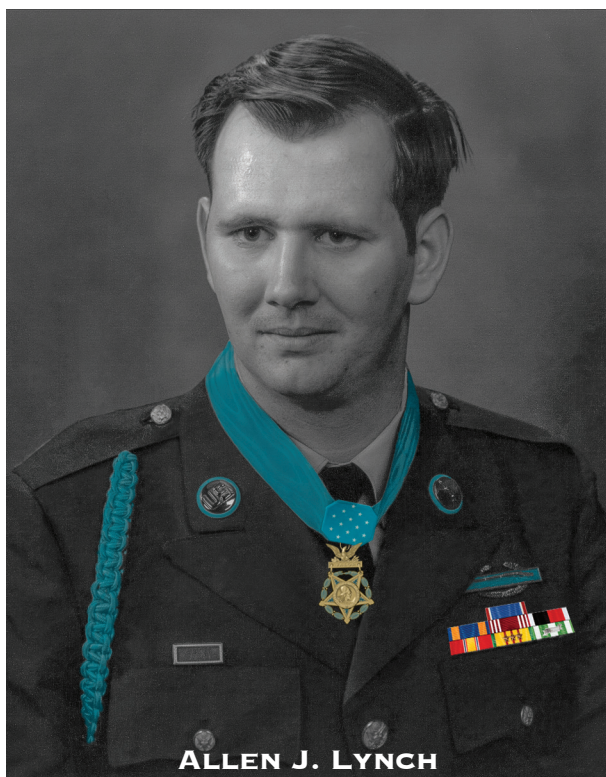


VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

PROSPECT POST 1337

PROUDLY PRESENTS



ALLEN J. LYNCH

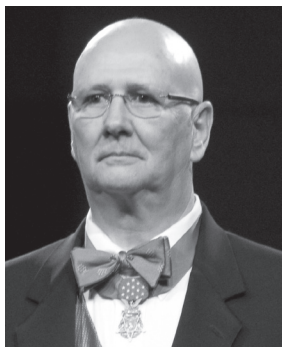


Service & Sacrifice **MEMORIAL DAY**

MOUNT PROSPECT ILLINOIS

30 MAY 2022

Medal of Honor Recipient Allen J. Lynch



Born in Chicago in 1945 and raised in nearby Porter County, Indiana, Allen J. Lynch joined the U.S. Army just after finishing high school in 1964. For two years, he developed his skills as a soldier while assigned to a unit in Germany, rising to the rank of Specialist Fourth Class before volunteering for service in Vietnam. Upon his arrival in the fall of 1966, Lynch was assigned to the 12th Cavalry—where he served initially as a rifleman before being appointed his platoon's radiotelephone operator.

On December 15th, 1967, Lynch and the rest of his platoon were on their way back for a well-deserved rest when they were called in to support another company that had been outnumbered by an enemy force. Under intense fire, Lynch carried three wounded soldiers to safety, and single-handedly defended them against the advancing enemy force for several hours. His quick-thinking and disregard for his own safety were vital in saving those lives, but his fight on behalf of his fellow soldiers did not end on the battlefield.

Allen served in the 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from May 1967 until June 1968. He had been “in-country” for six months when the action took place that would result in his receiving the Medal of Honor. The recognition of his conspicuous gallantry and selfless service to others on that day would be the catalyst for a life of service to others.

Since receiving the Medal, Al has continued to serve his fellow veterans. He served as a Veterans Benefits Counselor and later Chief of Ambulatory Care with the US Department of Veterans Affairs. He then served as the Executive Director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Illinois. He left that position in 1985 to become the Chief of the Veterans Rights Bureau with the Illinois Attorney General's office retiring in 2005.

He also served with the US Army Reserve and the Illinois National Guard until his retirement with 21 years of service in 1994.

Allen and his wife, Susan, have three children and are now blessed with 4 grandchildren.

Medal of Honor Citation

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). **place and date:** Near My An (2), Binh Dinh province, Republic of Vietnam, 15 December 1967. **Entered service at:** Chicago, Ill. **Born:** 28 October 1945, Chicago, Ill.

Medal of Honor Citation



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. SGT Lynch (then Sp4) distinguished himself while serving as a radiotelephone operator with Company D. While serving in the forward element on an operation near the village of My An, his unit became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy force. Quickly and accurately assessing the situation, SGT Lynch provided his commander with information which subsequently proved essential to the unit's successful actions. Observing three wounded comrades lying exposed to enemy fire, SGT Lynch dashed across 50 meters of open ground through a withering hail of enemy fire to administer aid. Reconnoitering a nearby trench

for a covered position to protect the wounded from intense hostile fire, he killed two enemy soldiers at point blank range. With the trench cleared, he unhesitatingly returned to the fire-swept area three times to carry the wounded men to safety. When his company was forced to withdraw by the superior firepower of the enemy, SGT Lynch remained to aid his comrades at the risk of his life rather than abandon them. Alone, he defended his isolated position for two hours against the advancing enemy. Using only his rifle and a grenade, he stopped them just short of his trench, killing five. Again, disregarding his safety in the face of withering hostile fire, he crossed 70 meters of exposed terrain five times to carry his wounded comrades to a more secure area. Once he had assured their comfort and safety, SGT Lynch located the counterattacking friendly company to assist in directing the attack and evacuating the three casualties. His gallantry at the risk of his life is in the highest traditions of the military service. SGT Lynch has reflected great credit on himself, the 12th Cavalry and the U.S. Army. Near My An (2), Binh Dinh province, Republic of Vietnam, 15 December 1967.

