

1st Lt. Arthur W. Jarr, U.S. Army, World War II



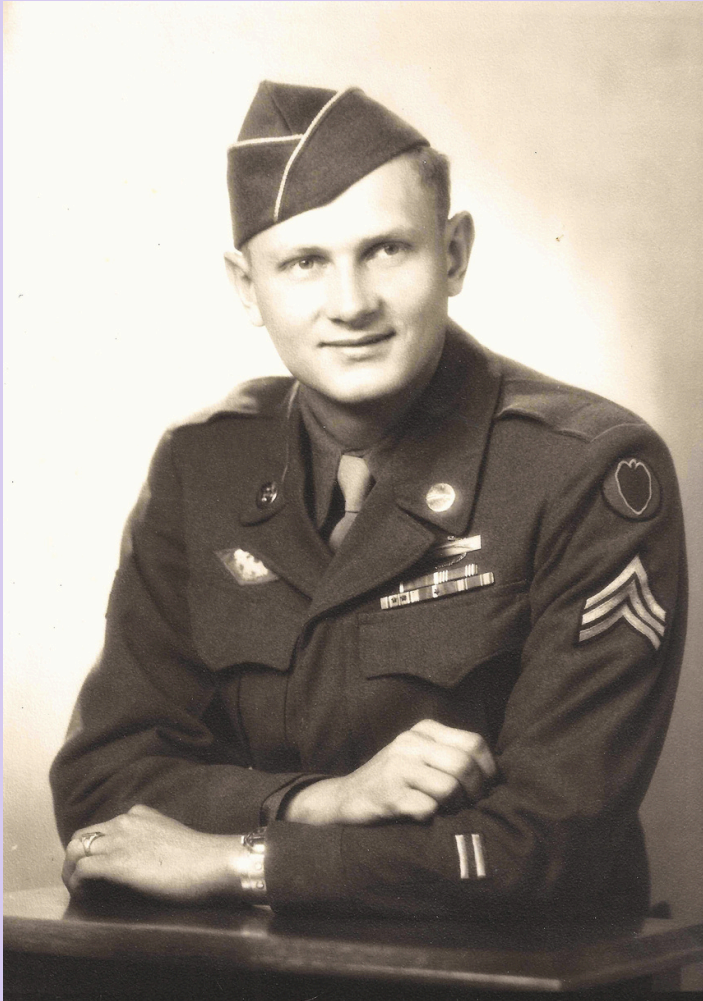
Arthur W. Jarr, born July 24, 1918, and passed away on September 19, 2004, served with honor in World War II as commander of Battery B, 905th Field Artillery, part of the 80th Infantry Division, the Blue Ridge Division, under Patton's Third Army.

During the Battle of the Bulge, his battery was positioned near Heiderscheid, Luxembourg, providing critical support to the 319th Infantry Regiment. The unit endured heavy enemy fire, taking more than fifty incoming rounds and suffering multiple casualties.

On January 5, 1945, while serving as Executive Officer, Lt. Jarr demonstrated exceptional courage as recorded in his Purple Heart citation. Under intense artillery fire, he moved from gun to gun, encouraging his men and maintaining the battery's mission. While rendering aid to a seriously wounded soldier, George Fisher, Lt. Jarr was himself wounded. His bravery, leadership, and selfless devotion to duty brought great credit to himself and the United States Army.

Many years later, at an 80th Division reunion, George Fisher recalled that moment and said simply, "You take care of him." For his actions that day, Arthur Jarr was awarded both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Sgt. Ernest Charles Welker (Chuck), U.S. Army, WWII



Sergeant Chuck Ernest Welker proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the 34th Infantry Division of the United States Army. During his service, he fought in the Southern Philippines campaign on the island of Luzon, where Allied forces engaged in fierce combat to liberate the Philippines from Japanese occupation.

While serving with his unit, Sergeant Welker was seriously wounded by a hand grenade during the fighting. He was evacuated to the headquarters of the 90th Field Hospital, where he received medical treatment for his injuries. In recognition of the wounds he sustained in combat and his courageous service, Sergeant Welker was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal.

Following his honorable service to the nation, Sergeant Welker was honorably discharged from the United States Army on January 29, 1946. After a life marked by service and sacrifice, Sergeant Chuck Ernest Welker passed away in 1988.

Today, we remember Sergeant Chuck Ernest Welker with gratitude and respect for his courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to his fellow soldiers and to the United States. His service and the legacy of his bravery continue to inspire future generations.

