

*The Greensburg Community  
Development Corporation Presents:*

**5th Annual**



# **HOMETOWN HEROES**

*Celebration*

**Saturday, May 24th**

**St. Clair Park in Greensburg • 11 a.m.**



**GREENSBURG  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**



**Sponsored By:**



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Trust** COMPANY  
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# 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/>

*Established in 1975, the Greensburg Community Development Corporation advances economic vitality, smart development, and cultural integration. We achieve these through public-private partnerships and community-based solutions. For more information, please visit [thinkgreensburg.com](https://thinkgreensburg.com).*

# PROGRAM

## **11 a.m. Ceremony Begins**

National Anthem..... Sgt. Justin Bianconi

Welcome..... Nancy Ligus, GCDC Executive Director

Guest Speaker..... City of Greensburg Mayor Robert L. Bell

## ***Reading of Hometown Hero Honorees***

## ***Recognition of all who have served - Moment of Silence/Taps***

Closing Remarks..... Anna McClain, GCDC Events Manager

Thank you to the Boy Scouts!



# Our Hometown Heroes

## City of Greensburg



**Robert Altman** served his country in the Navy, stationed in Miami, Florida, and received an honorable discharge. Bob was a life-member, for over 60 years, in the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Hose Company No. 1, where he served his community in various roles such as president, captain and lieutenant. Bob served his country and community loyally for most of his life and enjoyed every minute. He impacted the lives of many during his lifetime and is greatly missed by all who knew him.



**William C. Appleby** joined the Marine Corp after high school. Upon discharge he tested for reentry as an Army helicopter pilot. A Vietnam Veteran, he spent tours in the US and Hawaii. He was a Cobra test pilot having served at Aberdeen Proving ground and Patuxent River Naval Air Station. In 1985 he accepted a position as a GS-12 with the Department of The Army as a Supervisory Flight Test Pilot, serving as AS-28 Facility Supervisor until he resigned to take a job as chief Pilot with the Lee County Sheriff's Office in 1991 where he lives today.



**Joseph R. Arandas** was a proud United States Air Force Veteran serving during the Korean Conflict. He survived a plane crash while training at Langley Air Force Base. He lived his entire life in Greensburg and passed away on October 27, 2024.





**Robert Lawrence Bair** resided in Greensburg, PA. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June of 1944. After basic training at Parris Island South Carolina, he was shipped out to the Pacific Theater. "Bob", as he was known, served the Marine Corps as a Corporal in the Military Police. As an MP, Bob was chosen to protect Dwight D. Eisenhower when he visited the island of Guam, kept the peace on the islands and played on the Marine Corps Baseball Team. Upon returning from the military in August of 1946, he worked at the Walworth Foundry in Greensburg, married Ann T. Howell and raised two daughters, Becky and Cindy. He attended carpentry school and worked as a lead carpenter at Wineman and Carpenter. He served the City of Greensburg as a Volunteer Firefighter at Hose Company #8 for 68 years. Bob loved to play golf. He could be seen on many of the local golf courses around the City, Myrtle Beach and Cocoa Beach Florida.



**John H. "Jack" Baird Jr.** was a lifelong resident of Greensburg where he was born in August of 1921. Jack was a Coast Guard Veteran of World War II, serving for two and a half years in the Pacific Theatre. He was a member of Southwest Greensburg American Legion Post 981. Jack joined Greensburg Fire Department Hose Company #3 in 1939. At the time of his death in 2016, he was the oldest member of the volunteer fire department. He loved the game of baseball and coached Little League baseball in Greensburg and Hempfield for many years. Jack and his wife, Emma, were devoted members of the Otterbein Methodist Church, where he held several church offices and taught Sunday school. He and Emma were active in the youth ministry and in preparing community holiday dinners at the church. Jack loved the community of Greensburg and especially serving others.



**John G. Blahovec** grew up in Youngwood and Ambridge before making Greensburg his home from 1950 until his death on October 13, 2016. John served in the US Army 4025 Signal Corp in Manila after he enlisted in 1947. He had been employed at Hutchinson and Gunter, Greensburg, and retired from the Elliott Company, Jeannette. John was a life member of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department Hose Company No. 3, the PA State Fireman's Association, and the Westmoreland County Fireman's Association. He and his wife, the former Margaret Muchoney of Greensburg, raised three children and had seven grandchildren.



**Robert "Bob" Bompiani** was born in 1950 to Alfonso and Virginia Bompiani. He was the son of an Army Veteran who served in WWII. He was raised in Greensburg and enlisted in the Navy while still in high school. He proudly served in the United States Navy from 1969 to 1973. He was stationed in San Diego, CA. While serving, he was deployed to Vietnam as a boatswain's mate on The USS Piedmont. While deployed he brought soldiers and supplies to ports near Subic Bay, Philippines.



**James J. Bushey** was born in Bradford, PA where he lived and attended school until he enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 19. Jim was very proud of the tours he served overseas during the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War. His military decorations included Expert Rifleman, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medal. He returned home in 1966 and married his high school sweetheart, Loretta. After his time in the military, Jim was employed in sales by several large oil companies. Throughout his professional career, the family moved between states with their three children Cheryl, Donald & Craig, eventually landing in Greensburg during the 1970s. Here they put down roots raising their family, and eventually their nine grandchildren. Jim succumbed to his cancer diagnosis in August of 2023 after a long 9-year battle. His legacy lives on in Greensburg through his family.



