



**Supreme Sacrifice, Extraordinary Service:
Profiles of SDSU Military Alumni**

by

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Preface

This tribute to San Diego State University's military alumni started out as one of three sabbatical projects in the fall of 2005 and was intended to be a survey of the school's contributions to the nation's armed forces. The inspiration for attempting this occurred several years earlier when a colleague informed me of letters written by former students serving in the military during World War II to Dr. Lauren Post (right), a popular geography professor and football coach. Post's brainchild was a newsletter, the only one of its kind in the nation, that was distributed worldwide and kept this group of alumni in contact with one another and with those left behind on the homefront. It is the often poignant, deliberately understated experiences told in the letters by young men and women, many of whom soon perished, that demands a retelling to this and future generations. Early in the project, I began to investigate the lives of a few of the fallen heroes listed on the university's war monument in order to have some examples to cite in an essay, but as I looked closely at the abbreviated life of one deceased person after another the more I was fascinated with each of them as individuals. The feeling was heightened each time I came upon something someone had said about one of them or something profound they themselves had said or written and, the most emotionally jarring experience of all, when I came upon a photo---then suddenly, in a sense, they were not really deceased. It did not take long to come to the realization that each person on the monument had lived an interesting life and that not just a few, but every individual on the monument deserved a profile that could be read by anyone who cared to know more than merely the spelling of an unfamiliar name etched in granite, who desired to feel more of a connection to those who had given their lives in defense of the nation.



The discovery that some errors and omissions had occurred in qualifying names for the monument does not detract from personal stories recounted here that reflect on deeper issues of life, death, and purpose. And in the big picture there is much more to be said about SDSU's contribution to the nation's defense and this is highlighted in sections profiling military top brass and other men and women of exceptional accomplishment---all the sons and daughters of a proud alma mater.



The university is indebted to alumni who for decades sought to have a more prominent place on campus for a war memorial, in particular members of the War Memorial Committee who raised funds; saw to fruition the erection of a handsome three-sided obelisk (the jagged, broken top symbolizes untimely deaths) designed by art professor Jesus "Jess" Dominguez (left); and who have faithfully lead the university in commemorating those brave souls who made the supreme sacrifice to preserve our freedoms.

Robert Fikes, Jr.



San Diego State University War Memorial

Dedicated: November 23, 1996

Artist/Designer: Jesus Y. Dominguez

1996 War Memorial Committee: Chet DeVore ('41), Bob Cozens ('42), Jess Dominguez, Tony Fulton, Ish Galligan ('43), Tony Ghio ('43), Myrna Hall, (Harry Hodgetts ('41), Wilbur Kelley ('38), Bob Menke ('43), Ed Moore (('43), Tricia Moulton, Lois Roberts ('43), Joe Suozzo ('43).

SDSU War Memorial Profiles

The one thing that came across clearly in those letters to Prof. Post was a genuine affection for San Diego State, a place often described in idyllic terms. During World War II, an era when school spirit was at its peak, a sense of unity prompted a rapidly dwindling student body to organize fundraisers, letter writing campaigns, and to maintain an enormous bulletin board with photos of servicemen---an impressive manifestation of their concern for former students-turned-soldiers---and a host of other patriotic activities in support of the war effort. With a campus population of roughly 2,000 it was much easier then to have personally known many of the young men and women who were put in harm's way. It is estimated that more than 3,500 students had served in the armed forces by the close of 1945. A few even saw combat in Europe in the RAF and in Asia with the Flying Tigers before the United States officially entered the war following the attack on Pearl Harbor, another battleground where several more of our former students fought and died heroically. Many veterans returned to school in the post-war period but nearly a hundred were killed in action on four continents and were laid to rest in cemeteries around the globe.