Cpl George Thomas Jones, U.S. Army, WWII



George Thomas Jones was born on December 1, 1920, in Entiat, Washington. During World War II, George proudly served in the United States Army as a medium tank crewman. He participated in five major campaigns across the European Theater: Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. His courage, dedication, and sacrifice helped secure the freedoms enjoyed by future generations.

For his honorable military service, George received numerous decorations, including the American Theater Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star Medal. These honors reflect his bravery and commitment to his fellow soldiers and his country.

After a life marked by service and sacrifice, George Thomas Jones passed away on December 29, 2003, in Moses Lake, Washington. He was laid to rest at East Wenatchee Cemetery.

Today, we proudly remember George Thomas Jones for his patriotism, courage, and the sacrifices he made in service to the United States. His legacy continues through his family, who are honored to be present as he receives this well-deserved recognition.

PFC Irvin Chmelir, U.S. Army, WWII



Irvin C. Chmelir was born on May 11, 1921, on his family's farm in Wilbur, Nebraska. Raised with the values of hard work and perseverance, he carried those qualities throughout his life in service to his country, his family, and the agricultural community.

On August 5, 1942, Irvin enlisted in the United States Army during World War II. He served in the 80th Division, 378th Infantry Regiment, fighting under General George S. Patton in the European Theater of Operations. His courage and dedication were recognized on January 29, 1944, when he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal for his exemplary military service.

Following his discharge, Irvin pursued higher education. He graduated from various agricultural programs at New Mexico State College, the University of Nebraska, and Washington State University.

In 1950, Irvin and his wife settled in Wenatchee, Washington, where they raised four daughters. He spent his professional career with the WSU at the Tree Fruit Research Center, contributing to advances in tree fruit agriculture that benefited growers throughout the region. Irvin C. Chmelir passed away on August 26, 2011, leaving behind a legacy of military service, agricultural achievement, and enduring love for his family and community.

Cox. John Clifford Drake, US Navy, WWII

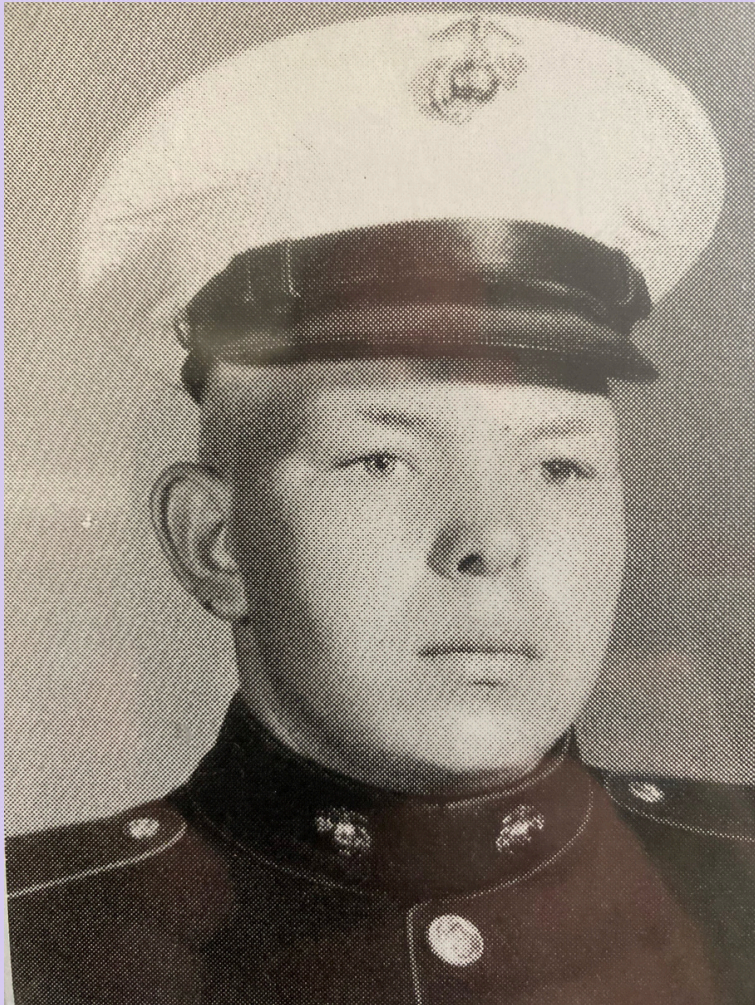


John Clifford Drake was born on December 31, 1926, in Bayard, Nebraska, and was raised in various communities throughout Wyoming and Idaho. Upon turning 17 years old, John enlisted in the United States Navy on January 10, 1944. After the completion of necessary trainings and related duties, John was assigned to an LCS-L (landing craft support – large). The ship headed to the South Pacific to prepare for support of removing the Japanese from the Philippine islands. Upon reaching the Philippines, the LCS was one of the six ships anchored at the mouth of Mariveles Bay on the island of Luzon.