Taylor's Battery Chicago Light Artillery, Co. B



This year we welcome the Civil War reenactors group from Taylor's Battery. They shall be honoring us with a salute as well. A wonderful way for our younger citizens to learn about our history. They shall be staying for a short while after our ceremony so please visit them and learn about this amazing important part of American history.



Col. Ezra Taylor

Battery "B" mustered into service at Chicago, Illinois on 2 May 1861, for three month's service and re-mustered again for three years' duty at Cairo, Illinois on 16 July 1861. "B" Battery was mustered out on 23 July 1864, back at Chicago. New recruits and veterans were transferred to Battery "A" and redesignated Bridges' Battery Illinois Light Artillery in March 1865.

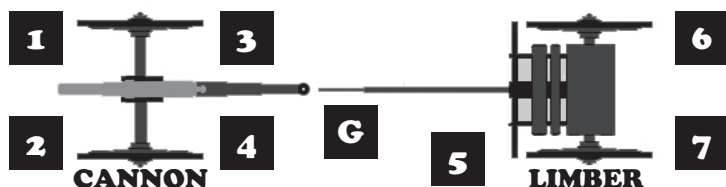
The unit was accepted into Federal service in July as Company B of the First Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Light Artillery. Approximately 207 members from the greater Chicago region fought under Generals William T. Sherman and Ulysses S. Grant and were recognized as one of the finest light artillery units in the Army. The battery's six guns were heard at most of the great battles of the West, including battles at Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Arkansas Post, Champion Hill, Jackson, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and Atlanta.

Of special note this very cannon you see here today was with Taylor's battery during the Civil War. Part of thwarting a massive enemy breakthrough at the battle of Shiloh. Later captured by the Confederate Army and in turn recaptured later from the Rebels at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain Georgia.

The Battery was a light artillery unit, not a “horse” artillery unit and its members either rode on the ammunition chests, or more often walked. Each Battery served as an independent unit and was assigned to units temporarily as needed. The first weapons were four James guns which they received at Cairo, Illinois. They were bronze, muzzle-loading, rifled weapons, with a bore of 3.8 inches, which fired six-pound projectiles. Later, two Parrot guns were added, making a six-gun Battery. As the war progressed, the James guns were replaced by Napoleons, which were bronze, muzzle-loading weapons, firing twelve-pound projectiles.

Each piece (cannon) had a sergeant in charge, for a total of eight men. Five at the gun, four to load, clean and fire, while the sergeant aims, fires, and give commands. Three at the Limber-Caissons prepared the ammunition and cut fuses. One man ran the ready ammunition to the cannon.

Limber would be placed further from the gun. Six horses would pull the limber and cannon.



The Battery usually served as a six-gun Battery, although from time to time one section of two guns would be on duty away from the others. By September 1864 many Batteries were reduced from six to four guns. This reduction coincided with General Sherman’s plan to use four-gun batteries on the March to the Sea; the Battery remained a four-gun unit in the final campaign through the Carolinas.

The battery was discharged in July of 1864. Seventy-one members reenlisted for the duration of the war and served with the First Illinois Light Artillery, Company A. In 1989, men and women from the Chicago area organized the Taylor’s Battery of today. They are a nonprofit educational organization devoted to preserving the memory of the men from the Chicagoland area who served in the original Taylor’s Battery during the Civil War.

There was a total of 27 casualties which consisted of 9 enlisted men killed and died of their wounds. One officer and seventeen men succumbed to disease, for a total of 27 fatalities. During the course of the war, the Command changed hands three times:

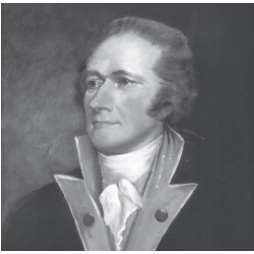
Captain Ezra Taylor – promoted to major

Captain Samuel Eddy Barrett – promoted to major

Captain Israel P. Rumsey – Mustered out with the battery.

www.taylors-battery.com

Hamilton's Artillery



Alexander
Hamilton

During the summer of 1776, our nation had just declared independence from Great Britain and was preparing for an invasion of New York City by British Soldiers and their allies.

A New York Provincial Artillery Company of about seventy men comprised of English, Irish, Scottish, German and Dutch descent are assigned to build and defend a fortification. They are preparing for one of the largest battles between the newly formed

Continental Army and the Forces of King George III.

The Company is lead by a young and ambitious Alexander Hamilton who would later become a close personal aide to George Washington, direct our young country to a Constitutional government and solidify the country financially.

Hamilton's Artillery tells the story of these patriotic men and their families through historical reenactments, demonstrations and educational presentations.

Learn about Revolutionary War battles, Historic Figures, the Declaration of Independence, Colonial Era Weaponry, Camp Life, Clothing, Food & Cooking, Politics, Economic cs, Religious Practices, Medicine, any many other interesting facts from the period in which our nation was born.

