



**WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD**  
Serving The Classes of the Great '50's Decade. Photos & Stories Welcome!  
Published in Las Vegas, NV by Jack M. Phillips, WHS Class of '54: [jackmp@me.com](mailto:jackmp@me.com)

## Memorial Day Tribute - May 31, 2021

Your Editor has always felt strongly that our Memorial Day National Holiday is one of our counties most important and meaningful National Holidays. Even though lots of American's just feel it is just another one of our welcome holidays, we should always remember what the somber occasion represents. It is simply the occasion for us to remember and honor the hundreds of thousands of men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for our country and preserving our freedoms.

With that in mind, each year The WHS Orange & Black publishes this Memorial Day Edition. The basic content of this special annual edition will never change. It will always be to remember and honor our fallen WHS Classmates from the 1950's decade. However, each year the O&B tries to find a new and poignant story that will make an indelible impression on each of us and continually remind us of what Memorial Day truly means.

I hope you are as moved as I am every time I read their stories. We owe them so much. Jack

### FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

On this Memorial Day may I strongly suggest that you watch this heart warming link. I think you will be moved and glad you did.

***"A Soldier Died Today"***

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/eEs4ke7cdNQ?feature=player\\_detailpage%25](https://www.youtube.com/embed/eEs4ke7cdNQ?feature=player_detailpage%25)

Readers,  
please  
watch. You  
will be glad  
you did!  
Jack

#### THE FALLEN SOLDIER

Patricia Krull

Don't weep for me  
O' Land of the free  
When it was my time to fall  
'Twas for my country's call  
'Twas for the land that I loved,  
That I gave my all  
And for the land that I loved,  
I did freely give  
And in her freedom  
And her courage  
I'll continue to live

Editor's Note: On ALL O&B publications containing MORE THAN ONE PAGE YOU MAY NEED TO EITHER DOUBLE CLICK ON THE FIRST PAGE, OR DOWNLOAD THE EMAIL IN ORDER TO OPEN AND VIEW ALL ADDITIONAL PAGES. Jack

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This special edition is to remember, honor and thank all WHS Alumni who have served in the military service of our country and to offer a very special tribute and remembrance to those that paid the ultimate price in the defense of our great country.

We grieve that they each died so young! We pray that each of these fine brave young men will eternally rest in peace.

## PLEASE JOIN ME IN HONORING THE MILITARY DEAD of WHS

It has been 113 years since Washington High School, our beloved Alma Mater, graduated it's very first class in 1908 and from those 113 classes, beginning with WWI, literally thousands of our Alumni brothers and sisters have answered the military call of our country. Even though I have been unable to determine the exact number due to incomplete early records I have determined that the number that served from WHS is in the thousands and sadly a very large, but an also unknown number, have paid the ultimate price for the beautiful sweet freedom we all cherish so dearly.

Since this publication is read primarily by graduates from the fifties, I especially honor the four WHS graduates from the 1950's decade who gave their lives for each of us in the service of our country. I think most of us that grew up in the '50's have always felt we were indeed fortunate and even blessed for growing up when we did. One of the many blessings of being part of the '50's generation was that it was the decade that probably called the fewest number of its young people into harms way through military service. Most of us were too young for Korea and too old for Vietnam. Therefore, I was thankful to only find four WHS Alumni from the '50's decade that were killed in war time action. And I thank God there were not more. These four were, **Ronald Ray Van Regenmorter, '54, Roger "Whitey" Axlund '55, Eugene William Kimmel, '56 and Samuel Fantle III, '57.**

All four of these truly fine young men attended WHS at the same time I did and I am so proud to have known each of them. My heart aches and tears fill my eyes each time I read of their heroic service on behalf of us all. It is extremely sad and tragic that each of their bright, promising, vibrant young lives were cut so short and that each of them were so prematurely taken from their wives, children and loved ones. I hope their stories are as moving to you as they are to me and that each of you will also find a tear welling up in your eyes.

Since there is now a large number of WHS graduates from the '40's and '60's that subscribe to ***The Alumni Orange & Black***, I am including in this memorial edition the names of other WHS Alumni that gave their lives during the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Unfortunately no records could be found listing casualties form WWII that could be traced back to WHS. You will see below the 10 WHS Alumni casualties of the Korean War and 13 additional WHS Alumni that lost their lives during the Vietnam War.

On this Memorial Day of 2021, let us remember, and honor each of these very special men as well as the hundreds of thousands of their brave comrades, both men and women, that have died defending and preserving our freedom. And on this, Memorial Day let each of us ask God to bless all of our men and women that are still in harms way fighting for America and defending our liberties around the world. May God bless each of them and the United States of America.

Jack M. Phillips, WHS Class of '54



**Ronald Van  
Regenmorter**

WHS '54 Senior Photo.

In Memory of U.S. Army Captain  
**Ronald Ray Van Regenmorter**  
Washington High School 1954  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County  
July 3, 1936 -- January 12, 1967  
Killed in Helicopter Crash in Vietnam



**Ronald Ray Van**

Regenmorter and his twin brother, Donald, were born to Henry and Nellie Van Regenmorter on July 3, 1936, in Worthington, Minnesota, but were raised in Rushmore, Minnesota. Their father died in 1948 and the family moved to Worthing, where the boys finished grade school. At that point, Ronald moved to Minneapolis where he attended his freshman year of high school apart from Donald. Then they were reunited when they went to live with their sister in Sioux Falls, where they completed their sophomore year at Washington High School. Then Ronald went to Brandon High School for a year while he worked on a farm. After their mother remarried, the twins were reunited and ***graduated from Washington High School in 1954.*** During his years at Washington, he met his future wife, **Karen**

**Ann Dibben '56**, whom he married on July 28, 1956, in Sioux Falls. Ronald and Karen eventually had two children, Kim Marie and Randy Ray.

Ronald Van Regenmorter—and his twin brother, Donald, first entered the service after high school in June of 1954 and were trained at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Ronald went on to Airborne training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and was then stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, before being sent overseas to serve at Fort Wood in Japan, where Ronald served as a Chaplain's assistant. At that time, Ronald decided to train as a pilot. He attended helicopter training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and Fort Rucker, Alabama. He earned his wings and commission as a warrant officer in 1958; but because he wanted to be “in a position where he could lead men” he then went on to Officer's Candidate School and graduated as a second lieutenant in 1962. First stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, he went on to duty in Hawaii with the 25th Infantry Division from January 1964 through March 1966. During this time he was promoted to captain. From there he went overseas to Vietnam in March 1966 with the 720th Maintenance Battalion as company commander, but later transferred to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 8th Support Battalion as their aircraft maintenance officer. Two days before his death he sent a letter to his family and described his meeting a four-year-old Vietnamese girl who was going blind, so he took her and her mother to a doctor and helped pay their expenses. When asked why he had done it, Ronald mentioned his children at home and he hoped that if they needed help, someone would help them. The following is a short quote from his letter home:

*“Children are the same the world over and if nothing else can get to GI, a kid can... Looking at that little four-year old girl makes me realize how fortunate and lucky we are. God has been good to us and I can appreciate and love more each day our children and you....”*

On January 12, 1967, Captain

Ronald Van Regenmorter was killed in Vietnam “while moving a helicopter from one part of the airstrip to another when the engine failed and the helicopter crashed and burned” at Tay Ninh near Saigon. After his death, his body was returned to the United States. A funeral service was held at East Side Presbyterian Church and then he was buried at Hills of Rest Cemetery with full military honors.

