

The Greensburg Community  
Development Corporation Presents:

4th Annual



# HOMETOWN HEROES

*Celebration*

Saturday, July 6, 2024

St. Clair Park in Greensburg • 6 p.m.



GREENSBURG  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION



# PARTNER ORGANIZATION



WESTMORELAND  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## Summer Sparklers

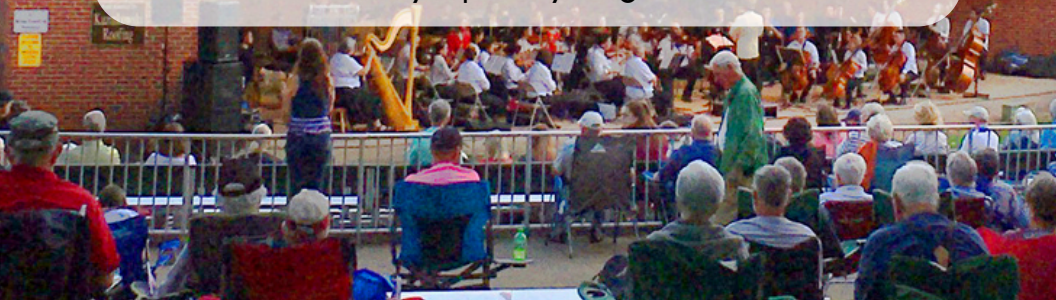
July 6, 2024 at 7 p.m.

Keep the Fourth of July festivities going with the WSO's free one-hour summer concert!

Join us as we celebrate with patriotic favorites including the Armed Forces Salute, Stars and Stripes Forever, along with Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, pops and movie music, conducted by Artistic Director Daniel Meyer.

This concert is free, open to the public, and perfect for all ages. Don't miss a night of fantastic music and flag-waving summer fun.

[westmorelandsymphony.org](http://westmorelandsymphony.org) 724-837-1850



# GREENSBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



GREENSBURG  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION

Founded in 1799, Greensburg remains the cultural, government, and legal center of Westmoreland County. The neighborhoods of the city are diverse with each possessing a distinct charm. Greensburg is a wonderful place for families of all ages to enjoy a city with a small-town feel; with many young professionals and college students enjoying the vibrant downtown area bridging the gaps between multiple generations. The restored County Courthouse, Palace Theatre, and the Train Station showcase the architectural style of the late 1800s and the high level of civic pride in our history. The numerous billiard halls and membership clubs of the early 1900s have been replaced with coffee shops, specialty retail stores, and tattoo shops. New apartments with modern style and features complement the historic houses of the Academy Hill National Historic District.

The city has maintained outstanding desirability as a place to live. Residents have pride in their neighborhoods featuring tree-lined streets, sidewalks, neighborhood businesses, public green space, and community parks. Two major universities bookend the city providing opportunities to earn a degree and experience lectures and performances. Seton Hill University and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg are not only education centers but significant contributors to the local economy.

City residents enjoy year-round entertainment with proximity to many key entertainment, cultural, and recreational amenities. The Five Star walking/biking trail, Mt. Odin Golf Course, Lynch Field, and Kirk Nevin Arena provide residents with ample outdoor recreational opportunities. The SummerSounds concerts at the Robertshaw Amphitheater in St. Clair Park balance the fall and winter event schedules of the Palace Theatre, Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center. The Cultural District is strengthened by several arts related entrepreneurs, galleries and performance venues.

Equally important factors making Greensburg a unique place to live are the retail stores of the downtown shopping district and houses of worship. The numerous restaurants, cafés and bars located throughout the city make it a fun, unique place to live and are a key part of the popularity of Greensburg. In many ways, Greensburg reflects our society and the region while possessing an appreciation of our history.