Hamilton's Artillery recreates the spirit of the men, women and children of Captain Alexander Hamilton's New York Provincial Company of Artillery in New York during the summer of 1776.

Hamilton's Artillery is a non profit organization dedicated to education about the struggles for our nations independence.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 History



Post 1337
1925-2022

Memorial Day
1925

For the first eight years after its 1925 chartering, Mount Prospect's VFW Post 1337 members from World War I met in a farmhouse on North Wille Street, which has since been torn down, and busied themselves with meetings, ceremonies, fundraisers, trap shooting for ducks and geese and donating trees and flagpoles around town. They even donated a trench mortar from the war to be placed in front of the then-Village Hall.

In 1933 the local VFW moved its headquarters to a farmhouse at Elmhurst Avenue and Memory Lane where they remained until the late 1940s when they constructed a new facility at 601 N. Main Street on property donated to them by Walter Krause Jr. The parcel had been part of the William Pohlman farm but Krause purchased it to donate to the veterans so that they would have room to accommodate the influx of World War II veterans.

Veterans from both wars worked for a full year to build their new structure on Route 83. Everyone pitched in their skills. For instance, a tanker during the War who was, by then, a carpenter, donated his carpentry skills and others contributed electrical and plumbing expertise. Yet another had a connection with a concrete company and convinced them to pour all of the concrete.

Over the years that followed, the hall was used for regular VFW meetings, American Legion meetings, dances, bingo, weddings and much more. The VFW Women's Auxiliary also played a pivotal role in keeping the place running by holding fish fries, bake sales, picnics and more. And members handled as much of the building maintenance as they could.

But by 1983 financial difficulties and waning manpower forced the veterans to sell their home to Moose Lodge 660 and the veterans instead met in various locations around the area. Happily, the Moose recently welcomed back both VFW Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525 and they are once again holding their meetings in the building the local VFW members built so long ago.

Mount Prospect's residents have long and faithfully served the United States by becoming members of the nation's military, protecting its shores and interests. That type of service inevitably brings with it loss.

This year the veteran organizations of Mount Prospect, VFW Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525, have taken it upon themselves to permanently memorialize those from Mount Prospect who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in wartime and peacetime service to the United States.

World War II

Arthur W. Flesch

Captain, Army Air Corps

Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster

492nd Bomber Squadron

Died: 19 November 1944 in India



Captain Arthur W. Flesch, son of Arthur Flesch and Emilie Schumn of Mount Prospect, was born October 15, 1920. He graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School and then from Arlington High School. He then spent one year in college before becoming a civilian machinist.

Approximately six weeks after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, on January 22, 1942, Arthur enlisted in the Army Air Corps. While training in the United States he purposely flew over his parents' Mount Prospect house during his cross-country flight.

The Cook County Herald reported: "When he made his cross-country flight, he told his mother to listen for him on a certain day. When she heard the motor, she ran out in the streets while he circled three times over her home. She told the man working on the streets, 'That's my boy.' Lt. Flesch told his mother he had only one motor going when he came down since the vibrations from all the motors would have broken the glass in her windows."

Eventually, he became a bombardier with the 492nd Bomber Squadron in India, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

His three brothers also enlisted. Edward also joined the Army Air Corps; Frank joined the Army and manned anti-tank destroyers in Germany; and Kenneth joined the Navy and served as a Gunner's Mate Second Class in the Pacific.

Capt. Flesch was killed in India on November 19, 1944 and his body was returned stateside for internment at Arlington National Cemetery on June 9, 1948. His father, Arthur Flesch Sr., was State Adjutant for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of Mount Prospect's Post 1337. His mother, Emilie, was a charter member of the Mother's Flying Club.



Herman J. Heide

Staff Sergeant, US Army

531st Engineer Shore Regiment

Died: 6 January 1943 in Tunisia

Staff Sergeant Herman J. Heide, the son of Herman Heide and Lulu Scharringhausen, 22 S. Elm Street in Mount Prospect was the middle of three children. Born on February 21, 1920, he attended St. Paul Lutheran School before going on to Arlington High School and graduating in 1938.

After graduation he went to work at Framburg Electric Company in Chicago, assembling lamps and acting as a stock clerk.

Soon after Pearl Harbor, on February 11, 1942, Heide enlisted at Camp Grant in Rockford. He was then trained at Camp Robinson in Arkansas where he received a sharp shooter's medal and later became a corporal in supply while stationed at Camp Edwards in Massachusetts.

In October, 1942 Heide was sent to North Africa where he became a staff sergeant in a headquarters company. On January 6, 1943 he was killed by shrapnel from a hand grenade that exploded during practice and was buried at North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia.



Robert W. Haake
First Lieutenant, Army Air Corps
Ferry Command, then Search and Rescue Squadron
Died: 17 September 1944 in India

First Lt. Robert W. Haake, son of Lydia Ella and Albert C. Haake of 407 S. I-Oka Avenue, was born April 1, 1922. He had two younger sisters and graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School & later from Arlington High School in 1940. He spent one year studying at the University of Illinois and then became a professional actor.