Among Capt. Van Regenmorter's many awards were the Good Conduct Medal, Airborne Jump Wings, Flight Wings, Vietnam Service and Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Air Medal with multiple Oak Leaf Clusters..

At the time of his death he was survived by his mother, Mrs. Richard Brinkman; four brothers, Peter, Cornelius and Leonard, and his twin brother Captain Donald Van Regenmorter, and three sisters, Mrs. John Poppens, Mrs. Melvin Osterkamp, and Mrs. Eugene Cummings, plus his widow, Karen, and his children, Kim and Randy.

This entry was respectfully submitted by Sami Stadel and Hannah Wattier, 8th grade, Spearfish Middle School, Spearfish, South Dakota, on March 28, 2006. Information for this entry was provided by a South Dakota Vietnam Veteran's bonus application, the *Argus Leader*, issues, January 16, 17, 22 of 1967 and the VVMF website at [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org). Additional information and profile approval by Donald Van Regenmorter, Captain, USA Retired, Fremont, Indiana.



**Karen Dibben '56**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

End Van Regenmorter story

### **WE MUST REMEMBER!**

**We pause on this Memorial Day, a brief moment in time,  
To bring close to our hearts those memories we hold so  
dear**

**Of the men and women before us who unselfishly put  
their dreams, their lives on the line.**

**Where danger lay as a stalker,  
waiting to take away each breath, while the soldier  
plowed with determination the furrows of death.**

**We must remember, WE MUST, YOU AND I!**





**Roger Whitey Axlund**  
**'55 WHS Senior Photo**

In Memory of U.S. Air Force 1st LT

## Roger C. "Whitey" Axlund

Washington High School 1955

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

August 7, 1937 - August 28, 1963

Killed during combat training 15 miles West of  
 Destruction Island, Washington in the Pacific Ocean.



**Whitey's actual F-105A, #59-142  
 plane that he crashed in.  
 His body has never been found.**

Sometime during the afternoon of August 27, 1963, First Lieutenant Roger C. Axlund of the 498th FIS, began his flight planning routine for a night ECM/ECCM intercept training mission against an EB-57E (According to the accident report, it was a TB-57E, though the B-57 did not have a training variant. The B-57E had dual controls and was sometimes used for training and was hence designated a TB-57 in those instances. And some referred to it as a TB-57 at all times. Because it was being used as a defense system evaluator, it will be referred to as an EB-57 here.) temporarily deployed to McChord AFB, Washington from Hill AFB, Utah.

Lieutenant Axlund would likely have been taken out to his aircraft about an hour before launch. He was assigned to F-106A #59-142 and took off at 0005 on August 28, 1963, with two+ hours worth of fuel. The EB-57 had departed McChord AFB at five minutes before midnight with 4+ hours of fuel.

SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment, a kind of Air Defense Ground Control) conducted the approach. Both the B-57 and the F-106 (Six) were in contact with the SAGE controller. The B-57 was communicating with voice comm, while the six was using a data-link (only mandatory safety and intercept calls were made by voice). Weather was clear, visibility was six miles in smoke.

The mission had been fully briefed between the crews of the Sixes and the B-57, since the ECM equipment in the EB-57 was new to the ADC training inventory. The B-57 turned on all of its jammers (four in number) until one of the generators failed, so the crew turned off the forward two jammers. This would be no problem since all of the attacks were expected to be from the aft quarters. There were two F-106s up conducting intercepts, alternating attacks. The B-57 maintained 250 KIAS (Knots Indicated Air Speed) and headings as directed by the SAGE controller.

Axlund called two successful attacks to the SAGE controller, even though there was non-standard language used. Axlund had reported no malfunctions or deficiencies. He made another visual contact on the B-57 and called separation on and visual contact with the other F-106. He then called a lock-on to the ECM jamming source. He continued to attack the ECM Jamming source and collided with the B-57. The six's vertical stabilizer hit the B-57's number one engine (Left) and the six continued on from under the B-57's wing. The top 52 inches of the vertical stabilizer separated from the F-106.

The B-57 reported the collision to the SAGE controller and turned back toward McChord, about 95 miles East. The collision occurred at 0109 local, at 47 degrees 43 minutes N. , 124 degrees 45 minutes West. This was approximately 15 miles off shore, due West of Destruction Island, Washington.

Axlund was observed flying straight and level for about a mile, when he began a gentle left turn. He did not transmit after he reported the ECM lock-on. About three minutes prior to the collision. The UHF antenna was destroyed in the collision. The other F-106 had Axlund in sight and watched him begin and accelerated descent, seemingly stabilized on a heading toward shore. Axlund's aircraft began to pitch down and increased speed, in the opinion of the Six observing him, into the trans-sonic region. Somewhere under 20,000 feet, the observer saw a flash from Axlund's aircraft, which he took to be an ejection. Immediately after that, he lost radar and visual contact with Axlund's plane.

The B-57 returned to McChord safely. The crew was uninjured, though the pilot had to shut down his number one engine due to fire/overheat indications.

It appears, from this partial report, that Axlund was never located. One suspects wreckage from the aircraft was picked up, since the exact measurements of the lost vertical stabilizer appears to be known.

The track on the map that came with this partial report shows that the intercepts were conducted from the North Western tip of Washington down to about even with the Kalaloch area, where the collision occurred. The left and right elevons appear to have drifted quite a ways, having been located somewhere in the vicinity of Grays Harbor.

Hi Jack – My name is Russ Huhn (Class of 55). Most know me as Rusty. My brother Robert (Class of 50) and I met you at the all school reunion in 2010. Like so many others I want to thank you for all the time you spend to keep everyone up to date. I have an interesting story about my Gibbs Hi-Y buddy Roger “Whitey” Axlund. After graduation he went off to the Air Force Academy and I enlisted in the Air Force about the same time frame. In 1957 I was walking through the Seattle Air port to catch a flight to Alaska. Out of no where I heard this loud “Rusty” and turned to see Whitey breaking ranks from a line of Air Force cadets and racing across the terminal. He picked me up and held me above his head sporting a big audacious smile. Then he glanced back at his group and said “uh oh – I’m going to get in trouble for this. Oh well, it was worth it. It was great seeing you, Rusty”. With that he gently put me down, smiled, and jogged back to the line of cadets. It was the last time I saw him.



