

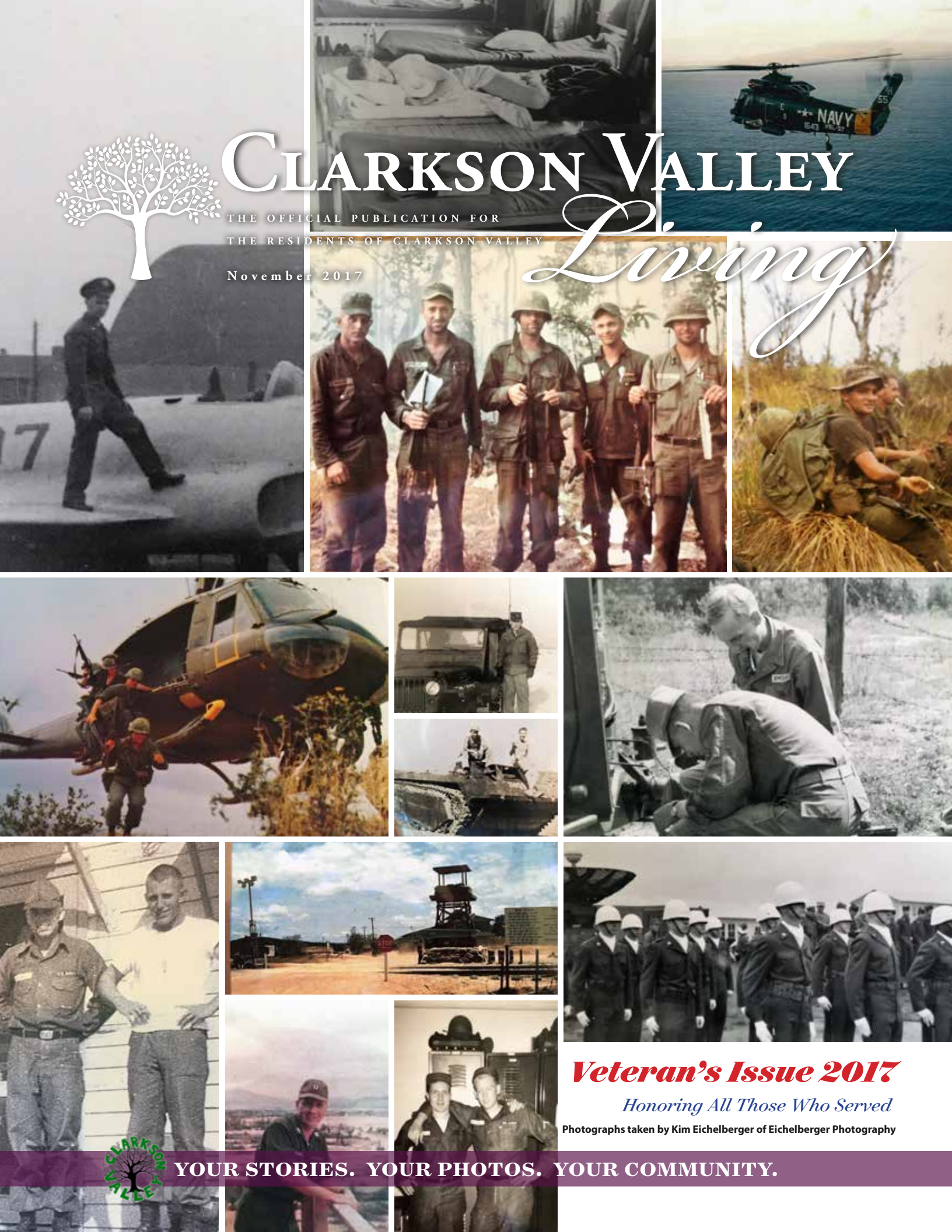


CLARKSON VALLEY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR
THE RESIDENTS OF CLARKSON VALLEY

November 2017

Living



Veteran's Issue 2017

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Photographs taken by Kim Eichelberger of Eichelberger Photography



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This newsletter should be considered "unofficial communication" and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the City of Clarkson Valley. An official position of the City shall only be communicated in letter form using City letterhead.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

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Make note of these new changes!

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"If a business is listed here, we have met with each owner face-to-face and determined that they are a great fit as a partner in the publication and for the community." ~ Deanna Ley, your CVL publisher



This section has been created to give you easier access when searching for a trusted neighborhood vendor to use. Take a minute to familiarize yourself with the businesses sponsoring your Clarkson Valley Living newsletter.

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Reminders

November is often referred to as the beginning of the holiday season. It seems that it comes from the fact we celebrate two national holidays in November, and then Christmas comes so quickly after Thanksgiving. The first November national holiday is Veteran's Day. This monthly publication is a salute to our veterans. I was in the Air Force during the Korean War. I never served in a combat unit, nor was I in any combat mission, so I salute those 'real' veterans with praise and a heartfelt "Thank You!" We are still the greatest country ever on this planet, and our veterans are one of the primary reasons. I believe we will and we must work through our differences as an honor to those who have served.

As I was thinking about our Veterans, the police and other first responders came to mind. Our new police (Chesterfield as of 7-1-17) remind us each month with their report 'garage doors still up' after midnight in many houses. Veterans and police share in one of their missions - SAFETY FIRST.

I looked back and found many of my previous November Mayor's Corners talked about an important reminder or new safety tip. I don't know about you, but we do have fire alarms in our home, and my wife reminds me to test them more often than I do on my own. We do, on occasion (but not often), wonder about carbon monoxide, too. Frequently called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. Even though called an invisible killer, there are symptoms to be aware of: a headache, dizziness, nausea. When symptoms get worse, confusion and drowsiness can lead to fast breathing, fast heartbeat, vision problems, and even seizures.

With winter coming on, and with houses being more closed up, I wanted to share a few reminders of actions to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) build up:

- If you use a generator in an emergency, be sure it's used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas and charcoal grills can produce CO - always use these items outside.
- Make sure your vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clean and clear of debris. Double check for snow after a snowstorm.
- Do not to run a vehicle or other fueled engines in the garage with the garage door closed, or even with it open. CO can leak into the house in either case.
- Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is clear, i.e. not covered with snow.
- Have fuel-burning heating equipment including chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather.
- When using your chimney, be sure the flue is open for adequate ventilation.

Hopefully, these common-sense reminders can be helpful. To better ensure, there are CO alarms. They should be installed outside each sleeping area on every level of your home. You can talk with a qualified appliance technician to discuss possible needs for your home.

Information for this article courtesy of Ameren Missouri and the National Fire Protection Association (nfpa.org/education).

Clarkson Valley Recycling



**Results Through
September 2017**
September Recycling
Tonnage: 26.09
YTD Tonnage: 161.46

Words Cannot Express Our

GRATITUDE...

*From Your CVL Content Manager,
KRISTY HOWARD*

I had the honor and privilege to either sit down with or speak on the phone to most of the veterans to hear their stories of service to the United States. It was an experience I will always cherish and never forget. I learned so much more about our wars than I ever learned in school. I was so moved, and at times, cried along with these brave veterans, listening to their life experiences. The words that keep coming to my mind as I think of these residents are honor, selflessness, patriotism, bravery, determination, discipline, commitment, dedication, loyalty, and courage. I personally want to thank each one of you for your commitment to our country. I'm sure there are numerous veterans that are not featured on these pages, but our gratitude to everyone who served is the same - words cannot express how thankful we are for your service to our great country.

