

Rensselaer County

2011 Honor A Veteran Ceremony's



Date of Ceremony

Name of Deceased Veteran

January 10, 2011

John "Jack" Wager

February 14, 2011

Samuel R. Dinova

March 14, 2011

John Melvin Hall

April 11, 2011

Wayne Bertis Hotaling

May 9, 2011

Thomas F. Roberts

June 13, 2011

Glenn Roy Brust

July 11, 2011

Harry J. Ferguson, Sr.

August 8, 2011

Everett L. Emery

September 12, 2011

Stephen A. Corina

October 11, 2011

Roger A. Fulkerson

November 14, 2011

Thomas F. Sharpe

December 12, 2011

(None)

**John "Jack" Wager
1926 – 2008**

FAMILY HISTORY:

John Wager was born in Troy, New York on January 10, 1926 to parents John and Mary (Carey) Wager. Jack had one sister, Alice.

EDUCATION:

Jack attended Troy Schools. He was a boxer in the South Troy CYO and later boxed in the Navy. He was also a football player and speed skater on the canals in South Troy.

HISTORY:

Jack enlisted into the United States Navy on January 7, 1944 in Albany, NY. Seaman Second Class Wager served proudly during World War II in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters in Iwo Jima and Okinawa on the USS Alden and the USS Cantisteo. He was honorably discharged on May 11, 1946. For Seaman First Class Wager's brave and courageous service to his country, he was awarded the American Theater Campaign Medal, European Theater Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two bronze stars. While serving in the Atlantic Pacific Theaters he was a "hard hat diver". A highlight of Jack's career was when he passed over the equator, he was "tarred and feathered" (a Navy tradition for first time "equator crossers").

PERSONAL:

Jack was the proud father of four children: Jean, Anne, Rita and John and six grandchildren: Brehon, Gabriella, Beth, Laura, Lucas and Isabella.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

John was employed by Troy Yarn Co. as a spinner prior to entering the Navy. When he returned from the Navy, he gained employment with the Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. in Albany, New York. He worked for A&P for next 32 years before retiring. He then gained employment with the New York State Department of General Services and retired from there in 1988.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was a member and past Commander of Noble-Callahan Post American Legion and a member of the Knights of Columbus in Troy. He also found great pleasure in spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. Jack had a great sense of humor and was always humming a tune with a smile on his face.

Sadly, John F. Wager passed away on April 15, 2008, but today January 10, 2011 would have been his 85th birthday.

Samuel R. Dinova
1922 – 2010

FAMILY HISTORY:

Samuel R. Dinova was born in Troy, New York on February 18, 1922 to parents Leonardo and Philomena (Terrible) Dinova. Sam had three brothers: Michael, Nicholas, and Manny and three sisters: Frances, Philomena and Antoinette. He was a lifetime resident of Troy. First growing up in South Troy, Little Italy and then relocating to Brunswick.

EDUCATION:

Sam attended St. Mary's School in Troy.

HISTORY:

Sam enlisted into the United States Army on October 16, 1940 in Troy, NY. Private Dinova proudly served during World War II with Company D of the 105th Infantry Regiment. On October 15, 1941, Private First Class Dinova was honorably discharged from the United States Army at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Due to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Sam re-enlisted into the United States Army on January 19, 1942 at Camp Upton, New York. Once again he was assigned to Company D of the 105th Infantry Regiment and was shipped over to the Pacific Theater of Operations and participated in the Battle of Saipan. During that battle, on July 7, 1944, he was wounded in the leg and was lying on the beach waiting to be evacuated when his old friend, Nicholas Grinaldo from Troy came to his rescue. Nick dragged him 30 to 40 feet to a safer place under some palm trees away from air burst. He was then carried to the beach and lifted onto one of the alligators by two men, Big John and Bailey, who were also from New York. He was honorably discharged on December 22, 1945. For Private First Class Dinova's brave and courageous service to his country, he was awarded the Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

PERSONAL:

Sam married Anna Avakian on January 7, 1951 and from that union they were blessed with two sons; Michael and Samuel and one daughter, Rosemary. He was the proud grandfather of three grandchildren: Tina, Cheri and Jeremy.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

John was employed by his father as a bricklayer's helper before he entered the military. He was also employed by the Watervliet Arsenal as a machinist and retired from there in 1976 after 22 years of service.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was an active member of the Tibbets Cadets, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the ICC, the CRAB Post and the Troy Elks #141. In his spare time, Sam enjoyed horse racing, gardening, WWII history and playing bingo.