**Russ Huhn '55**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

In the year 2000, my wife, Carole, and I visited the Air Force Academy and we looked up the heroes' wall which honors those of the Academy that have given their lives. We found his marker and took a piece of tissue paper and penciled it. I have to say it was one of the most touching moments of my life. He was a remarkable human being. By the way, did you know that he won the award of Air Defense Command Pilot of the year? I believe it was his first year out of the Academy. Russ Huhn '55

**Editor's Note:** After several hours of searching I have been unable to find any record of there ever having been a funeral service for Whitey, or even an obituary being written. If that is indeed true I suspect it is because his body was never recovered. I was able to discover that Whitey married Judith M. Brawner in 1961. Judith was born, grew up and educated in the Spokane, WA area. She and Whitey had one son, Roger Scott Axlund, who would have been approximately one year old at the time of his father's death.



**Whitey - 1955 WHS football team**

Whitey was a member of the very first class of the Air Force Academy starting as a freshman in 1955 and then being a member of the first graduation class in 1959. There are no records available for the Academies first baseball team roster in 1956, but if they had a team I am sure Whitey was on it. He is listed as a member of the '57, '58 & '59 teams. Whitey was always an outstanding athlete and while at WHS excelled in football. He was also a very popular and respected young man while at WHS as evidenced by him being elected to homecoming royalty in his 1955 senior year.

I would like to thank Russ Huhn '55, Don Noordsy '58 and Richard O'Connor '58 for sending me source material on Whitey. End of Axlund story.



**We must never forget!**



In Memory of U.S. Marine Corps Captain

# Eugene William Kimmel

Washington High School 1956

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

August 20, 1938 -- October 22, 1968

Died When an Aircraft He Was Flying Crashed in Combat in Quang Nam Province, Vietnam



**Gene Kimmel**  
*WHS Class of '56*  
*(Photo: Sophomore, University S.D., 1961)*



**Mary Lou Heacock**  
*From Rapid City*  
*Jr. Yr. Photo at USD '61*

Eugene William

"Gene" Kimmel was born on August 20, 1938, to

Otto and Beatrice Isabel (Mellenberndt) Kimmel in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He attended Washington High School and graduated in 1956. Right out of high school, Eugene joined the service, training with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. During his first enlistment, he completed 36 parachute jumps. After being discharged, he attended the University of South Dakota. While in college, he married his wife, Mary Lou Heacock, on August 1, 1961, in Rapid City, South Dakota. Eugene first received his BA Degree in 1963 followed by an MA in government from USD in 1964. While at USD, he was the editor of the Volante, President of the Strollers, Treasurer and Pledge Trainer of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, Vice President of the Press Club, President of the Publications Board, and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa. His son, Greg, also told us that Gene was a published writer, loved racing sports cars, and was a skilled hunter who loved the outdoors...

After college Kimmel enlisted in the service again in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1963, this time in the Marine Corps where he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and completed flight school. In 1965 he was sent to Vietnam flying the A-4 Skyhawk (a single-seat jet) out of Chu Lai, Vietnam. While in Vietnam in 1966, Captain Kimmel wrote to his parents the following words: "... I'd like to think I have made an attempt, although small it may be, to leave a safer more secure world than the one I had... I don't want you to think this war is for nothing... God made us all different, to think and feel and do what we think is right."

On June 21, 1966, Captain Kimmel's plane exploded in Vietnam just before takeoff on his 113th mission from the Marine Expeditionary Air Base at Chu Lai, Vietnam, and he suffered a lot of burns. After he had some time recovering, he was assigned as an advanced jet instructor in Kingsville, Texas. While there he experienced another close call while he was teaching "a young aviation cadet how to fly a Navy jet over Corpus Christi, Texas," when he and his student had to bail out of the plane. Eventually he went for a second tour of Vietnam in the summer of 1968, this time as a pilot of an OV-10 Bronco, a two-seat reconnaissance plane armed with rockets and machine guns that flew much lower and slower than his A-4 had. Because of that, he wrote home that he had been shot at more in a single month than he had been during his whole first tour in 1965-1966. In a letter to Dr. Farber at USD, he wrote, "...I really enjoyed my tour as an instructor at Kingsville, Texas, but tired of simply reading about the war and not doing anything about it. So I

*volunteered for another Viet Nam tour and here I am flying as a Forward Air Controller. And it's been exciting. The war is much more personal from these little planes than it ever was as a fighter pilot....but it's a damn sight more dangerous and the daily control over another man's life or death, both from my own guns and from the impersonal air strikes and artillery I control, is a heavy responsibility to carry...."*

Marine Captain Eugene William "Gene" Kimmel died on October 22, 1968, "in Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam when the aircraft he was flying crashed while on a combat mission." The body of Eugene Kimmel was returned to his family in the United States and his funeral service was at First Presbyterian Church followed by his burial with military honors at Hills of Rest in Sioux Falls.

At [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org), there is a posting in remembrance of Captain Kimmel. In it are the following words: "He was a dedicated Captain of Marines and an exceptional Naval Aviator." The author, C.P. Calvert, Jr., went on to say, "*In support of his brother Marines on the ground that October day in 1968 Gene made the ultimate sacrifice that others might live. I am honored to have known him and inspired by his sense of duty to his country and Corps. As I packed Gene's gear and wrote the letter of condolence home, I put our loss behind me and continued with the job at hand but never forgetting the sacrifice made.*"

Captain Kimmel received lots of awards and honors. Among them were the Air Medal with multiple Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross; the citation is as follows:

*"For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight while serving as a Pilot with Marine Observation Squadron Two, Marine Aircraft Group Sixteen, First Marine Aircraft Wing in connection with operations against insurgent communist (Viet Cong) forces in the Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 22 October 1968, Captain KIMMEL launched as Pilot aboard an OV-10 Bronco observation aircraft assigned as a Tactical Air Controller (Airborne) in support of the First Marine Division. Proceeding to the designated area, he alertly observed the movement of a large enemy force, and while requesting tactical aircraft to conduct air strikes against the enemy emplacements, his aircraft came under intense hostile fire. Upon the arrival of the fixed wing aircraft, Captain KIMMEL directed his comrades to orbit while he skillfully maneuvered his Bronco into a run to pinpoint the hostile locations with smoke rockets. Ignoring a heavy volume of enemy fire directed at his aircraft, he fearlessly commenced his approach and, while attempting to mark the hostile targets, his aircraft crashed. Captain KIMMEL's courage, exceptional aeronautical ability and steadfast devotion to duty inspired all who served with him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country."*

In addition, Tom Brokaw wrote about Gene in an essay for the Virtual Wall in September of 2000. In it, he refers to Gene as his friend "*who did not come back.*" He called Gene "*a daring, iconoclastic and brilliant young man from the South Dakota prairie.*" He also recalled how before Gene's second tour, they had talked long into the night about the war. After Gene's funeral just a few months later, Gene's father took Brokaw by the hand and quietly remarked, "*Whatever he done, he done good, didn't he?*"

Current survivors of Eugene are his widow, Mary Lou Emanuel, Aurora, Nebraska; his son, Greg Kimmel, La Jolla, California; and his daughter, Susan Yurchuck, Woodstock, Georgia. His mother, Beatrice Kimmel, recently passed away.