I would like our residents to know this will be my last issue. I feel privileged to have been a part of this wonderful team led by Chris and Deanna Ley to provide a quality magazine to our community of Clarkson Valley. It is now time for me to spend more time with my father, veteran Ron Wilbois, as he is entering a new chapter in his life. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you in Clarkson Valley. I live in Dunhill and look forward to continuing to meet new faces in our community.

From Your CVL Publisher, DEANNA LEY

As I read through each of the stories this month, I couldn't help but be **overwhelmed** with gratitude and respect for the selfless veterans who's memories grace the pages of this issue. I am the daughter of a Marine Corp Reservist, and even though he never saw combat, my dad exemplifies the values that the military holds dear. He taught me so many lessons that he attributes to his time in the Reserves, and I am grateful that I have been able to pass those on to our children, too. The words THANK YOU don't seem like enough after reading these articles and seeing these photos, but please know, whether you shared your story or not, if you are a veteran, we are forever grateful for your service and for our freedom. We owe you everything.

As Kristy mentioned in her note, this is her last issue helping us out on *Clarkson Valley Living*. Her dedication and passion for making *CVL* one of the best publications in the nation impressed me and many others month after month. While her interviewing and article-writing skills and her always-encouraging attitude will be greatly missed, I know that her transitioning out to spend more time with her father is what's best. If you had the chance to get to know Kristy over the last 19 months that she's been on the *CVL* team, please let her know how much you appreciate her and the work she's done to make *CVL* what it is today. Not only did I have the best Content Manager in all of N2 Publishing, but I also made a great friend in her.

Your Clarkson Valley Living Team

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WANT TO JOIN THE TEAM?

We are always looking for volunteers who want to be a part of making *Clarkson Valley Living* the best it can be for the community. We are looking for Resident Article Contributors and Junior Writers (kids who want to get involved!) to join the team. Email **Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com** for more info!

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NEWS YOU CAN USE



FAMILY FUN EVENT AT UPPER LIMITS!

Ready to get your climb on?!? Join us on November 19th at Upper Limits in Chesterfield Valley for this family event. Bring the kids, the grandkids and the kids at heart. Make sure to check out the details of this fun event on page 14, and make sure to RSVP to save your spot.

Are You On The Clarkson Valley Living Email List?

Shoot a quick email to **Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com** to be added so you can be in the know for all things CVL and event invites.



GET INVOLVED IN CVL HAPPENINGS!

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Do you love to meet new people? Are you good at chatting people up and writing stories? If so, CVL needs you! We are now hiring resident writers of all ages to help us out from time to time. No experience needed for these part-time positions.

upcoming event

SAVE THE DATE

Free CVL Neighborhood Family Rock Climbing Night At Upper Limited Chesterfield



Upper Limits Chesterfield has partnered with Clarkson Valley Living to invite residents to a private climbing and



family fun night on Sunday, November 19, from 6-9 p.m.

During this fun-filled evening, your family will enjoy finding new heights while bonding with your neighbors in a fun environment!

Upper Limits will be providing all of the necessary equipment and pizza, too, so all you have to do is show up and have a blast!

This is a don't-miss event! Your family will be talking about this night for years to come! Please RSVP to

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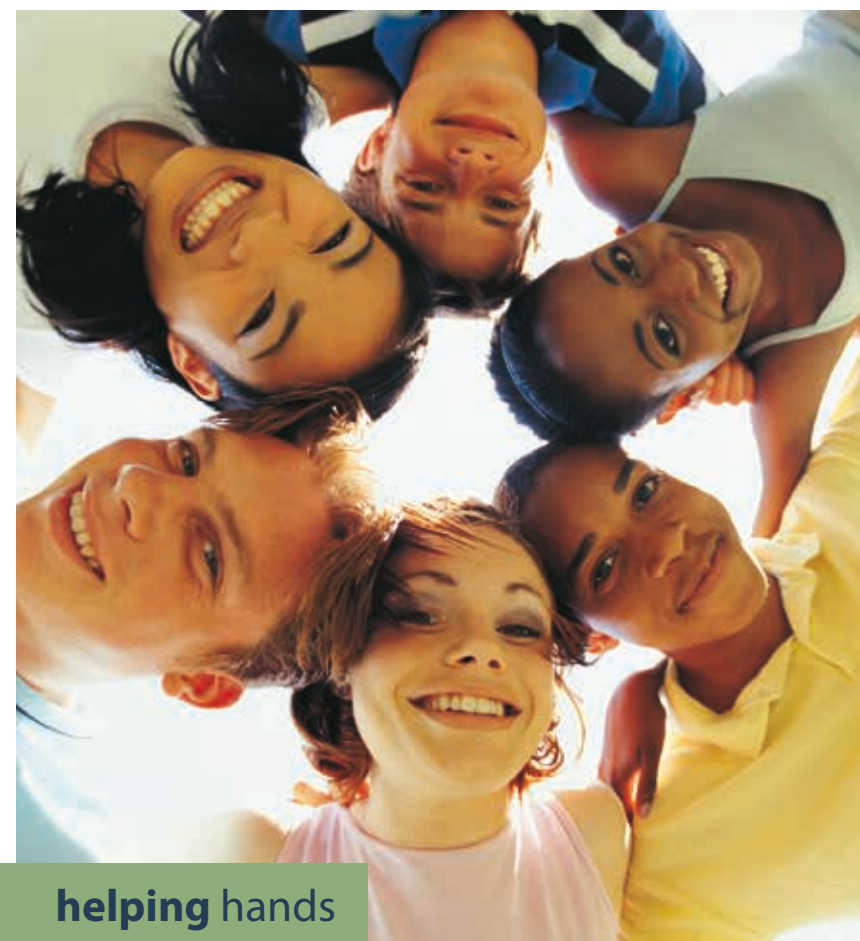
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helping hands

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Coffee Break



Did You Know?

Our national holiday really stems from the feast held in the autumn of 1621 by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag to celebrate the colony's first successful harvest.

The first Thanksgiving feast lasted three days, providing enough food for 53 pilgrims and 90 Native Americans. The feast consisted of fish (cod, eels, and bass) and shellfish (clams, lobster, and mussels), wild fowl (ducks, geese, swans, and turkey), venison, berries and fruit, vegetables (peas, pumpkin, beetroot and possibly, wild or cultivated onion), harvest grains (barley and wheat), and beans, dried Indian maize or corn, and squash.

			11	111
		38		55
		0	25	95
20	21			67
				119
57	115	80	84	82

Try to fill in the missing numbers!

Missing numbers are integers between 0 & 50. Numbers in each row add up to totals to the right. Numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom. Diagonal lines also add up to the totals to the right.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Search the puzzle for Thanksgiving themed words.

Words may be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forward and backward.

- AMERICAN
- BLACK FRIDAY
- CORNUCOPIA
- CRANBERRIES
- FAMILY
- FOOTBALL
- HARVEST
- MAYFLOWER
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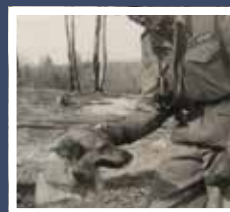
VETERAN JOHN JERGIEL

John, a 26-year resident of Dunhill, served in the US Air Force for 10 years, achieving the rank of Captain. John began his military career at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, in 1959, at the Headquarters of Strategic Air Command as a Bio-Environmental Engineer. The military later sent him to Harvard University for his master's degree in Industrial Hygiene Engineering.

Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Air Force Toxicology Research Laboratory at Wright Patterson AFB, OH, where he was involved in studying the health effects of space cabin environments and missile propellants. John subsequently served in Vietnam at Phu Cat Air Base, which was a new base under construction.