From the late 1940s through the 1950s enrollment grew tremendously and a second war memorial plaque honoring Korean War alumni had been placed alongside a much larger WWII plaque at Hardy Tower. Eventually, as the campus expanded by leaps and bounds with new buildings and a much larger and more diverse student population, and in the wake of the politically polarizing war in Vietnam, the desire for a more conspicuous location to honor fallen soldiers was reignited. The SDSU War Memorial, dedicated in 1996, lists not only the names of alumni killed on the front lines but also those who died mostly in accidents both here and abroad while on active duty. In this section misspelled names on the plaques and the monument are corrected and problems regarding the inclusion of several names are noted.

World War II



John Edward Abbott Jr.

Capt. John E. Abbott Jr., age 25 and a resident of Lemon Grove, graduated from Grossmont Union High School and attended San Diego State from 1937 to 1938 where he pledged Tau Delta Chi fraternity. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1943. As a cadet lieutenant he participated in basketball, cross country, and soccer. John served in the 35th Infantry Division and was killed in France on January 5, 1945 during the Battle of the Bulge. He was the commanding officer of Company K. In his book *In This Faraway Land* (1971), author and former Arkansas governor Orval E. Faubus, who also served with John, recalled this memorable tribute to his fallen comrade:

"Capt. Abbott's men respected him highly. It was related to me that they were so affected by his death that they 'advanced as one' in marching fire and overcame the enemy opposition."

John was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver Star for "conspicuous gallantry in action." He was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Raymond Lawrence Adair

Born in the state of Washington but later a resident of Beverly Hills in Los Angeles County, Lt. Raymond L. Adair, age 24, was senior class president at Hoover High, manager of the debate team, and president of the Hoover Senators. In his high school yearbook he announced his intention to attend SDSU and the University of Chicago. At San

Diego State he was on the freshman football team in 1937 and in 1939 was a member of Sigma Lambda fraternity. He was also general manager of the Aztec Radio Guild, had married his sweetheart, Claudia, and was studying to become a lawyer when war broke out. Wanting to avoid the infantry, he went to Canada to join the Royal Flying Corps. Raymond fought in the Northern Pacific with the 8th Air Force, 36th Bombardment Squadron, and was decorated for his service there. But on August 29, 1942 he was reported missing in action. The B-17 Flying Fortress he piloted went down somewhere in



the Aleutian Islands. Today his service to the nation is honored at the Memorial to the Missing in Anchorage, Alaska.

Herman Addleson



Serving in the 101st Paratroop Division, Pvt. Herman Addleson died in Normandy, France on D-Day on his first and last jump mission in Europe. Born in Utah, a 1941 graduate, he was in the choir, on the cross country running team, and was known by many as the guy who sold cokes at San Diego State's basketball games. His letter to Prof. Post recounting his departure for the warfront is both memorable and poignant, to say the least. He wrote:

“We are now on the boat, destination unknown. You heard how tough the paratroopers are. What you don't know is how these same men felt as we boarded the ship and left the soil of the U.S.A. From the Staten Island Ferry to the boat was something to witness. First we joked and kidded as we passed the familiar signs, Maxwell House Coffee, etc. and then that thing stopped the crowd. It was the Statue of Liberty. Tough guys had tears in their eyes, many stood gazing with open mouths, and many a heart was in one's mouth....Then as though some giant was pushing us away, the New York skyline disappeared. Then we all leaned back and thought of what we left behind and what we are fighting for.”



In 2006, Charles Wax of Rancho Santa Fe posted on the Internet: “I've visited his grave at Normandy. What many people don't know is that Herman didn't have to serve in the military; because he had a harelip, the military rejected him. As I heard the story, Ted Williams, the baseball great who grew up in San Diego, helped pay for Herman's operation which enabled him to enlist.” Herman is buried in Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France.

Robert Marshall Alber

Army Pfc. Robert M. Alber was born in Monongahela, Pennsylvania in 1916 and at age 4 his family relocated to Hollywood, California, then to Chula Vista. He attended Chula Vista Junior High and Sweetwater High School where he played on the baseball and football teams. At San Diego State he majored in art for two years, 1937 and 1938, and was president of Phi Sigma Xi honorary biology fraternity. Leaving college, he worked at Rohr Aircraft and was a lifeguard at Imperial Beach during the summer months.