The Greensburg Community Development Corporation (GCDC) supports the efforts of residents, business owners and developers who want to ensure that this unique community remains a great place to live, work, and visit. Want to know why you should Think Greensburg? For more information, visit our website or contact us:

101 N Main St. Suite 105, Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-689-0040

<https://thinkgreensburg.com/>

*The Greensburg Community Development Corporation (GCDC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established to assist with the development and revitalization of downtown Greensburg. For nearly 50 years, we have obtained dilapidated properties for redevelopment, secured land for new construction, and helped to attract new businesses to the City. The GCDC is not a department of the City of Greensburg, but a separately funded non-profit organization that works closely with the City to assist businesses, institutions, property owners, and residents in implementing community development programs.*



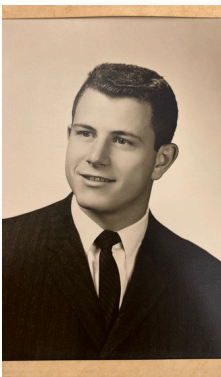
# Our Hometown Heroes City of Greensburg



**John Patrick (Pat) Altman** was born March 17, 1930 in Greensburg, PA. He enlisted in the Army at age 17 and became a sergeant having served in the Korean War from 1947-1952. Pat was manager for 28 years of BPOE Lodge 511 of Greensburg. Pat was a charter member of Fort Allen Volunteer Fire Department. He was a previous member of the Amvets Color Guard Post 94 of United, BPOE 868 of Mt Pleasant, Kosciuszko Club, Norvelt Fireman's Club and Hecla Fire Department & Sportsman Club. Pat married Dolores DeLozier in 1956 and had three children; Tom, Kathy DeFlorio, and Pat; and five grandchildren.



**Hayley Curry Army.** Graduated from Latrobe High School as Valedictorian and she also graduated Summa Cum Laude from Vanderbilt University and their ROTC program. Also an Airborne graduate. She was stationed at the Pentagon for five years as an Honor's Attorney for the office of the Army General Counsel. Now she is an attorney in Dallas, Texas working with data protection, privacy, and security.

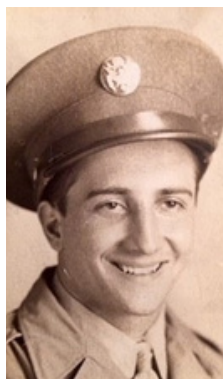


**James Curry** graduated from Greensburg High School. He entered the Navy and was stationed on the USS Long Beach, a nuclear powered guided missile cruiser as a radioman. He was also stationed on the USS Dewey. He then became a State Trooper for 28 years stationed in Greensburg.

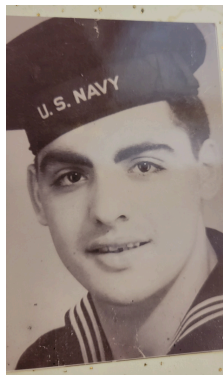




**Lance Carleton** completed basic training and advanced Infantry training at Ft. Benning Georgia. He trained troops for the Gulf War and was stationed at Fort Irwin, California. He also earned his Airborne Wings at Ft. Benning, Georgia.



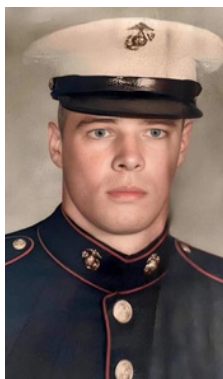
**Angelo DeBona** was responsible for the working conditions of radio equipment on a B-24 airplane. He checked the operation of radio equipment on the plane before each flight. He received a Good Conduct Medal. He also received the Distinguished Unit Badge with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He also received the European African Middle Eastern Theater Service Medal with 10 Bronze Stars. His battles included: Southern France, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Normandy, Europe Air Offense, Balkans Germany, Northern France, Northern, and Northern Apennines.



**Joseph A. DeFail** was a US Navy Fireman First Class in World War II. He was commissioned to USS Cowpens CVL 25 aircraft carrier also known as "The Mighty Moo." It was the Navy's first aircraft carrier in Tokyo Bay. It fought in every major carrier operation, including the Battles of the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf. His ship was faced with a deadly typhoon on December 18, 1944, Typhoon Cobra, that brought the ship to the verge of capsizing. The skillful work of the ship's crew helped to make it less devastating. Only one man was lost. At war's end there was only one US aircraft carrier in Tokyo Bay to witness the Japanese surrender, it was "The Mighty Moo." Throughout Joseph's life, he always stood proud to know that he answered his call of duty for his country.