**Frank A. Cavalier**, son of Joseph V. and Rose Isola Cavalier, was born September 2, 1929. He served in the Army at Camp Atterbury in the early 1950s. Following his Army service, he completed his degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh in 1954. He was the first of his family to attain a college degree. His engineering career included supervising the construction of foundries, factories and manufacturing plants for large Pittsburgh-based firms that required him to travel throughout the United States and Europe and to other foreign countries including Mexico, Venezuela, and Russia. Married to Daune Ficco Cavalier for nearly 50 years before his death in 1999. The father of four made his home in Greensburg.



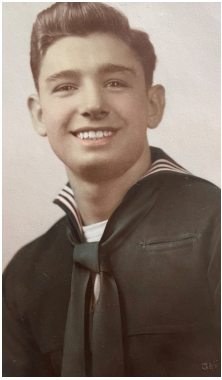
**Robert "Miz" Cerilli**, born August 18, 1928, was a lifetime resident of Greensburg. He served in the U.S. Army WWII. He worked at Walworth Co. South Greensburg as a machinist and was a member of the AMS Club So Greensburg. Robert married Beatrice Bashoum and had three daughters. His nickname, " Miz", stuck with him all his adult life.



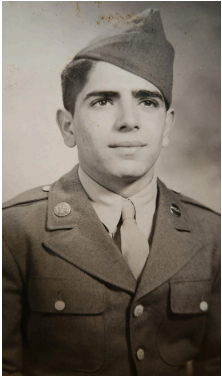
**John Louis "Sonny" Cherubini** was born to Italian immigrants in Hufftown, South Greensburg, PA. He is the eldest of two boys. He graduated from Greensburg Salem High School for which he played baseball and was recruited upon graduation by the Pittsburgh Pirates. Instead of baseball he enlisted in the Navy and was a boilermaker on the USS Lexington during the Korean War. After his service he was employed by PPG works #25 in South Greensburg until his death in 1989. He was a longtime member of American Legion Post 981 for which he played baseball and held the office of finance officer until his death. He was a hard worker, home remodeler, sign painter and proud father of five children. He lived his whole life in Greensburg and helping out his community when he could. He is remembered and missed by many.



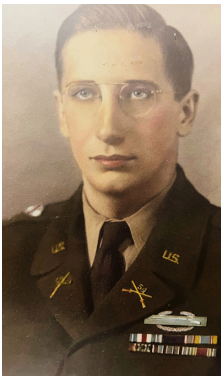
**John "Jack" Chrisman** grew up in South Greensburg, then purchased a home in Greensburg where he lived for almost 48 years until he passed away in 2007. Jack enlisted in the Army in May of 1943. After training in several U.S. locations, he was shipped over to Europe in June, 1944 and was part of the 159th Engineer Combat Battalion. John rose in rank to Corporal and was a Foreman of Construction. He served in battles in Normandy, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe and received the following medals: American Campaign, European African Middle Eastern Campaign with five bronze stars, and the World War II Victory medal. He returned in December of 1945 and immediately extended his service for three additional years. He was honorable, dedicated, extremely brave and a true patriot of the United States. He was and will always be a hero.



**Joseph G. Cigich** was a World War II Navy Veteran and a retired employee of Westinghouse, Blairsville site. Joe was a partner with his wife Mary Ann, in Laurel Design Associates in Greensburg. Beloved husband of Mary Ann (Miller) Cigich for 53 years.



**William "Bill" Colosimo** served honorably in the Pacific during World War II. He was a lifelong resident of Greensburg and was well known in the area. Bill was very proud of his service to our country, as are his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Thank you to all of the Hometown Heroes, and all Veterans!



**David W. Cook** was a 1937 graduate of Greensburg High School. He enlisted in Company I, 110th Infantry of the 28th Division, in 1939 and was called to federal service in February of 1941. He attended Infantry OCS, was commissioned and served with the 54th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 10th Armored Division in Europe until wounded in action, and then was a patient in Army hospitals for three years until retired in 1945 with the rank of Captain. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, five Battle Stars and other decorations.



**David W. Cook, Jr.**, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1971 after college graduation. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant and a Tank Officer after boot camp and Officer's School. He served at various duty stations, both foreign and domestic, on Active and Reserve Duty until 1991. David commanded platoons, companies, and battalions as a Tank Officer and as a Military Police Officer. He served overseas, both aboard ship and ashore in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, Guantanamo Bay, Philippines, Vietnam, Japan, and during the Gulf War. David retired as a Lieutenant Colonel after 20 years in service.