As a Public Health Engineer, he addressed issues of sanitation, safe water supply, and control of communicable diseases such as malaria and bubonic plague. He was awarded a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service for the programs he established in Vietnam. His last military assignment was at Holloman AFB in New Mexico when he separated from the military in 1969.

John just celebrated his 80th birthday and has been married to his wife, Judy, for 55 years. They have four children and nine grandchildren.



VETERAN KEN KOLKMEIER

Ken went to college at Mizzou where he received a degree in Civil Engineering in 1953. He was also enrolled in the ROTC program while there. After graduation, he joined the Army and was commissioned to the Army 529 Observation Battalion, stationed in Karlsruhe, Germany from 1953-1955. Ken was a 1st Lieutenant and served as a survey officer where they located artillery fire at the practicing ranges.

While in Germany, Ken was gifted his Captain's dog, Queenie, because his Captain was being transferred. It was frequently below zero at night and the dog slept right with him providing warmth as well as much needed companionship.



VETERAN SCOTT DOUGLASS

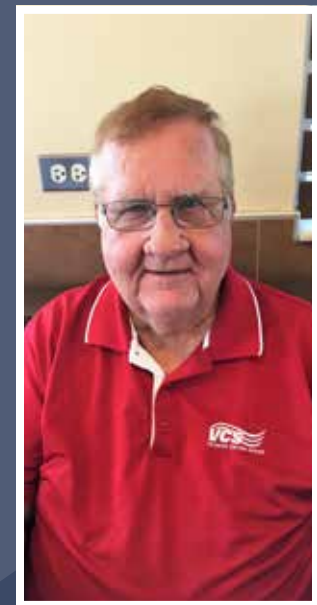
Our Mayor of Clarkson Valley, Scott Douglass, served in the Air Force from 1952-1954. He and his wife June, have resided in Forest Hills since 1983 and have three daughters (two are twins!), ten grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Douglass is from Columbia, MO, and graduated from Mizzou in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He was also enrolled in the ROTC program and was commissioned in the Air Force upon graduation.

Scott was sent to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City and was assigned the AACS (Airways and Air Communication Services Command). He really wanted to be a pilot but his vision did not meet the strict requirements to fulfill that role. His unit provided all the communication for the Air Force which included the daily "morning report." Every day, his unit would track the number of airmen on duty, off duty, where they were located, and track the routes for the planes. He and his unit also reported any problems with communication equipment and if it needed fixing. After serving two years of active duty, Scott served six more years in the reserve to complete his commitment and was honorably discharged as a Captain.

When asked what he gained from serving in the military, he says, "The military gave me an opportunity to gain more maturity as a young adult. We had to follow strict rules in a controlled environment which helped me to grow in my own personal life and in relationships with other people. My active duty time was during the Korean War. My unit was not in a combat zone; we were one of the support units. Another lesson learned in team dynamics on a large scale."

VETERAN JIM BARRY

Jim, a resident of Forest Hills, attended Notre Dame and was enrolled in the ROTC program. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Reserve Center in South St. Louis. He was promoted to Captain before retiring from his military duties.



VETERAN LEN REA

Len was in the Army Security Agency from 1962-1965 stationed at Manzarali station in Ankara, Turkey. He was a member of the Tuslog Department 27 unit where he was a specialist 4th class and in charge of cost and budget finance.



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VETERAN CLIFF WEEKS

On November 19, 1963, Cliff Weeks, who is married to Kay and resides in Forest Hills, was drafted into the Army and sent to Fort Leonard Wood for Basic Infantry Training. The third day there, President Kennedy was assassinated, and the entire base went on alert for a few days. It was a little scary at the time.

Following basic training, he was sent to Military Police Training at Fort Gordon outside Augusta, Georgia. Upon completion of this training, he was sure he would be sent to Vietnam where most of his peers were headed. Not so, and to his surprise, orders put Cliff on a train to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, where he became a member of the 1st Guard Company, United States Disciplinary Barracks, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He worked death row and "The Hole" (officially known as disciplinary segregation) most of his time there.

In early May 1964, after being at Ft. Leavenworth only three months, the First Sergeant called together all the members of the company not on duty at the time and asked if anyone held the Red Cross Lifesaving Certification. Cliff did, but early on in the Army, he was advised not to volunteer for anything. He stood there for a while uncertain whether to respond or not. He finally raised his hand. Yes!!

That simple "yes" led him to spend both summers working as a lifeguard at the post swimming pools. He says, "that duty wasn't bad at all! And as for working in the prison, while it was not the best duty one could have, it sure beat being sent to Vietnam."



VETERAN GENE LEVY

Gene was born in 1933 in New York City. As a child, he experienced the instability of WWII with his family relocating to Upstate New York and then to Cleveland, OH, because of his father's work on government construction projects.

Gene enlisted in the USAF at age 18, serving from November 1951 until September 1955. His first year in service was spent attending school in Electronics and Instrumentation and Flight Control Systems. After training, he was assigned to the 2259th Reserve Troop Carrier Squadron which was activated due to the Korean War (from June 1950-July 1953).

Gene earned a National Defense Service Medal and concluded his service with the rank of A-1/C (Airman 1st Class). After service, he attended Hofstra University to study Applied Physics. Gene then worked in various technical positions with several aerospace companies. He then went to work for Emerson Electric in St Louis and rose to the position of Director of International Marketing. After Emerson, Gene went on to become the President of Applied Technology International (ATI), an international consulting company, before retiring there.

He is married to Joungh (Kim) Levy and they have three grown sons - Jeffery who is a graphic artist living in Southern California, Steven who is an IT manager living in Costa Rica, and Jay who is a Foreign Service Officer at the US Embassy in Beijing, China. Gene and Kim also have two grandchildren.

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Lee with daughter Tiffany



Recent photo of Lee and Kathy



Lee with some of his awards



Lee in action



Military Photo

out that Lee was well-acquainted with Arthur Ashe and Bill Jean King. He and Billy Jean (who was already playing professionally) would occasionally practice early in the morning together. Both benefited from each other by sharing new techniques.

Lee went on to graduate school where he continued to play tennis. He completed his Masters in History at UCSB. In 1964, Lee had to put his racquet away for some time while he fulfilled his military obligations through the ROTC program, where they assigned him to the Army Intelligence branch. 25 years later, he picked his racquet back up when he joined the USA Tennis Association, which he found to be a great program.

Being a forward thinker, he states staying active "will add life to your years and years to your life." Members of this program are eligible to participate in tournaments until they are 90 years old! Lee has been playing in tournaments now for the past 25 years and many have taken him as far as to Germany, Poland, and Australia. Lee says his tennis days are beginning to "wind down" but he plans on playing competitively for 3-6 more years. Lee enjoys playing Monday night double's at Woodsmill Racquet Club as well as playing with daughter Tiffany. What Lee likes most about tennis is that it is a "sport" for a lifetime and will keep you healthy and in shape.

Call athletes of all ages! Do you play a sport you are passionate about? Whether it's football, cheerleading, skateboarding, skiing, soccer or any sport in between, we want your story! Just email Kristy at Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com to be featured.