After serving three years in the US Army, **Michael Dell** was one of the first paramedics for Mutual Aid Ambulance Service. He then joined the Greensburg Police Department and retired as a Lieutenant after 25 years of service. He also was the Chief of Campus Police at Seton Hill University for many years.



**Adam S. Derr Sr.** Vietnam War Veteran US Marine Corps, Lance Corporal Adam Derr enlisted in the US Marine Corps in 1970 at the age of 20. He married the love of his life (Janice) the same month that he left for boot camp. Adam fought in the Vietnam War until being injured in combat from an explosion and received a purple heart for his service to our country. After being discharged from the Marines, Adam and his wife pursued their dream to be dairy farmers. They settled in Dawson, PA and went on to manage their family farm for over 50 years before passing away surrounded by loved ones in 2022. He was a simple and humble man that loved his country, family and friends.



**Louis Esola** was raised in Kittanning, PA. Louis was drafted into the US Army in 1941 and served in the 5th Tank Battalion, 16th Armored Division, 3rd US Army in Europe under Gen. Patton. In 1946, he was promoted to Captain and was honorably discharged in 1953. He married the former Mamie Moschetti and moved to Greensburg in 1953, where they raised four children and where he lived until his death in 2002.



**Pellegrino "PJ" Fiore** was born and raised in Greensburg, PA where he enlisted in the Marine Corps and serviced his country in Korea. After, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a local master plumber. In addition to his service in the Marines, he volunteered at the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department and was a lifelong member of the No. 6 Hose Company. Although all his service to his community, his greatest honor was being a father and grandfather. He remained in Greensburg until his death.



**Fred "Chip" Funari** lived his life in service to his family, country and community. He was a retired US probation officer and an Air Force Veteran serving on the main gate in Saigon during the Tet Offensive and at the Cheyenne Mountain Air Force station Norad in Colorado. Chip was a longtime baseball and softball coach and umpire. In his retirement, Chip remained committed to serving the community as a court appointed special advocate with CASA in Westmoreland County. He mentored his former players and students teaching at local universities. He was a proud alumnus of Greensburg Central Catholic High School, and was honored as a distinguished alumnus by St. Vincent College in 2010, his alma mater. Chip Funari was never at a loss for words and was always willing to share what was on his mind. "Pop Pop's Life's Lessons" should be published! Chip was married to Josie and blessed with three loving children, Bryan, Brad, Jennifer and 11 amazing grandchildren.



**Charles Galbraith**, Army Sergeant, Sept 11, 1952 - Sept 10, 1954. He was stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He received the Good Conduct Medal and the National Defensive Service Medal.



**Rocco A. Giallonardo** was born September 8, 1945 in Greensburg to the late Rocco and Rosa Giallonardo. He has been a resident of West Otterman Street for nearly 79 years. Rocco was a 1963 graduate of Greensburg Central Catholic High School. He was drafted and served as a Corporal in the Army during the Vietnam War from October 1966 - October 1967. When he returned, he began his career in the trucking business. He worked at Leonard Express, Consolidated Freightways, and Pittsburgh Fayette Express. He retired from PFX in 2011. He was married to the late, Marjorie Mann Giallonardo. They have two daughters, Gina Giallonardo Coppula and Jana Giallonardo Valentine. Rocco also has three granddaughters, Mia, Sophia, and Ava Coppula. He is a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Carbon.



**Charles Hamman Jr.** was born October 9, 1918. He enlisted October 8, 1940. Charles entered active service February 17, 1941 as a firefighter with the 555th Army Air Force. He departed from England on October 20, 1942. He returned to the US on February 25, 1945. Charles was discharged on September 30, 1945. He was a Staff Sergeant and earned the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with one Bronze Star. Charles passed away June 24, 2004.



**William Henry** was a Corporal who served in the Korean War. He was a Purple Heart Veteran.



**Joseph A. Hudock** was born in Greensburg and enlisted in the Navy after graduating from law school in 1963. He then went through Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. Thereafter he served in Japan in the JAG Corps and stateside until 1968. He did spend some time in the Naval Reserves after leaving active duty. His final rank was Lieutenant Commander.