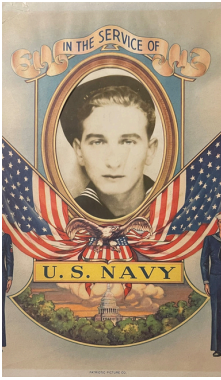


**Louis F. DiCriscio Sr.** dedicated his life to serving his country with bravery and honor. A committed patriot and a proud member of the United States Air Force, Louis courageously fought in the Korean War, exemplifying valor, resilience, and unwavering loyalty. Born and raised in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, as one of eight children in a proud Italian Catholic family, Louis carried his strong faith and family values into his life as the devoted father of eight children. Throughout his life, he lovingly cared for his mother, his eight children, and his wife, Rose V. DiCriscio, until her passing. After his military service, Louis worked for an impressive 42 years at Elliott Company in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, where his dedication and hard work left a lasting legacy. Retired but never forgotten, his story continues to inspire and live on in the hearts of all who know him. God Bless America!



**Joseph Steven Dreskler**, Staff Sergeant, served from Aug. 1942–Oct. 1945 when he was Honorably Discharged. He was part of the 573rd Bombardment Squadron 391st Bombardment group Air Operations Specialist. Military Qualifications: Carbine 30 Cal Marksman Dec 1942. Campaigns: Normandy Northern France Ardennes Rhinland Central Europe Air-Offense Europe. Decorations & Citations: Good Conduct Medal Distinguished Unit Badge European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with 6 Bronze Stars. Joe lived, worked, and raised his family of seven along with his wife Madeline in the Greensburg area.

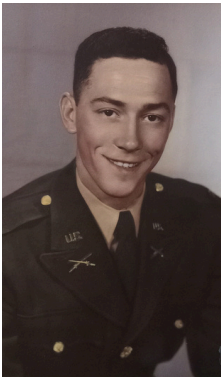




**Albert "Petters" Dudash** was born and raised in Hannastown, Pennsylvania in 1924. He retired from the American Bridge Company as a foreman. Albert married Jean, they had three children, Gary, Larry and Pam. He loved spending time with his grandkids, Nicole, Amber, Brittney, Chrissy and Jordan. He was a member of the Hannastown Fireman's club and the South Greensburg hunting club, among many others.



**Timothy C. Ferencz** was born in 1981 and raised in Greensburg. After graduating high school, Timothy enlisted into the United States Air Force on September 15th, 1999. He went to Lackland Air Force base for basic training, graduating that same year. For the next five months, Timothy was based at Sheppard Air Force base while he completed technical school, graduating as an Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems Specialist. His first duty station was Beale Air Force base in California from 2000 to 2005, where he attained the rank of Senior Airman. After a yearlong short tour to Korea, his next move would be to RAF Lakenheath in England in January 2007. This is where he would stay till his honorable discharge in July 2014. During his time in the military, Timothy had five overseas deployments, including two in Afghanistan. After leaving the military, Timothy would return home to Greensburg with his family, graduate Triangle Tech, and earn his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Maintenance.



**Donald R. Fiore** served in the Army and National Guard 1948 - 1970. He served during the Korean Conflict and retired as a Major from the National Guard.



**George M. Gretz** was a member of the 29th Infantry Division on D-Day, June 6th, 1944. He served with it continuously until the capture of Saint-Lo (France) on July 18th, 1944. He also performed in the Army Band. After serving in the Army he went on to work for the U.S. Postal Service until retirement.



**Clyde Henry Jr.** (1924-1999) was a member of the Air Force's 766th Bomb Squadron, crew #6232, during WWII. His position was the Ball Turret gunner. His crew flew B-24s over Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Austria. Their primary mission was to destroy oil and railroads of The Third Reich. They flew over 30 missions from 1944 to the end of the war. Henry was a 1940 graduate of Greensburg High School. He was 15 years old and at the time was the youngest graduate on record.



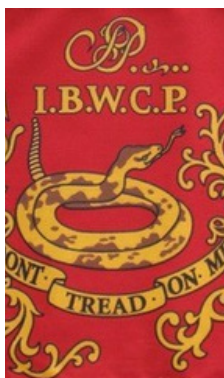
**Robert W. Hewitt** was a Staff Sergeant, Platoon leader who fought in World War II. Bob was wounded 11 days after D-Day in France. Bob was a recipient of the Purple Heart.



**Edgar S. Highberger, MD (1910-1979)** was a 1928 graduate of Greensburg High School and a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He served as a flight surgeon during WWII with the Army Air Corps. In 1943, he and Virginia Baird, a Greensburg resident and Seton Hill graduate, were married. They have five children, all who live in the area, including Edgar B. Highberger, a well-known Greensburg musician and former Seton Hill faculty. Dr. Highberger's sister, Mary E. Highberger, was a long-time teacher of history at GHS. Dr. Highberger was in private practice in Greensburg until June, 1954, when he joined the staff of Torrance State Hospital. Among other professional and service organizations, he was a member of the Westmoreland County Medical Association. He was interested in the mental health movement and was among the original advocates in Westmoreland County. He was a quiet, thoughtful man, and a compassionate physician devoted to his family and patients.