Meet Lee Reid

VETERAN AND ACCOMPLISHED ATHLETE

amazing athlete

Interview conducted and Article written by Kristy Howard & Sponsored by RIES Orthodontics

I had the pleasure of meeting Lee Reid over a leisurely lunch at Forest Hills. Lee and his wife, Kathy, have resided in Forest Hills for 40 years and are blessed to have their daughter, Tiffany Durham, and her family on the same street! Lee and Kathy have 2 grown children and 4 grandchildren. I was honored to spend time with Lee, learning about his fascinating experiences in life and what they meant to him. He is a very accomplished man who was so easy to talk to, but he is also very humble. With that being said, I received the information on his honors and awards from Tiffany and Kathy.

Tennis has been a major part of Lee's life and he has been playing tennis since the 8th grade, after, he says, "I couldn't seem to hit the baseball out of the infield!" His childhood home was Los Angeles, CA and he played for Huntington Park High School

and Inglewood High School as well. Lee was offered a full ride to Pepperdine which was then located in Watts, CA, but he turned it down, and instead, chose to go to University of California, Santa Barbara, (UCSB) where he played all four years on their tennis team. He was also enrolled in the ROTC program.

The University had stiff competition in tennis and he quickly improved over the next 2 years. Lee made All-American for Division II both junior and senior years. (The University is now a Division I.) He also was nominated from his campus (each University of California campus chose only one person to nominate) for the Athlete of the Year award in 1964. Surprisingly, this was the first time 2 tennis players were nominated, the other nominee being the famous tennis player Arthur Ashe. Each University of California campus chose their nominee for leadership and academic excellence in the sports community. It was quite an accomplishment to be a finalist. Perhaps the award that he is most proud of is being selected for the UCSB Hall of Fame in 1973. I also found

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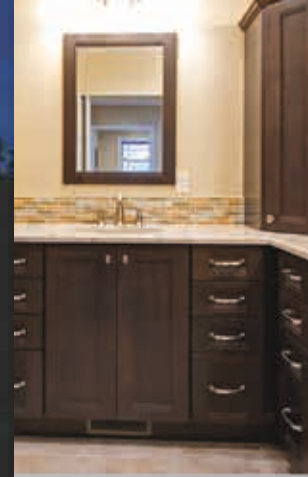


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A CONVERSATION BETWEEN

Zach Howard And His Papa Ron, A Vietnam Veteran

Zach is lucky to have his papa right here in St. Louis. His papa is retired Dr. Ron Wilbois from Town and Country. Zach, 11, lives in Dunhill and attends St. John Lutheran School where he is in the 6th grade. One day, while visiting his papa at his home at The Sheridan, they had this amazing conversation about his papa's time as a Captain in the Vietnam War.

ZACH INTERVIEWING HIS PAPA:

Zach: Tell me about what you did in the military.

Papa: I was in the army, in the 25th infantry division in the medical battalion company C. I was the commanding officer and stationed in Cu Chi, South Vietnam. My rank was Captain and I oversaw four doctors, one dentist, and 120 corpsmen. I was also in charge of building the hospital. To accomplish this, we traded uniforms and boots for equipment (such as bulldozers and backhoes). Everything was built through borrowing, trading, or stealing. It was also very important that we had refrigeration for medical supplies.



Zach: What frightened you when you were in Vietnam away from mom, my aunt, and my grandma?

Papa: I was frightened when the mortars came in right outside of our camp. I would have to crawl through the field to get to the bunkers and I was afraid I would get hit.

Zach: Do you remember any good things when you were over there?

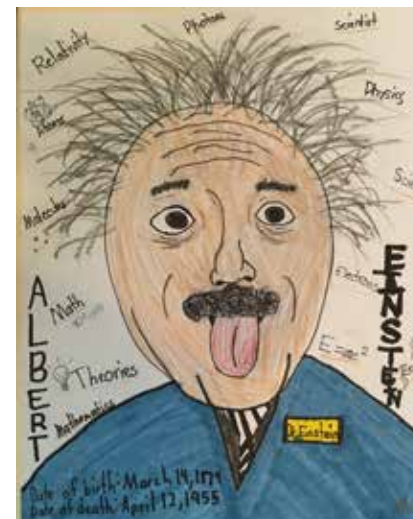
Papa: Your grandma used to send me powdered Kool-Aid because the water tasted so bad. We would give candy to the Vietnamese children and they would be so happy. I also felt good when I went into the village to deliver a baby or help villagers with medical problems. Another somewhat funny story is when we were in Tay Ninh one night putting up tents when we thought we were being ambushed by the Viet Kong. Our artillery unit started firing only to learn that it was a herd of water buffalo!

Zach: What were some bad things you remembered?

Papa: First, it was VERY HOT. Sometimes it got to 135 degrees. However, that was nothing compared to how difficult it was when helicopters brought injured soldiers to us from the battlefield. This was very traumatic for me. It was also devastating when a child from the village would wander near our camp and be mistaken for a Vietcong.

Zach: What did you learn about life by being in the war?

Papa: I learned that nothing is permanent in life. Through this experience, I learned how precious life is.



Zach's rendition of his hero, Albert Einstein



Papa's uniform

PAPA INTERVIEWING ZACH:

Papa: What do you think of war?

Zach: I think war is stupid. People react too quickly over arguments and don't take time to work things out.

Papa: What's one way you think the world will be different when you're my age?

Zach: I think global warming will be solved, we will have flying cars, and everything will be solar-powered. I also think we will have discovered other forms of life in the universe.

Papa: What do you think you will be doing at the age I was at (28) when I was in the war?

Zach: I think I will be a scientist. I want to be able to change the world in a positive way...maybe find a cure for cancer because I think they almost have found a cure for diabetes. I also think I will design and build robots. I will probably live in an apartment and may be married and have kids. How do I know? I am only a kid!

Papa: Who is your hero and why?

Zach: Albert Einstein. I love the way he did poorly in school and people didn't believe in him and then he became one of the greatest geniuses of all times! I love his discoveries and inventions!

Papa: If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?

Zach: To have world peace and no more wars. I would also want to know before I die if I am going to heaven.



Generation Conversation is a way for a grandparent and grandchild to learn more about each other, and how the world has both changed and stayed the same. To be featured, email Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com.



Ron with wife Carol

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veteran spotlight

Meet Navy Veteran

Mike Geraghty

Article sponsored by **John Lancia - Weiss Insurance**

Mike was born and raised in Wayne, New Jersey. After high school, he received a Navy ROTC scholarship to attend Villanova University where he completed his midshipmen training and earned a degree in Chemical Engineering. While stationed in Hawaii, Mike met his wife Kelly in 1986. They have been married 26 years and have one daughter, Grace who is 20 years old.

Upon completion of his midshipmen training and graduation from Villanova, Mike was commissioned an Ensign in the US Navy in May of 1984. After commissioning he went on to attend Naval Aviation training in Pensacola Florida and in San Diego, CA. Mike was in various training squadrons and received his pilot wings in September of 1985. He then was assigned to a helicopter branch called LAMPS, Light Airborne, Multi-Purpose Ships, which means his primary role was to fly his helicopter off smaller ships, like frigates and destroyers, as an extension of the ship's weapons platform. Mike hunted submarines, performed over the horizon targeting for the ship's missiles, performed search and rescue as well as any other tasks as needed. During the time-frame he



served, there was still a 'Soviet Union' so most of the training was in relation to them as the primary threat to the U.S.

After leaving Pensacola, Mike was attached to HSL-31 in San Diego, followed by HSL-37 in Barbers Point Hawaii, and lastly HSL-40 in Mayport Florida where he was an instructor Pilot in the replacement air squadron.

He left the active service as a Lieutenant in 2003 and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the Reserves. He only served a couple years in the active reserves before transferring to the inactive reserves where his service ended some years ago. Mike received a couple Navy Achievement Medals along with some various tactical and campaign awards.