This entry was respectfully submitted by Samantha Sparrow, 8th grader, Spearfish Middle School, February 7, 2005. This information was provided by the [Argus Leader](#), October 23, 1968, issue, the Vietnam Veterans Bonus Application, and <http://www.vvmf.org//index.cfm?SectionID=110&anClip=24391>. Additional information, photos, and profile approval by the Kimmel family via Greg Kimmel. End of Kimmel story.

### The Promise Kept

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Their son was only two weeks old; their daughter's years were three

When duty called this pilot to the war across the sea.

"Let's just pretend you're only going on a business trip.

Each day we'll write about the things we've done and then we'll slip a note into an envelope and put it in the mail.

You send me yours; I'll send you mine, I promise, without fail."

He walked away with pounding heart while fighting back the tears with "Come home soon, I love you, Daddy" ringing in his ears.

They kept that promise, sealed with love some 30 years ago.

They sent him tapes and photographs so he could watch them grow.

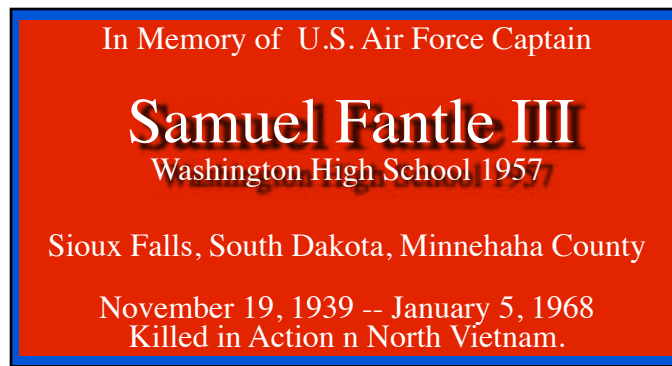
They're married now with children of their own who, at the Wall, ask "Was my Grandpa brave?" and Grandma says, "Bravest of all."

By Theodore O'Hara, 1847  
The muffled drum's sad roll  
has beat  
The soldier's last tattoo'  
No more on life's parade shall  
meet  
That brave and fallen few;  
On Fame's eternal camping  
ground  
Their silent tents are spread;  
But Glory guards with solemn  
round  
The bivouac of the dead.





**Sam Fantle**  
1956 High School  
Football Student Manager



**Sam Fantle**  
Senior Photo from  
1957 WHS Yearbook.

Samuel Fantle III was born November 19, 1939, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Samuel Jr. and Evelyn (Mochlas) Fantle. He had three siblings: Stephanie, Steve, and Susan. The family owned, among other successful business ventures, a chain of department stores in the Midwest. Samuel attended grade school in Sioux Falls and graduated from Washington High School in 1957. Among his high school activities, Sam was a straight- A student, active in Science Club, Pep Club, Boy's State, chorus (including All-State) Spanish, track, debate, and was student manager in football. In addition to being a "handsome, popular boy" he was described as a "big, strong guy," who stood 6'4. Samuel attended the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He went on to finish his degree at the University of Ohio with a degree in applied mathematics.

Samuel Fantle III first entered the service in September 30, 1960, at Harlingen Air Force Base, Texas. Although he wanted to be a pilot, his asthma, his height, and his superior educational background were factors in his placement as a radar interceptor operator instead. On February 5, 1962, in Houston, Texas, at the Houston Waldorf-Astoria, Samuel married his wife, Mary Louise, whom he had met while he was in flight school. Later Samuel and Mary had two children, Gregory and Melissa. In December 1965, the Air Force approved orders for Sam to attend Stanford University to obtain a Ph.D. in applied mathematics. Samuel, Louise and son Greg were in the process of moving to California when Sam received a temporary reassignment to go to Vietnam to fly the "100" missions requirement. They were redirected to go to Nellis AFB at Las Vegas, NV where Samuel trained for his war mission. Greg was three when his father was first sent overseas to Takhli AB, Thailand in May 13, 1966. In 1967, Louise went into labor with Melissa; while she was at the hospital, a category-5 hurricane, Beulah, destroyed their home. Louise, Greg, and newborn Melissa had no possessions until the Red Cross provided some relief. Shortly afterward, Samuel came back on leave and bought a house for his family in Alamo, Texas.

Stationed in Thailand as an Electronics Warfare Officer in the U.S. Air Force, 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Captain Fantle flew aboard an F-105 "Thud" Thunderchief. Called the Wild Weasels, these two-seater aircrafts' job "was to precede a strike force into the target area, entice enemy surface-to-air missile and antiaircraft radars to come on the air, and knock them out with bombs or with missiles that homed on the radar's emissions. Often they were in a high-threat area for half an hour while the strike force attacked its targets and withdrew," according to the Air Force Magazine Online.

The following details about Captain Fantle's death were at [www.pownetwork.org](http://www.pownetwork.org). On January 5, 1968, Captain Samuel Fantle III, co-pilot of an F-105, went on a combat mission over North Vietnam from the Air Force Base at

Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base. As the lead plane of four, “at about 35 miles northeast of Hanoi” Fantle’s plane was hit by enemy fire “causing the plane to go out of control and forcing the crew to eject.” A witness saw Samuel landing but “*intense hostilities prevented rescue.*” At that time, he was officially listed as missing in action and his family was notified.

This was Samuel’s 99th mission and he was set to rotate back to the United States and his family after his 100th. His wife, Louise, remembers clearly the day the three military men drove up to her house. Since they were not living close to the Air Force base, she knew immediately why they were there. After a long period of waiting, when no further word was received, in January of 1969, Samuel’s parents asked Senator McGovern to meet with North Vietnamese officials who claimed Samuel had “*hit a rock on bailout.*” Although other plausible scenarios exist as to the fate of Captain Fantle, the official record states that he was considered missing in action until December 9, 1969, “*the date on which evidence received in the Department of the Air Force was considered sufficient to conclusively establish the death.*” Sometime after the war was over, Samuel’s remains were “*discovered*” and returned to U.S. authorities. He was buried with military honors at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1976. Samuel Fantle is survived by his mother, Evelyn, Aurora, Colorado; his sister, Susan Fantle, Denver, Colorado; his widow, Louise Fantle, Aurora, Colorado; his son, Greg (Barbara) Fantle and their three children, Sarah, and twins, Max and Lauren, Littleton, Colorado; and his daughter, Melissa (Thomas) Davis, and their two children, Samuel and Nathan, Hupperath, Germany .