**Oren E. Hopkins, Major, and Beulah Mae Hopkins, Navy Corp Nurse,** met at a nurses' dance at the Greensburg Country Club in 1944. Oren was in the Army Air Corps and was one of the first pilots of the B-17 serving overseas while Beulah completed Nursing school at Westmoreland hospital. On Oren's 21<sup>st</sup> mission over in Germany, his B-17 was badly damaged by enemy fire, forcing a crash landing behind enemy lines. His entire crew survived and were captured by the German army. Upon receiving word that Oren was MIA and later, a POW in Germany, she enlisted in the Navy Corp and served at the Naval Hospital of Philadelphia. With WWII ending, they married, and built and owned the Garden Center Restaurant in New Stanton, now known as The Daily Grind. Oren also became active in the Laurel Highlands Tourism Agency and helped organize the Westmoreland Choral Society. One of Beulah's claim was her striking resemblance to 1st Lady Barbara Bush. "The pilot of the Hundredth Air Force group and the Navy nurse that loved him" proudly served and love their country.



**William Jack, General,** served as 2nd Lieutenant in Capt. Samuel Moorhead's Company, Independent Battalion Westmoreland Company Pennsylvania, during the Revolutionary War from January 1777 - June 1778. He gained the title of Brigadier General of the Westmoreland Militia in 1793, appointed by Governor Thomas Mifflin. Jack served Westmoreland County as a Justice of the Court of the Common Pleas. He was one of the founders of Greensburg together with Christopher Truby and Ludwig Otterman. He donated lots of ground to the burgess and inhabitants to build public buildings, including a school house, place of worship (connected to Christ's Church and First Presbyterian Church), and a burial ground (St. Clair cemetery, now St. Clair Park). Jack Street, Jacks Run and Jack Town are probably named after William Jack. He was born in 1752 in Ardstraw, Co. Tyrone, Ireland. He arrived in Westmoreland County in 1772, settled in Hempfield Township (later known as Newtown, then renamed Greensburg) and married Margaret Wilson in 1774 in New Salem, Westmoreland County. They had nine children, four sons and one daughter survived into adulthood. He died in 1821 at the age of 68 and is buried in St. Clair Cemetery, Greensburg.



**Earl R. "Gabby" Johnson** began his life-long career as a public servant when he entered the Army Air Corp at the age of 21, serving in World War II. Following his discharge from the military, he transitioned to a career with the Greensburg Police Department from January 16, 1948 through his retirement as Chief of Police on July 1, 1976. He was a life member of the General Greene Lodge #56 Fraternal Order of Police, a member of the Police Civil Service Board, a life member and past president of the Westmoreland County Law Enforcement Officers Association, a charter member and past president of the Westmoreland County Chiefs of Police Association, a life member of the Western Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, and a member of the American Federation of Police. He was a life member of the Greensburg Fire Department #8 and a member of the Pennsylvania State, Westmoreland County, and the Western Pennsylvania Fireman's Associations. Not only was he deeply dedicated to his community, but was loved and admired by his family, many of whom who have followed into a path of public service.



**John Kubinec** grew up in Salem township and graduated from Greensburg Salem High School in 1965. Following graduation he enlisted in the Navy. He served at Annapolis Naval Air Station in Maryland, Da Nang, Vietnam, and aboard the USS Hugh Purvis out of Newport, Rhode Island. John is retired from Elliott Company and is a former firefighter with the Carbon Fire Dept. He is married with two sons and two granddaughters.



**Robert Rene Lafontant, MD**, was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on May 1, 1934, and became a naturalized US citizen in 1959. He arrived in the US at age 17 and attended college and medical school at Georgetown University. He was selected to do post-graduate studies during medical school and worked toward obtaining his PhD at the University of Chicago in cardiovascular research. After medical school, he joined the Army Medical Corps and completed his surgical internship at the Presidio in San Francisco, followed by his residency at Fort Lewis in Tacoma, Washington. Robert married Maxine Smith and moved to Greensburg in 1969 and had three daughters. In 1969, Robert spent a year of active duty in the Republic of South Vietnam, where he served as Chief of Surgery at the US Third Surgical MASH Hospital in Dong-Tam, the US 36<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Vong-Tau and then the US 24<sup>th</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh. After returning home, Robert practiced general, thoracic and vascular surgery in Greensburg for 30 years, serving as Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Chief of Surgery at Westmoreland Hospital. Retiring in 2000, he spent time painting, gardening, reading, and enjoying his six grandchildren before passing away in March 2023.



**Chester Lapa** was drafted in the United States Army at the age of 18 in January, 1944 and was deployed to the European theater in December, 1944, serving in the 63rd and 90th Army infantry divisions – a Tough Hombre. Among other medals and awards, he received the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the Battle of the Bulge in Doncols, Luxembourg in January, 1945. He was active with the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, and was among the Veterans who regularly attended and presented in the Faces of Battle class for several years at St. Vincent College. Mr. Lapa's war narrative is featured in the book, *They Say There Was a War*. He returned as a Veteran honoree to Belgium and Luxembourg in 2004 for the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Lapa retired after 29 years as office manager in the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop A Greensburg. He worked as head teller at Mellon Bank in downtown Greensburg.



**John Westley Liston Jr.** served in the 24th Infantry Division during the Korean War. He saw combat and was killed defending Pusan on August 13, 1950 at the young age of 20.



