

Veterans Monument at Porterville College







Message from the Veterans Resource Center

Thank you for attending the Porterville College Veterans Monument Ceremony today, Wednesday, May 23, 2018.

This monument is dedicated to the many men and women who sacrificed their time in serving their country; some even sacrificing their lives.

This monument is a collaborative project made possible by the Porterville Rotary Club and Porterville College Foundation.

This booklet contains the names of veterans who have bricks located in the monument at the time of this ceremony. However, there are more bricks still available for purchase, so this will be an ongoing project.

This booklet also contains the biographies that some veterans and/or their families have submitted. We plan to continue to update this booklet and have it available annually.

Sincerely,

VRC Coordinator / Counselors:

Steve Schultz: 2014 – 2016

Maria Roman: 2016 – Present





Monument Brick Recipients

David H. Adams

US Navy
1971 - 1975

Kerry Avedikian

US Navy
1944 - 1946

Jeffrey N. Bivens

US Navy
2005 - 2013

Joe M. Alba

US Army
1941 - 1945

Donald W Bader

US Army
1967 - 1969

Frank S. Borjon

US Army
1953 - 1955

Alfred M. Alba

US Army
1965 - 1967

**Thomas Oren
Bales Sr.**

US Marine Corps
1943 - 1963

Roy N. Brinkley

US Air Force
1945 - 1947

John R. Alba

US Army
1968 - 1969

Francisco A. Bedolla

US Marine Corps
2007 - Present

Craig Britton

US Coast Guard
1967 - 1971

Michael A. Alba

US Navy
2006 - 2012

John F. Bernick

US Army
1940 - 1946

Philip C. Brown

US Army
1950 - 1952

Robert C. Allen

US Navy
1940 - 1945

John W. Bernick

US Air Force
1971 - 1997

Theodore Bruns

US Army
1960 - 1963

**David J.
Armendarez**

US Marine Corps
1987 - 1991

Jeffry E. Bernick

US Air Force
1990 - Present

William F. Buerkle

Union Army
1861 - 1864



Monument Brick Recipients

Larry Bumgardner

US Marine Corps
1967 - 1968

Victor Corkins

US Navy
1965 - 1972

Ted Daniel

US Air Force
1966 - 1969

Cameron D. Carlson

US Army
1981 - 2006

Donald Cox

US Navy
1966 - 1970

Jefferson D. Dickey

US Navy
1970 - 1975

Jerry Caskey

US Marine Corps
1957 - 1960

Ronald Crabtree

US Army
1968 - 1970

Bill Drumright

US Air Force
1952 - 1956

Adrian D. Castillo

US Navy
2010 - 2014

**Robert Dale
Crabtree**

US Army
1959 - 1962

Cleo Dugan

US Army Air Corps
1941 - 1945

Steven Caulk

US Air Force
1986 - 1990

Robert W. Crabtree

US Army Air Corps
1943 - 1945

David C. Eastep

US Army
1969 - 1971

Dearl Caulk

US Air Force
1945 - 1952

Dean Craig

US Navy
1967 - 1969

Calvin Foster

US Army
1971 - 1973

Robert Cooksey

US Army
2004 - 2009

**Chester "Bud"
Crewse**

US Navy
1951 - 1953

Jacob C. Frame

US Army
2002 - 2006



Monument Brick Recipients

Edward F. Gallardo

US Army
1968 - 1969

Richard Goode

US Navy
1975 - 1979

Aron J. Hernandez

US Air Force
2002 - 2006

Severo A. Garcia

US Army
1958 - 1985

Cameron Goode

US Navy
1942 - 1946

George L. Hicks

US Navy
1941 - 1949

Baldomero J. Garcia

US Army
1976 - 1984

John Hall

US Army
1987 - 1995

Roland P. Hill

US Army
1968 - 1971

Richard T. Gerber

US Marine Corps
1966 - 1970

Shawn D. Hall

US Navy
1998 - 2009

Albert H. Holloway

US Marine Corps
1948 - 1988

Russell L. Gilbert

US Army
1942 - 1948

Richard O. Hanes Jr.

US Coast Guard
1978 - 1982

Steven P. Holly

US Marine Corps
1957 - 1960

Juan Godoy

US Army
2003

Eugene Hauk

US Army
1969

James C. Holly

US Army
1963 - 1969

Bert Goebel

US Army
1953 - 1955

Steven K. Haynie

US Army
1961 - 1981

Everett Howell

US Navy
1917 - 1918



Monument Brick Recipients

**James Everett
Howell**
US Navy
1942 - 1945

Aaron L. Irish
US Army
1971 - 1974

Willard G. Johnson
US Air Force
1945 - 1949

Lyle L. Hulbert
US Army
1941 - 1944

Jackson R. Irish
US Army
2006 - 2017

William D. Kamberg
US Army
1966 - 1969

Richard S. Hurt
US Navy
1950 - 1954

Jymme Lyn Irish
US Navy
1987 - 1991

**James Robert
Kappes**
US Navy
1962 - 1971

Michael Hurtado
US Army
1943 - 1945

Donald A. Irish
US Navy
1969 - 1972

Leonard Joe Keck
US Army
1942 - 1945

Robert Inabinette
US Air Force
1947 - 1951

Jack Irish
US Army
1944 - 1946

Dennis Kendall
US Army
1966 - 1968

Christopher Ince Jr.
US Navy
2004 - 2006

Ronda Irish-Ebert
US Navy
1986 - 1996

Melvin R. Kindel
US Air Force
1950 - 1954

Ron Irish
US Navy
1963 - 1969

Alyward Johnson
US Army
1951 - 1953

Greg King
US Army
1969 - 1971



Monument Brick Recipients

Jerry K. Kirby

US Navy
1970 - 1974

Steven E. Leslie

US Army
1992 - 1999

Martin Lublin

US Navy
1944 - 1946

Randall Kirkham

US Army
1989 - 2006

Charles Lester

US Navy
1953 - 1956

Pete N. Lunstad

US Army
1942 - 1945

Harold C. Klassen

US Army • Air Force
1942 - 1946

Donald W. Lewis

US Air Force
1951 - 1954

Jack H. Mahrt

US Army
1942 - 1945

Tom Klippenstein

US Air Force
1994 - 2004

Francine M. Leyva

US Air Force
2007 - 2011

Lloyd R. Mallory

US Army
National Guard
1942 - 1972

Robert Lassotovitch

USMC • US Army
1974 - 1988

Trent M. Lindsey

US Army
2001 - 2013

David Manville

US Navy
2004 - 2008

Robert J. Leppert

US Navy
1965 - 1969

Steven C. Lindsey

US Army
2005 - 2011

Andrew N. Marcellus

US Navy
1972 - 1975

Kevin B. Leslie

US Marine Corps
1993 - 1997

Guido A. Lombardi

US Coast Guard
1942 - 1944

Louis Marchant

US Air Force
1967 - 1971



Monument Brick Recipients

Devon J. Mathis

US Army
2001 - 2013

Robert McDonell

US Coast Guard
1944 - 1946

Bruce W. Meister

US Navy
1978 - 1982

Matthew McCallister

US Army
2006 - 2011

Robert McDonell

US Coast Guard
1944 - 1946

William Melvin Jr.

US Army
1968 - 1971

Neil McDaneld

US Navy
1942 - 1945

Brian G Meachum

US Coast Guard
1996 - Present

Gilbert Mendez Jr.

US Marine Corps
1976 - 1979

George McDaneld

US Army Air Corps
1939 - 1942

Stephanie Medina

US National Guard
2011 - 2015

Gilbert D. Mendez Sr.

US Army
1952 - 1954

Frank McDaneld

US Army
1942 - 1945

Donald E. Meister Jr.

US Navy
1968 - 1973

Monte Moore

US Army
1952 - 1954

**Thomas J.
Mcdermott**

US Army
1941 - 1945

Gregory A. Meister

US Navy
1976 - 1980

Robert W. Moore

US Army
2010 - 2017

**Thomas J.
Mcdermott**

US Air Force
1966 - 1970

Donald E. Meister Sr.

US Navy
1944 - 1952

Everet Lee Morgan

US Marine Corps
1965 - 1970



Monument Brick Recipients

Frank Vere Myers

US Army
1917 - 1919

Thomas W. Osborne

Army National
Guard
1970 - 1976

Josephine C. Purkiss

US Navy
1941 - 1943

Richard Olmedo

US Marine Corps
1995 - 2003

Jerry L. Padula

US Army
1951 - 1953

Albert E. Quatacker

US Navy
1941 - 1945

Mathis Max Orduno

US Marine Corps
1956 - 1962

Ronnie L. Phelps

US Army
1967

Harry C. Ralph

US Navy
1948 - 1967

Ramon Orduno

US Air Force
1965 - 1969

Douglas W. Prestage

US Army
1952 - 1953

R. V. Randolph

US Marine Corps
1951 - 1955

**Thomas Edward
Orduno**

US Army
1967 - 1969

**Edgar Lewis
Prestage**

US Army
1916 - 1918

John Rankin Jr.

US Marine Corps
1953 - 1956

Richard H. Osborne

US Marine Corps
1966 - 1970

Allen Pundt

US Army
1965 - 1967

Christ K. Rasmussen

US Army
1986 - 1993

Henry G. Osborne

US Army • Air Corps
1943 - 1946

Cassius M. Purkiss

US Navy
1941 - 1943

Brian M. Rattigan

US Army Airborne
1966 - 1969



Monument Brick Recipients

Glendel G. Reed

US Army
1965 - 1967

Richard A. Searcy

US Army
1966 - 1969

Donald Eugene Smith

US Naval Aviation
1968 - 1971

Cody Ridenour

US Coast Guard
2011 - 2016

Robert F. Searcy

US Army Air Corps
1942 - 1945

James A. Smith

US Army
1945 - 1946

Lucio "Lucky" Rigo

US National Guard
1995 - 2003

John P. Schultz

US Navy
1966 - 1970

Roy L. Smith

US Army
1966 - 1968

Richard J. Rodriguez

US Army
1953 - 1955

Steven D. Schultz

US Army
1975 - 1977

Solmon Smith

US Army
1942 - 1946

Don Roper Sr.