This entry was respectfully submitted by Gavin Cordell, 8th grade, Spearfish Middle School, Spearfish, South Dakota, on March 29, 2006. Information for this entry was provided by a South Dakota Vietnam Veterans’ bonus application, the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader* issue, Sunday January 7, 1968, [www.pownetwork.org](http://www.pownetwork.org), and <http://www.afa.org/default.asp>. Additional information by Greg Fantle, son, and Louise Fantle, widow. Profile approval by Louise Fantle. End of Fantle story.

## Washington High School Heroes

~~We should always remember and honor these seven WHS military heroes,~~  
~~all of whom graduated from Washington High School!~~  
~~All but Major Joe Foss '33, are proudly from our great decade of the Fifties!~~

I consider it a huge honor to have personally known all of these men.  
The O&B now salutes each of them on this Memorial Day.  
We have so much to thank them for!

~~U.S. Marine Corps Major Joseph J. Foss '33 Deceased~~  
~~U.S. Air Force Colonel Donald Knutson '54 Deceased~~  
~~U.S. Army Captain Ronald Ray Regenmorte '54 Deceased~~  
~~U.S. Air Force 1st Lt Roger "Whitey" Axlund '55 Deceased~~  
~~U.S. Marine Corps Captain Eugene W. Kimmel '56 Deceased~~  
~~U.S. Air Force Captain Samuel Fantle III '57 Deceased~~  
~~U.S. Army Lt Colonel Loren Little MD '59 Living in Las Vegas, NV~~



### The Hero

The angel hovered just above-  
The lifeless form below-  
A life that started with a cry-  
Not many years ago.

Come now my son, you must arise-  
Your work here now is ended-  
You have fought for right and freedom-  
Your country you have defended.

We go now to another place-  
Where peace and love abide-  
And join your comrades who will greet you-  
In your heavenly home on high.

All those you love, and those who love you-  
In their hearts you will forever be-  
The one who gave his very all-  
That the living may be free.  
Ex Sergeant, Claude Peter Dhuet  
USAF World War II

# WHS KOREAN WAR CASUALTIES

In Memory of

U.S. Air Force First Lieutenant

**Kenneth D. Frank**

Washington High School 1932

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

February 25, 1918 – November 14, 1951

Died in an Plane Crash in Farmingdale, SD

Corliss Jensen Ranch at Farmingdale,



In Memory of

U.S. Army Private First Class

**LeRoy Kenneth Halvorson**

Washington High School 1942

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

March 29, 1925 – June 6, 1951

Killed in Action in Korea

In Memory of

U.S. Air Force Captain

**Garland DuWayne Hanson**

Washington High School 1943

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

January 4, 1925--December 7, 1954

Killed in Non-Hostile Crash of a T-33

Jet Trainer near Lake Huron, Michigan



In Memory of

U.S. Army Private

**Richard Calvin Hargus**

Washington High School 1949

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

August 23, 1929 – August 6, 1951

Killed in Action in Korea

In Memory of

U.S. Naval Fireman E3

**Dale Lloyd Hoover**

Washington High School '48

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

May 11, 1930 -- September 26, 1950

Missing in Action, Lost at Sea



Brother of  
Dwight  
Hoover '52



In Memory of

U.S. Army First Lieutenant

**Burdell Merle Krueger**

Washington High School 1943

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

July 29, 1925 – October 30, 1954

Died in a Car Accident near Gainesville, TX

& Ione Hoover Schmidt '56. Also cousin of Darlene '52, Gayle '54, LuJean '56 and Wyman Hoover '57.

In Memory of

U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class

**Ronald Dean Murphy**

Washington High School 1943

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

October 30, 1929 – March 26, 1953

Killed in Action in Korea



In Memory of

U.S. Army Sergeant

**Marvin Edward Pascoe**

Washington High School 1942

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

October 14, 1925 – January 1, 1951

Killed in Action in Korea

In Memory of

U.S. Army Private

**Ronald Lee Preston**

Washington High School 1948

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

July 18, 1932 -- July 25, 1950

Killed in Action in South Korea



In Memory of

U.S. Air Force Captain

**Talvin Judine Roraus**

Washington High School 1939

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Minnehaha County

May 27, 1922 – October 20, 1950

Killed in Action in Korea



# WHS VIETNAM WAR CASUALTIES

In Memory of U.S. Navy Captain

**Donald Deane Aldern**

Washington High School 1948

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

May 5, 1930 – June 29, 1970

Missing in Action, Declared Dead in So. Laos



In Memory of U. S. Army Private First Class

**Louis James Cunningham, Jr.**

Washington High School 1964

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

November 19, 1947 – December 19, 1965

In Memory of U.S. Marine Lance Corporal

**Paul Olynn Evans**

Washington High School 1962

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

June 21, 1945 -- December 22, 1966

Killed in Action in Quang Tri Province, So. Vietnam



In Memory of U.S. Marine Private First Class

**Edgar Allen Flowers**

Washington High School 1967

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

August 16, 1948 – March 31, 1969

Killed Near Quang Nam Province, Vietnam

In Memory of US Army Specialist Fourth Class

**Ronald Charles Gehler**

Washington High School 1960

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

September 12, 1943 -- February 15, 1967

Killed in Action in Vietnam



In Memory of Army Cpl.

**Robert Milton Jacobs**

Washington High School 1964

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

June 15, 1946 – May 10, 1968

In Memory of U.S. Marine Private First Class

**Dennis Clark Knutson**

Washington High School 1964

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

November 17, 1945--July 23 1966

Died of Wounds in Vietnam



In Memory of U.S. Navy Hospitalman

**Roger Miller Nelson**

Washington High School 1965

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

September 16, 1947 – April 7, 1968

In Memory of Marine Lance Corporal

**Roger Allen Petersen**

Washington High School 1964

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

February 8, 1947 - October 14, 1966

Died in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam



In Memory of U. S Marine Corps Private First Class

**Donald Wayne Simonson**

Washington High School 1967

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

March 14, 1949 – August 29, 1968

Killed in Action in Quang Nam Province in Vietnam

# WHS VIETNAM WAR CASUALTIES

Continued

In Memory of U.S. Army Private First Class

**Darrell Dean Venenga**

**WHS & Lincoln High School 1965**

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

September 3, 1947 – November 17, 1967

Died of Wounds in Vietnam



In Memory of U.S. Army Specialist Fifth Class

**Randall Lee Williams**

**Washington High School 1965**

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

February 8, 1947 – June 2, 1969

In Memory of U.S. Marine Lance Corporal

**Larry Dean Winterton**

**Washington High School 1965**

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County

June 3, 1947 – July 17, 1968

Died in the U.S. General Army Hospital,  
Yokohama, Japan from wounds received in Vietnam.