Sadly, Samuel R. Dinova passed away on December 4, 2010 and is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Troy, New York.

John Melvin Hall
1925–1996

FAMILY HISTORY:

John Melvin Hall was born in Pittstown, New York on April 23, 1925 to parents Fred and Ella (Cushman) Hall. John had one brother, Clark and two sisters: Dorothy and Helen. John resided most of his life in Eagle Bridge, New York.

EDUCATION:

John was educated in the Pittstown and Eagle Bridge Schools.

HISTORY:

John entered into the United States Navy on October 12, 1943 in Albany, NY. He served aboard the USS Constellation and the USS Pittsburgh during his active duty sea time. He was aboard the USS Pittsburgh in the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations when the ship encountered a small, violent typhoon southeast of the Ryukyu Islands. The floatplane in the ship's port catapult was blown off. It was hit with two very large waves and the bow broke away in front of the gun turret. As a precaution all watertight bulkheads had been closed and the crew was sent to battle stations. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but some sailors ended up in the water and needed to be rescued. John reached into the chemical soaked burning waters to retrieve his fellow comrades with no regard to his own safety. He would carry physical scars on his arms for the rest of his life due to his heroic actions. After the typhoon passed, the USS Pittsburgh made its way to Guam where it was fitted with a temporary "stub" bow. The ship was able to stream safely across the Pacific to the West Coast where a new bow was made and attached. Gunner's Mate 3rd Class John M. Hall was honorably discharged on December 21, 1945. For his brave and courageous service to his country, he was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star and the WWII Victory Medal.

PERSONAL:

John married Constance (Sayles) Hall on June 20, 1948 in Eagle Bridge, New York and from that union they were blessed with two sons; Randy and Dale and one daughter, Barbara. He was the proud grandfather of four grandchildren: Nina, Stephanie, Cheyanne and Joseph.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

After being discharged from the Navy, John farmed and drove a milk truck (the type with the old style milk cans and then the tank type). John was later employed by the Wood Flong Paper Manufacturing Corporation in Hoosick Falls, where he worked as a machine operator for over 30 years.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was an active member of the Captain Maxson American Legion Post in Cambridge where he was Past Commander and a member of the Eagle Bridge Methodist Church. In his spare time, John enjoyed baseball and playing cards.

Sadly, John Melvin Hall passed away on December 18, 1996 and is buried in Woodlands Cemetery in Cambridge, New York.

Wayne Bertis Hotaling
1939 – 2009

FAMILY HISTORY:

Wayne Bertis Hotaling was born in Albany, New York on February 15, 1939 to parents Stanley and Marian (Gregory) Hotaling. Wayne had one brother, Dean and one sister, Mary Lou. Wayne resided in East Greenbush, New York before joining the U.S. Coast Guard. Later in life, he lived in New Jersey, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

EDUCATION:

Wayne was educated in the East Greenbush Central Schools from 1944 – 1957.

HISTORY:

Wayne entered into the United States Coast Guard on October 8, 1958 in East Greenbush, NY. Wayne was discharged on October 6, 1961.

PERSONAL:

Wayne was the proud father of five children: Jeffrey, David, Timothy, Brian and Kathleen. He was blessed with eight grandchildren: Ryan, Lindsey, Angela, Michael, Samantha, Kelsey, Paul and Kevin.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

After being discharged from the Coast Guard, Wayne gained employment with Walter Pratt & Sons Plumbing and Kinberg Plumbing where he worked for several years. He moved to New Hampshire and retired from Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as a plumber/pipefitter.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was an active member of the Derry-Salem Elks and the Salem VFW Post #8546 in New Hampshire. He devoted much of his time to all Elks Club activities and events. Wayne's special interests were model railroading, coin collecting, boating and water skiing. He enjoyed summers at the family camp in Lake Pleasant, New York.

Sadly, Wayne Bertis Hotaling passed away on October 21, 2009.

**Thomas F. Roberts
1910 – 1944**

FAMILY HISTORY:

Thomas Francis Roberts was born in Troy, New York on October 13, 1910 to parents Frank and Mary (Gallagher) Roberts. Tom was an only child growing up in Troy, and later in life he lived to Sycaway and Lansingburgh.

EDUCATION:

Thomas was baptized at St. Peter's Church in Troy and lived with his parents near St. Peter's Church. He received his early childhood education at St. Peter's Academy and later attended LaSalle Institute, and graduated in 1929.