On February 15th, 1945, their first night at anchor, five of the ships were attacked by Japanese suicide boats. The LCS that John was on was one of four ships sunk during the attack. Many lives were lost, while John received shrapnel wounds to his left leg and had both eardrums broken. He received treatment on a variety of hospital ships and in different military hospitals, eventually returning to duty after the war had officially ended. John was honorably discharged from service on June 12th, 1946.

Following his military service, John took advantage of the educational opportunities provided through the GI bill. He attended Lewiston State Normal School in Lewiston Idaho, where he earned a degree in biology and education. Coxswain John Clifford Drake's story reflects the courage, resilience, and dedication of the Greatest Generation.

Cpl. Lawrence “Larry” O’Brian, USMC, Vietnam War



Lawrence “Larry” O’Brian was a kind-hearted man—a true teddy bear at heart. He was born on February 20, 1949, in Ogdensburg, New York, and grew up on his family’s dairy farm in upstate New York. Later, his family relocated to California, where Larry worked in construction and sandblasting before eventually settling in Wenatchee. There, he joined the family business, O’Brian Painting.

Larry met the love of his life, Theresa Snyder, and together they shared 43 wonderful years of marriage. They raised their son, Jason, who was not only Larry’s son but also his very best friend.

Larry proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from July 10, 1968, to May 20, 1970, achieving the rank of Corporal. During his military service, he displayed extraordinary courage and dedication. In addition to receiving the Purple Heart, Corporal O’Brian was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, and four additional military decorations in recognition of his valor and honorable service.

Corporal O’Brian passed away in May of last year and is deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be remembered for his love of trucking, country music, fishing, hunting, farm animals, his beloved dogs, Sam and Magghay, and, of course, riding his cherished motorcycle, "Lucille." His legacy lives on through the courage he displayed in service to his country, the sacrifices he made as a United States Marine, and the quiet strength, humility, and compassion that defined his life long after he returned home.

LCpl. Nicholas R. Coleman, USMC, Iraq War



Nicholas R. Coleman was born in Kirkland, Washington, on July 22, 1981, and graduated from Woodinville High School. After the attacks of 9/11, Nick felt a strong calling to serve his country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on June 5, 2003.

On October 17, 2003, he completed boot camp at Camp Pendleton. He continued his training at 29 Palms and deployed to Iraq with his platoon on January 12, 2004.

During a routine reconnaissance mission, Nick's Humvee was struck by a roadside bomb, killing his friend and leaving Nick with shrapnel wounds to the back of his neck that resulted in a traumatic brain injury and PTSD. Nick received his Purple Heart on April 3, 2004.

He was discharged in June 28, 2006 after recovering from his physical injuries, but the invisible wounds of war continued to follow him. On December 11, 2010, Nick lost his battle with PTSD, leaving behind parents Mike and Phyllis Coleman, and sister, Kristina Barnum, who mourn him every day.

Pvt. Patrick Beeman, Army, World War I



Patrick Beeman joined the United States Army in the spring of 1918. He was deployed to France in September of that year as part of the American Expeditionary Force, serving as a Private in Company A, 109th Infantry Regiment, 28th Division.

Just weeks after arriving, on October 3, 1918, Patrick was killed in action during the Meuse-Agronne Offensive, one of the largest and deadliest campaigns of World War I.

Patrick was survived by a brother, Clarence Beeman, a sister, Zanie (Beeman) Johnston, and five half-sisters, Nellie (Rowland) Jess, Grace (Rowland) Jess, Eva (Rowland) Huston, Margaret (Rowland) Suchan, Laura (Rowland) Bigelow, and their descendants. His legacy lives on as the Manson American Legion honored Patrick by naming the post after him, Wilkenson-Beeman Post 108.

1st Lt. Richard Aliulis, US Army, Vietnam War



Richard Lee Aliulis proudly served in the United States Army from 1968 to 1971 during the Vietnam War. Through his courage, leadership, and unwavering commitment to his fellow soldiers, he rose to the rank of First Lieutenant.