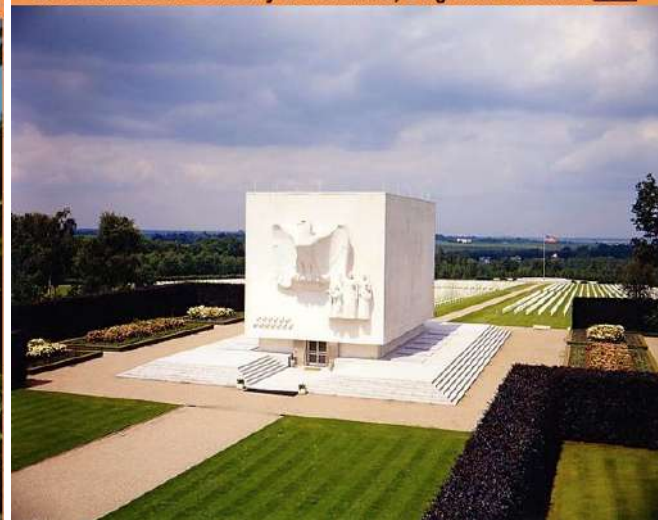
*We* all walked the same halls, sat in the same classrooms, and attended programs in the same wonderfully grand old auditorium at Washington High School, but the path the men above chose after leaving WHS led them in such a different direction. It was a path of such great distinction and service that made not only those that knew and loved them so very proud, but all of America proud. It took them in a direction that ultimately asked for all they had to give, *and they did indeed give all they had to give!* It is so inadequate, but now all we can offer these extremely brave and selfless men are our tears and a simple, *Thank You and May God Bless You For Eternity.*

**104,366 Brave Americans Are  
Buried In Our 20 Beautiful & Sacred  
American Military Cemeteries Across Europe.**

1. The American Cemetery at Aisne-Marne, France... A total of 2289



2. The American Cemetery at Ardennes, Belgium... A total of 5329





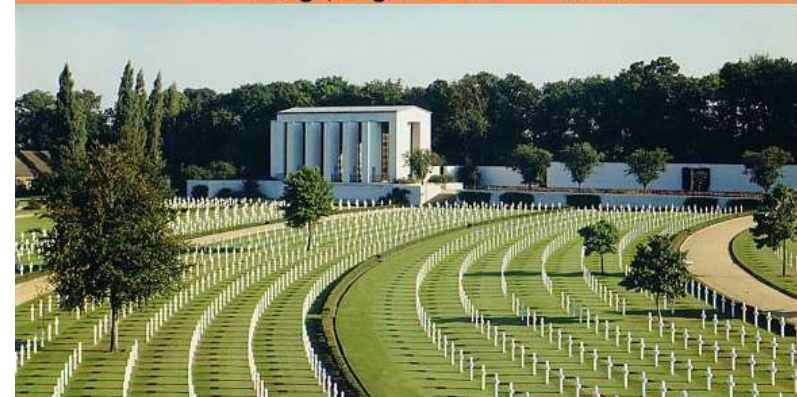
**3. The American Cemetery at Brittany, France... A total of 4410**



**4. Brookwood, England - American Cemetery... A total of 468**



**5. Cambridge, England... A total of 3812**



**6. Epinal, France - American Cemetery... A total of 5525**



**7. Flanders Field, Belgium... A total of 368**



**8. Florence, Italy... A total of 4402**



**9. Henri-Chapelle, Belgium... A total of 7992**



**10. Lorraine, France... A total of 10,489**





**11. Luxembourg, Luxembourg... A total of 5076**



**12. Meuse-Argonne... A total of 14246**



**13. Netherlands, Netherlands... A total of 8301**



**14. Normandy, France... A total of 9387**



**15. Oise-Aisne, France... A total of 6012**



**16. Rhone, France... A total of 861**



**17. Sicily, Italy... A total of 7861**



**18. Somme, France... A total of 1844**







The count is 104,366 brave  
Americans buried in Europe.

We should never apologize to anyone!  
We should remind them of our sacrifice,  
and to not confuse arrogance with leadership.

How many French, Dutch, Italians, Belgians  
and Brits are buried on our soil....  
after defending us against our enemies?

We don't ask for praise....  
but we have absolutely no need to apologize!



**Some interesting World War II Facts:** Over 100,000 Allied bomber crewmen were killed over Europe.- In World War II, British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of toilet paper a day. Americans got 22 sheets.- In 1941, more than three million cars were manufactured in the United States. Only 139 more were made during the entire war. Total casualties for World War II totaled between 50 - 70 million people, 80 percent of which came from only four countries - Russia, China, Germany and Poland. Over 50 percent of the casualties were civilians, with the majority of those being women and children.

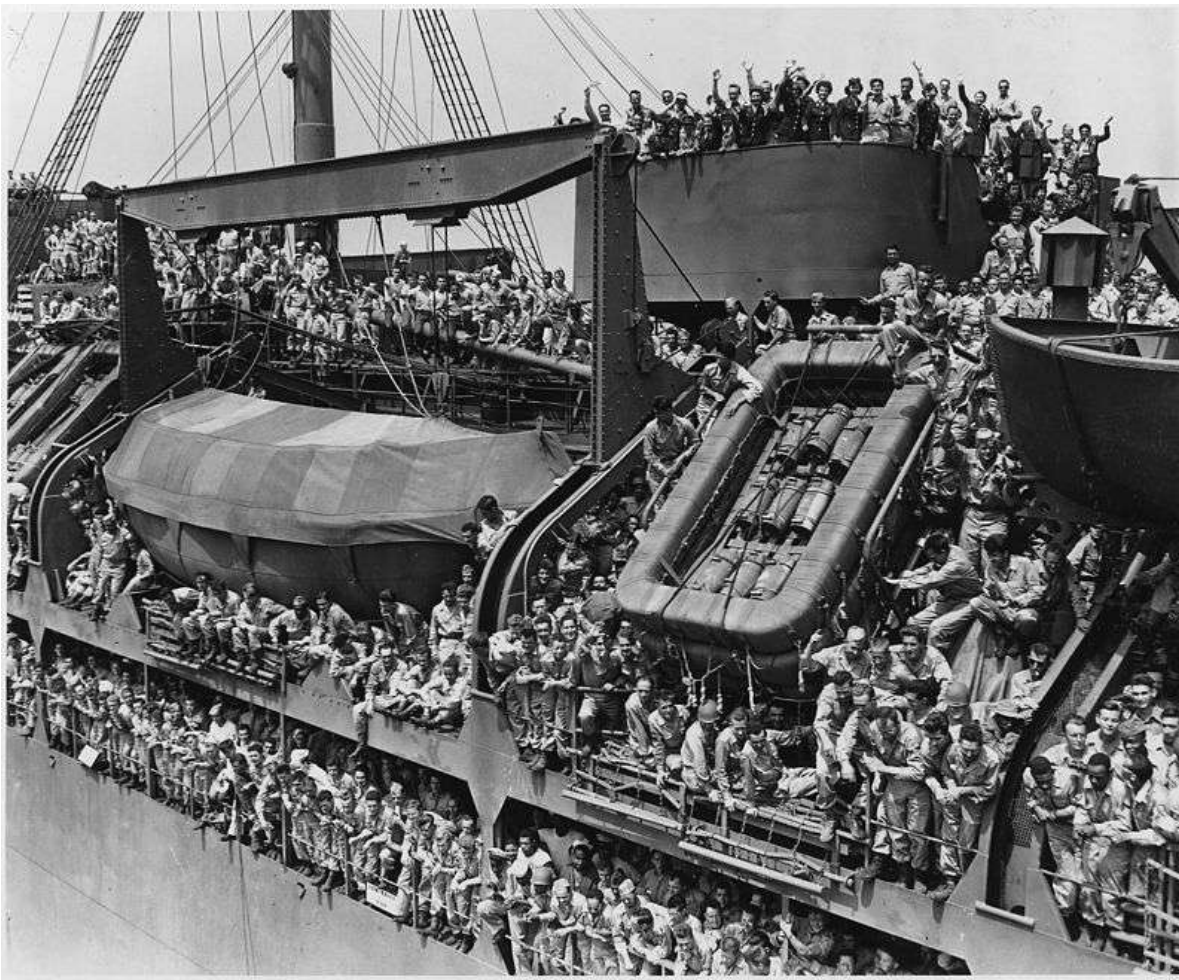
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**We Must Never Forget!**