HISTORY:

On January 29, 1942, a few weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Thomas enlisted into the United States Navy in Albany, New York. Storekeeper Third Class (Petty Officer) Roberts transferred to the Newport, Rhode Island Training Station from February 1942 to March 1942. From March 1942 to April 1942, Storekeeper Third Class Roberts was aboard a receiving ship in New York prior to being sent to Quonset Point Rhode Island from April 1942 to August 1942 for his basic naval training. He attended service school in Great Lakes, Illinois and Dearborn, Michigan at which time his rating was raised to Machinist Mate Second Class. He was then transferred to Bremerton, Washington from December 1942 to August 1943 prior to being assigned to the USS Liscome Bay (CVE-56), the same day in which she was commissioned with Captain Irving D. Wiltsie in command. After training operations along the West Coast, the Liscome Bay departed San Diego, CA on October 21, 1943 and arrived in Pearl Harbor one week later. After completing additional drills and exercises, the escort carrier set forth upon what was to be her first and last battle mission in support of Operation Galvanic. As a unit of Carrier Division 24, she departed Pearl Harbor on November 10, 1943 attached to TF52, Northern Attack Force, under Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner, bound for the invasion of the Gilbert Islands. Arriving on November 23, 1943 off of Makin as part of a temporary task group, the USS Liscome Bay, along with the USS Coral Sea and the USS Corregidor, was steaming 20 miles southwest of Butaritari Island. On November 24, 1943, reveille was made in Liscome Bay and the ship went to routine general quarters at 0505 hours as flight crews prepared their planes for dawn launchings. There was no warning of a submarine in the area until about 0510 hours when a lookout shouted: "Here comes a torpedo!" The torpedo struck

abaft the after engine room and hit the aircraft bomb stockpile, causing a major explosion engulfing the entire vessel and sending shrapnel out 5,000 yards. At 0533 hours, Liscome Bay listed starboard and sank, carrying 53 officers and 591 enlisted men down with her. On December 6, 1943, Machinist Mate Second Class Robert's parents received a telegram regretfully informing them that their son was missing following action in the performance of his duty in service of his Country. On March 9, 1944, the United States Department of the Navy advised Mr. & Mrs. Roberts that there was no hope that their missing son had survived. On March 27, 1944, they were informed that a Purple Heart Medal and a certificate from the United States Department of the Navy was being posthumously awarded to their son by the President of the United States. One year and one day after the torpedo attack, November 25, 1944, Machinist Mate Second Class Thomas F. Roberts was officially declared dead.

PERSONAL:

At home, Thomas was very protective of his parents. He was known at work as being an honest businessman. He was very interested in automobiles that were developing during his lifetime.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

He was employed as manager at the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company in Troy, New York.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

Thomas was a layperson at St. Augustine's Church. On December 10, 1944, a solemn mass of Requiem was celebrated at his beloved church.

Glenn Roy Brust
1944–1968

FAMILY HISTORY:

Glenn Roy Brust was born in Troy, New York on December 18, 1944 to parents Carl and Leota (Bascom) Brust. Glenn had one sister, Rita.

EDUCATION:

Glenn attended School 16 and later attended LaSalle Institute. He graduated from LaSalle Institute in 1964 and was an outstanding athlete. He was captain of the football and basketball teams and performed with the track team also. In 1963 LaSalle won the Diocesan League title, he was considered the best all-round football player in Troy and was voted a berth on the All-City Team. His coach referred to him as “the boy who always came up with the big play.” Glenn attended Inter-Boro Institute, New York City and the Spence School in Schenectady where he studied court reporting before entering the Army.

HISTORY:

Glenn entered into the United States Army on September 27, 1966. Specialist Brust received his basic training at Ft. Hood, Texas prior to his deployment to Vietnam with the Fourth Infantry Division. He arrived in Vietnam on August 10, 1967, where he served as an Armor Reconnaissance Specialist. Sadly on January 30, 1968, Specialist Four Brust was killed in action in Kontum Province, South Vietnam. Specialist Four Brust was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal for heroism with “V” device and the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross.

Specialist Four Glenn R. Brust was buried with full military honors at Albany Rural Cemetery.