Drafted in 1943, Robert survived the ordeal at Omaha Beach on D-Day, was later wounded at St. Lo, and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. After receiving the Purple Heart and the President's Unit Citation he returned to combat in Germany and distinguished himself in battle and received additional recognitions, including the Bronze Star for saving the lives of two wounded soldiers. He wrote to Prof. Post on March 15, 1945:

“It (the newsletter) makes me so homesick...I started dreaming of the swell days I had at State. I am in an infantry outfit of the Second Division which was in on the invasion D-Day. I have been in every major battle and still am good and strong. We are deep into Germany now and hope for the war to be over soon.”

A single man at age 29, Robert was killed in action just eight days after writing the above. He is buried at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium. A street in Chula Vista is named in his honor.

James Norwood Amos



Born in Kansas City, 1Lt. James N. Amos, age 31, a resident of Los Angeles County with a wife and child, was killed in France on July 6, 1944 serving with the 357th Infantry Regiment, 90th Infantry Division, the same day he was transferred from Company A to Company B to help replenish its decimated cadre of officers. Ten years earlier he had been a student at San Diego State and a member of Tau Sigma economics fraternity. He is buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.



Martin F. Anderson

Pfc. Martin F. Anderson had enlisted at Ft. McArthur in San Pedro in 1944. His military service was brief and it was sadly ironic that he was born on Christmas Day in 1920 and died on Christmas Eve 1944, with the sinking of a trip transport ship in the vicinity of the Channel Islands off the coast of Normandy, France. For more than five decades this was about as much as could be learned about Martin's demise because the Allies drew a veil of secrecy over what was the most embarrassing and



disastrous mishap involving American troops during WWII. In 1996, the British government declassified documents revealing that Martin was one of the 763 soldiers killed when a German submarine torpedoed the S.S. Léopoldville.

Apparently, the Belgian crew quickly abandoned ship leaving 2,235 American soldiers to save themselves. Rescue efforts went horribly wrong, radio transmissions for help were delayed and turbulent seas, freezing temperature, and a host of other



unfortunate circumstances caused the ship to founder after 2 ½ hours with massive casualties.

According to one source he was assigned to Company I, 2nd platoon, 262nd regiment. Only 16 member of his platoon survived, 11 were hospitalized, and 23 bodies were never found.

Anderson's body was the only one recovered." When his remains were returned to San Diego for burial at Greenwood Memorial Park, members of his fraternity (Alpha Phi Omega) served as pallbearers. Born in San Diego, Martin was a graduate of Hoover High who attended San Diego State for two years. He had worked for four years at Consolidated Aircraft Corp.

Thomas Arellano Jr.

In the late 1930s A/C Thomas Arellano Jr. became one of the first Hispanic Americans to be accepted into a predominantly Anglo social fraternity on campus (Sigma Lambda) and was a member of El Azteca (along with future Air Force Gen. Robert Cardenas). He had once been employed at Consolidated Aircraft Corporation. Born in San Francisco, at age 27 he was killed along with another local man on March 29, 1942 when their private plane crashed west of Yuma, Arizona, between the towns of Welton and Tacna..



Roger William Armbrister



Like several other Aztecs, 2Lt. Roger W. Armbrister, age 20, failed to engage the enemy overseas because of a training mishap on American soil. A newly commissioned flight instructor, on July 25, 1943 flying a Vultee BT-15 he and another officer were killed when, while practicing S-turns, their plane stalled and crashed on a road between their plane stalled and crashed while practicing S-turns on a road between Zuehl Auxiliary Field and Randolph Field in Texas.

The fatal accident occurred just one day after he was awarded in commission in the Army Air Force. At San Diego State, Roger had been a scholarship student in physics and chemistry; was secretary of Delta Kappa; and a gold medalist on the freshman relay team in 1941. Honoring his memory, his parents donated his books to the school. He was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.