Haake enlisted in the Army Air Corps on January 26, 1942, also soon after Pearl Harbor, and was sent to Texas where he was commissioned as an officer at Randolph Field in San Antonio during November, 1942. Shortly thereafter, on April 20, 1943, he married Louise Williams of Trenton, TX and then was sent to India where he flew cargo planes "over the hump" to China. He later transferred to a B-25 Search and Rescue Squadron.

When his disappearance was reported in the Cook County Herald on September 29, 1944, excerpts from one of his recent letters were included. "Rescue work is the primary purpose of our outfit, but we also spend hours searching jungles and mountains for wrecked planes and men down. . . . One learns a real appreciation of comradeship and trust in a friend. I am probably getting wiser in the ways and vicissitudes of life daily. We take pleasure in simple things – the antics of our pet monkey amuse us, we learn and many times teach others in our bull sessions and many things, little things, like a cold shower or a bottle of beer (always warm) that we always took for granted are now big events and almost luxuries to us. I hope when this war is ended I will be a better and bigger man for it all. The ways of the Lord are indeed strange to man in his foolish pride and ambition."

Lt. Haake's plane disappeared on September 17, 1944. His body was eventually recovered and in July, 1948 was returned to the United States. He is buried in Bethania Cemetery in Justice, IL.

Phillip Winston Kaiser
Lieutenant, Army Air Corps
Killed In Action: 25 March 1945 over Europe

Phillip Winston Kaiser was born in Crown Point, IN on June 30, 1922. He was the son of C. Glenn Kaiser, a schoolteacher, and Lucile J. Watkins and had a younger brother, Kent.

The family moved to Batavia, IL in time to be listed on the 1930 census there and by 1940 was living at 302 S. George Street in Mount Prospect. He graduated from Arlington High School in 1940 and then went on to two years of college.

He enlisted on February 26, 1942, once again soon after Pearl Harbor, in Miami Beach, FL. Lt. Kaiser became a pilot, stationed in England. He flew a B-24 Liberator Bomber. In January, 1945 he sustained a broken leg while parachuting near Amiens, France. He returned to active duty on March 19 and was killed six days later.

Originally buried in England's Cambridge Cemetery, his body was sent home in 1948 and is now buried in Mount Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst.



Frank F. Schott Jr.
Private First Class, U.S. Army
Communications Wire Chief
Died: 24 February 1945 in Leyte, Philippines

Frank F. Schott Jr., son of Frank and Johanna Schott, was born in Germany on November 14, 1921. He and his parents immigrated to the United States and settled in Mount Prospect the following year. They lived at 105 S. Main Street and later at 123 S. Emerson Street and Frank Jr. graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School followed by Arlington High School in 1940. In his spare time he engaged in

competitive cycling.

Schott enlisted in the Army in November, 1942 and was sent to Signal Corps School in Lexington, KY and to Basic Training at Camp Kohler, CA.

Private Schott was a communications wire chief by the time he left the United States for the Philippines in December, 1944. He drowned off of Leyte in the Philippines on February 24, 1945.

His body was returned home in 1948 and he is buried in Ridgewood Cemetery, Des Plaines.

Welcome

William J. Starr *Lieutenant Colonel, USA Retired*

Invocation

Pastor Fred Joob Christian Life Church

Posting of Colors

Boy Scout Troop 23

Pledge of Allegiance

Robert L. McKillop *Colonel USAF, Retired*

Medley of Patriotic Songs

Prospect Knights Marching Band and Honor Guard, Chris Barnum, Director

America the Beautiful

MS Debbie Schreiner & Mt. Prospect Community Band, Monty Adams Director

Keynote Speaker Medal of Honor Recipient

Allen J. Lynch US Army Veteran

Armed Forces Salute

Mt Prospect Community Band, Monty Adams Director

Departed American Legion Post 525 Members during 2021-2022

Ron Vlcek USAF Veteran American Legion Post 525

PAUL EUBANKS

CARL R HOGLUND

Departed VFW Post 1337 Members & Honored Veterans during 2021-2022

Commander Les Durov USN—VFW Post 1337

JOHN A BLAKE

PAUL J MEDICI

CONRAD P SCHULTZ

HARRY J HENGESH

MARY J RYAN

JAMES S SCOTT

Essay Contest

"What The Congressional Medal of Honor means to Me"