# "Magic Carpet" - the ride home..... Hard to imagine!

In 1939, there were 334,000 servicemen, not counting the Coast Guard. In 1945, there were over 12 million, including the Coast Guard. At the end of the war, over 8 million of these men and women were scattered overseas in Europe, the Pacific and Asia. Shipping them out wasn't a particular problem but getting them home was a massive logistical headache.

Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall had already established committees to address the issue in 1943.



**Soldiers returning home on the *USS General Harry Taylor* in August 1945**

When Germany fell in May 1945, the U.S. Navy was still busy fighting in the Pacific and couldn't assist. The job of transporting 3 million men home fell to the Army and the Merchant Marine. 300 Victory and Liberty cargo ships were converted to troop transports for the task.

During the war, 148,000 troops crossed the Atlantic west to east each month; the rush home ramped this up to 435,000 a month over 14 months.





**Hammocks crammed into available spaces aboard the *USS Intrepid***  
 In October 1945, with the war in Asia also over, the Navy started chipping in, converting all available vessels to transport duty. On smaller ships like destroyers, capable of carrying perhaps 300 men, soldiers were told to hang their hammocks in whatever nook and cranny they could find. Carriers were particularly useful, as their large open hangar decks could house 3,000 or more troops in relative comfort, with bunks, sometimes in stacks of five welded or bolted in place.



**Bunks aboard the Army transport *SS Pennant***



The Navy wasn't picky, though: cruisers, battleships, hospital ships, even LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) were packed full of men yearning for home. Two British ocean liners under American control, the *RMS Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, had already served as troop transports before and continued to do so during the operation, each capable of carrying up to 15,000 people at a time, though their normal, peacetime capacity was less than 2,200.

Twenty-nine ships were dedicated to transporting war brides: women married to American soldiers during the war.



Troops performing a lifeboat drill onboard the *Queen Mary* in December 1944, before *Operation Magic Carpet*

The Japanese surrender in August 1945 came none too soon, but it put an extra burden on *Operation Magic Carpet*.

The war in Asia had been expected to go well into 1946 and the Navy and the War Shipping Administration were hard-pressed to bring home all the soldiers who now had to get home earlier than anticipated. The transports carrying them also had to collect numerous POWs from recently liberated Japanese camps, many of whom suffered from malnutrition and illness.



U.S. soldiers recently liberated from Japanese POW camps



The time to get home depended a lot on the circumstances. *USS Lake Champlain*, a brand new *Essex-class* carrier that arrived too late for the war, could cross the Atlantic and take 3,300 troops home a little under 4 days and 8 hours. Meanwhile, troops going home from Australia or India would sometimes spend months on slower vessels.



Hangar of the *USS Wasp* during the operation

There was enormous pressure on the operation to bring home as many men as possible by Christmas 1945. Therefore, a sub-operation, *Operation Santa Claus*, was dedicated to the purpose. Due to storms at sea and an

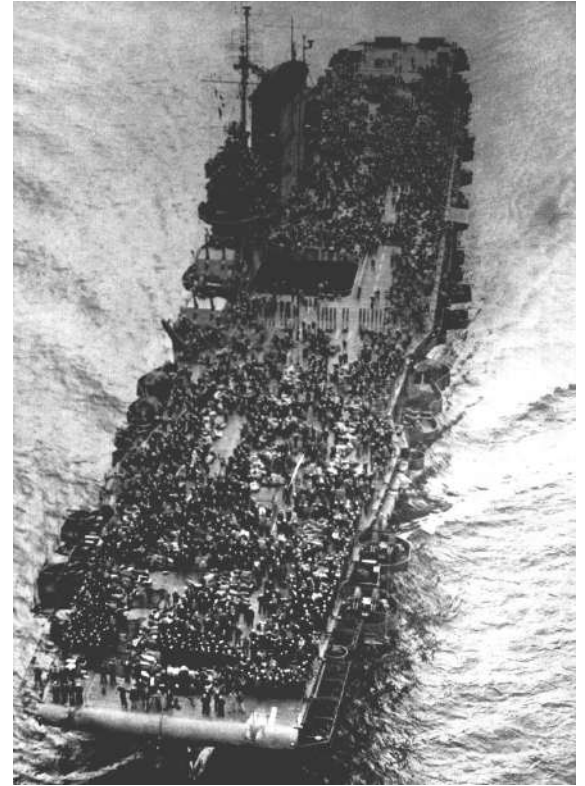
overabundance of soldiers eligible for return home, however, Santa Claus could only return a fraction in time and still not quite home but at least to American soil.

The nation's transportation network was overloaded, trains heading west from the East Coast were on average 6 hours behind schedule and trains heading east from the West Coast were twice that late.

The *USS Saratoga* transported home a total of 29,204 servicemen during Operation Magic Carpet, more than any other ship.

Many freshly discharged men found themselves stuck in separation centers but faced an outpouring of love and friendliness from the locals. Many townsfolk took in freshly arrived troops and invited them to Christmas dinner in their homes. Still others gave their train tickets to soldiers and still others organized quick parties at local train stations for men on layover.

A Los Angeles taxi driver took six soldiers all the way to Chicago; another took another carload of men



The crowded flight deck of the *USS Saratoga*.