**Clarence Hyatt** graduated from Greensburg High School. He entered the Army and fought in the Korean War and received two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. He was also stationed in Berlin, Germany.



**Ronald Hyatt** was a policeman for the Youngwood Police Department. He entered the Army upon his graduation from Hempfield High School and eventually became a Military Police Officer. Afterwards he entered the Austin Texas Police Department. He then became a Street Detective for the Austin Police Department.



**Paul "Bud" Kepple** served from 1943-1946.





**Robert Koveleskie** was a State Policeman for nine years with Troop A, which brought him to Greensburg in 1959. He was then a local businessman with a great love for his community and a faithful supporter of Greensburg Salem schools and teams. One of his greatest efforts was working to improve pedestrian safety, especially in school zones. He always said that he wanted to make Greensburg a better place to live and raise a family. He volunteered for the military during the Korean War and expected to serve there, but the Air Force sent him to bases in the U.S. and Canada during his four year enlistment. Following active duty, he was in the Air Force Reserve.



**Robert E. Lore** was born November 2, 1920, in Blairsville, PA. He was raised in Blairsville and graduated from Blairsville High School and met his wife to be, Lois Jeffries Lore. Robert Lore enlisted in the US Army in November 1942, and served as a Corporal Rifleman in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II. He was wounded during this time and later received a Purple Heart. He was captured by the German Army in February 1944, and taken as a Prisoner of War for 14 months after which was liberated by American Forces. He was honorably discharged in 1945. Upon his return to Blairsville, PA, Robert married his wife Lois, started his family and resumed his career. Robert moved his family to Greensburg, PA in 1963 to continue his over 40-year career with the Peoples Natural Gas Company.



**Joseph Lotto** WWII- US Navy- Gunner's Mate, Third Class. Served on an aircraft carrier and destroyer, USS Hawkins and USS Bataan. Pacific Theater Ribbon (Three Stars), American Theater Ribbon, Victory Medal.



**J. Alan Lukasik** served in the Atlantic fleet from September 1965 to December 1971. He was based in Groton, CT aboard the USS Patrick Henry.



**Paul L. McFarland** was born and raised in Greensburg on April 8, 1911—Died December 11, 2003. He enlisted in the Army in February of 1942. He was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky for basic training. Eight weeks later he was sent to Fort Knox Officers Candidate School. From there he was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia with the 10th Armed Division. He was transferred to Camp Gordon, Georgia and transferred to 777th Tank Battalion. He left the United States on December 16, 1944 from the Brookland Navy Yard heading for Liverpool, England. In February 1945 he was attached to an advanced detail heading to Lavre and Rouen, France. From there he was sent to Belgium, Hurtgen Forest. From there his unit was sent to Cologne and Leipzig. He eventually made it back home July 6, 1945. In February 1946 he was discharged at the rank of 1st Lieutenant. After his discharge he worked as a manager for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. Paul married Valeria Bargara Pawlik from Jeannette and had five children, one daughter and four sons.



**Mike Moschetti** was a lifelong resident of Greensburg. He graduated from Greensburg High School in 1938. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 during World War II and served through 1946, mostly in the Pacific Theater. After his service, Mike attended Robert Morris School of Business. Over the years, Mike served in various government capacities, including Chief Deputy Sheriff, 5th Ward Alderman, and District Justice.



**Michael (Mike) Panichella** served during the Korean Conflict from 1952-1954. He served on the front lines during most of his deployment. He also took part in the Munsanni Provisional Command in "Operation Big Switch," repatriating United Nations and Republic of Korea prisoners.



**Nicola Panichella** was born in Riccia, Campobasso in the Molise Region of Italy in 1893. He arrived in America in 1912 and settled in George's Station where he began working for the Pennsylvania Railroad. He registered for the WWI draft in 1917 and served with the Army stationed in Bourges, Cher, France. After the war, he became a US citizen in 1919 at Fort Dix, NJ. He traveled to Italy to visit his parents and returned to the US in 1921 with his wife, Maria Giuseppa "Josephine" and his two brothers, Vitale and Donato. His sister, Maria Iapalucci, eventually joined her brothers in the US in the 1950s. Nicola and Josephine went on to have nine children: Joseph, Jennie, Anthony, Lucy, Daniel, Mary, Michael, John and James. They eventually moved from George's Station to the Hilltop area of Greensburg where Nicola continued to live and work for the Pennsylvania Railroad until his death in 1963. He created a family which continues with 100s of descendants still living within the Greensburg area today.