1st Place - \$100—Megan Imherr—Lincoln Middle School

2nd Place - \$75—Emily Clarke—Saint Emily School

3rd Place - \$50—Max Hargadon—Saint Raymond School

Divine Blessings of Departed Comrades

Chaplain Ron Willer USA —VFW Post 1337



Presentation of Flag

Past District Commander Joseph P. Scanlon USMC—VFW Post 1337

Placement of Wreath

Service Officer "Dutch" DeGroot Master Sergeant USAF, Retired

Blue Flower

Chaplain Ron Willer USA

White Flower

Quartermaster Charles Ohrn USN

Red Flower

Senior Vice Commander Joe Schmidt USN

3 Roses on Grave

Robert L. McKillop Colonel US Air Force, Retired

Special Bouquet

Village Mayor Paul Hoefert & Park District Executive Director, Jim Jarog

Placement of Flowers

Local Organizations show remembrance and respect

National Anthem

Prospect Knights Marching Band and Honor Guard

Rifle Salute

VFW Post 1337 American Legion Post 525 Firing Detail

Taps

The Prospect Marching Knights and Honor Guard

Amazing Grace Medley

Kevin Chapman, Bagpiper

God Bless America

Mt. Prospect Community Band and MS Debbie Schreiner

Benediction

Pastor Russ Bechtold Chaplain Mount Prospect Fire Department

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks to the Village of Mount Prospect, Mount Prospect Lions Club, Mount Prospect American Legion Post 525, Prospect Moose Lodge 660, Busse Flowers for their donation of flowers exclusively to the VFW, Wooden Shoe Graphics for program design, and to the Mt. Prospect Park District for their patience and concentrated efforts toward making this program successful.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 extends a "Thank You" to Joe Scanlon for the crosses with the names and to Loren Helwink and Joe Schmidt for serving as Keepers of the Grounds.

Elmer Henry Piepenbrink

Private First Class

414th Infantry

Killed In Action: 6 March 1945 in Germany



Elmer Piepenbrink, the eldest of Fred and Frieda Piepenbrink's four children, lived on their Rand Road farm (in Wheeling Township) in part of Mount Prospect which was not yet annexed. Born on November 3, 1920, he attended and graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School and then went to work as a laborer on the family farm.

Piepenbrink enlisted in the Army on May 5, 1944 and became part of the 414th Infantry. He was sent to Germany later that year and received a Purple Heart for non-life threatening wounds received on November 24, 1944. He recovered in a British hospital and then was sent back to the front on January 11, 1945. Less than two months later, on March 6, 1945 Private First Class Piepenbrink was killed in battle. He is buried at the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Mount Prospect.



Victor William Sander

Staff Sergeant, 6th Service Command and 4th Armored Division

Silver Star Recipient

Killed In Action: 31 March 1945 in Germany



Victor William Sander, the son of Lorenz and Frieda Sander of Northfield, became a resident of what is today Mount Prospect when he married Luella Tegtmeier on November 14, 1942.

Born on May 15, 1919, Sander had two brothers and four sisters and attended school through eighth grade. After that, he worked as a school janitor at the Farm School in Glenview. That is where he met his soon-to-be wife who was a kindergarten teacher at the school. Miss Tegtmeier had been raised on farm at 401 E. Foundry Rd. (which is now part of Mount Prospect) and she graduated from Feehanville School, the first school in today's River Trails School District 26.

Sander and his new wife lived with her parents before he enlisted in January, 1943. Luella remained with her parents when he departed, becoming a member of the Second Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

His commander, Captain Robert Langley of the 4th Armored Division, wrote to Sander's wife following his death. "The passing of your husband, S-Sgt. Victor W. Sander, who was killed in action in Germany on March 31, 1945, is such a sorrow to all of us that I find it difficult to write to you, knowing that any word of mine must be poor consolation for such a loss."

"But I believe it will mean much to you to know in what esteem he was held by his comrades — both officers and enlisted men. Victor Sander was a man whose chief concern was to see that his comrades received good leadership. They would truly have 'gone through hell' for him and with him, because they knew that he would be leading them. I have never known a man who had more completely the respect of his comrades than your husband, and I never heard him accept a responsibility for a difficult task with any other attitude than one of cheerfulness," Capt. Langley continued.

"He gave his life at a moment when superior odds and a determined enemy threatened the existence of his entire unit. Your husband was leading his platoon against a group of fanatical enemy. He bravely exposed himself to enemy fire to destroy a machine gun position that was preventing the advance of supporting elements. He succeeded in eliminating the threat to our forces, but was killed by another machine gun's fire. With this complete disregard for his own safety, he so led his men so that the enemy was overcome. In so doing, he gave up his life — the everlasting admiration and inspiration of all who worked with him. The day of victory for all of us is closer because of him and we are better men for having known him," he concluded.

Staff Sergeant Sander was buried in Stromburg, Germany and then, in 1949, moved to Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights. Luella later married Frederick Biermann.



Vietnam

William Daley

Lance Corporal, 3rd Marine Division, U.S. Marine Corps
Killed In Action: 29 Jan. 1969 Quang Nam, South Vietnam

William Daley, the son of Francis Daley and Mabelle Brewer of 473 Bob-O-Link Road, was born on March 6, 1949. He had one brother and two sisters and was a 1967 graduate of Evanston Township High School.

Slightly more than a year later, on August 27, 1968, Daley enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was quickly promoted to Lance Corporal with the 3rd Marine Division and was sent to fight in South Vietnam where he was a machine gunner.

Lance Cpl. Daley was killed on January 29, 1969 in Quang Nam, South Vietnam. He is buried at All Saints Catholic Cemetery in Des Plaines.



Frank F. Gagliano

Corporal, 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army
Killed In Action: 16 February 1967 Darlac, South Vietnam



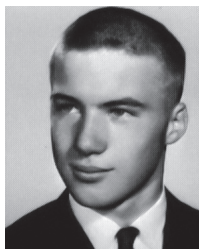
Frank F. Gagliano, son of Steve and Rose Gagliano of 1722 Rusty Drive, Mount Prospect was Mount Prospect's first casualty in Vietnam.