US Army
1951

**S. R.
Schwartzzenberger**

US Navy
1983 - 2003

Delmer Smith

US Army
1968 - 1970

Bracken T. Rummell

US Coast Guard
2012 - Present

Mickey Sam Seaman

US Army
1965 - 1967

Raymond M. Smith

US Army
1945 - 1947

Juan J. Sanchez

US Army
1964 - 1967

Ronald Shiers

US Air Force
1954 - 1958

Gordon C. Sorey

US Air Force
1944 - 1949



Monument Brick Recipients

Ronald D. Standlee

US Army
1965 - 1967

Michael G. Troutman

US Army
1971 - 1972

Marvin Waddle

US Air Force
1970 - 1982

John Stefaniak

US Army
1944 - 1946

Roy M. Underwood

US Marine Corps
1964 - 1968

Gary Wallace

US Air Force
1966 - 1970

Larry L. Stoneburner

US Navy Reserve
1968 - 1975

Jose M. Valdez

US Army
1980 - 1983

Louie Wheeler

US Marine Corps
Vietnam

**John R.
Thompson Sr.**

US Air Force
1955 - 1975

Merion "Tito" Vance

US Army
1968 - 1970

**James "Rob"
Williams**

US Army
1954 - 1956

Gary Thornton

US Navy
1959 - 1991

Vincent G. Vanni

US Marine Corps
1975 - 2001

Ryan A. Wingfield

US Army
1992 - 1995

Roy Tiderman

US Army
1953 - 1955

Adah M Vega

US Air Force
1956 - 1957

Alson Eugene Wise

US Army Air Corps
1942 - 1945

Briant Scott Toon

US Army
2013 - 2016

Tito A. Velasquez

US Army
1956 - 1959

Eugene William Wise

US Army
1929 - 1961



Monument Brick Recipients

Gordon T. Woods

US Army
1953 - 1955

Art Chiapa

US Navy
1973 - 1975

William Zeis

US Army
1950 - 1954

Clarence B. Word

US Air Force
1946 - 1949

Bill Henderson

US Navy
Pearl Harbor

**Ramon Uriel
Escareño**

US Army
2003 - 2008

Walter Zakrzeski Jr.

US Army
1968 - 1970

Al Roc Manente

US Navy
1970 - 1974

Rebecca Warren

US Army
2001 - 2008

John Bergman

US Navy
1966 - 1970

Clark Mann

US Army
Pearl Harbor

Martin Aguilar

US Navy
2003 - 2011

Buster J. Brown

US Navy
1948 - 1952

Derry Ridgway

US Navy
1974 - 1976

Gabriel A. Cantu

US Navy
2007 - Present

Roy E. Roper

US Army
1942 - 1944

Raul R. Cantu

US Navy
1995 - Present

David Stanley

US Army
1968 - 1970



Monument Brick Recipients

Willard G. Johnson - Staff Sergeant

Air Force & National Guard

Born in McLaughlin, South Dakota on August 31, 1926, Willard served as a Staff Sergeant in the US Air Force from 1945 - 1949, and was reactivated from 1949 - 1952.

He married Maribel E. Johnson in 1949 with a son born in 1951. He earned a California teaching credential from Cal State Los Angeles in 1953 and began a teaching career in the Porterville School District in 1956. He earned a Masters Degree from Fresno State University in 1970 eventually promoting to a school principal at Pioneer, Olive, and Bellevue Schools. He retired to Camp Nelson, California in 1984.

On behalf of family, friends and a grateful nation we love and honor you for your service.



Mickey Sam Seaman

US Army

Mickey Sam Seaman is the oldest son born to Sam and Juin Seaman in Porterville in 1944.

Mickey was drafted into the Army December 14th, 1965. After basic training in Fort Hood, Texas, Mickey went to Military Police training in Fort Gordon, Georgia. Mickey served in Vietnam with the 504th MP Battalion attached to the 1st Cavalry in An Khe, Vietnam until 1967.

Mickey returned to Porterville using his GI Bill to attend Porterville College from 1974 - 1975.





Monument Brick Recipients

George Allen McDaneld

Army Air Force

George McDaneld was the youngest son of Logan and Pearl McDaneld of Osborne, Kansas. He along with two of his brothers (*Frank and Neil*) served in World War II.

George joined the Army Air Force in September of 1939. He was placed in the 38th Reconnaissance Squadron at March Field in California and was later transferred to Scott Field in Illinois. In 1941 George joined the 19th Bombardment Group as a Sergeant and was sent to the Philippine Islands at Clark Field. While there George was taken as a prisoner of war. He survived the Bataan "Death March" only to die 144 days later at the Japanese Prison Camp O'Donnel, leaving behind a wife and young son, Kent. George was a Purple Heart recipient.

George McDaneld was the uncle of Porterville College Professor / Softball Coach, Vickie Dugan.



Cleo Max Dugan

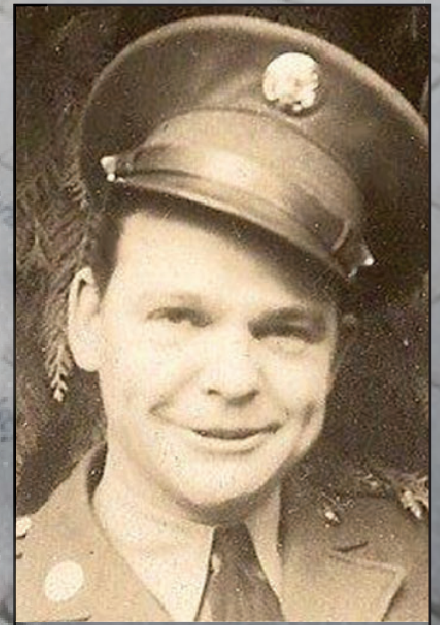
US Army Air Force

Cleo Dugan was the son of Bert and Essie Dugan of Alton, Kansas.

He served in World War II as a Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Force. Cleo was sent to McChord Field in Washington for training in March of 1941. He became a member of the 42nd Bombardment Group, 13th Air Force and was sent to the Philippines. Cleo was a Bronze Star recipient.

After the war, he returned to Osborne to work at Markham's Chevrolet. He married Cathryn Irene McDaneld and had three daughters, Judy, Vickie and Lori.

Cleo was the Dad of Porterville College Professor / Softball Coach Vickie Dugan.





Monument Brick Recipients

Frank McDaneld

US Army

Frank McDaneld was the son of Logan and Pearl McDaneld of Osborne, Kansas. He along with two of his brothers (*Neil and George*) served in World War II.

Frank was a Staff Sergeant, Headquarters Battery, 533rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion in the U.S. Army. He was sent to Camp Davis in North Carolina for training in May of 1942. Frank's unit, along with others, was responsible for liberating some of the Concentration Camps of Nazi Germany.

Frank returned to Osborne after the war and worked as a mechanic. He married Pearl Partridge and had six children, Richard, Roberta, Robert, George, Sue and JoAnna.

Frank was the uncle of Porterville College Professor / Softball Coach Vickie Dugan.



Neil McDaneld

US Navy

Neil McDaneld was the son of Logan and Pearl McDaneld of Osborne, Kansas. He along with two of his brothers (*Frank and George*) served in World War II.

Neil was an Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class, First Division, 11th Carrier Aircraft Service Unit in the U.S. Navy. He was sent for training at the Great Lakes Naval Training School in July of 1942. He served in the Pacific Theater.

Neil returned from the war and went on to live in Osborne to work as a mechanic. He married Sylva Demoss and had two sons, Roger and Terry.

Neil was the uncle of Porterville College Professor / Softball Coach Vickie Dugan.





Monument Brick Recipients

Alyward Johnson

US Army - Private First Class

Alyward graduated from Porterville College in May 1950.

He was drafted in January 1951 and after Basic Training flew to Korea. He was on the front line for several months and was wounded in August. He spent about two years at Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco. During his last year at Letterman Hospital, he took several classes at San Francisco University working toward his teaching credential.

After discharge he returned to Porterville and was able to take two classes that he needed to enroll at Fresno State. Because of Dean Basil Jamison and former Porterville Principal Benjamin Greisemer, Alyward was able to take both classes and in one class he was the only student!

Alyward was hired by Porterville Schools and taught at Vandalia Elementary for 30 years then substituted for another five years. He was a man of integrity, Christian principles, and a wonderful father.

He was very active in his church, the Gideons International, Porterville Educators, and served as a long time Boy Scout Master in the Porterville area. He loved his profession, and his home town. He was particularly delighted when he saw former students and learned they were now educators, nurses, business owners, and in successful professions and useful citizens.

It was at P.C. that Alyward met his future wife Frances Bohannon. They were able to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary together before his death on May 15, 2011. He had three children, Bonnie Steeves who graduated from PC and lives in Santa Rosa; Carol Thornburg who is a past employee of the PC Foundation; and David Johnson who lives in Porterville and works at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in the Transportation Department.



★
Robert J Lepper
US Navy
1965-1969



Monument Brick Recipients

Cameron D. Carlson

US Army - Lieutenant Colonel

Lieutenant Colonel (*Ret*) Cameron (*Cam*) Carlson Enlisted in the U.S. Army in September of 1981 in order to enter the Rutgers University ROTC program through Monmouth University and graduated as Distinguished Military Graduate. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an Infantry Officer and earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1986. After attending the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, he was assigned as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Support Platoon Leader, and Company Executive of the 4th Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, (*The Berlin Brigade*).

After the fall of the Berlin Wall he returned to Fort Benning to attend the Infantry Officer Advance Course and served as a Platoon Tactical Officer at the Infantry Officer Basic Course and later commanded Company D, 3rd Battalion 32d Infantry. At the conclusion of command he was assigned to the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USASWCS) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina to attend functional area training and earn a Masters in International Relations from Webster University.

He has held command at both the company and field grade level and completed the Command and General Staff Officers Course and graduated from the Army War College Defense Strategy Course. He served as a member of the Joint and United States Army Special Operations Command's, 3rd Special Forces Group (*Airborne*) and with the 508th Airborne Battalion Combat Team. He deployed extensively throughout Africa, the Middle East, Central Asian States and Europe. Prior to his service as the Professor of Military Science for the Military Science and Leadership Department (*Army ROTC*) at UAF in 2003 he served as the Aide de Camp for the Commanding General, Coalition Forces Land Component Command / U.S. Army Central Command during Operation Enduring Freedom (*Afghanistan*) and then as the Chief of the Initiatives and Plans Group (*Logistics*) at U.S. Army Forces Command.

Since retirement in 2006, he has worked as a contractor for General Dynamics Information Technology in providing oversight to the C4ISR contract at Fort Wainwright, Director of Emergency Management for the University of Alaska system and as Deputy Project Manager for the High Threat Protection Program in Baghdad, Iraq.

Cam today serves as the Director of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management degree program in the School of Management here at UAF. He has been married for over thirty years to his wife Debbie and they have three daughters, Dani, Courtney and Shelby who all graduated from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (*UAF*).

US Navy
J Leppert
1965-1969



Monument Brick Recipients

Merion Jedd (*Tito*) Vance - Spec. 4

Army 1968 - 1970

Tito Vance was born in Colonia Chuichupa, Chihuahua, Mexico on March 11, 1945. He attended Colonia Juarez grade school and Juarez Stake Academy (1963). Both the elementary and high school taught a Spanish and English curriculum. While in high school, he was senior class president and played on the varsity basketball team. He was selected to play on the 1963 Chihuahua State All Star team. Tito was active in Boy Scouts. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

In 1963, he was recruited by Jim Maples to attend Porterville College. He graduated from PC in 1966. Until he was drafted into the US Army in 1968, he attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. While attending Porterville College, he met his future wife, Diana Ferrero. They were married October 19, 1968. Three weeks after their wedding, Tito left for Vietnam.

After his year tour in Vietnam, he was stationed in Colorado Springs, CO for 6 months. While in Colorado, due to his military service in Vietnam, he was granted his US citizenship. He is proud of his military service and his US citizenship.