**Jack Mancuso** honorably served his country after being drafted in 1966. He earned opportunities to excel beyond basic training, completing Airborne Ranger School, Officers Candidate School, and ultimately Flight School in Fort Wolters, TX in 1968. Captain Jack Mancuso proudly served in the United States Army 82nd Airborne Division as an Aviator during the Vietnam War. After Vietnam, Jack graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and spent his career as a manufacturing engineer for Latrobe Steel. Along with his wife Kathy of 50 years he raised two children (both Graduates of GCCHS) and lived in Greensburg until his untimely death in 2024. Jack is a hero to his family and to all who knew him. He is survived by Tanya (Mark) Ratchford, Matthew (Erin) Mancuso and five Grandchildren and many wonderful lifelong friends and family in the Greater Greensburg-Latrobe area.





**Derek Manley** grew up in Greensburg and was destined to be a fireman like many of his relatives. For 26 years, he has dedicated his time to the Greensburg City Fire Department, currently as Lieutenant with No. 8 fire department. Derek has been a police officer for a total of 14 years both locally and out of state. He was promoted to Sergeant and became Chief of Police in the City of Jeannette in 2023, where he's been with the department for eight years.



**Catherine Blackney McColly**, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., was born in Edgemont, S.D. on July 19, 1920. She graduated from St. John's School of Nursing in South Dakota. She served during WW II in the US Army 5th Evacuation Hospital as an operating room nurse. She received a Bronze Star for meritorious service when she continued caring for her patients while her unit was under attack. While serving in the Army Nurse Corps, she met her future husband, Greensburg resident Edward B. McColly II. After WW II ended, they were married in Verviers, Belgium and they returned to Greensburg to make their home. Catherine (Kay) remained a resident of Greensburg until her death on September 2, 1974. She worked with her husband in his family business, E.B. McColly and Son Memorials and together they raised three children. She was a member of the Maplewood Presbyterian Church and was active in the Red Cross Bloodmobile Program.



**Edward Bales McColly II**, Captain, was born in Greensburg on August 20, 1915. He was a lifelong resident of Greensburg and graduated from Augusta Military Academy and the Penn State University. He served as a Captain with the First Army Medical Administration Corps as a Medical Registrar, with campaigns and battles in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. After completion of his military service he returned to Greensburg working alongside with his father and brother in the family business, E.B. McColly and Son Memorials. He and his wife, Lt. Catherine A. Blackney McColly, raised three children in Greensburg. Edward died January 22, 1969.



**James P. McCormick** served in WWII as a Navy Seaman.



**Scott Mears, Sr.** was born in 1944 and grew up in Bolivar, graduating from Laurel Valley High School in 1962. He attended Duke University, graduating in 1966. He enlisted in the Army in 1967, did Basic Training at Fort Dix, Advanced Individual Training at Fort McClellan, and Officer Training School at Fort Benning. He was stationed mostly in Germany, where he was in charge of a Soviet Orientation Team, touring the country and presenting programs for American soldiers stationed there. He received an Army Commendation Medal and was honorably discharged as a First Lieutenant in 1970. From there, he attended Law School at the University of Pittsburgh. He lived and practiced law in Greensburg from 1973 to 2013, raising four children. He began his own practice, which is still in existence. He handled civil litigation, wills and estates, and real estate. He served as Greensburg City Solicitor under Mayor Scott Brown in the 1980s. He is retired and lives between Bald Head Island, NC and Bolivar, PA.



**Lisa Cherubini Mensch** was an Army Reserve Nurse from 1987 to 2012. She enlisted as a Second Lieutenant and retired a Major. She was activated during the second Gulf War and served a year and a half at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma Washington. There she served in the Cardiac Rehab Unit, Second in Command. Lisa is a member of the American Legion Post 981 in South Greensburg. She was born and raised in South Greensburg, has worked and taught in the medical field her entire career, and is the proud mother of two children and two grandchildren.



**Ray Lee Mensch** served the U.S. NAVY in the South Pacific P.T. Boats in the Philippines Islands. Upon returning to City of Greensburg he got married and worked as a welder at ITE(ABB/Hitachi) in South Greensburg. He also served the community of Greensburg as a Volunteer Fireman with the Greensburg Fire Department. He also served as the last aldermann of Greensburg, as criminals would be brought to his home in the middle of the night and he also married many families in his dining room. He serviced the community as Notary Republic in his senior years while being on various boards within his church and the Fire Department.



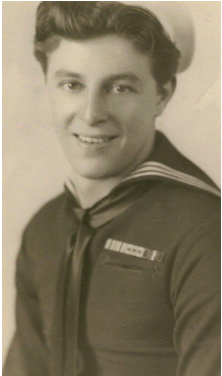
**Glenn H. Miller** served in the US Army from March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1943 to November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1945. Serving as a squad leader he achieved the rank of Corporal in 49th Armored Infantry Battalion. Glenn went ashore on Omaha Beach and served in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns. He received three Bronze Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, Purple Heart, and WWII Victory Medals.



**Charles Robert Mills** was born in 1964, the son of the late Roberta McCargo. He is a loving boyfriend, father, brother, uncle, and grandfather of six grandkids. Charles was raised in the city of Connellsville, Pennsylvania and entered the Marines in 1985. He is a current employee of the state of Pennsylvania who enjoys playing video games and spending time with his family.



