Sergeant, USAF; Billy Myers, Tech Sergeant, 20 yrs. in USAF; Franklin Roop, Corporal, Army; James Swan, Army; Franklin Taylor, Sergeant, Navy; Shirley Hubbard, Civilian Civil Service, 32 yrs. in USAF; Kathleen Ramsey, Staff Sergeant, Army; John Peck, Corporal, Army

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