Harry J. Ferguson, Sr.
1928–2010

FAMILY HISTORY:

Harry J. Ferguson, Sr. was born in Bronx, New York on August 7, 1928 to parents Alfred and Emma (Aldrich) Ferguson. Sam had one brother, Alfred. Later, Harry became the stepson of Clarence Bonesteel. Harry's brother, Alfred served with the US Army and was killed in action in Normandy in 1944 during WWII and is buried in France. Harry had the opportunity to visit his brother's grave in 2009.

EDUCATION:

Harry attended Public School 4 and 8 in the Bronx and relocated with his family to Troy, New York and attended Public School 10 and 14. Harry received his high school diploma from Niskayuna High School as part of the 2001 Operation Recognition Program.

HISTORY:

Harry enlisted into the United States Marine Corps on February 8, 1946 in Albany, NY. Private First Class Ferguson was assigned to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he participated in the occupation of China from June 18, 1946 to January 2, 1947. He served as a Tank Maintenance Engineer; he was trained to know the ins and outs of the tank, its workings and trained to build and dismantle as well as repair all tanks. He also worked with the bridge building crew. He was honorably discharged on November 1, 1947.

PERSONAL:

Harry married Julia Angley on October 23, 1949 at St. Mary's Church in Troy and from that union they were blessed with two sons; Harry Jr. and Alfred and one daughter, Deborah. He was the proud grandfather of seven grandchildren: Kelly, John, Justin, William, Christine, Jessica and Ashley and eight great-grandchildren. In 2009, Harry and Julia celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Harry was employed with D&H Railroad in Colonie, where he worked as an apprentice machinist prior to enlisting into the US Marine Corps. Upon his

return to civilian life, Harry obtained employment with Everson and Davis as an architectural draftsman apprentice for 2 years before acquiring employment with Ford Motor Company. He retired from Ford Motor Company in 1981 with 33 years of service. After retirement, Harry and Julia opened and operated Mickie Joes' Restaurant in Waterford for 10 years.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was an active member of the Knights of Columbus Council #236 in Waterford, where he was a Third Degree Knight, a Veteran Member of the State Guard, a Charter Member of the V.F.W. and was instrumental in the formation of the Waterford Memorial Post #5800 in Waterford. Harry held many offices at the #5800 Post including Commander and he assisted in the formation of the Post Honor Guard, Color Guard and the Firing Detail. He was also a member of the Troy Marine Corps League, the First Marine Division Association, Marine Corps Engineer Association of North Carolina, the American Legion Charles J. Brady Post in Waterford, and an Honorary Member of the Battle of the Bulge #49 Association. He was a faithful communicant of St. Mary's Church in Waterford, where he served as an usher for many years. Harry served on various committees including the VA Hospital, Rock for Tots, the WWII Memorial Fundraiser in Washington DC, the Rensselaer County Honor-A-Deceased Veteran Committee and never missed a single ceremony in 12 years. Harry enjoyed and could be seen marching in many parades over the years and was past Grand Marshall of the Waterford Memorial Day Parade. Harry was a dedicated and loving family man who took great pride in his home, community and his country. He truly believed in the saying that "Freedom is not Free".

Sadly, Harry J. Ferguson, Sr. passed away on May 19, 2010 and was buried in Saratoga National Cemetery with full military honors.

Stephen A. Corina
1941 – 1998

FAMILY HISTORY:

Stephen A. Corina was born in Dover, New Jersey on May 4, 1941 to parents Aurelio and Nina Bruschi Corina. Stephen had five brothers: Edmund, Vito, Neil, David and Aurelius.

EDUCATION:

Stephen received his education in the Troy School System, graduating from Troy High School in 1963.

HISTORY:

On November 22, 1963, Stephen entered into the United States Army in Albany, NY. Private First Class Corina served as a general supply specialist.

He was honorably discharged from the US Army on November 19, 1965. For his honorable service to his country, he was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal.

PERSONAL:

Stephen A. Corina married Ellen (Nielsen) Corina on June 16, 1973 in Melrose, New York and from that union they were blessed with three daughters: Jeanine, Melissa Ann and Jacqueline and two sons, Christopher and Aurelio Stephen. He was the proud grandfather of four grandchildren: Amy, Kevin, Dameree and Trevor.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

He worked in the construction field his entire life and eventually became self-employed in the construction field.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was an active member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Joiners Local 370 in Albany, New York since 1966 and was a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scotia, New York. In his spare time, Stephen enjoyed flying model remote control airplanes and was founding member of the Flying Knights.

Sadly, Stephen A. Corina passed away on April 16, 1998 and was buried with Military Honors in the Saratoga National Cemetery.