Mike's active Navy service ended in January of 1992 where he then entered the private sector as a Sales Engineer in Industrial Water Treatment. Currently, Mike is the President of Sensient Colors LLC in downtown St. Louis and has resided here since 2011.



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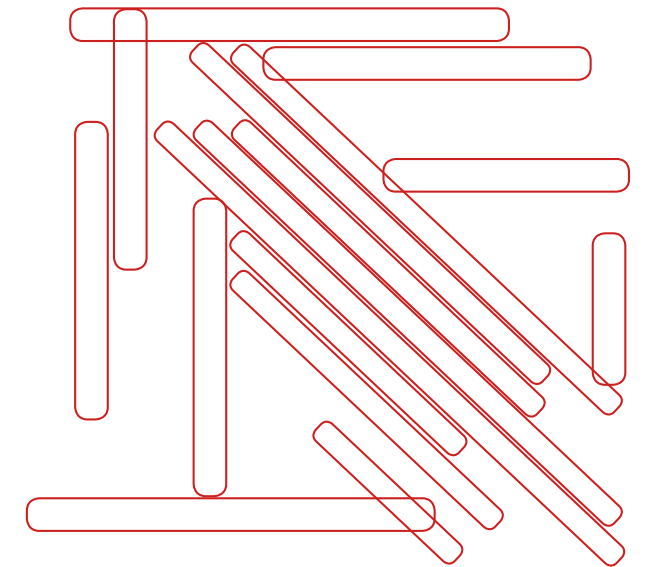
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Interview conducted and Article written by **Kristy Howard &**
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Meet WWII Marine Veteran

John (Jack) Muller

I had such a pleasure spending time with Jack Muller and his wife of 65 years Rita learning about Jack's time spent in WWII. What he experienced in WWII was very difficult, but it's an important piece of history worth sharing.

Jack grew up in South St. Louis at Broadway and Osceola. He decided to enlist in the Marine Corps in 1944 at the age of 17 because he knew he would be drafted when he turned 18. The war had been going on since September 1st, 1939, and Jack was involved in the war against Japan. He was a corporal in the 1st Marine Division and was sent to Okinawa where he operated an LVT. The Landing Vehicle Tracked (LVT) is an amphibious warfare vehicle and amphibious landing craft, introduced by the United States Navy.



Jack and Rita

Jack carried command officers in his LVT, used it to land troops to shore, deliver supplies to the front line in the Battle of Okinawa, and to carry the dead and wounded back to base camp.

When the battle at Okinawa ended, Jack and his comrades were given a short rest before they were to go to Japan. They heard talk of an "atomic bomb" being dropped in Japan. Due to this event, he was diverted to North China to be present at the Japanese surrender. Perhaps the most moving picture Jack showed to me was his First Marine Division's cemetery (there were of four - two Army and two Marine). If you look at the picture shown, you cannot even see how many crosses are present because the cemetery is so vast. Jack states that 400,000 American soldiers lost their lives in WWII, a number that is incomprehensible to most.

After returning from war, Jack enrolled at St. Louis University where he received a degree in Commerce and Finance. He met Rita (his wife of 65 years) at that time when she was attending Webster College. Jack went to work for GM for 1 1/2 years, and Peat Marwick Mitchell CPA firm. He then got his CPA and opened his own CPA firm.

Believe or not, this very accomplished 91-year-old just retired one year ago on June 2nd, 2016!



Do you have a fun or interesting hobby, collection or talent or do you volunteer for a great organization? If so, please contact Kristy at Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com to set up a time for your interview.



Actual signing of surrender



Jack in Okinawa with his LVT



Jack Muller's Division Cemetery



Photo of American Soldier leading Japanese to ceremony of surrender



Japanese officers at surrender ceremony

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Jim holding baton (swagger stick) made by his Sargent out of wood from an ammo case. The Sargent used shoe polish to stain stick. Stick depicts Jim's unit symbols



Jim Mullen now



Jim (left) at battle of LZ-X-Ray

veteran spotlight

MEET VIETNAM VETERAN

Jim Mullen

Interview conducted and Article written by **Kristy Howard** & Sponsored by **Massage Envy**

Jim Mullen is a resident of Kehrsmill West where he resides with his wife, Marguerite. He has two grown daughters and retired from Shell Oil Company in 1999.

After graduating at age 22 from Loras College in Dubuque, IA, with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Spanish, Jim decided he wanted to enlist in the Air Force. He found that his eyesight did not meet the strict requirements for flight training so he chose to enlist in the Army. At the time, there was a great need for 2nd Lieutenants. Recent college graduates that went to Officer Candidate School (OCS) to fill these positions had a low graduation rate due to the stress of the physical and mental training. Because of the low graduation rate, a program was developed at Fort Gordon, GA, to prepare the college graduates for OCS. This is where Jim went and he says, **“It was the most miserable 16 months of my life during the summer of 1964.”** However, the hard work paid off and the graduation rates increased dramatically.

By the time the group went to OCS, 35 remained out of 50+ candidates. Of the 35, 33 were commissioned by the Army to be 2nd Lieutenants. The training at Fort Gordon paid off because Jim says, **“OCS was a breeze compared to the preparation training!”** He and 25 of his classmates were on orders for Army Ranger School and Airborne Training at Ft. Benning, GA, before going to their permanent duty stations. Halfway through Ranger School, their orders were changed and they were all assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division at Ft. Benning, GA. Jim's division was the first full division to be trained for helicopter warfare. Jim spent an additional 30 days training at Ft. Benning, including training with the new M-16 rifle. He was assigned as an Infantry Platoon Leader. His division was then sent on three different ships to Vietnam in August of 1964. It took 30 days on the USS Buckner to arrive. Jim and his men were prepared for the Normandy invasion because they were clueless as to what was coming. They thought they would have to fight their way onto shore but were pleasantly surprised when they were greeted by young boys wanting to sell Coca-Cola! Jim and the other men were all very relieved and grateful! Once they arrived, they went to An Khe where the engineers were in-process building the military base.

Jim's company ran many search-and-destroy missions and their first big contact with the Vietcong was on November 14th, 1965. The 7th Cavalry was airlifted into LZ (landing zone) X-ray fight in the Ia Drang Valley. This 6-week battle was considered the first significant battle of the Vietnam war with so many American lives lost. In Jim's OCS class of 4-65, 20 of its men were in the battle, Jim included, and they lost three in the fight. His unit, the 5th Cavalry, arrived on the 2nd day of this battle at LZ-X-ray by foot, where they made immediate contact with the enemy and continued fighting for two more days. (For more detail on this battle, read the book, *We Were Soldiers Once, and Young*, by Lt. General Harold G. Moore and Joseph L. Galloway, or watch the movie *“We Were Soldiers”*, starring Mel Gibson, to understand what Jim went through. Jim cannot remember a lot of details from that battle

because of how difficult it was for him. He was wounded there and was air-lifted back to An Khe. After the battle of Ia Drang, most of the company had broken up but Jim stayed. He spent Christmas and New Years in at the base camp. It was his 1st time without his family over the holidays and he felt very lonely. January came and Jim was assigned to Operation Masher. He walked into the battle at LZ-Pete while another company flew in. He says, **“I believe I was very lucky because that company came under immediate fire and I lost 4 more of my classmates.”** There were only a couple of the original 2nd Lieutenants left from his original group. Jim's Battalion Commander decided to move him from the Platoon Leader position to a job at Battalion Headquarters.