**Vincent Piscar Jr.** was in B-Company 7 engineers mine sweeper. Passed away July 19, 1967.



**Dan Pultz**, a 1961 Greensburg High School graduate, graduated from Lehigh University in 1965 before joining the US Marine Corps, completing Officer's Candidate School and The Basic School. In 1966 he received his orders for Vietnam, and joined the 'The Flaming I,' India Company, Third Battalion, Ninth Marines as its second Platoon Leader. During the Battle of Getlin's Corner, Dan's leadership earned him the Bronze Star Medal with the V device for Valor. In 1968 after the siege at Khe Sanh, Dan rotated back to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune to prepare for a second overseas deployment with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean and returned as Commanding Officer of H & S Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines. Dan was honorably discharged as a Captain from the Marine Corps in 1969. Dan transitioned to civilian life as a Counselor Therapist at the Pennsylvania Youth Development Center for adjudicated minors and went on to helm his own businesses for the next 33 years. Dan played a pivotal role in various veterans initiatives, including the Veterans Leadership Program, Friends of Danang, the Pittsburgh Veterans Day Breakfast and Semper Fi Odyssey, leaving an indelible mark on their growth and success. Of particular note, as a founding member of Friends of Danang, Dan engaged his Vietnam Marine Corps unit the "Flaming I" in the fundraising for the construction of an elementary school in Danang in memory of both American and Vietnamese lives lost. Of equal importance are the 12,000+ hours of volunteer service Dan committed to the Semper Fi Odyssey program where he impacted over 2,500 veterans and their families.



**Adam Pyle** has been in the Army for 19 years. He served in Kuwait, Afghanistan, South Korea, and Germany. He's a Communications and Computer Specialist currently stationed at Hunter Airfield Savannah, Georgia.



**John D. Reese** was born and raised in Beaver Falls, PA but relocated to Greensburg and raised his family here until his untimely passing in the 1980s. He was an active local businessman and active in the Greensburg community. John D. Reese Way in Greensburg is named in his honor.



**John Rosatti** was the son of Rose & Carmen Rosatti. After high school he joined the USMC in 1954. Upon leaving the USMC he married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Guala. He had six children, Marcia, John, David, Tom, Bob and Steven, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. John was active in his community, church and an active member of the Forbes Road Volunteer fire department until his passing in December of 2017.



**William Rudolph** was a local businessman owning William Rudolph and Associates (Nationwide Insurance). He was a life member of Greensburg Hose Co #1 having served as Captain and the Director of GVFD Museum Board. He was the Director of "Go Greensburg" and a member of Greensburg Rotary. He was also the founder of the Greensburg Fire Museum.





**Matthew Shellgren** served for eight years while stationed in San Diego, CA going on two tours, one in Afghanistan and in Okinawa, Japan from 1999 to 2008. He was married with three children. He remained in Ventura, CA after serving eight years. Matthew was born on April 23, 1981 and passed on September 3, 2020. His cause of death was a heart attack from coronary artery disease.



**Richard "Dick" Shifko**, born on May 29, 1933, left an indelible mark on everyone he encountered during his lifetime which unfortunately ended on October 8, 1993, due to short yet courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. His journey was one of courage, resilience, and unwavering love for family. Dick graduated from Youngwood High School where he excelled academically and played football. He was a proud Army Veteran and during his military service, spent time in Germany and enjoyed working on planes. When he returned home, he married Dolly and they remained in Greensburg. He was loyal to PPG Industries in South Greensburg, where he held a supervisory role. He was always kind and was a loving husband to his wife, Dolly, and a devoted father to his three children: Rick, Jim, and Cheryl. Dick enjoyed spending time with his family, reading, golfing, going to Myrtle Beach, and watching football. His warm smile and kind heart endeared him to all who knew him.