After returning to Porterville, he and Diana eventually bought their Fountain Springs home. They have resided there since 1973. Tito spent thirty years in the finance business. He retired from American General Financial Services after spending many years as manager in the Porterville office.



Delmer Smith

US Army - E 5

Served two years in the Army from 1968-1970, one in Vietnam, with the 101st Airborne Division. Got an A.A. Degree from Porterville College. Married since 1970, with two children.

Solmon Smith

US Army - E 5

Served in US Army in World War II from 1942 to 1946, lived in Porterville with family for over 40 years.



Monument Brick Recipients

LTC Severo Garcia

US Army

Distinguished Military Student award, 1953 - 1957

Distinguished Military Graduate, 1957

Drum Major, ROTC Band

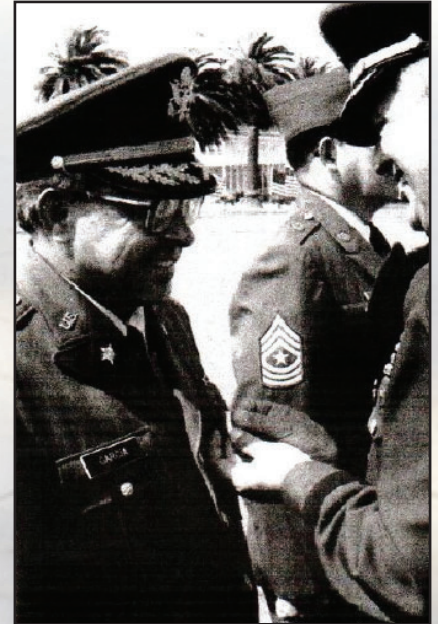
Meritorious Service Medal, July 1985

1st Oak Leaf Cluster, April 1986

Commissioned August 1957 - 2nd Lieutenant Assigned to 150th Transportation Company (*Medium Truck*), Special Troops, 101st Air Bourne Division, Fort Campbell Kentucky. (2 years)

The 2 weeks annual Active Duty Training were spent at the different posts throughout the United States. The last few ADTs assigned to what used to be The Presidio of San Francisco. Status was Mobilization Designee - (*MobDes*)

Retirement, April 18, 1986.

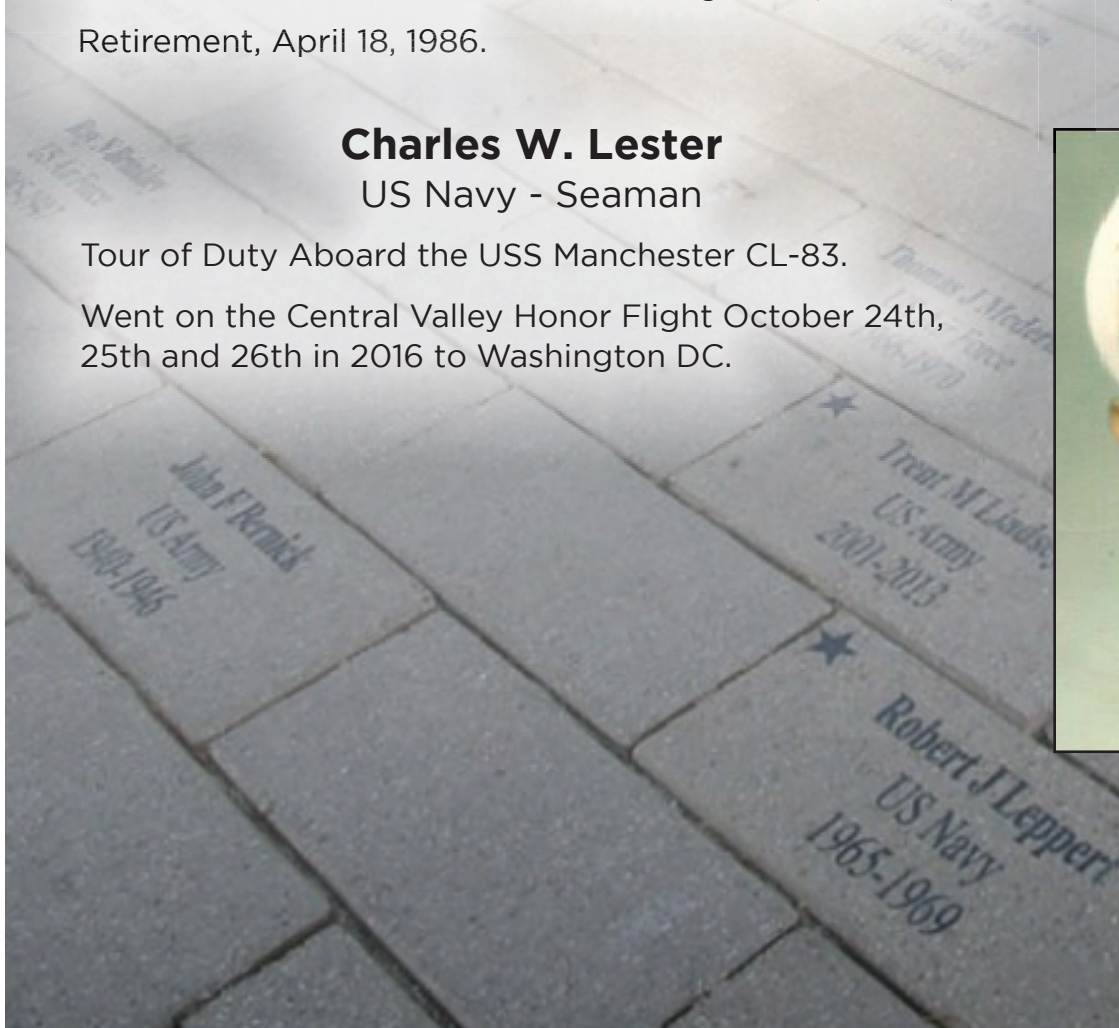
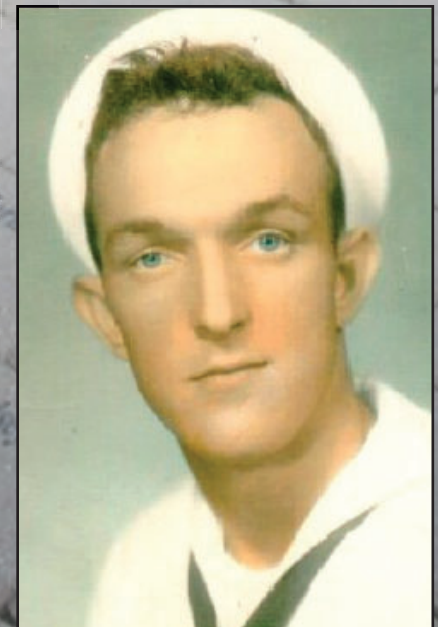


Charles W. Lester

US Navy - Seaman

Tour of Duty Aboard the USS Manchester CL-83.

Went on the Central Valley Honor Flight October 24th, 25th and 26th in 2016 to Washington DC.





Monument Brick Recipients

Louis Marchant

US Air Force

Sgt. - United States Air Force

Enlisted, December 1967

Discharged, September 1971

1968 & 1969 USAF and Inter-Service Boxing Champion.
Semi-Finalist 1968 USA Olympic Boxing Trials

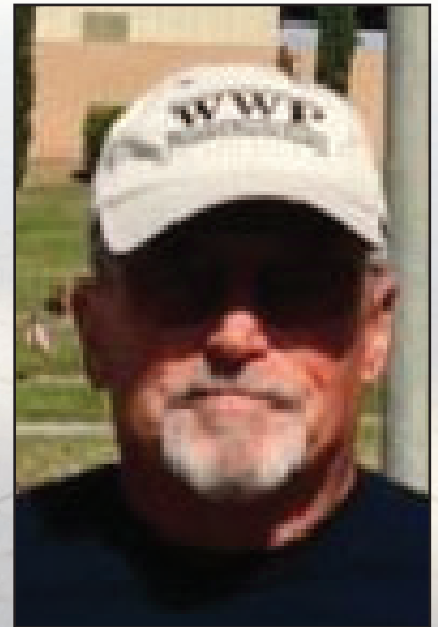
Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service
15th Aerial Port Squadron Danang Airfield, Republic of
Vietnam, 3 May 1970 to 2 May 1971

USAF Assignments:

Hamilton AFB. Ca -1968-1970 Air Defense Command

Danang Airfield, RVN - 1970-1971 7th Air Force

Castle AFB CA - 1971 - Strategic Air Command



Larry Bumgardner

US Marine Corps

Cpl. Larry K. Bumgardner, USMC has received a gold star in lieu of the ninth Air Medal he earned while serving with a helicopter squadron in Vietnam.

Bumgardner, the son of Mrs. Opal Bumgardner, received the gold star for the 20 missions he flew in 13 days.





Monument Brick Recipients

James E. Howell

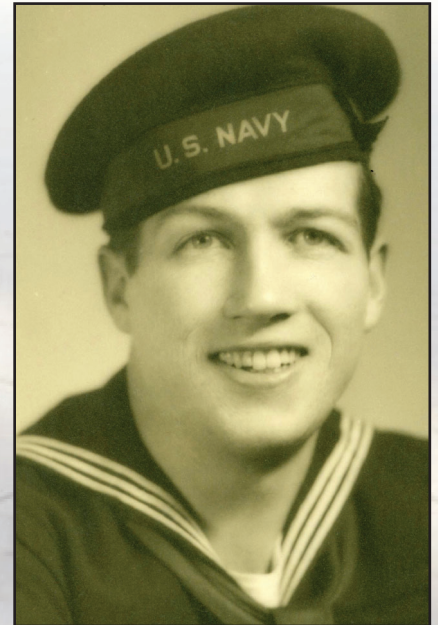
US Navy

After growing up in Porterville and graduating from Porterville High School in 1939, James "Jim" attended Porterville College, but patriotic duty called, and he entered the United States Navy on March 9, 1942.

He served as a Sonarman 1st Class on the USS Barker (DD-213) and saw action in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters during WWII.

Jim was Honorably Discharged on October 13, 1945. During the war, his fiancé, a Terra Bella native, Irene Howekamp, traveled by train to the east coast and they were married in Philadelphia on June 27, 1944.

After the war, Jim and Irene returned to Porterville and Jim returned to working with his father, Everett Howell, in managing the theaters in downtown Porterville. Jim and Irene raised three children, Travis, Dianne and Denise.



Aron Hernandez

United States Air Force Senior Airman (E-4)

Aron was born in 1980 and grew up in San Diego, where he graduated from West hills High School.

He joined the Air Force in 2002 and served as an Aircraft Fuel Systems Technician. Most of Aron's time in the service was spent at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska.

Upon his discharge, he worked at several different jobs before deciding to advance his education by attending Porterville College. He graduated from PC in 2016 with AA degrees in Biological / Physical Science and Social Science.

He currently works as a case manager with a primary responsibility of finding housing for homeless individuals.





Monument Brick Recipients

Vincent G. Vanni

Gunnery of Marines, Retired

Born 12 September 1956

Graduated Monache high in Porterville, California in 1974 with honors.