**George F. Moreland II** was a radioman for the Navy in the Vietnam War, serving on the USS Casa Grande, USS Shadwell and the USS John W Weeks. He was a member Lifetime Member, as well as an officer of Marilao VFW Post 33. Most recently held the position of President of the VFW Post 33 Honor Guard. He was very proud of his role in honoring his fellow deceased comrades



**Nicholas "Popeye" Morelli** served in the Navy during WWII in the Pacific aboard the USS George F Elliot from 1943 to 1946. He was a lifelong resident of Greensburg. He married his high school sweetheart Gloria and they raised three children. He was a boilermaker by trade. He enjoyed life to the fullest until his passing on July 4th, 1973.



**James F. Palmer** was a World War II Veteran. Jim was inducted into the Army Air Corp at the age of 18 on February 17, 1943. He served with the 45th Bomb Group of the 15th Airforce in the European Theatre for 20 months. He was honorably discharged as a Corporal on October 13, 1945. Jim, along with his two brothers, Frank and Ralph, all from the Ludwick section of Greensburg, concurrently served in World War II.



**Frank Palmer** was a World War II and Korean War Veteran. Frank was inducted into the Army Air Corp on August 2, 1943 and served with the Eighth Air Force in the European Theatre. He completed 13 missions as a gunner on a B-24. He was honorably discharged on November 23, 1945. Three years later, Frank joined the United States Air Force and served for 20 years retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant. Frank, along with his two brothers, Jim and Ralph, all from the Ludwick section of Greensburg, concurrently served in World War II.



**Ralph D. Palmer** was a World War II Veteran. Ralph enlisted in the Merchant Marines at the age of 17 on March 26, 1945 and served on the S.S. James D Doty, transporting equipment to the South Pacific. After his ten-month enlistment was completed, Ralph then joined the United States Army, serving in World War II until he was honorably discharged. Ralph, along with his two brothers, Jim and Frank, all from the Ludwick section of Greensburg, concurrently served in World War II.



**Michael Penzera Jr.**, Corporal, began his military service in the United States Marine Corps at Parris Island on September 23, 1955. After boot camp and traveling to various countries and territories, such as Italy, Spain, Panama, Cuba, Greece, Puerto Rico, and Gibraltar, Michael was stationed at the Marine Corps Air Stations located at Cherry Point, NC and Beaufort, SC. Michael served as an Aircraft Engine Mechanic and his training included Airman School and Aviation Mechanic School. He held the position of Plane Captain of his crew that maintained the FJ-3 Fury fighter jet for the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312 (VMF-312) and the Marine Aircraft Group 32 (MAG-32), 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. Michael was honorably discharged on September 22, 1958. Michael continues to serve his country as a 26-year member of VFW Post 33 Honor Guard performing over 1,500 military services and events.





**Julius "Jack" Pezzoli** was born in 1922 in Crabtree. He graduated from Greensburg High School in 1940. He was drafted in 1943 and served in the 94th Infantry Division as a sergeant. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a POW. He spent the majority of his career working in the Pennsylvania Civil Service with his final assignment before retirement being Manager at the Bureau of Employment Security in Greensburg. He died in 1985.



**Bernard Michael Rabic** served in the Navy from 1961 to 1965. He was a bosun on the USS Turner DD-834. The USS Turner DD-834 was in the blockade of the Cuban Missile Crisis.



**Paul Miller Ruff, Rev.**, (1918-2009) of Greensburg, was a dedicated Lutheran pastor and historian. After his ordination in 1943, he served congregations in Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, retiring in 1990. Post-retirement, he continued as an interim pastor and the Lutheran Synod historian, which led him to translate many old German church records. In 1993, he founded Baltzer Meyer historical Society, where his four-volume set of early German church records of Western Pennsylvania are still published today. He was also instrumental in the restoration of the historic Harrold's Schoolhouse No. 8, which he had attended as a boy. Gardening was also important to Ruff, and he organized local farmers markets across Beaver and Westmoreland counties that are still serving their respective communities today.



**Ralph M. Seminary Jr.** was born June 21, 1911 in Greensburg, PA to parents Ralph M. and Mary Duda Seminary. He graduated from Greensburg High School in June 1934 and enlisted in the United States Navy December 4, 1942, receiving his boot training at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia. He was then sent for further military training to Camp Endicott, Rhode Island and then to Camp Parks, California. Remaining there only a few months, he was then sent overseas to Hawaii and on to the Mariana Islands. He was stationed on the Island of Tinian and served as a member of the SEABEES, United States Naval Construction Forces. Following this tour of duty, Ralph was honorably discharged from the United States Navy, May 22, 1945. After returning home to Greensburg, he married Margaret Bender, raising two daughters at their home on Mechling Way. Ralph was vice president of Wendon Oil Company, until his retirement in 1978. In addition, he was a life member of Hose Company No. 2 of the Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department. Ralph remained in Greensburg until his death, March 17, 1980.