Everett L. Emery
1921 – 1986

FAMILY HISTORY:

Everett L. Emery was born in Rensselaer, New York on December 13, 1921 to parents Charles and Grace (Lewis) Emery. Everett had five brothers; John, Samuel, William, Milton and Melvin and three sisters; Bertha, Jessica and Grace.

EDUCATION:

Everett received his education in the Rensselaer Public School System. He left school after the 5th grade to help support his parents and siblings. He was employed as a farm hand for J. T. May in Rensselaer, N.Y..

HISTORY:

On October 27, 1942, Everett entered into the United States Army in Albany, NY. Private First Class Emery served as a truck driver in combat zones hauling general military freight and personnel with Company A, 56th Armored Infantry Battalion, 12th Armored Division. He was wounded in action in the Rhineland area of Germany on January 16, 1945. Private Emery was captured by the German forces in Hildesheim, Germany and held captive until April 25, 1945 in Stalag 5B POW camp in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

He was honorably discharged from the US Army on November 11, 1945 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. For his honorable service to his country, he was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, American Campaign Medal, Army Good Conduct, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Prisoner of War Medal and WWII Victory Medal.

PERSONAL:

Everett married Josephine Moran on November 30, 1957 in East Greenbush, New York and from that union they were blessed with one daughter, Margaret. He was the proud grandfather of three grandchildren: Walter, Tonya and Michelle and three great-grandchildren: Mark, Kaleb and Ayden. He had a special relationship with his son-in-law Mike Winnie.

Everett married for the second time on July 4, 1970 to Mildred Lambert. He relocated to Winsted, Connecticut. After his retirement, they relocated to Berlin,

Wisconsin before Everett became ill and eventually returned to New York to live.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Everett was employed as a truck driver working for various companies over the years. After he relocated to CT, he obtained employment with Son Chief Electrical before retiring.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was an active member of the Krause VFW Post in Berlin, Wisconsin. In his spare time, Everett enjoyed fishing, playing horseshoes and turkey shoots.

Sadly, Everett L. Emery passed away on October 11, 1986 and was buried in Capital Cities Cemetery in Rensselaer.

**Thomas F. Sharpe
1933–2011**

FAMILY HISTORY:

Thomas Francis Sharpe was born in Troy, New York on May 4, 1933 to parents William and Amy Sharpe. Thomas had three brothers; William, David and James.

EDUCATION:

Thomas left school to enter the military. After completing his military duty, he graduated from Troy High School in 1953. He also attended Hudson Valley Community College.

HISTORY:

Tom was called to active duty with the First Engineering Company United States Marine Corps, Reserve of Albany, New York on August 7, 1950. He completed boot camp at San Diego MCRD in 1950 and took his Fleet Marine Force training at Camp Pendleton. He left with the eleventh replacement draft for Korea in July of 1951. He was assigned to the 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine, 2nd Battalion, Fox Company 60 MM Section. Thomas received a wound to the right chest and after receiving care at the Yokosuka Naval Hospital in Japan, was returned home on the USS Haven for hospitalization in Oakland Naval Hospital in California and then transferred to St. Albans Naval Hospital in Long Island, New York. Private First Class Thomas F. Sharpe was honorably discharged on February 8, 1952. For his brave and courageous service to his country, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with one star and the UN Medal.

PERSONAL:

Thomas married Patricia (Colley) Sharpe on August 17, 1958 and from that union they had three children; Deborah, Caren, and Thomas. They were blessed with three grandchildren; Christopher, Erin and Dylan.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

After graduation from Troy High, Tom gained employment at the Watervliet Arsenal. At the Arsenal, he took a 4 year drafting course and was employed in the Directorate of Engineering and Housing Department. He retired as Chief of the Project Section in July of 1988 after 36 years with the Watervliet Arsenal.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

He was an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Corporal Arthur Willi Chapter #17 of Troy, he was elected National Commander and Treasurer for the Purple Heart Foundation, member of the Korean War Veterans Association and served on the State of New York Committee for the Vietnam Memorial and Korean War Memorial, Troy

Lodge Elks #141, Apollo Lodge #13, F & A.M. and Tibbits Cadets. Tom devoted most of his time to working with veterans; marching in many parades and also selling flowers to raise money for veterans. In 2010, Tom was given the honor of being named Rensselaer County Veteran of the Year.

Sadly, Thomas Francis Sharpe passed away on January 3, 2011 and is buried in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.