Entered the U.S. Marines in February 1975.

Attended Porterville College 1980 - 1981, Psychology major

20 years active duty, 6 years reserves

Stationed at:

Montford Point, North Carolina

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina

Camp Zukeran, Japan

Camp Pendleton, California

Fourth Light Anti-aircraft missile Battalion, Fresno, California

Glenview Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois

Naval Air Station Anacostia, Washington D.C.



Joe M. Alba

US Army 1941 - 1945

Rank: Corporal.

Gun Crewman Light Artillery. 1st Armored Division.

Served in Northern Ireland and North Africa where he was taken as a Prisoner of War (POW) during the first Rommel drive. He was a POW for 28 months starting in February 1942



★ Robert J Lepperi
US Navy
1965-1969



Monument Brick Recipients

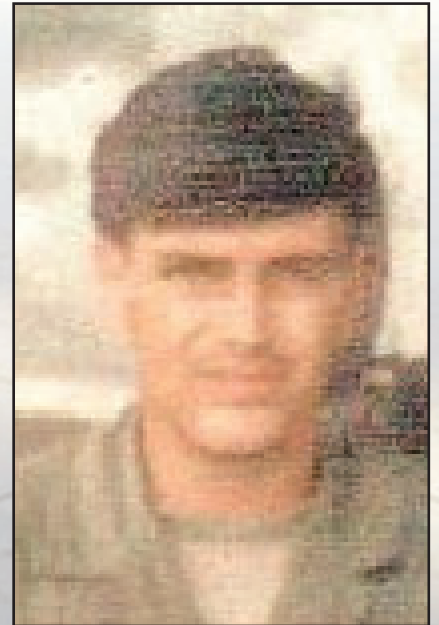
Alfred M. Alba

US Army 1965 - 1967

Rank: Spc5, 498th Med Co. crew chief Air Ambulance, 44th Medical Brigade.

Basic at 9th infantry division. Fort Rucker Alabama for training in aircraft maintenance to Bearcat.

Vietnam Combat veteran.

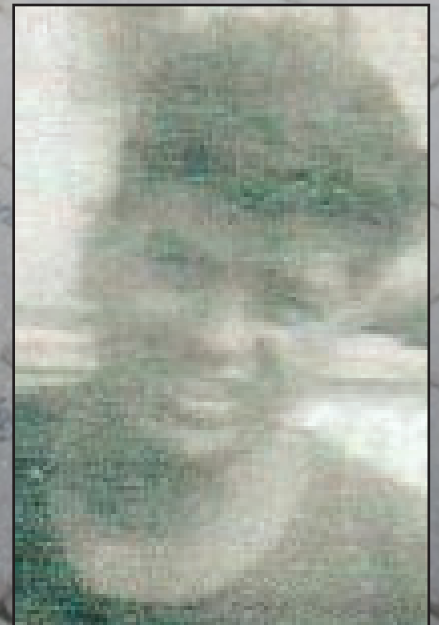


John R. Alba

U.S. Army 1-11-68 to 12-16-69

Sargent, Tank Commander, 5th Infantry Division, 1st Battalion, 77th Armored. Armor training and NCO school in Fort Knox, KY.

Vietnam combat veteran.





Monument Brick Recipients

Michael A. Alba

U.S. Navy 2006 - 2012

Born September 12, 1956

Graduated Monache high in Porterville, California in 1974 with honors.

Entered the U.S. Marines in February 1975.

Attended Porterville College 1980 - 1981, Psychology major

20 years active duty, 6 years reserves

Stationed at:

Montford Point, North Carolina

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina

Camp Zukeran, Japan

Camp Pendleton, California

Fourth Light Anti-aircraft missile Battalion, Fresno, California

Glenview Naval Air Station, Glenview, Illinois

Naval Air Station Anacostia, Washington D.C.



Guido Anthony Lombardi

US Coast Guard

Guido Anthony Lombardi was born in a one room cook house near Woodville, California on December 11, 1921.

He was the only child of Swiss Italian immigrants. He graduated from Porterville High School in 1939 and from Porterville College in 1942. He played football, basketball, track and baseball at P.C.

He enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard on August 20, 1942 and was honorably discharged on March 3, 1944. Shortly thereafter, he married Joyce and they had 7 children who grew up on the home place known as Oakshade Farms. He was always actively involved with his children's activities.

Guido was a farmer who was also very active on many local and state-wide agricultural boards. In 1996, he was named the State of California's Agriculturist of the Year. In his later years, he developed an interest in Border Collies and took up the hobby of training them and competing in state-wide events.

Joyce passed away in 2003; Guido continued to be supportive of his grand children's many school and sport activities. He passed away January 7, 2017 at home with family by his side.





Monument Brick Recipients

Baldomero Garcia

US Army

Baldomero Garcia, Sgt. E5 serviced in the army from 1976 - 1984 as a Engineer Mechanic.

Married to Clemencia Garcia and has two kids Miguel and Baldomero Jr (*still serving*) who both served in the military.

He was stationed in both Savanna Georgia and Fort Ord in California and had two tours to Germany.

After the service, he returned to Porterville College and graduated with an AA degree in Business then earned a Bachelors in Public Administration from CSU Bakersfield.

He worked at Porterville College as Coordinator for the Extended Opportunity Program and Service (EOPS) from 1985 through 2013.

He passed away on August 25th, 2015.

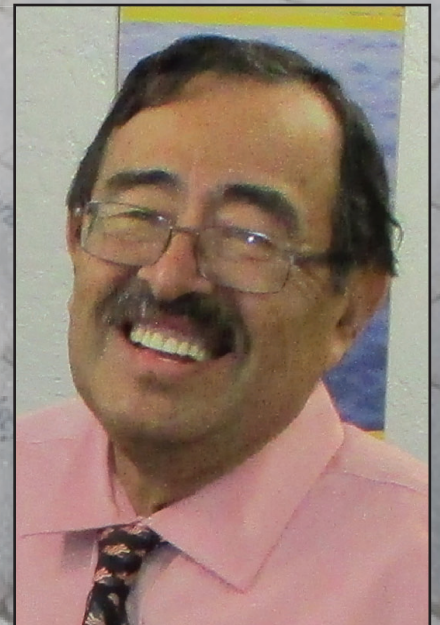


Edward Gallardo

U.S. Army

I was drafted by the US. Army in January, 1968 and served in the Country of Vietnam. I was stationed for six months outside the City of Quin Nhon, Vietnam, in a Valley called Phu Thy. The following next six months, I lived and worked near a seaport called Cam Rhan Bay. My MOS was 36 Charlie, Pole Lineman Heavy-construction, referred to as Outside-Plant. I also completed my 21st birthday on September 21, 1969 in Vietnam. I encountered high school friends and childhood friends, while serving in the Country of Vietnam, but I consider myself fortunate to have survived a complete Tour, which was one-year in length of service, 365 days.

When I Retired from the US. Army Corps of Engineers, I wanted to return as a student-Veteran. I choose to enroll at Porterville College to finish my first attempt at classes in 1966 at American River JR. College, Sacramento CA., as it was called then. I Graduated in 2015, with a Social Science Degree and I'm now preparing to continue and apply to the University of Tucson, Arizona.





Monument Brick Recipients

Cameron Goode

US Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Born in Kentucky in 1922, Cameron Goode moved west with his family as a young man. He graduated from Strathmore High School and enlisted in the Navy in 1942.

The Navy put him through several years of college and he became a commissioned officer. He served as a Line Officer in the Pacific and spent the last years of his active duty in Japan, shortly after WWII ended. Cameron continued to serve in the Naval Reserve until 1982.

In civilian life he was both a teacher and a principal in two different K-12 systems.

He passed away January 7, 2017 at home with family by his side.



Richard Goode

US Navy

Rank: Second Class Petty Officer (E-5)

Richard was born in Lindsay, California in 1957. He graduated from Porterville High School in 1975 and enlisted in the Navy. After "boot camp" at the San Diego Naval Training Facility, he spent most of his active duty career at Naval Air Station, (NAS) Lemoore in California's San Joaquin Valley. While in the Navy, he was a TRADEVMAN (*training device repairman*) and spent much of his time working with a variety of different flight simulators.

When Richard left the Navy in 1979 he worked as an electronic technician before deciding to further his education. He graduated from CSU, Bakersfield with a BS in Physics in 1989 and began his teaching career. He taught high school until 2001, when he was hired at Porterville College, where he still works today. In addition to Richard's teaching duties, he and his wife, Georgia also operate a quilting store in Porterville.





Monument Brick Recipients

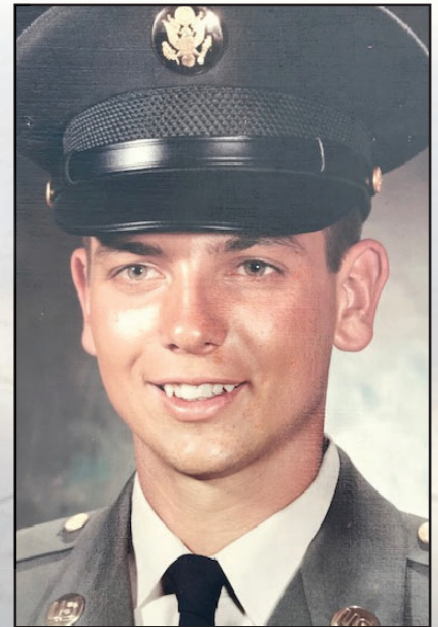
Donald William Bader

US Army

Born in 1947 in Sacramento.

Drafted into the Army June 1967. Began tour of Vietnam in December, 1967 until December, 1968. Served with the 9th Infantry Division with the 3rd & 5th Cavalry as a driver / gunner on an armored personnel carrier. Stationed at Bearcat in the southern part of South Vietnam and ended up 5 clicks from the DMZ.

Honorably Discharged as a Sargent in June, 1969.



Richard Rodriguez

U.S. Army

1st Cavalry division taken in the Korean War, he belonged to A company, 5th cav regiment, 1st cavalry division, motor platoon 4th platoon.





Monument Brick Recipients

Devon Mathis

U.S. Army

Rank: Sergeant Army NG

The middle child of six children, Devon was born and raised in the heart of California's central valley.

After graduating from Reedley High School in 2001, Devon joined the United States Army National Guard where he served as Sergeant for nearly 10 years, including 2 combat tours to Iraq. He was a Squad Leader in the 1114th Transportation Company. During Devon's second tour in Iraq, he sustained major injuries from a road side bomb attack in 2008 which gained him a Purple Heart.

After returning home, Devon went through extensive VA therapy. In 2009, Devon enrolled at Porterville College and soon became the Veterans Club President and Secretary of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

He completed his studies in counseling and graduated with an AA in Social Science in 2011. He then transferred to Fresno State University, where he was active in several honor societies, was President of the Veterans Fraternity, and earned a BA in Public Administration.

In 2012, Devon met his wife Aubrey. They combined their families in 2014 and welcomed a set of twins, Maggie and Jefferson on December 1, 2014, roughly 9 hours before Devon was sworn into office as the California Assemblyman from the 26th District.