**Dominick Sheffo** immigrated to Pennsylvania from Sicily as a young child. He became a United States citizen and served in the Army as a Tec 4 in the Quartermaster Corps during WWII. Stationed in San Francisco, his duties included being a truck driver, a chauffeur for officers, and an interpreter for Italian prisoners. In 1945, he married Genevieve Schifano on Angel Island and eventually settled in the Hilltop section of Greensburg where they raised three children. Dom worked for many years at ASG Industries in Jeannette and then as a security guard for Southwest Bank in downtown Greensburg. When he explained something, he always finished with, "It's as simple as that". He cultivated his faith at Our Lady of Grace Church every Sunday and tended his vegetable garden every summer. He enjoyed watching football and baseball, could dance a mean polka, and created interesting concoctions out of leftovers. Dom was a kind, generous, hard-working man who loved his family, loved his wife's delicious spaghetti sauce, and loved playing golf at Mt. Odin. He was a hometown hero; it's as simple as that.



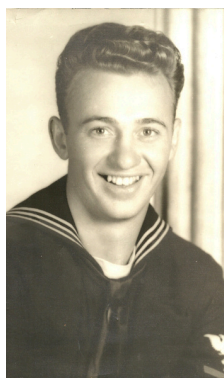
**James Shogan Sr.**, born in Acme, PA in 1920, was the youngest of eight children. He volunteered for the Army during WWII, was wounded at the Battle of Remagen in Germany on March 17, 1945, and awarded the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged shortly thereafter, and married Helen DiMichele on July 25, 1945. They moved to the Ludwick section of Greensburg, and then to Turney Street. He built and operated Shogan's Motel on Route 30 in Greensburg for several years before starting a construction company. Shogan Construction developed the Shogan Plan in Hilltop, and the family then moved to Shogan Drive in the development. Jim died in 1995, and is survived by two children and three granddaughters.



**Frederick Luther "Lu" Silvis** would have been 100 years old on August 28, 2025. Lu was born in Greensburg and attended Greensburg High School, graduating in 1943. Shortly thereafter, he joined the Marine Corp. to fight in WWII. Upon completion of this duty he enrolled as a volunteer fireman with Greensburg Fire Dept. Hose Co. #7 and held numerous offices within that company, as well as being selected as one of the original Assistant Fire Chiefs under Edward Hutchinson. In 1997, Lu was honored with a 50 year tribute to his dedication. Lu was married to V. Kathleen Silvis and had three children, Deborah, Frederick, and Mark. His sons and a grandson, Nicholas Luther, followed in his footsteps of volunteering for Fire Station #7.



**William H. Silvis** joined the United States Marine Corp in 1943 and was honorably discharged in 1945 with the rank of Corporal. He began his training on Parris Island, NC and then to Camp Pendleton. He was shipped out to New Caledonia in the South Pacific. He served in the Guadalcanal Campaign during the occupation of Russell Island and in the liberation of Guam.



**Joseph O. Sisley**, born on January 21, 1925, was a sailor in the Navy during WWII and served in the Pacific Theater. After he was honorably discharged, he returned home to Greensburg where he married Madge R. Kowinsky, and together they raised five children. He resided in Greensburg his entire adult life and had worked at Oringers Furniture. He was a manager at Penn Furniture, also located in Greensburg, until he retired. He was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church in Greensburg and was actively involved in the church as usher for many years. He passed away at the age of 85 on March 7, 2010.



**W. Robert Sullivan** loved his time in the Navy. He was stationed on a mine sweeper in the Pacific Ocean and it was based out of San Francisco with ports of call in Hawaii. While in San Francisco, his soon to be wife took the train from Jeanette to San Francisco to get a job at the war department, and later they were married. His children would like to ask him "tell us a Navy story." One story he would tell was about the day Eleanor Roosevelt visited his ship, and many included his lifelong friend, Russ, who lived in Iowa. He loved his time in the Navy, was proud to serve, and instilled a patriotic love for American in his children.



**Frank J. Wass** was born December 14, 1929 in Greensburg, the son of the late Guy and Mary DeBone Wass. Frank married Joanne Rich of Jeanette in 1956, they had one daughter. Frank retired from the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 354. He was a longtime member of our lady of Grace Church and the Cercemaggiore Association. Frank proudly served his country as a US Marine during the Korean conflict. He was a member of VFW post 33 and the American Legion Post 515 of Latrobe. Sadly, Frank passed away May 1, 2024.



**Louis J. Wass Sr.** was born on March 21, 1928 to Guy and Mary Wass of Greensburg. He worked as a window display artist at Troutman's in downtown Greensburg for over 40 years and was also a member of Hose Co.#7 for over 50 years. He served in the Army during the Korean Conflict for two years as a Corporal in the 15th Infantry. After his Honorable Discharge in 1952, he went on to marry Margaret Hoffer in 1954 and together they had four children. After a battle with cancer, Louis passed away on August 25, 1999.



**Charles Joseph Weis** served in the US army beginning in May 1942: Prisoner of war 1942-1945.



**James C. Wilmes** of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, served in the United States Navy in the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1967 with Company C of Mobile Construction Battalion 1 (MCB1- The Fighting Seabees). Stationed in Danang, South Vietnam, he and his unit were responsible for the construction of Marine Corp barracks in Danang and the construction of a Marine Corps fire base and anti-aircraft station on Hill 724 at the summit of Hai Van Pass. The barracks and fire base remained in use by the American military throughout the conflict. After his year in Vietnam, James C. Wilmes continued with his service in the Navy until 1989 retiring as a Master Chief. Later, as a member of the VFW, he proudly served in their Honor Guard for over 1,000 military funerals. "Seabees Can Do!"