Jim returned to the US after being wounded a second time in August of 1966 from a hand grenade. He then went back to Ft. Benning to the OCS school as an Executive Officer. Originally there were five companies in the OCS school. When he got back there were 25 companies due to the increased need for 2nd Lieutenants. Jim stayed six months and was promoted to Captain and put in charge of the Drill and Command section at the Army Infantry School in Ft. Benning in 1967. He was married in December of 1966 he and his wife were expecting their first. A month before he got out, his baby girl was born and the Army wanted to give him a regular Army commission. He chose not to accept because he would have had to immediately return to Vietnam while having a new baby at home. Thus, Jim finished his obligation to the military on Nov. 18 of 1967. His family returned to Chicago where Jim got a job with Shell Oil Company. He remained employed there for 31 years and then was transferred to St. Louis in 1996 and retired in 1999.

“Not a day goes by that I don't think of my years in the Army. The military took a young man fresh out of college and taught me values that have lasted my entire life. People have asked me if I often think of my service in Vietnam and my answer is - **Every day of my life! Would I do it again? YES!**”

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veteran spotlight

Two Army Veterans...

One Home
Meet Bill And Gina Hammerschmidt

Article written by **Bill and Gina Hammerschmidt** & Sponsored by **DiPasquale Painting**
Pvt. Bill Hammerschmidt enlisted in the US Army in April of 1961. 36 years of his military duty was a combination of Active Duty and Army Reserve. He retired from the Army on November 30, 2000, with a rank of Colonel. Mr. Hammerschmidt's assignments during those years were with Army Reserve units located in Washington DC, Chicago, Atlanta, Fort Sam Houston, Orlando, and St. Louis. Along with his Army Reserve duty, he had the opportunity to be associated with NATO units in England, Germany, Belgium,

Denmark and the Netherlands. He states "My association with the NATO Forces was the most rewarding parts of my military life. I also feel that my US Army Career awarded me an opportunity to be a part of a worldwide team, as well as giving me training and experience as to how to be a leader." **"GO ARMY!!!"**

Gina Hammerschmidt joined the U.S. Army Reserves in March of 1980 as a Registered Nurse with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the 25th Mobile Army Medical Surgical (MASH) Unit. All the units in which she was a member were medically orientated and located in St. Louis. The main focus of these units was to provide medical support. This support included real-time missions along with mass casualties training for various types of environments encountered, whether in the US or on the battlefield. The real-time missions included providing immunizations, medical record reviews, and quad-annual physicals for the Guard and Reserves. She was the Officer in Charge of the Immunization Team and the Medical Entrance Processing Satiation (MEPS). In 2004, she retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Gina states "Being a part of the U.S. Army Reserves for over twenty years gives me a great sense of pride for belonging to something much larger than myself. Without the many individuals that still volunteer every day in the Army and Army Reserves, our large fighting force that keeps all of us safe and free would be in great jeopardy. I belong to several veteran's or military organizations where I can give my time in the form of volunteerism. Over the years, the Army has had several slogans; the one I like the most is, **"Be all you can be!"**

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veteran spotlight

Meet Navy Veteran

Jim Kohoutek

Interview conducted and Article written by **Kristy Howard** & Sponsored by **Dowco Enterprises**

Jim Kohoutek of Forest Hills was born and raised in Yankton, South Dakota. Jim's parents were friends with resident Senator Chandler Gurney who offered Jim an appointment to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. At that time, Jim was in college at Iowa State but accepted the appointment as it was offered to very few.

He graduated in 1954, and six days later, he married Mary Ann, with whom he grew up with since age four. Soon after, Jim was commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy. He went to, what he called the "Black Shoe Navy" (which is a term used to describe shipboard or 'surface' officers and senior enlisted members, due to the black footwear worn while in khaki uniform) for three months in Japan on the USS Hanson. While there for a few months, he was asked to go to flight training in Pensacola, FLA, to be a Navy fighter pilot. Jim graduated in 1956 and received his pilot wings. After graduation, he was assigned to the VF 122 Fighter Squadron.



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Jim and Mary Ann today



Jim and Mary Ann on their wedding day



He was stationed in San Diego, CA and would go on "cruises" (a ship deployment from home port, usually lasting between five and nine months) to the Pacific. The cruises Jim went on were in-between the Korean and Vietnam war. His squadron practiced all the time for the possibility of war. Some of his missions were taking off from aircraft carriers, flying, and then returning to land on the moving carrier. This was quite difficult and he lost three of his squadron pilots to accidents during landing.

Jim finished his commitment and then stayed two more years before being honorably discharged in 1964. The last airplane he flew was the F4, made by McDonnell Douglas. After leaving the Navy, Jim landed a position at McDonnell Douglas in their marketing department. He stayed for 22 years and then retired at age 55. He and Mary Ann have five children and six grandchildren.

When I asked Jim what he learned from his military career he said, "I learned how to take orders, said a lot of "Yes Sirs," and was taught discipline that has helped me greatly in my life."



Do you have words of wisdom, great life lessons or fabulous stories of your youth that you'd like to share with your neighbors? If so, email Deanna.Ley@N2Pub.com for more details.



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veteran spotlight

Meet National Guard Veteran Edward Harper

Interview conducted and Article written by Kristy Howard & Sponsored by English Sweep

Edward resides with his wife, Joan in Kehrswood. He grew up in western Kentucky but moved to St. Louis in high school. After high school, Ed attended SIU in Alton for a year and a half before he decided to voluntarily enlist in the military. He first went to Ft. Riley, Kansas, to train for the National Guard. From there, he was sent to Ft. Bragg, North Carolina to be in the 82nd Airborne Division Support Outfit for active duty.

At that time, President Kennedy and the Premier of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, were in a standoff in what is known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Khrushchev promised Cuba he would protect their country from the U.S. and be their ally by sending nuclear missiles to Cuba. This very-real threat lead Kennedy to order a naval blockade to prevent Russian ships from delivering the missiles for the Cuban sites. This was as close as the world has ever been to a nuclear war.

Edward's support outfit oversaw all communications and radio communications with the 82nd Airborne. Thankfully, Khrushchev backed down and Kennedy avoided a nuclear disaster. Ed and his comrades were given a medal from John. F. Kennedy.

After the Cuban Missile Crisis, Ed returned to St. Louis and joined the Missouri National Guard which was stationed at Lambert Field and finished his enlistment at the Old Army Building at Grand and Hwy 40 in 1964.



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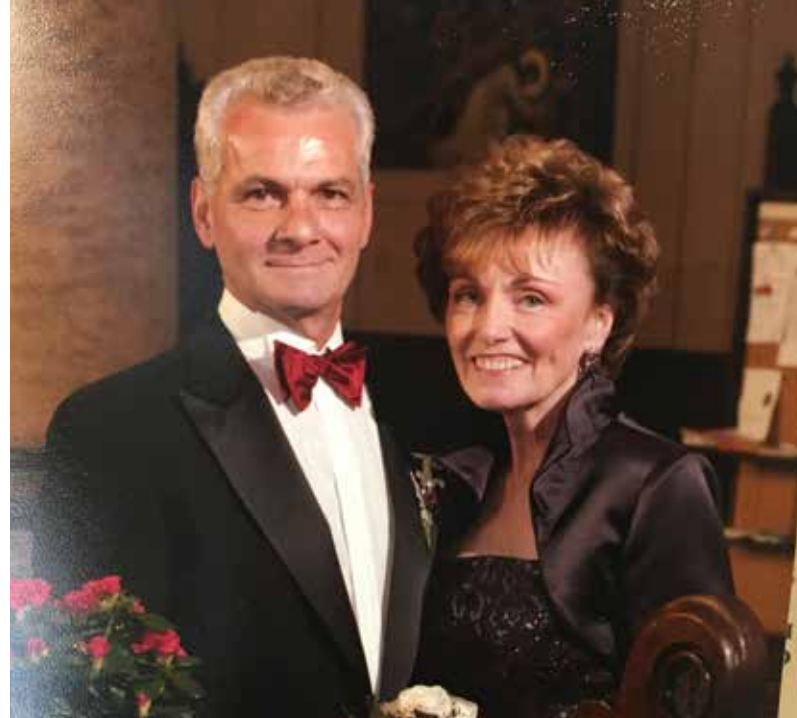
perspectives from the past