The Mathis family has made their home in Visalia, CA.





Monument Brick Recipients

Ted Daniel

U.S. Air Force

Ted Daniel grew up in Ducor, CA and graduated from Porterville High School in 1963. He attended Porterville College from 1963 - 1965 and later graduated from COS after completing his Air Force Duties.

In 1966 he went into the US Air Force and served in Vietnam from 1967 - 1968 in Pleiku and Da Nang.

Upon discharge he worked for SCE as a Test Electrician and retired in 2005 with 35 years on the job.

He still resides in Ducor and restores old tractors as a hobby and is involved in all his grand children's activities especially a grandson that races sprint cars in the ASCS series in the mid-west.



Walter S. Zakrzeski, Jr.

U.S. Army paratrooper, 1968 - 1970

Born May 1948 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Raised in Porterville. Father of four children. Lifelong close friend of Brian Rattigan. Graduate of St. Anne's School, Porterville Union High School, and Porterville College.

Viet-Nam veteran. Served with the Third Battalion, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Severely wounded in the initial combat assault against the well-entrenched, crack 29th North Vietnamese Regiment in the Battle for Hamburger Hill (*fierce close-combat that raged for 11 days in the A Shau Valley during May 1969*). Awarded the Purple Heart and medically discharged due to the severity of his wounds.

Began his over 30 year career as a professional printer at Josten's in Porterville. Eventually, he became the manager of a commercial printing plant in Florida.

Walter passed away in December 2007, in Valdosta, Georgia.



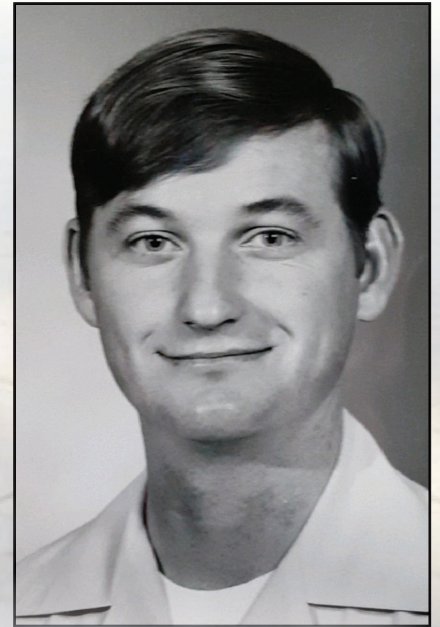
Monument Brick Recipients

Marvin Waddle

U.S. Air Force

Marvin Waddle lived in Tipton and Strathmore before moving to Porterville where he attended Porterville High School.

He joined the Air Force in July 1970 and served our country for 12 years. While in the military, Marvin served as a fireman supervisor, top secret photo processor, and in manpower management. During his service Marvin was stationed at Selfridge Air Force base, Michigan; Shemya Air Force base, Alaska; Edwards Air Force base, California; Shaw Air Force base, South Carolina; Hickam Air Force base, Hawaii; Okinawa Air Force base, Japan Mountain Home Air Force base, Idaho; and Vandenberg Air Force base, California. Marvin received the National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award with 2 oak leaf clusters.



Upon leaving the Air Force, Marvin attended Porterville College where he went through the Psychiatric Technician program and earned an AA degree. He worked for the state hospital for over 25 years before retiring.

Marvin was married to his wife Marion for over 40 years and has 2 children, Dr. Sherie Burgess and Greg Waddle.

Marvin loved his seven grand children Michael, Raegan, Ireland, Carter, Ella, Andrew, and Matthew.

Brian Michael Rattingan

U.S. Army paratrooper NCO, 1966 - 1969

Born March 1948 in Detroit, Michigan. Raised in Porterville. Life-long close friend of Walter Zakrzewski. Graduate of St. Anne's School, Porterville Union High School, Porterville College, University of San Francisco, and University of Santa Clara School of Law. Past member of the Porterville College Veterans Club.

Viet-Nam veteran, stationed in the Central Highlands.

Retired criminal defense attorney. Resides in Fairfield - Green Valley, California.



Monument Brick Recipients

John Rankin Jr.

United States Marine Corps, 1954 - 1958

Rank: Sergeant

John was born in 1934 in Lavaca, Arkansas. In 1936 he arrived in Porterville with his parents, Jack and Hazel Rankin. After attending local schools and graduating from Porterville High School, he served his country proudly in the United States Marines for 4 years.

He was stationed in Japan during those years of service.

After returning to Porterville, he began a career as a teacher and an administrator in the Porterville Unified School District that lasted 37 years.

John was also active in our local city government. He served 2 terms on the Porterville City Council and 1 term as the Mayor of Porterville.

John and his wife, Mary Ann still reside in Porterville. John has 2 children; Bobby who lives in Arroyo Grande and Donna who lives in Fresno.



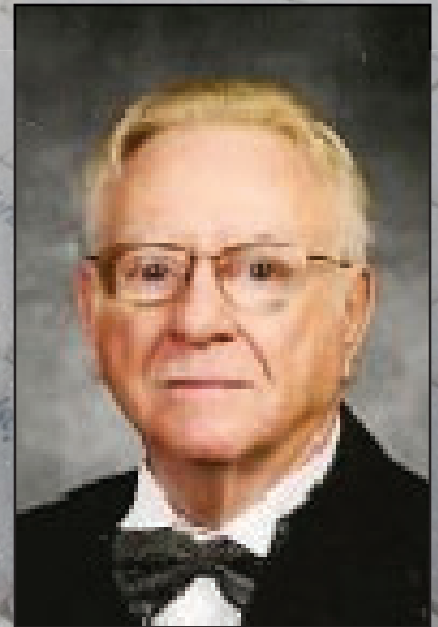
John R Thompson

TSgt USAF (*Retired*)

I joined the Air Force in January 1955 while a senior at Porterville Union High School. After Basic Training at Parks AFB and a few months in Air Police at Travis AFB I volunteered for overseas and served on Okinawa for eighteen months. Served two years at Medina Base, San Antonio, TX and took my discharge. Re-enlisted after eighty-nine days and was assigned to Youngstown Municipal Airport 79th Fighter Group until the base was closed a year later. Re-assigned to Kincheloe AFB, Michigan and after a year, in 1960, cross-trained into Computer Electronics with technical schools at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, MS and then at IBM factory school in Kingston, N.Y.

Assignments followed at McChord AFB, WA (*3 years*), Cape Romanz of AFS, AK (*1 year*), Offutt AFB, NB (*2 years*), Fuchu Air Station, Japan (*3 years 4 months*), and Grand Forks AFB, ND (*2 Years*).

I retired from the Air Force in July 1975 and returned to Porterville.





Monument Brick Recipients

Steven D. Schultz

US Army

I was born and raised in Terra Bella, attending and graduating from Porterville High School and Porterville College.

After graduation from PC, I enlisted in the Army. I served in the military from January 1975 to January 1977. My Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was a radio-teletype-Morse Code Operator. After completing my basic training at Ft. Ord (*which is now California State University, Monterey Bay*) and my advanced training at Ft. Gordon in Georgia, I was assigned to my permanent duty station at Neu Ulm, Germany in southern Bavaria. My company was part of the First Infantry Division – the Big Red One.



After my honorable discharge, I requested and was approved to receive a “European Out” in which I remained in Germany upon my discharge. A friend of mine from my company was discharged a few weeks after me, and we purchased a van and drove around Europe for about 6 months, living in our van or staying in youth hostels while visiting the parts of the continent that we did not see while in the military.

After we concluded our travels and decided to go home, I flew into the Bakersfield airport with about 20 dollars in my pocket, no car, no job, no savings account, and no real direction.

Utilizing the G.I. Bill, I attended PC for one semester to get adjusted to being back in school and civilian life again. I then transferred to California State University, Fresno (CSUF) where I received my bachelor’s degree in Criminology-Corrections and my Master of Arts degree in Counseling.

After graduation, I worked at CSUF as an Educational Advisor for about seven years, and then was hired at Porterville College as a counselor. I worked at PC for 27 years, retiring in May 2016. While I was employed at PC, I worked as a counselor in various departments, and then went into administration. I served as the Dean of Students, and then the Vice President of Student Services. Prior to the planned end of my career, I requested reassignment back into counseling. I was assigned the responsibility to work on the development and implementation of the current Veterans Resource Center (VRC).

US Navy
1965-1969
Leppert



Monument Brick Recipients

Bert Goebel

US Army

Bert Goebel was born and raised in Cold Spring, MN. After graduating from Cold Spring High School, where he played football and basketball Bert enlisted in the Army.

He proudly served his country during the Korean War and loved to talk about his time being stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Upon his honorable discharge Bert returned to Minnesota and worked for a Milling Company. When the Milling Company closed its gates Bert moved his family to Santa Barbara, CA where he worked for Marymount School before the family of 6 settled in the beautiful beach town of Carpinteria, where he worked for Carpinteria Unified School District until he retired.

Bert was very proud and honored to be receiving a brick in Porterville College's Veterans Monument. Unfortunately he passed away last Thanks Giving, before getting the chance to see his "real Brick" in person.

Bert Goebel was the Father in Law of Porterville College Athletic Trainer, Anja Goebel.



John Stefaniak

US Army

John Stefaniak was working for American Standard Blower in Dearborn, MI as a welder when he entered, US Army April 12, 1944 at age 31 as a Pvt.

During the next two years my father was an electrician, Rifleman, Carpenter General, and Foreman Construction in the European Theater of Operations.

He left the Army May 11, 1946 with the grade of Cpl.

While guarding prisoners in Antwerp, Belgium, my father went to a general store to purchase drawing paper for a prisoner. Selling the paper was a beautiful young Belgian lady who my dad fell in love with and married.

My parents settled in Michigan where my father continued working as a welder for American Standard Blower until his retirement. After retirement my parents moved to Idaho and then California where my dad passed away. .





Monument Brick Recipients

Juan J. Sánchez

US Army

I came to the United States with my family in 1960. I worked as a farmworker until I was drafted into the U.S. Army in August, 1964.

At first, I was stationed at Fort Ord, CA, and after basic and infantry training, I went on to Fort Benning, GA for Jump School. After receiving my Paratrooper wings, I was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. There I became a Combat Engineer. In April, 1965, my unit was deployed to the Dominican Republic. After serving for four months there, we returned to Fort Bragg.

In September 1965, I went to Turkey for a military exercise. In April 1966, a scheduled deployment was changed to a reassignment to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. From there I was deployed to another military exercise in Norway. Later, I was sent to Panama for Jungle Operations training. My last military activity was in Detroit, Michigan, where the Detroit Riots were taking place in July, 1967.

After receiving my Honorable Discharge from the Army, I worked for the State of California Farm Labor Service. Looking to the future, in 1970 I decided to enroll in Porterville College, where I received my AA degree in Liberal Studies. I transferred to UC Santa Cruz to work for a Bachelor's degree in Sociology. I then went to UCLA for graduate school, where I earned a Master's Degree in Sociology as well. I later earned a teaching credential from California State University, Northridge, and began my teaching career in Los Angeles in 1980.