Born on November 4, 1945, Gagliano was inducted into the U.S. Army in November, 1965 and was sent to Vietnam as a corporal with the 4th Infantry Division in September, 1966. A machine gunner, he died in Darlac, South Vietnam on February 16, 1967, leaving behind a wife, Sheryl Philbin, and an infant son, Steven. Cpl. Gagliano is buried in Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Hillside.



David William Skibbe

Second Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps Infantry
Navy Cross
Killed In Action: 2 March 1970 Quang Nam, South Vietnam



David William Skibbe, the son of Janet and William Skibbe, 113 N. Prospect Manor, was born on October 22, 1946. He had two sisters and one brother and his father was Mount Prospect's assistant postmaster in the mid-1960s. The family later moved to Des Plaines.

Skibbe was a 1964 graduate of Prospect High School and then went on to graduate from the University of Illinois where he was part of the Naval ROTC program. He was engaged to Georgine Tortorella.

2nd Lt. Skibbe earned the prestigious Navy Cross in Quang Nam, South Vietnam when he saved a fellow Marine by covering him with intense fire so he could be evacuated. While doing so, Skibbe was severely wounded by gunfire in the ankle. While being lifted to a helicopter to be evacuated, the helicopter hoist apparatus malfunctioned and Lt. Skibbe fell more than 80 feet -- through the jungle canopy -- to his death on March 2, 1970. Afterward, St. Mark Lutheran Church named its gymnasium after him.

After long being listed as "Missing in Action," Lt. Skibbe is now buried in the Honolulu Memorial Cemetery.



Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan)

Added to Memorial 2019

Chris J. Scherkenbach

Chief Warrant Officer 4, U.S. Army

3rd Bn, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)

Killed in Action: June 28, 2005 in Eastern Afghanistan



CW4 Chris Scherkenbach, the son of Elmer and Marjorie Scherkenbach, 800 S. Maple St., was born Nov. 3, 1964, the youngest of eight children. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1982.



When Scherkenbach's mother and father (a decorated B17 pilot in the Army Air Forces during World War II) retired and moved from Mount Prospect to Florida, they took their son with them. There he enlisted in the Army in April, 1987 as a communication specialist, and was initially stationed in Germany.

He graduated from the Warrant Officer Program at Fort Rucker, AL in 1990 and then attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course and Initial Entry Rotary Wing training.

After completing his CH-47D aircraft qualifications, CW4 Scherkenbach was assigned to the 159th Aviation Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA. In 1994 he was assigned to Camp Humphreys, Korea as a CH-47D Chinook pilot. After completing his tour in Korea, he returned to the 159th Aviation Regiment. His final assignment was the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, also known as the Night Stalkers.

His awards and decorations included the Air Medal 4, Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal w/ Bronze Service Star, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (w/numeral 2), and the Senior Army Aviator Badge.

CW4 Scherkenbach was also posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Valor device, the Combat Action Badge and the Master Army Aviator Badge.

He had also graduated magna cum laude from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at Daytona Beach, Fla. with a B.S. in Professional Aeronautics in 2003.

Scherkenbach, 40, died as part of "Operation Red Wings," an elite rescue mission consisting of eight soldiers and eight U.S. Navy SEALs deployed to save four SEALs captured or killed by Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Members of the 16-member rescue team were killed after an enemy's rocket-propelled grenade downed the Chinook helicopter carrying them over the mountains in eastern Afghanistan. One of the four Navy SEALs they were attempting to rescue did survive.

"It (the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment) is one of the most physically and mentally demanding assignments for Army aviators," said 160th SOAR (A) Cmdr. Col. Kevin Mangum after the incident. "We have tough, realistic training and routinely conduct hazardous missions under challenging conditions, both day and night and in all weather. We all know the risks."

He left behind a wife, Michelle, and daughter, Sarah, living in Jacksonville, FL.

CW4 Scherkenbach was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

Peacetime Casualties

Alan Koehler

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

VA-128 Attack Squadron, "The Golden Intruders"

Died: Sept. 19, 1973 near Christmas Valley, OR



Lieutenant Alan Koehler, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Koehler, 113 N. Maple St., was born August 15, 1946. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1964 and attended Luther College in Decorah, IA.

He enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 24, 1968, at the height of the Vietnam conflict.

In September, 1973, as a 27-year-old pilot. Lt. Koehler and his navigator, Lt. Commander Philip D. duHamel, 33, were forced to eject from their Navy Grumman A-6A Intruder plane over the Oregon desert, approximately 25 miles southeast of Christmas Valley, during a low level night training mission out of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Washington. Both men were killed.

The cause of the accident remains unknown as no one witnessed it, but the plane broke apart with scattered debris spanning an area over three-quarters of a mile in length.

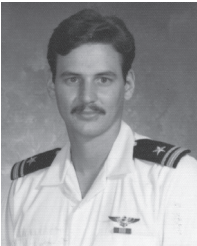
In June, 2007, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officially declared the crash scene an historic Federal Government site at a Flag Day ceremony. An interpretive plaque was unveiled during this event reflecting this designation and depicting the historical significance of the location.