Meet Vietnam Veteran Fred Salerno

Interview conducted and Article written by **Kristy Howard &**
Sponsored by **Handyman Connection**

I had a wonderful opportunity to meet with Fred Salerno of Forest Hills to talk about his military career as well as life, in which he feels very blessed. When speaking with Fred, I was impressed with his upbeat nature and positive attitude. It was a real pleasure to spend time with him.

Fred tells me that, while in high school on the East Coast, he was in a work program where he sold shoes. He intended to be a PE major but was then given an opportunity to enter Brown Shoe Company's executive training program. Fred graduated from the Bridgeport Institute of Technology with a degree in Business and Computer Science. During this period, Fred met the love of his life, Patty, which he lovingly dubbed her as "Sweet Patty." President Kennedy had announced that if you were married you wouldn't get drafted



Fred and wife Patty

for the Vietnam war. Fred and Patty did not have the money to get married so they wed in civil court. They were "officially" married in August of 1965. Kennedy was assassinated and President Johnson took his place and re-instated the draft.

In 1967, Fred was offered an opportunity to move to St. Louis to be a Junior Executive and Brown Shoe Co. It was hard to leave the East Coast, but he loved St. Louis and found it a great place to raise a family. One year later he was surprised by a draft notice and entered the military in March of 1968. Fred was assigned to the Americal Division and served in Vietnam in 1969. While there, he was wounded and awarded a Purple Heart, as well as the Army Commendation Medal. He returned home, only to be sent back 43 days later! Back in Vietnam, he served as Staff Sergeant for his remaining tenure. Once home, he returned to his career at Brown Shoe Company.

Fred continues his career in the shoe industry and is presently the Executive Officer for Footwear Unlimited and will be retiring this December. Fred has endured many difficult times in the last few years, especially the loss of his beloved "Sweet Patty." He fondly remembers how she always made herself look special when he got home from work. Instead of letting this loss pull him down, he has chosen to focus on the positive. He tells me he is so thankful and so grateful to have had the love of his life for 51 years. Fred and Patty have two grown children, Cara, 41, who is in the Arts, and Michael, 46, an entrepreneur.

With so many vast experiences to draw from, Fred has found four things he finds most important in life.

"First, set goals and figure out how to get there. Second, never compromise your own standards. Third, respect yourself and others. Fourth, stay up and always look for the positive. There will always be ups and downs in life. People will gravitate towards you with this, and you will be surrounded by many friends and have a much richer life."



He also adds that Forest Hills Country Club has been instrumental in building amazing life-long friendships. Fred has been an instrumental part of making the Club what it is today. In 2006, he was given the Eagle Award from FHCC, which has only been awarded to 12 recipients in 53 years, for their continuance of extraordinary contributions and service to the Club over the years.

Fred is a great example of how to live life with gratitude, thankfulness, and joy. His energy is infectious and I hope that, if you have not met him, you will get to meet him in the near future.



Do you have words of wisdom, great life lessons or fabulous stories of your youth that you'd like to share with your neighbors? If so, email Kristy.Howard@N2Pub.com for more details.



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sponsor spotlight

MEET ARMY VETERAN AARON WILDT,

OWNER OF WILDT INSURANCE AGENCY - FARMERS INSURANCE (314) 984-9055

I recently had the opportunity to interview Aaron Wildt, Army Veteran, owner of a Farmers Insurance agency and a Sponsor of your *Clarkson Valley Living* publication.

Aaron has quite the story to tell when it comes to his understanding of insurance, but first I wanted to know a little about his service to our country.

I think it best if Aaron tells you about his time in the Army in his own words:

"In 1991, shortly after the United States had invaded Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, at the age of 18, I made the decision to join the Army. It would have happened sooner, but my mom wouldn't sign the papers when I was 17 because she wasn't a fan of the idea.

I spent 13 weeks in Fort Benning, Georgia for Basic Training, and then my Advanced Individual Training at the Army Infantry School.

After graduation, me and 50 of my fellow graduates were flown to Schofield Barracks in Hawaii to serve with the 25th Infantry Division. I was then placed with Bravo Company 1/27th Infantry Regiment, one of the best Infantry Battalions in the Army.

While with the 25th, I had the opportunity to earn my Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) which showed I could competently complete over 40 actions that an Infantry soldier must be able to perform to the military's highest standards. I also earned my Air Assault Wings by graduating from Air Assault school and learning how to rappel out of a helicopter.

In 1992, my unit performed the humanitarian mission of cleaning up after Hurricane Iniki, which was a category 4 Hurricane that hit the Hawaiian Islands. We spent over a month helping the people of the Island of Kauai get the roadways cleared, power back in force for the entire Island, and cleaning up all the trees that were littering the island.

Of course, we were also constantly training to be ready for any threat to our Country. If you ever see any service member with an Electric Strawberry on their shoulder, they are a member of the 25th Infantry Division. Tropic Lightning!"

About a week after leaving the Army Aaron was home in Columbia, MO and started college at Mizzou. There, he would study History and Geography as he intended to become a teacher.

During his senior year, things changed in his life that set him on a new course.

"I was picked up by a buddy and we went out for dinner. On the way home, a car came into our lane and forced us off the road. We flew through a ditch and crashed into a telephone pole. My buddy, who was driving, wasn't wearing his seatbelt and I was. The impact caused our heads to smash together and he ended up completely on my side of the vehicle with a broken back and shattered pelvis. I suffered massive head trauma and was actually pronounced DOA before they got me to the hospital. Fortunately, they didn't stop trying to resuscitate me and brought me back. However, I was in a coma for three weeks and once awake I had months and months of rehab to learn to walk and speak again."

Aaron shared that the end result, and one of the reasons he is so passionate about his career, was that he had over \$200K in medical bills. His friend was under-insured by having only the state minimum coverage. The other driver left the scene so there was only the coverage that his friend had in place.

After he finally graduated, Aaron taught briefly. *"I, unfortunately, didn't have the ability to teach history or geography due to my injury. I simply couldn't remember all that I need to. I did, however, have the ability to teach math and gave that a chance. I found that it simply wasn't for me after all,"* Aaron shared.

Ultimately, he went back to school to get his Masters in Business Administration, and that was when Farmers Insurance reached out to him about operating his own agency.

"I knew, first hand, what being under-insured can mean. I knew also that I didn't want others to find out the hard way that I had to." Aaron went on, "I knew that I could help protect people in a way that was personal - to them and to me."

In the past seven years, Aaron has built his business from scratch. He enjoys teaching people about insurance and helping them to make a solid decision about the risks that are out there.

"One of the things I love is being out and about. Anybody can sit behind a desk but I like interacting with people," he shared. "I also enjoy meeting my clients at their home. It gives me a sense of what they are protecting and how I can help them the best. With Farmers, I know that they are going to get the best coverage and the best claims service there is."