My family and I moved to the Central Valley in 1985, first teaching in Earlimart and Delano. I then moved to Tulare Western High School, where I taught History and Spanish from 1991 until my retirement in 2013.

I have published two books, one a children's book called *Where Does the Rainbow Live? (Donde Vive el Arco Iris?)*, and *All the Women are Called Maria*, an account of many important women throughout Latin American history.



Robert J. Lepper
US Navy
1965-1969



Monument Brick Recipients

Albert H. Holloway

Colonel, USMC R

The military was a part of Albert Holloway's life since he was 8 years old. His father passed away when Albert was 8, and due to his family life, he was sent to military school in Long Beach, California.

During the summer months he spent time with his grandparents in Lost Hills, California where his grandfather, Sherman Holloway, had discovered and laid claim to agricultural gypsum in the desert of Lost Hills. He remembers watching General George Patton training troops in desert warfare in Lost Hills heat.

Since he was a youngster, he offered some of the troops water when they came close. That gesture resulted in a visit from General Patton who explained they were training in water restriction.

Albert graduated from the Southern California Military Academy in the class of 1945 and immediately entered University of Southern California studying athletic education. He was part of the Rose Bowl game of 1947 and graduated from USC in 1949. He immediately enlisted in the United States Marines and was sent to Officers Candidate School in Virginia.

His training as an artillery officer in the Marine Corps saw him stationed in the Mediterranean and Egypt during the Korean War waiting for the possibility of the Middle East entering the war.

His career as an active marine ended when his family begged him to come home and take over the command of the family business, Holloway's Golden Gypsum in Wasco, California. His loyalty to his family won out but he always fondly remembered his time in the Marine Corps. To keep his Marine Corps career close, he entered the Marine Corps Reserves, and was the commanding officer at the Reserves Training center in Bakersfield, California. He reached the rank of Colonel.

His marriage to Judith Holloway in Porterville in 1972 resulted in his move there and in 1988 Al retired from the Marine Corps at Arlington, Virginia, beneath the famous "Raising of the Flag on Iwo Jima" statue. He was saluted for his 44 years career in Satisfactory Government Service.

In 2003, Albert passed away from his battle of diabetes and is buried under the Marine Corps flag at Hillcrest Cemetery in Bakersfield, California.



SEMPER FI



Monument Brick Recipients

Stephanie Marie Medina

US Army National Guard

Stephanie Medina is the oldest daughter of Eva Canas, she was born in Lindsay, CA in 1988. She is the first and only member of her immediate family to join any branch of the armed services.

Stephanie joined the United States Army National Guard In February of 2013 and left for basic training in April of 2013. Stephanie joined the National Guard as a 25B an Information Technology Specialist and upon returning home in December of 2014 she was attached to the 746th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion based in Van Nuys, CA.

Stephanie completed service receiving an Honorable Discharge in December of 2015, she was also a recipient of the National Defense Service Metal for service in good standing during a national emergency (*War on Terrorism*).



Dearl Caulk

US Air Force

Class of Porterville College of 1956, served our country proudly as a member of the United States Air Force from 1945-1952.

He later served as a beloved educator here in Porterville for 31 years.





Monument Brick Recipients

Reverend Clarence B. Word

US Air Force

Rank: Sergeant (E-5)

Clarence B. Word joined the United States Air Force at the age of 17 in 1946. His primary mission was to repair radios and radar equipment on the B-29 aircraft. Mr. Word was stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona. He was part the 1st established air refueling squadron ever. He said that they initially used fire hoses and grappling hooks in the air refueling process. During his time in the Air Force his tours included Japan and Alaska (*before it became a State of the Union*).

Reverend Bill Word was honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 1949 and he went on to earn his Master's Degree in Christian Education.



Donald E. Smith

U.S. Navy, Aviation

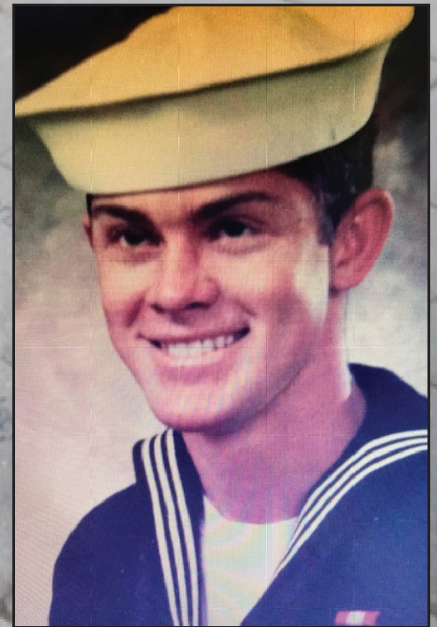
Rank: 3rd Class Petty Officer

Don Smith was born in the small farming community of Alpaugh, California in 1948. After high school, he attended Porterville College for two years prior to joining the Navy in 1968.

Once in the service, he was trained as a Parachute Rigger (*Air Crew Survival Equipmentman*) and was stationed at several different locations in the Pacific and in Southeast Asia, culminating in a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Don was discharged in late 1971 and returned to Porterville College to finish up his classes. It was there that he met and married his wife, Donna. After PC, he continued his education under the California Apprenticeship Program for Antique Furniture Restoration.

Don and Donna raised a son and a daughter, and for the past 45 years, he has owned and operated his own restoration business in Springville, California.





Monument Brick Recipients

Ronnie L. Phelps

US Army

Rank: Private First Class

Ronnie Phelps was born into a farming family in Alpaugh, California in 1947. In high school, he was liked by everyone and was an accomplished athlete. He excelled on the baseball diamond and actually hit three home runs in one game.

After high school, Ronnie joined the Army where he was a light weapons infantryman with the 9th Infantry Division.

Less than a year after graduating from high school, Ronnie was tragically killed in combat while serving in the Republic of Vietnam.



William N. Melvin Jr.

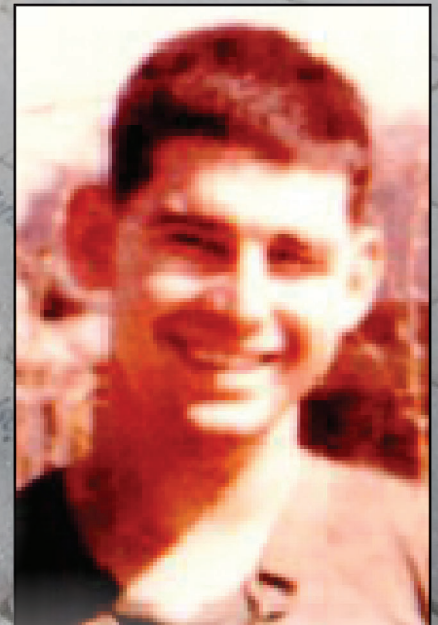
U.S. Army

Rank: E-6

Bill was born and raised in Sacramento, California, and served three years in the US Army.

He was initially drafted for two years of military service in 1968, but then increased his tour of duty by one year so that he could go to Airborne and Ranger training. Bill served one year in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division out of Hue. As a L.R.R.P (*Long Range Recon Patrol*) with the 2nd of the 502 Division, his specialty was demolition. Upon return from Vietnam, his final duty was as a Maintenance Sergeant at Fort Ord in northern California.

For the past 40 years, Bill has owned and operated a successful tire and automotive center in Porterville.





Monument Brick Recipients

Tito A. Velasquez

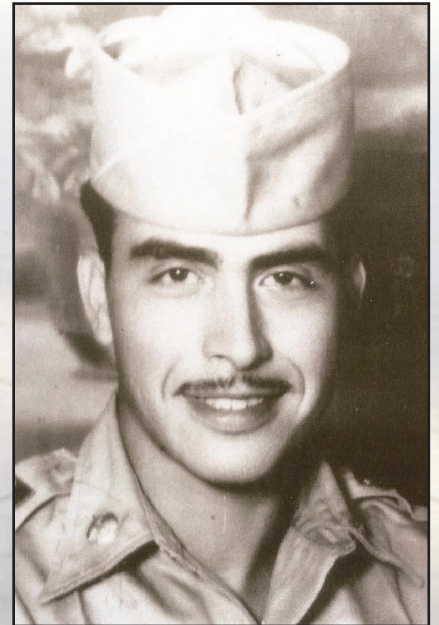
US Army

Tito A. Velasquez was born on November 1, 1935 in Youngsville, NM to Esequiel and Fortunata Velasquez. His family moved to Porterville when he was a young boy and he attended local schools.

Tito enlisted in the US Army and served from 1956 - 1959. He was stationed in Korea with Tank Co, 34th Infantry Regiment as a SP4.

On July 7, 1960, he married Rose Rodriguez of Porterville where they raised six children. Tito attended night school to receive a diploma from Porterville High School and went on to graduate from Porterville College. He worked in various positions in and retired from the Agriculture Industry.

Tito passed peacefully on April 21, 2012, at the age of 76, to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Donald W. Lewis

U.S. Air Force

Rank: Airman, 2nd Class (E-4)

Donald Walker Lewis was born on March 6th, 1934 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He entered the United State Air Force on September 21, 1951 and served as an Airman 2nd Class. Donald was stationed in the South Pacific and later in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

After his discharge in 1954 he returned to in Cincinnati, where he raised a family, worked for Hilton-Davis, and played saxophone in a jazz band on weekends.



Robert J Lepperi
US Navy
1965-1969



Monument Brick Recipients

Steven K. Haynie

US Army

Rank: SFC - E-7

SFC Haynie went into the Army at the age of 17 and retired 20 years later in 1981.

He served two tours in Vietnam and was severely wounded in 1967. He served three tours in Germany and two tours in Korea, as well. He received many medals and awards including three Purple Hearts.

He passed away at the age of 55 and is buried in Porterville, California.

He is survived by his wife Judith of 38 years, four daughters, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.



Harry Ralph

U.S. Navy

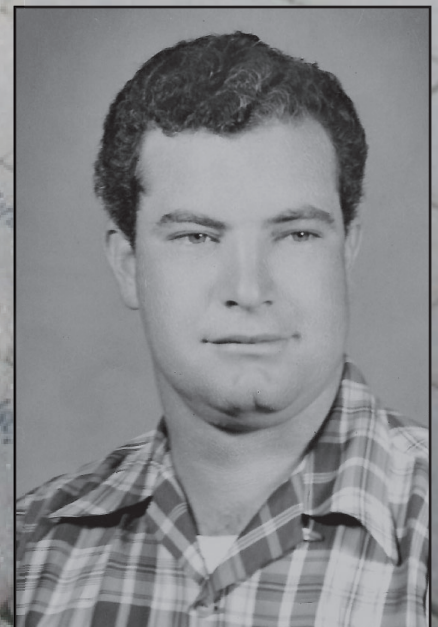
Rank: (E-6)

Harry was born in Denver, Colorado and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of 17.

The majority of his 24 years of service was spent in the Construction Battalions (*Sea Bees*), where he worked as a steelworker.

He was stationed extensively throughout Southeast Asia, and spent several tours in Viet Nam.