Michael Stanley Tolf

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

VA-176 Attack Squadron, "Thunderbolts"

Died: May 17, 1979 in plane crash over Caribbean Sea



Lieutenant Michael Tolf was born February, 27, 1953. He was the son of Stanley and Lois (Ayasse) Tolf, 810 Deborah Lane. The family moved to Mount Prospect in 1967.

The Tolf family belonged to St. Mark Lutheran Church and Michael graduated from Forest View High School in 1970. He then went on to the Illinois Institute of Technology where he earned a Bachelors degree in mechanical engineering in 1974. While there, he became involved in the Naval ROTC program.

Michael enlisted in the Navy shortly after graduation, on July 8, 1974, and trained as a pilot at NAS Meridian in Mississippi. Five years later, on May 17, 1979, he and his navigator, Lt. Earl C. Grabus Jr., were lost when their A6-E Intruder fueling jet disappeared from radar while on a training mission from the USS Independence aircraft carrier off of Puerto Rico. Michael was 26.

He left behind a wife, Sandra Nadine Bach, also of Mount Prospect, and two children, Michael and Heather.

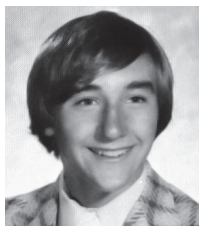
Barry Richard Chumbley

Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force

Died: 26 February 1981 over South China Sea

Barry Richard Chumbley, son of Zuda Foster, was born on December 25, 1947 in Pulaski, Kentucky.

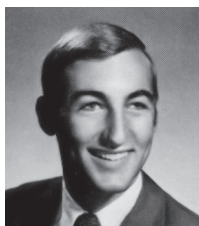
His home of record when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on May 22, 1966 and again on May 23, 1978 was Mount Prospect. Technical Master Sergeant Chumbley was one of 16 service members lost on February 26, 1981 when his plane went down over the South China Sea. The incident only had one survivor.



Glen Edward Miller
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy
6152 Test Squadron
Died: 18 August 1984—lost over Indian Ocean

Glen Edward Miller of Mount Prospect was born on August 5, 1958 and graduated from Prospect High School in 1976.

As a lieutenant with the United States Navy, Miller was affiliated with the 6152 Test Squadron, stationed at Coronado Island, San Diego, CA. He was lost over the Indian Ocean on August 18, 1984.



Michael John Keane
Major, U.S. Air Force
Died: 22 May 1987
near Edwards Air Force Base, CA

The son of Donald and Carol Keane, 104 N. Waverly Place, Michael John Keane was born in Indiana on October 11, 1954. He had one brother, Paul, and graduated from Prospect High School in 1972. He went on to graduate second in his class at

the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976 and then earned a Master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University.

After completing his education, Keane went on to become a test pilot. In 1985 he was selected as the only American that year to attend the exclusive "Empire Test Pilots School" in England and even became the first American in 20 years to win the school's McKenna Trophy for the top graduate. Major Keane hoped to eventually pilot the Space Shuttle but the Challenger crash derailed those hopes.

On May 22, 1987 Major Keane and his co-pilot were killed when their T-38 Talon training jet collided in mid-air with a private plane taking aerial photographs of the surrounding terrain. Two civilians were also killed.



Ronald Dean Odom
Private First Class, U.S. Army
Died: 28 May 1984

Private First Class Ronald Dean Odom, son of Michael and Diane Odom of 1318 Columbine Drive, Mount Prospect, was born June 21, 1963. He had two sisters.

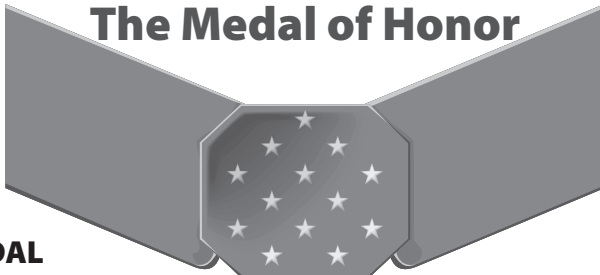
A Fire Support Specialist in the Army, PFC Odom was killed in a car accident on May 28, 1984 while home on leave. He is buried in Wheeling Township Cemetery in Arlington Heights.



Przemyslaw Mazur
Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army
Died: 09 MAY 2011

Staff Sergeant Przemyslaw Mazur was born 12 April 1978 in Poland. Son, Brother and Father. spending much of his early years in Mount Prospect. Enlisting in the Army 29 August 2000 an airborne combat medic with deployments to Iraq. He died shortly after he came home from deployment near Fort Bragg, NC.

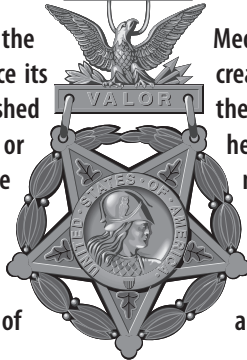
The Medal of Honor



THE MEDAL

Established in December 1861, the military decoration for valor. Since its creation, more than 3,500 members of the armed forces, who distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty, have been awarded the medal.

The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President, in the name of Congress, and is the only military decoration worn around the neck. Its recipients, our most gallant heroes, are the only individuals whom the President and military of all ranks salute as a matter of custom.