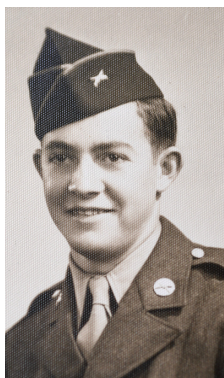


**Randolph L. Wilson:** I wanted an adventure and boy did I get one in the United States Navy! I traveled to several countries, reenlisted in Vladivostok Russia, survived Desert Storm, two horrific typhoons, and a rogue wave. I had the honor of meeting Miss Janet Jackson, which was awesome. After being honorably discharged, I focused my sites on acting and modeling. I attended acting school in Hollywood California. I had the honor of working on my first motion picture with Mr. Bruce Willis on his movie *Tears of the Sun* and on the ABC television show *Lost*. Check me out on the big screen.



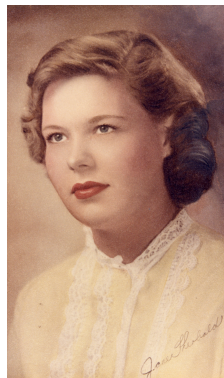


**Jerome Wisneski** was born in 1940 in Greensburg, PA. He graduated from Greensburg High School in 1958. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Petty Office First Class (E-6) Radar Technician / Operator from 1958-1967. He studied at Great Lakes, Treasure Island, and North Island. He was on staff for the Anti-Submarine Warfare tactical school in Norfolk, VA. He served on the U.S.S. Recovery (ARS-43) and U.S.S. Rankin (AKA-103). This included supporting Major Grissom's suborbital flight for the Project Mercury Recovery Mission. After honorable discharge, he volunteered for Latrobe VFD (6th Ward) from 1969-1984. He also served in the PA National Guard as a Staff Sergeant from 1975-1979. He is proud of his Military and First Responder service.



**George William "Bill" Workman** was a proud World War II Veteran who served in the U.S. Army's IV Infantry Division, fighting in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. As a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge, he carried the legacy of bravery and resilience throughout his life. Born on July 4, 1925, in Dunbar Township, he grew up with a strong sense of duty and patriotism. After the war, he dedicated himself to hard work, spending most of his career at Walworth Valve Co. in Greensburg before retiring from American Stemware. He was married to his beloved wife, Clara, for 58 years, and together they raised two daughters, Darla and Linda. Known as "Pap Pap Bill" to his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he cherished family above all. A man of faith, he was a devoted Methodist and an active member of the American Legion Post 0344 in Jeannette. He had a lifelong passion for antique farm equipment, helping found the Fort Allen Antique Farm Equipment Association in 1964. His love for tractors and steam engines led him to memberships in various historical machinery clubs. Even in his final years, George remained a dedicated supporter of Veterans and a symbol of strength to all who knew him.

# Our Hometown Heroes Southwest Greensburg



**Jane (Theobald) Bungard**, Broad Street's Finest, was a selfless mother of eight and testament to the strengths of women everywhere. Despite absent spousal support, sudden infant death, and abject poverty, she worked her fingers to bone to ensure normalcy and happiness for her children. Jane was an early advocate for the cognitively disabled, fostering acceptance and understanding within South Greensburg and everywhere she roamed. Jane prioritized her children to her own detriment, earning her angel wings far too young. A 1950 Greensburg High School graduate, she is remembered in yearbooks as a lover of olives, and an enthusiastic newly-licensed driver.



**Joseph Anthony Farzati** was born June 6, 1919 in Greensburg. He was married to the former Theresa Pomponi, also of Greensburg. He was the loving father of three daughters, Linda, Jackie and Toni. Along with his wife, he was the original owner of the Corner Bar and Grill located at the corner of Main and Green Street in Southwest Greensburg, well known for homemade pizza, Italian food and fish sandwiches. He was an avid golfer beginning as a young man that continued throughout his life.



**Canice Vincent Troy** is one of the first set of triplets born in Westmoreland County on September 5, 1951. He was born and raised in S.W. Greensburg and a graduate of Greensburg Salem High School in 1971. After moving to Florida with his family, Canice enlisted in the US Navy in 1972. After completing bootcamp, he was stationed in Mayport, Florida and was on the USS Saratoga CV60 that headed to Vietnam. Canice reenlisted in 1975 and served on the USS Sierra AD19 to Europe and the USS Miller DD219 where he spent six months at Guana Bay, Cuba. Canice served 21 years in the US Military and retired as an E6 First Class Petty Officer. He earned many medals such as Battle E, Good Conduct, Good Reservist, Vietnam Service, National 3 Star Defense, and the Vietnam Presidential Medal. During his 21 years in the Military, he enrolled at the Academy of Firefighter Emery Medical School to become a Medical Technician and graduated in 1981. During those seven years, Canice was employed as a Fire Inspector at Disney World and was eventually hired by the State of Florida Reddy Creek Fire Dept in 1982. Canice retired in 1995.



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