Aaron is proud to have served our country and he is proud to be affiliated with Farmers Insurance.

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awildt@farmersagent.com, or visit him at his office located at 107 Clarkson Executive Park, Ellisville, MO 63011.

Aaron, thanks for sponsoring Clarkson Valley Living and THANK YOU for your service!



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Dress to Match the Couch

Have you ever dreamed of hanging a beautiful picture of your family in your living room that looks just as nice as (or better than!) that piece of designer artwork you've got on the wall now?

If so, you're in luck! Not only is it possible, but it's actually oh-so-simple, and here are 5 super easy tips for making it happen!



1) Consider the color scheme of the rooms where you'd like to hang your portraits and choose your family's wardrobe accordingly. If the rooms are decorated in cool colors, your family should dress in cool colors as well.

2) Accent colors can help your portrait "POP!" Don't be afraid to add an accent color to your family's wardrobe to add interest to your new photographic wall art.

3) Try to match your clothing choices with the "feel" of the rooms where the portraits will hang. For example, a photo of the whole family in blue jeans will look out-of-place in a formal living room adorned with luxurious fabrics and gilded accents, but might look great hanging in a casual breakfast room. A beautiful, stately living room or study requires a portrait with more formal attire: an expertly tailored suit for him and a gorgeous cocktail dress or one-of-a-kind evening gown for her would do the trick.

4) Choose the right display to fit your home's "vibe." A casual space might call for a canvas gallery wrap or a cute barn-wood frame, while a

formal living room usually requires a museum-quality print in a beautiful statement frame.

5) Choose the right size. Do NOT make the mistake of hanging a too-small photograph on your wall or choosing a wimpy frame that does not strike a balance with the woodwork and furniture in your home. Too-small photo displays look unbalanced within your room and... [gasp!]...cheap! For a very large display area, groupings of three to five photographs work well to fill the space gracefully.

If this all seems a bit overwhelming, DON'T PANIC! There are curated services that can help take ALL the work out of this process, and guarantee you the stunning result you've been dreaming of!

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CLARKSON VALLEY Living

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13 Jennycliffe Ln.	Forest Hills	\$850,000	\$838,000	8/24/17	5	7	-	3
1606 Broken Reins Ct.	Kehrs Mill Trails	\$729,900	\$715,000	9/29/17	5	5	22936	3
1874 Kehrswood Dr.	Kehrswood	\$689,500	\$675,000	7/31/17	5	6	3614	3
15 Crown Manor Dr.	Forest Hills	\$675,000	\$660,000	9/20/17	4	4	3244	3
2112 Wilson Ridge Ln.	Manors at Clarkson Valley	\$659,000	\$659,000	9/25/17	5	5	3434	3
2100 Kehrs Mill Rd.	Kehrswood	\$720,000	\$652,500	9/28/17	5	7	3821	3
16640 Kehrs Grove Dr.	Dunhill Farm	\$649,900	\$635,000	9/15/17	4	6	5636	3
2634 Valley Rd.	Golfview	\$625,000	\$600,000	9/15/17	4	4	3280	2
2067 Kehrs Mill Rd.	Kehrs Mill Estates	\$609,900	\$590,000	8/30/17	4	4	2750	3
22 Chippenham Ln.	Forest Hills	\$598,750	\$575,000	9/28/17	5	3	2494	2
1453 Blue Roan Ct.	Kehrs Mill Trails	\$550,000	\$548,000	7/26/17	4	4	3548	3
16430 Horseshoe Ridge Rd.	Kehrs Mill Trails	\$549,000	\$525,000	8/11/17	5	4.5	3647	2
130 Highgrove Ln.	Forest Hills	\$499,900	\$490,000	7/27/17	4	3.5	2807	2

Featured properties may not be listed by the office/agent presenting this brochure. Source Multiple Listing Service. All information herein has not been verified and is not guaranteed. Supplied by Colleen Lawler & The Irvine Team / Coldwell Banker-Gundaker

3 Fall Plumbing Tips

- ✓ Disconnect your outdoor water hose and shut off the interior valve
- ✓ Clean gutters free of debris
- ✓ Drain your water heater (or call E&M Plumbing to do it for you)

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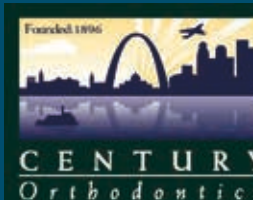
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(located in Wildwood Crossing next to Big Bear Grill)

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8000 Bonhomme, Ste 407 | Clayton, MO 63105

(Located in the Slavin Building)



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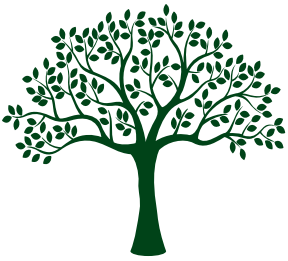
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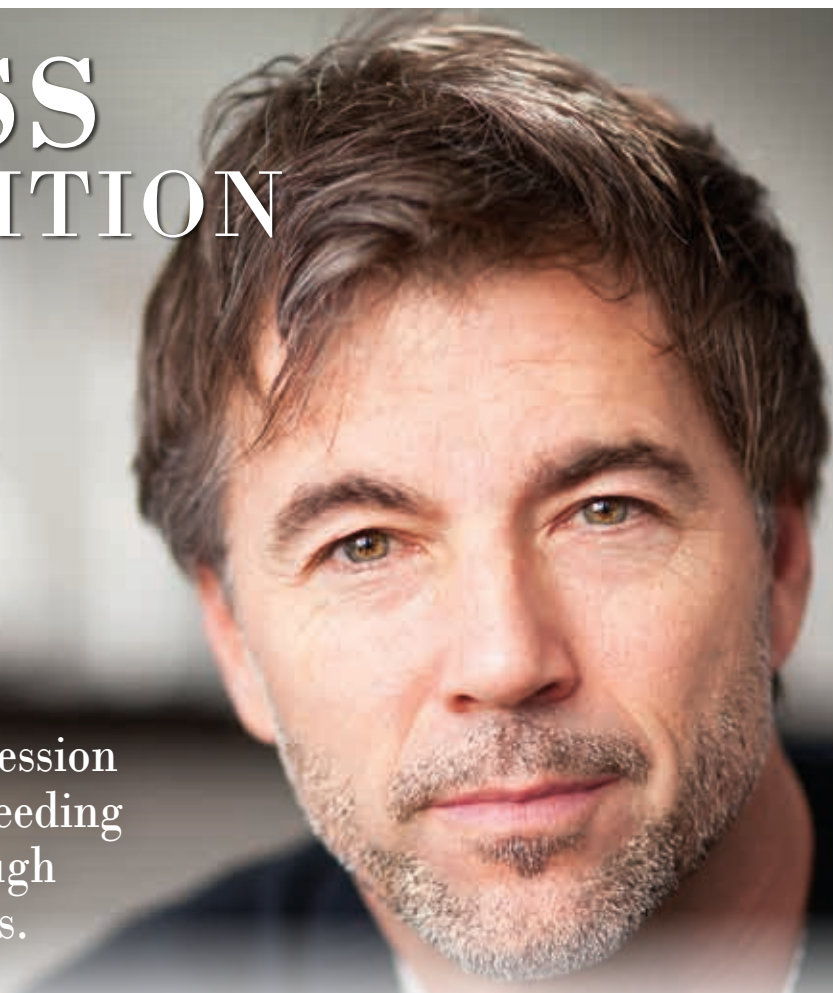


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