Harry, who was nicknamed "the Grey Ghost of the West Coast" retired in 1967 at Port Hueneme, California.





Monument Brick Recipients

Henry G “Hank” Osborne

Army Air Corps

First Lieutenant Henry G. “Hank” Osborne served in the Army Air Corps (*now known as the U S Air Force*) from July of 1943 until September of 1946. He was attached to the 403rd Troop Carrier group, 13th Air Force and served as a navigator on C-47 transport planes in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He was awarded an American Campaign Medal, an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, a Philippine Liberation Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Hank and his wife Naomi lived in Skippers Cove and held various volunteer positions at the Beach Club from 1985 until 2012.



Richard H. Osborne

U.S. Marine Corps

Rank: Sergeant (E-5)

Richard was born and raised in northern New Jersey.

In 1966 he enlisted in the Marine Corps where he served for four years, culminating in a one year tour of duty with a combat helicopter squadron in Vietnam.

He was discharged from the USMC in southern California in 1990 and decided to make the “Golden State” his home. With help from the GI Bill, he attended college and in the ensuing years, held several different positions including that of an archaeologist in the field of cultural resource management.

Upon completion of a master’s degree, he was hired at Porterville College where he taught anthropology from 1991 until his full retirement in 2015. He currently stays active by traveling and volunteering for several community organizations in the Porterville area.





Monument Brick Recipients

Don Cox

US Navy

Rank: Aviation Ordnanceman, Second Class (E-5)

Don was born in Detroit, and raised in nearby Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

It was there he enlisted into the U.S. Navy in 1966. After recruit training at Great Lakes, Illinois and Aviation Ordnance School in Jacksonville, Florida, he spent the next two years at the Naval Missile Center at Point Mugu, California.

There he met and married his wife, Judy. In 1967 he was transferred to Attack Squadron 27, and was deployed to Viet Nam aboard the U.S.S. Constellation. He was separated from active duty in San Diego, California in 1970.

Don and Judy reside in Springville, California. They have 2 children, 5 grandchildren & 2 great-grandchildren.



Bill Drumright

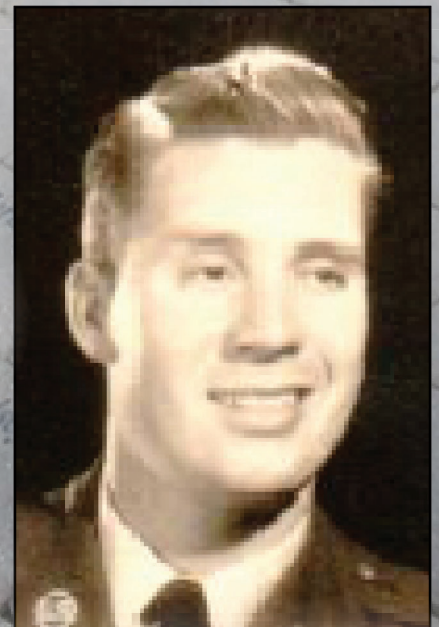
U.S. Air Force

Bill was born in Stillwater, OK on December 10th 1932 to Orville and Naomi Drumright. At a young age, he, his parents, and his sister Betty moved to Porterville where he graduated from PUHS with the class of 1952.

After graduating he joined the Air Force. In 1953 he married his High School sweetheart Jane Clark. In 1955 he was deployed to Cape Newenham, Alaska on the Bering Sea for 13 months.

He was honorably discharged and moved to Porterville where he enrolled at PC after 4 years of service. After graduating from PC they moved to Fresno where he got his teaching credential from Fresno State University, and moved back to Porterville where he began his first teaching position. He earned his Masters Degree in 1980. Two years later he accepted the teaching position at John F Doyle School and served as principal at all the elementary schools and Bartlett Jr High.

He retired in 1990 from PUSD and became a university supervisor for Fresno State for 10 years, working until his death of pancreatic cancer in 2006.





Monument Brick Recipients

Greg King

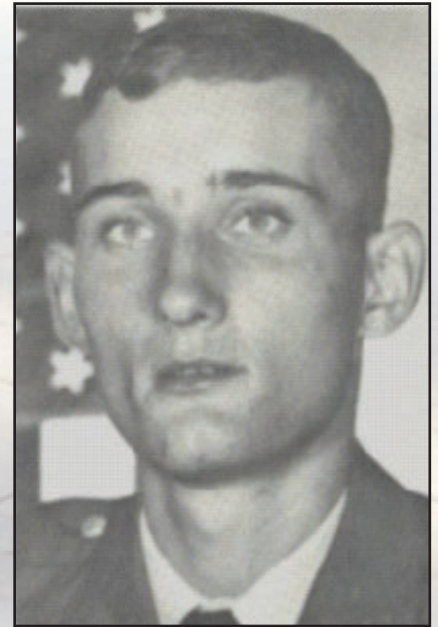
US Army

Rank: SSG (*Staff Sergeant*), E-6

Greg served in the Army from 1969-1971, and in the infantry in Vietnam where he was a Purple Heart recipient.

After the Army he served 22 years as a police officer with the City of Falls Church, Virginia, and retired as a Commander. He then served three years as the Director of College Support Services at Golden West College in Huntington Beach, CA., which included Public Safety responsibilities. Greg went on to be the Chief of Police at California State University Los Angeles for over thirteen years and retired in 2011.

He currently stays involved in veteran related activities through the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization and serves on various public committees.



Russell L. Gilbert

U.S. Army

Rank: Pvt – Third Battalion, 406th Infantry

Russell Gilbert was born March 27th, 1920 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He enlisted in the army in September of 1942 as an infantryman and was discharged March 23rd of 1948. He was wounded in action in 1944 while serving in Germany during WWII. During the time he served he received a Purple Heart, a Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, EAME Ribbon with two bronze stars for campaign "Rhineland" and campaign "Central Europe".

After his discharge he returned to Cincinnati, Ohio to live with his bride that he met and married while stationed in Germany.

He passed away at the age of 82 leaving three adult children and 5 grandchildren.





Monument Brick Recipients

Roland P. Hill

US Army

Rank: SP/5

Military service from March, 1968 to January, 1971

Military Occupational Specialty was a helicopter crew chief/mechanic.

Vietnam service from April, 1969 to May, 1970.

Awards/Medals: Aircrewman's Badge, Airmedal with "V" Device, Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device with Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Ribbon, and Vietnam Service Ribbons.

Porterville High School graduate - 1966, Porterville College graduate - 1972, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo graduate - 1976

Life Member American Legion, Life Member VFW, Life member Disabled American Veterans.



Matt McCallister

U.S. Army

Joined the United States Army right after I graduated from high school in 2006. I was 16 and a half at the time and because of my age my parents signed a waiver.

Went to Basic Training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. After Basic Training my company transferred directly into A.I.T (*Advanced Individual Training*). My job was to be a Combat Engineer (12B). I graduated from A.I.T early November of 2006 and went directly to my first duty station at Fort Hood Texas. I was assigned to 4th Infantry 1st Brigade 66th Armor Regiment Easy Co. I was then assigned to be a M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle operator. In March 2008 my unit along with myself loaded up all our equipment to head off to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom which eventually ended up turning into Operation Enduring Freedom. We returned home to Fort Hood Texas around July 2009. I then transferred duty stations and ended up at Fort Irwin, California.

I got out of the Army in 2011 and started doing odd jobs eventually ended up at Porterville College where I am now pursuing a BA in Administration of Justice.





Monument Brick Recipients

Robert Augustus Inabinette

US Air Force

Bob left home in south Mississippi in July, 1947 with a 7th grade education. He was number six of ten children.

He worked until December of that year and then joined the Air Force at age 16, right after the Air Force was officially noted as a separate military unit. He and his brother both went through basic training together, allowed to do so only because some of his siblings got their granddaddy's name which differed from Bob's, so they were not known as brothers.

After basic training, Bob was shipped to Japan in July of 1948. He turned 17 in September of that year and was already working in the orderly room as a file clerk when he was recruited to work as a radar operator and information center operator. Following schooling, he was sent to Niigata, Japan. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal and was made crew chief in radar operations. Although he wanted badly to go to Korea to be an on-line soldier, he was denied that wish because of his extraordinary talent in the radar field.

In 1949 a group of fellow airmen went to the beach to play water volleyball. He was on the ocean side of the team, the ball went past his crew and unfamiliar with tides, he kept chasing the ball until he realized he was stranded, tired and cramping. While praying to God because he thought there was no hope of surviving, a lone fisherman appeared in a small boat, pulled him into the craft and deposited him on shore.

Bob spent a total of 27 months in Japan before returning home to get his GED, a degree in electronics and working 17 years in aerospace.

He belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Vets, American Legion, and the Veterans of Underage Military Service.



★
Robert J Lepper
US Navy
1965-1969



Monument Brick Recipients

David Manville

US Navy

Rank: E-5

David Manville was born in Hayward, CA and was raised in Fremont CA. While growing up, he attended John F. Kennedy High School.

David Joined the United States Navy in 2004 at the age of 24 and enlisted as an Engine man, but was chosen out of boot camp to join the United States Navy Ceremonial Guard where he performed in President Bush's Inauguration and assisted in President Reagan's funeral. He also worked for Naval District Washington's port operations department and was assigned to evacuate the Pentagon if needed via the Anacostia River. David made E-4 at this time and was then given orders to the fleet to the USS WHIDBEY ISLAND LSD-41 and was assigned to main propulsion.

David deployed Oct 1, 2007 to the horn of Africa to support anti-piracy missions off the coast of Somalia (*Eyl, Mogadishu*). He was then assigned to A-Gang and was the on board engineer on the RHIB boats and assisted in the rescue of five vessels that were hijacked by Somali pirates.

David was honorably discharged in 2008 as an E-5 and is 70% service connected disabled due to injuries received while in service.

David began attending Porterville College in 2013 and was the President of the Student Veterans Organization during the implementation of the Veterans Resource Center, and started Operation Lend a Hand.

He now works for the Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance as a Housing Navigator and assists the homeless, including veterans with getting housing.



★
Robert J Lepperi
US Navy
1965-1969



Monument Brick Recipients

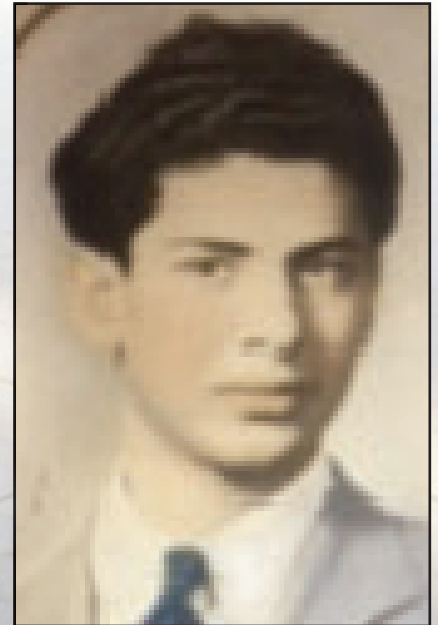
Michael Hurtado

US Army

PFC Michael S. Hurtado Sr was a member of the 41st Infantry Division in the South Pacific.