Overjoyed troops returning home on the battleship *USS*



to Manhattan, the Bronx, Pittsburgh, Long Island, Buffalo and New Hampshire. Neither of the drivers accepted a fare beyond the cost of gas.

All in all, though, the Christmas deadline proved untenable. The last 29 troop transports, carrying some 200,000 men from the China-India-Burma theater, arrived to America in April 1946, bringing *Operation Magic Carpet* to an end, though an additional 127,000 soldiers still took until September to return home and finally lay down the burden of war.

**CLICK LINK BELOW TO WATCH THIS MOVING VIDEO OF A BURIAL AT SEA!**  
**Burial at Sea....WHAT THE YOUNGER GENERATION DOES NOT APPRECIATE NOR UNDERSTAND!**

Our age group may be the last to understand the sacrifices that were made so that we could live in freedom.

**God Bless America!**

This is a very touching video, actually a piece of film that has been made into a video. This is one that is NOT Photo-shopped, it's real.

Notice in the opening shot of the plane landing on the carrier deck the gunner's position is totally destroyed while the pilot's cockpit in front is undamaged. Later on notice the corpsman taking a fingerprint of the deceased gunner prior to the chaplain saying final prayers and followed by taps. Then the sailors push the aircraft and this patriotic airman over the side and watch it sink to their final resting place.

**THIS WAS REAL! ,This is what 18 year old "kids" were doing in 1944.**

No safe spaces, no hurtful unthinkable remarks that they couldn't cope with, just dying for their country so the ungrateful, uninformed snowflakes of today could act like fools decades later.

This 2 minute video is pretty moving. Worth your while. "What actually made this country great is ordinary guys like this doing extraordinary things."

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/jpt6Bvr2L-s?rel=0&controls=0&showinf>

**We must never forget, World War II was the deadliest military conflict in history in absolute terms of total casualties. Over 60 million people were killed, which was about 3% of the 1940 world population (est. 2.3 billion).**

*May Our Most  
Beautiful Flag Forever  
Wave, Proud and Free!*



*And May God Bless  
All Of Our Military  
Men & Women!*

On May 23, 2014, at 4:43 PM, **Sally Taylor Bjorge '55** <[sbjorge@comcast.net](mailto:sbjorge@comcast.net)> wrote:



**Sally Taylor '55**  
**WHS Senior Photo**

Hi Jack, I live not far from Arlington Cemetery. I live even closer to a little known cemetery called Alexandria National Cemetery where the remains of some identified and some unidentified Revolutionary War soldiers are buried.

In 2003 I was asked to help with the reception after the burial of the remains of a crew of Vietnam vets lost when their plane was flying over Laos. It had been trying to escape enemy fire and climb out of a valley, over the mountain. Instead, it crashed into that mountain and the crew became MIAs. Their remains were finally found and identified, some by the engraving on their wedding rings.

It was a truly humbling experience to attend their burial, then ...serve a light meal after the service. And my heart was torn when I learned that - because so much time had passed - some of those men didn't have family to remember them.

I was prompted to write a poem for those men, and others like them... it was read at the funeral. Then the chaplain asked if he could use it on other occasions. Of course my answer was yes. After reading the recent Orange and Black, it seems like an appropriate occasion to share the poem again. It is titled 'My Name is America.'

**Sally Taylor Bjorge '55**

**Editors Note:** Dear Sally, such a beautiful letter and beautiful poem! Thank you for sharing them both with us. And, thank you for the service you give to The Alexandria National Cemetery.

## **MY NAME IS AMERICA**

### **BY SALLY BJORGE**

My Name is America. I have long shores, tall mountains, broad plains and few deserts.

My cities teem with people, my country sides are lush with trees and lakes and crops.

My people came from everywhere to work and smile. I blessed them with bounty.

Their children are so eager to learn and laugh as they dance the rhythms of life.

I teach them my many songs of freedom, and feed them hope for tomorrow.

I teach them lessons on life and liberty, what must be done to preserve it.

I tell them to look beyond themselves to seek justice and peace for all.

I sift all responses and call only those with ears to hear, eyes to see.

I plumb those young bodies to find that extra measure of courage.

I hold my breath as they go on the missions of peace and hope.

I shudder and weep when my precious child dies out there.

I remember each of their smiles, and all of their dreams.

They lived and they died so my hope would live within others.

I am America. I have long shores, tall mountains, broad plains and few deserts.

I am home to all who honor me and my freedom, all who give their lives to maintain me.

Welcome home my child, you were away too long. My green grasses and my trees missed you.

Now you rest deep within my bosom, safely within my peace, and I will cradle your passions forever.

**MY NAME IS AMERICA.**

**Memorial Day 2021:** Sally, I must tell you that each Memorial Day when I re-read your beautiful and inspirational poem I am more moved and taken by it than I was the year before. I truly love it's warmth and beauty and each time I read it, I consciously thank God for America and for making it my home.

Jack Phillips '54





**World War II Memorial Washington, DC**  
Washington Monument in the background.



**The Korean War Memorial**  
**Washington, DC**



**The Vietnam Memorial**  
**Washington DC**

# A BOY ON OMAHA BEACH

Sent By Peggy Servold Teslow '57, Don Noordsy '58 and Jim Ward '53



Peggy Servold Teslow '57  
WHS Senior Photo



Don Noordsy '58  
WHS Senior



Jim Ward '53  
WHS Senior Photo



Omaha  
Beach,  
June 14,  
2014,  
exactly 70  
years later.

<https://pinearts.smugmug.com/The-Boy-on-the-Beach-Omaha-Beach-2014/i-vPVMh5F/A>

Omaha Beach,  
D Day,  
June 14, 1944.



## Europe 1944 - Europe 2014

Super fascinating European photos of THEN & NOW.. Just click back and forth on each photo to see wonderful and mesmerizing comparisons of Europe then and now. It is indeed like traveling back in time!

Directions: Just **click on the photo anywhere and it will become 2014. Click again and it will go back to 1944**; or you can left click and hold on each photo, and then drag your mouse gently from left to right on the original photograph and it will become a photo of the exact same location and view in 2014. Drag it back to the left and you are back in 1944! **Scroll down for more pictures.**

<http://interactive.guim.co.uk/embed/2014/apr/image-opacity-slider-master/index.html?ww2-dday>

[Click or drag to fade between images ...](#)  
[interactive.guim.co.uk](http://interactive.guim.co.uk)





Don't forget to watch, "**National Memorial Day Concert**",  
Live on PBS from the U.S. Capitol! **SUNDAY, May 30, 2021**  
from 8 pm to 9:30 pm ET. Check Local Listings.



**The United States Marine Corps War Memorial**  
is a national memorial located in Arlington County, Virginia, in the United States. The memorial was dedicated in 1954 to all Marines who have given their lives in defense of the United States since 1775.



I cried,,,,,  
I hope you did too.