Medal of Honor is our nation's highest creation, more than 3,500 members of themselves conspicuously by gallantry her life above and beyond the call of medal.

by the President, in the name of decoration worn around the neck. heroes, are the only individuals all ranks salute as a matter of custom.

THE DESIGN

Presently, there are three variations of the Medal of Honor. Steeped with symbolism, the Medal has become a historic symbol of our nation's bravest. Out of respect for those who have earned it, its appearance has remained largely unaltered in over 150 years.

AWARDING THE MEDAL

The standards to award the Medal of Honor have evolved over time, but the Medal has always stood for actions that go above and beyond. The current criteria were established in 1963 during the Vietnam War.

The Medal is authorized for any military service member who "distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty

- While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States;
- While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party."

All recommendations require thorough reports on the act itself, the battlefield and its setting; at least two sworn eyewitness statements; and any other compelling evidence that can be gathered. Recommendation packets must be approved all the way up the military command structure, ending with the United States President as the Commander-in-Chief.

By Federal Statute, recommendations for the Medal must be submitted within 3 years of the valorous act and the Medal must be presented within 5 years. Any submissions outside of this timeline require an Act of Congress to waive the time limits.

Military Decorations

Some of the military members on our memorial received decorations for defending our country. At the time of the dedication these are the decorations of which we are aware.

Navy Cross



The Navy Cross is the second highest military decoration that may be awarded to a member of the United States Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, (and to members of the Coast Guard when operating under the authority of the Department of the Navy). It is awarded for extraordinary heroism:

While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;

While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Navy Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor. The Navy Cross is equivalent to the Distinguished Service Cross (Army) and the Air Force Cross (Air Force).

Silver Star



The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces. It is awarded for gallantry in action:

While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;

While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Silver Star must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor or a Service Cross (Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross).

Distinguished Flying Cross



The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Military of the United States, distinguished himself or herself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. The performance of the act of heroism must be evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty. The extraordinary achievement must have resulted in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from his or her comrades or from other persons in similar circumstances. Awards will be made only to recognize single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement and will not be made in recognition of sustained operational activities against an armed enemy.

Purple Heart



The PH is awarded in the name of the President of the United States and, in accordance with 10 USC 1131, effective 19 May 1998, is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, have been wounded, were killed, or who have died or may hereafter die of wounds received under various circumstances.

Our Committee

A special thanks to those who helped and supported this special thank you to those who perished while serving our country. We can never thank you enough.

Mike Burke	<i>Moose Lodge 660</i>
Helen Buss	<i>Humana</i>
Michael Cassady	<i>Village of Mount Prospect</i>
Vince Dante	<i>Mount Prospect Lions Club</i>
Emily Dattilo	<i>Mount Prospect Historical Society</i>
Dutch DeGroot	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
Sean Dorsey	<i>Mount Prospect Public Works</i>
Timothy Delaney	<i>Humana</i>
Les Durov	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
Joseph Garris	<i>Mount Prospect Police Department</i>
Hoefert, Paul	<i>Village of Mount Prospect</i>
Howard Kleinstein	<i>Village of Mount Prospect</i>
Cheryl Lufitz	<i>Mt. Prospect Park District</i>
Jim Miller	<i>Mount Prospect Fire Department</i>
Jean Murphy	<i>Mount Prospect Historical Society</i>
Carol Ohrn	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
Jim Parker	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
Marty Schopp	<i>Moose Lodge 660</i>
Bill Starr	<i>American Legion Post 525</i>
Alberto Vazquez	<i>U.S. Army</i>
Ruth Yueill	<i>Mt. Prospect Park District</i>
Larry Zabinski	<i>Photography</i>
Mike Zarnek	<i>Photography</i>

Our Sponsors

A special thanks for those that gave their support to our Memorial Day ceremony



Mt. Prospect Parks Foundation

Mount Prospect VFW Post 1337

Mount Prospect American Legion Post 525

Mount Prospect Lions Club

Prospect Moose Lodge 660

Humana

Village of Mount Prospect

Prospect Marching Knights



Humana®

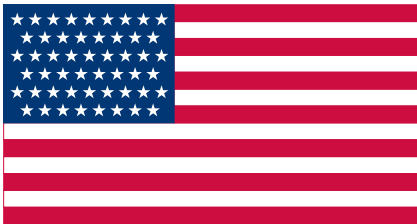


**Honor Your Military Member
at the
The Mount Prospect Veterans Memorial**

Please take a moment to visit the beautiful Veterans Memorial located adjacent to the Veterans Memorial Band Shell.

The memorial has 25 columns with a limited number of bricks *available for purchase* to be engraved with a personal message. A star-shaped water fountain is at the center. The entire site is surrounded by landscaping to provide a serene and peaceful backdrop for this important monument.

The completion of this memorial is the culmination of work that began in the 1990s with a grassroots fundraising effort to build the Veterans Memorial Band Shell. The band shell, dedicated in 1999, was presented by Mt. Prospect Parks Foundation in partnership with the Mt. Prospect Park District. To purchase a brick contact the park district.



The VFW and American Legion Posts of Mount Prospect

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525 are dedicated to our country and our community. The service of these members did not end with the military. They continue to serve by helping other veterans, active duty service members and educating our younger generation on the pride of being an American. Former military members are encouraged to join our fine organizations.