As a result of his record and wounds suffered, PFC Hurtado was decorated, with great pride, the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He also received the Asiatic Pacific Medal with two Battle Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge and other citations.

Upon his discharge in 1945, Hurtado returned home to live with his parents Rupert and Maria de Jesus Hurtado, in Lindsay.



Gary L. Wallace

U.S. Air Force

Rank: Sergeant

Born in Los Angeles in 1944 and moved to Lindsay in 1954. Gary graduated from Lindsay High School in 1962, married in 1964, and enlisted in the Air Force in 1966.

He was stationed in McClellan Air Force Base and served as an Airborne Radar Operator. Served 2 tours in Southeast Asia providing information on Air Strikes in North Vietnam and Laos including border warnings should strikes get too close to China and also helped in search and rescue operations. While enlisted achieved the rank of Sergeant and was awarded an Air Medal for flying overseas.

After his discharge in 1970 he returned to Porterville worked locally and continued his education on the GI Bill. He began working at Porterville College where he met and married his second wife in 1999. Together they have 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. He continued his employment at PC until retirement in 2008 after 32 years. I have always been and continue to be active in community service and in my spare time I like to golf and travel.





Monument Brick Recipients

Philip C. Brown

U.S. Army

Rank: Corporal

Phil Brown was born in Milfay, Oklahoma in 1928. He came to California at the age of 14 and found employment as a field worker for the National Park Service at Sequoia National Park.

Phil joined the Army in 1950 and attended basic training at Camp Cook (*currently the site of Vandenberg Air Force Base*) then moved on Japan. He next served in the Korean Conflict with the 223rd Regimental Combat Team.

After leaving the Army in 1952, Phil returned to the San Joaquin Valley where he and his wife, Ophelia raised five children and he worked for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) for 33 years.

Phil recently was honored for 66 years of service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).



Evert Lee Morgan

US Marine Corps

Rank: Sergeant (E-5)

Evert was born in Leola, Arkansas in 1945. When he was 11, his family moved to Poplar, CA and Evert attended Pleasant View School, Porterville High School, and Porterville College.

At 20, he was drafted into the Army but instead, enlisted in the Marine Corps. After "boot camp" in San Diego and combat training at Camp Pendleton, he was sent to Vietnam where he served as an infantryman and platoon leader. In Vietnam, He was wounded three times and received three Purple Hearts, and two Presidential Unit Citations.

Back home, he worked for Tulare County Parks and Recreation for 11 years, 30 years working for the Army Corps of Engineers, managing facilities at Lake Success. He and Judy, his wife of 56 yrs. raised two children.

Evert is a founding member, and the current president of the Central Valley Vietnam Veterans, and is also a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).





Monument Brick Recipients

Richard “Dick” Gerber

US Marine Corps

Rank: Sergeant (E-5)

Dick Gerber was born in Weehawken, New Jersey in 1946 and graduated from Glen Rock High School (*also in New Jersey*) in 1964.

He attended Wake Forest University and then enlisted in the Marine Corps in February of 1966. Upon completion of boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina and training as an aviation electrician, Dick was stationed in El Toro, California. Later, he served a one year tour working on F-4 Phantom jets in Vietnam.

In 1970 he was honorably discharged from the Marines and began what was to become a 35 year career as a mechanic in the industrial gas field. He and his wife, Janet raised three children. Now retired, Dick enjoys watching soccer at all levels, and is very active in his church.



Thomas W. Osborne

Army National Guard

Rank: Spec. 5

Tom was born in 1948 and grew up in Glen Rock, New Jersey, a small suburban town near New York City. After high school, he attended and graduated from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut with a degree in business.

At this time, Tom enlisted in the Army National Guard where he served as a tank driver and ultimately, tank commander from 1970 until 1976.

While in the Guard, he married his high school sweetheart, Laurel. During their almost 50 years of marriage they raised two children and currently have two grandchildren.

Tom recently retired from a long and successful career in sales and now enjoys spending time with his family and boating on a lake near their home.





Monument Brick Recipients

Raymond Smith

US Army

Ray grew up in San Jose where he joined the Army after graduating from San Jose High School.

He was with the 775th EPD Company (*Engineer Petroleum Distribution Company*) which was responsible for constructing a pipeline and storage tanks from Burma to China. While serving, PFC Smith earned three Bronze Stars for campaigns in Burma and China plus a unit citation.

Upon returning home to San Jose, he met and married June Herring of Lindsay and had one daughter, Sheri Smith of Springville.

Ray retired from IBM after 37 years. He and June were married for 51 years before she passed away in 1998 and he passed away in 2001.



Ronald Crabtree

US Army
1968 - 1970



Don Roper Sr.

US Army
1951



Monument Brick Recipients

John Hall

US Army

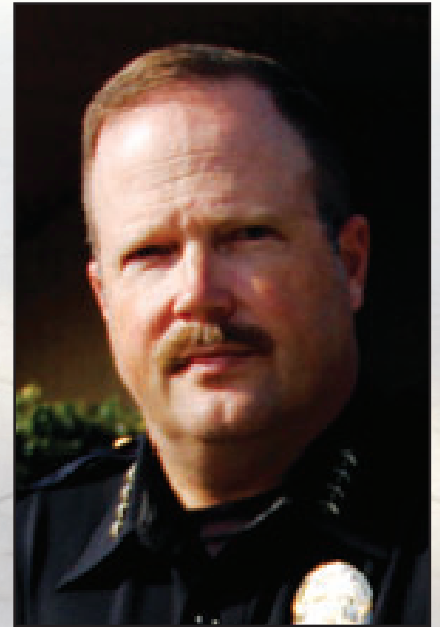
John Hall was born and raised in Stockton, California.

After graduating high school, he enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 17. He would go on to serve as an infantryman for the next eight years between the U.S. Army and the California Army National Guard. In addition to serving in Iraq, he was activated for federal duty during the Los Angeles riots.

John pursued a law enforcement career, which brought him to Porterville when he was hired by the Porterville Police Department. His career with the Porterville Police Department would last for 24 years during which time he would serve in multiple capacities, eventually achieving the rank of Captain. While serving with the Porterville Police Department he was awarded the Department's Medal of Valor for his actions while serving as the team leader for the Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team during a high-risk incident.

In 2018 John left the Porterville Police Department and was hired by the Exeter Police Department to be the Chief of Police.

In addition to his law enforcement career, John teaches for Porterville College, College of Sequoias, and the Gunsite Academy. John also pursued his higher education through classes at Porterville College, College of Sequoias, Union University, and Fresno State ultimately graduating summa cum laude with a Master's Degree in Criminology from Fresno State University.





Monument Brick Recipients

A father and his three sons, from WWII to Vietnam and beyond,
proudly
served
in the
US Navy



Donald E. Meister Sr.

US Navy
1944 - 1952



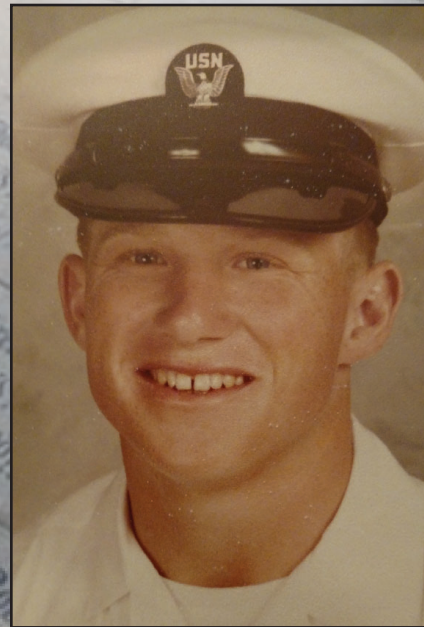
Donald E. Meister Jr.

US Navy
1968 - 1973



Bruce Meister Jr.

US Navy
1978 - 1982



Greg A. Meister

US Navy
1976 - 1980



Monument Brick Recipients



Eugene W. Wise

US Army
1929 - 1961



Alson E. Wise

US Army Air Corps
1942 - 1945



Frank V Myers

US Army
1917 - 1919



Monument Brick Recipients

Ramon U. Escareno

US Army

Ramon U. Escareno, a US Army veteran who proudly served "The Finest Army" in the world from 2003- 2008.

Ramon was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, both as US soldier and Department of the Army Civilian (*DA Civilian*). After his honorable military service, he began a post-military working career as a Department of Defense Contractor and a US Army Department of Defense Civilian from 2008-2017.

Ramon has excelled in both the military (*making the rank of Sergeant*) and post military careers. He presently works at Madera Community College Center as an IT Support Specialist; this is Ramon's first non-military related occupation. Ramon lives in Tulare County; he is engaged to his beautiful fiancé, Aracele Mendez, and he is a proud father of a 3-year-old boy named Roman Escareno Mendez. We thank and recognize Ramon U. Escareno for his honorable service





Central Valley Vietnam Veterans



Central Valley Vietnam Veterans

The Central Valley Vietnam Veterans Club (CVVV) was established in 2007 by nine disabled Vietnam Veterans who were in therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder (*PTSD*).

The primary goals of the group were to provide an inclusive and supportive environment for their members and to aid in the healing process by giving back to the community.

To that end, CVVV has raised, and then donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to various organizations throughout Tulare County. All of the donated money goes to benefit either veterans or children. The group also provides color guards and honor guards at no charge for community events and funerals.

Additionally, each year they put on a Veterans Day Parade in the City of Tulare. Now in its 11th year, the Central Valley Vietnam Veterans Club has grown to over 60 members and continues a mission of service to the community.

Robert J Leppert
US Navy
1965-1969



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9499, Springville, CA

The Springville VFW Post was started in 1954 by local ranchers, cowboys, and business people within a natural western theme foundation. Civic minded programs were central in the beginning and is still the case today through self-funded Post activities. Although nationally connected, the Post has always concentrated on the local community and the needs of veterans and their families. This has been accomplished by efforts related to donations of food to those in need of assistance, flood and wildfire relief, blood drives, support for local cadet programs, providing medical equipment, and supporting the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fresno.

The Post has established academic scholarships at Springville School and Porterville College as an important step in helping others achieve their goals.

The Post continually supports pride in America and the freedoms we all enjoy. A traditional practice is the placement of American flags on Highway 190 thru Springville at each major holiday in tribute to those that served and paid the ultimate sacrifice. Another long-standing Post event is the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Breakfast that has occurred for 27 years. Additionally, the Post helps sponsor special annual programs such as the "Warriors Day on the Lake" for wounded veterans; the Southern Tulare County Sportsmen's Association Pheasant Hunt for disabled veterans; the Porterville College Salute to Veterans; and Flag Day events at locations within this region.

Today members of the Post sit on many community boards and organizations that include: the Porterville College Foundation; Happy Trails Academy, that assists veterans and their families; the Springville Memorial Board; the Springville Sierra Rodeo Board; the Springville Apple Festival Committee; the Central Valley Family Crisis Center, and the Central Valley Vietnam Veterans organization. The Post coverage now includes all of Porterville and welcomes veterans who have served the Nation in harms-way to assist the community once more.