**Clifford Steiner** was in Korea and Japan. He received the World War II Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Medal from his time in Japan. Clifford also was Rifleman - SMI Rifle 162 Private First Class, Regular Army.



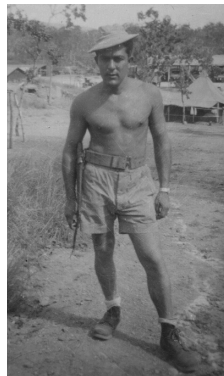
**Franklin Sundry** WWII - Army First Sergeant. He had four children who were all raised in New Alexandria and attended Greensburg Salem high school. He was a War Hero. He was the "Mayor" of Frogtown and has 10 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren that love him very much.



**Charles Varriano** was born and raised in Greensburg, PA. His parents Giovanna & Pasquale came to the US on a boat from Italy in 1921. He had three siblings, one sister and two brothers. He met his wife while stationed in Okinawa, Japan. They wed and had five children. He served in both the Navy and Marines.



**Harry K. Wilcox** was born and raised in Philadelphia and lived in New Jersey until moving to Greensburg in the 1950s for work at ITE. However, he spent most of his career as the CEO of Westmoreland Hospital, until he retired in the 1990s. He was very active in the Greensburg community. The alley next to the Palace Theatre is named in his honor.



**Quentin Zambano** was born in Hannastown. The family moved to Greensburg and he worked as a heavy equipment operator for his family's construction company, Zambano and Sons. He served in the Army Air Corps during WWII in the Pacific Theater. He was a member of an engineering combat battalion of the 5th Air Force that created airfields in New Guinea, Papua, and Netherlands East Indies. During his time in the Southwest Pacific, his battalion received a Presidential Unit Citation and Bronze Battle Stars for three campaigns. After the war he rejoined Zambano and Sons.



**Quentin Dennis Zambano** was born in Greensburg in 1946. In the summer of 1962 he moved to Bellevue, WA where he finished high school. He joined the Army in 1966 and attended Officer Candidate School (Infantry) at Ft Benning, GA. He served in Vietnam as a platoon leader in the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Dennis was killed in action on October 15, 1967 while serving as a military advisor in Binh Dinh Province. He was awarded a Purple Heart for his injuries received that day. Dennis also received Bronze Stars for Valor and Merit.



# Our Hometown Heroes Southwest Greensburg



**Leo M. Bacha** was born and raised in Natrona, PA. He attended Georgetown University and graduated from Temple University and Eckels College of Embalming in Philadelphia. He began his career working at his father's funeral home and eventually opening his own funeral home in Greensburg in 1960. Elected as the Westmoreland County coroner in 1978 serving six terms and retired in 2001. He was a lifetime member and former officer of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Hose Co. #3 and past treasurer serving as president of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Dept. Board of Control when he died in 2006. A member of the Church of St. Paul, Greensburg, the Knights of Columbus Council 1480, Westmoreland County Firemen's Association, Fire Chiefs Association of Westmoreland County, the Fireman's Association State of Pennsylvania, the Westmoreland County Law Enforcement Officers Association, and a board member for the Westmoreland County Emergency Services Training Center. He was married to Barbara L. Bacha, has three children, four grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.



**John Ciavarra** was born December 24, 1921, in Italy, and came to Southwest Greensburg in 1927. He was a star halfback for the Greensburg High School Golden Lions football team. After he graduated, he enlisted in the Marine Corps during World War II, where he participated in four campaigns: Marshall Islands, Tinian, Saipan, and Iwo Jima. He received the Bronze Star, two Silver Stars, and a commendation for heroism. After the war, he returned to Southwest Greensburg, graduated from Saint Vincent College, married Francis Collincini Ciavarra, and was employed by ABB in South Greensburg for 35 years. He was a father of five children and a grandfather to six grandchildren. During his retirement, he loved to garden, play golf, read on his back porch, attend his grandchildren's activities, give advice, and tell stories to his family.



Photo Credits Alex Newell



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