During his military service, Richard distinguished himself through extraordinary bravery in combat. He was awarded the Purple Heart, three Bronze Star Medals, and the Silver Star for his valor and selfless actions. In one of the defining moments of his service, Richard risked his own life to rescue a fellow soldier, Neil Lark Sr. of South Carolina, after Mr. Lark's unit was ambushed. While carrying out the rescue, Richard came under enemy fire and was wounded. A bullet struck his helmet and became lodged at his forehead—a close call that underscored the danger he faced that day. Thanks to his courage and determination, both men survived the ambush and eventually returned home to their families.

For decades after the war, Richard and Neil did not see one another. Then, in 2011, Neil Lark Sr. and his family traveled to the Seattle area, where the two veterans shared an emotional reunion after more than 40 years apart. Since that memorable meeting, they have remained in regular contact, a lasting testament to the bond forged through their shared experiences and Richard's life-saving actions.

Richard's service exemplifies courage, sacrifice, and devotion to his country and to the soldiers who served beside him. His heroism in the face of danger continues to inspire those who know his story, and his family remains deeply proud of him and his military service.

HMCS, Shep Kuester, US Navy, Vietnam



Shep David Kuester was born on November 18, 1947, in Tacoma, Washington. He enlisted in the United States Navy in September 1967, beginning a distinguished military career that would span more than 20 years. He faithfully served until his retirement in June 1988.

Throughout his naval career, Shep earned the respect of his fellow service members through his professionalism, dedication, and commitment to excellence. His service was recognized with numerous military awards and decorations, including the Overseas Service Ribbon, Navy Achievement Medal with two Bronze Stars, Navy Expeditionary Medal (two awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (five awards), Battle "E" Award (two awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Combat Action Ribbon, Expert Rifle Medal, Expert Pistol Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

During his years in the Navy, Shep served at a variety of important duty stations, including Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California; Hospital Corps School at Great Lakes, Illinois; USS Durham (LKA-114); USS Narwhal (SSN-671); USS Cincinnati (SSN-693); USS Drum (SSN-677); Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, Washington; and Commander Submarine Group Eight in Naples, Italy.

Among his many assignments, Shep found his greatest challenge—and greatest reward—serving aboard fast attack submarines as an Independent Duty Corpsman. In this demanding role, he was responsible for the health and well-being of the crew while operating in some of the Navy's most challenging environments. His skill, leadership, and calm under pressure earned the confidence of those who served alongside him.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Shep made his home in East Wenatchee, Washington. His decades of honorable service reflect a lifetime of dedication to his country, his fellow sailors, and the values of integrity, courage, and commitment.

CPT William “Dan” Cox Jr., U.S. Army, Vietnam



Captain William "Dan" Cox, Jr. began his active-duty service in the United States Army in 1965. His first assignment was as a platoon commander with an armored cavalry unit in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, where he later became a company commander. In 1969, he deployed to Vietnam as the Senior Advisor to the 43rd Intelligence and Reconnaissance Company, 18th Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). Serving alongside an elite South Vietnamese reconnaissance unit, Captain Cox spent a year conducting combat operations in the jungles of Vietnam, where his unit engaged enemy forces on an almost daily basis.

Captain Cox distinguished himself through extraordinary courage and leadership under fire. On May 10, 1969, during a fierce enemy attack on an artillery base, he repeatedly exposed himself to intense rocket, recoilless rifle, and small arms fire to encourage his Vietnamese soldiers, direct their fields of fire, and coordinate artillery and air strikes. Although wounded by grenade fragments, he refused evacuation and continued directing the defense for more than three and a half hours until the attack was repulsed. During his two tours in Vietnam, Captain Cox earned two Silver Stars, three Bronze Star Medals with "V" Device for Valor, 26 Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and "V" Device, the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star and Silver Star, the Vietnamese Armor Badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge, an award he considered his most meaningful honor. He also sustained additional combat wounds that went unreported.

Following his second tour in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot, Captain Cox helped establish the first tank range at Fort Hood, Texas, before concluding his active-duty service in 1975. He continued serving in the United States Army Reserve for five more years before resigning his commission. Captain William "Dan" Cox, Jr. passed away on February 12, 2023, from complications related to Agent Orange exposure. His life of courage, sacrifice, and dedicated service stands as a lasting tribute to the highest traditions of the United States Army.