Richard Dennis Aubert

P/O Richard D. Aubert, age 20, was the first Aztec to die in World War II. Without notifying his widowed mother, he used the money he had saved delivering the *Los Angeles Times* to San Diego subscribers to leave for Canada in 1938. He soon became a commissioned pilot and was later transferred to England and



stationed at Southend-on Sea, Essex. Said his mother about her only son: “He used to tell me he was wasting his time, that there soon would be a war and he had to do something about it.” This was before the United States officially entered the war. Richard graduated from San Diego High at age 16 and could converse in French, Spanish, and Latin. In an article in *The Aztec* a former classmate recalled:

“...(He) was a quiet, likeable student. He had hoped to go to Annapolis. When he found he couldn't, he went back to his native Canada to join the Royal Air Force. I remember he wanted to return to Canada very much and eventually go to England.”

Nicknamed “Bertie,” on the afternoon of May 24, 1940, piloting a Spitfire and fighting with the British Royal Air Force (RAF) 74th Squadron, he was shot down by a German fighter plane piloted by Hptmn. Ebbighausen. His daring bravery is recounted on a British Internet site that, in part, examines the war years in Southend. It reports:

“At about 5.30 on the afternoon of 21st May 1940 over Dunkirk, Bertie was flying as Red 3 to Sailor Malan in the Squadron's first encounter with the enemy over France. He shot down a Ju 88 and damaged an He111 (bomber planes) but was forced to make an emergency landing at Calais-Merck after running short of fuel. After two days' fruitless search for petrol Bertie managed to hitch a lift home on a Blenheim bomber on the 23rd, rejoining the Squadron at Rochford on Friday 24th May. Bertie took off again for France on the same afternoon, Flying N3243. He was reported missing after Malan saw him dive after an '88, twenty miles south of Dunkirk, but this time he didn't return. Bertie Aubert's body was never recovered and he is commemorated on Panel 7 of the Runnymede Memorial.”

Allen Reeder Bailey

The son of city's personnel director, Lt. Allen R. Bailey, age 24, was born in Ohio in 1917. He entered the Army Air Force in 1940. At San Diego State Allen played the role of Brutus in the play "Caesar," and was a member of the Debate Team, Tau Delta Chi fraternity, and Toastmasters. He had completed training for his Army Air Corps wings at Randolph Field in Texas. The father of a friend reported that at approximately 2:15pm on September 5, 1941, Allen, accompanied by a fellow officer, circled his ranch home 17 mile south of Bakersfield, Texas, when "he pulled up abruptly....the plane turned over and fell," killing both men. He was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Because Allen and his brother, Richard, were killed during the war, their brother, George, also an alum, was discharged from military service and later became a mayor of the city of La Mesa.



Richard Harrison Bailey



Tragically, the brother of Lt. Allen Reeder Bailey (see above) was Army Pfc. Richard H. Bailey who died in Europe at age 21. The caption for his photo in the Hoover High School yearbook read: "Wants to be a civil engineer . . . will miss the sleep he got in class . . . has big dimples . . . is interested in math." Richard fought in Europe in the Army's famed 104th Division (Timberwolf Division). According to his other brother, George F. Bailey, also an alumnus, while wearing heavy gear crossing a river in France, Richard's boat capsized and he drowned. His body, which had been buried in the Henri Chapelle Military Cemetery in Belgium since 1945, was returned to his mother in San Diego in late November 1947. Today Richard, along with his parents, rests in Mt. Hope Cemetery.



William E. Baldwin Jr.



Fighting in the Army Air Corps, 2Lt. William E. Baldwin, 22, a Flying Fortress bomber pilot. Prior to shipping off to England he trained at Ft. Benning in Georgia and Camp Shelby in Mississippi. After bombing submarine pens at



Kiel, Germany, on April 3, 1945, flak struck his bomber as it passed over the Friesian Islands.

An explosion occurred as crewmembers attempted to exit the damaged plane. Only two survived. John was initially declared MIA. In this crew photo he stands third from left. Born in San Diego, he was quite active in his church. Since July 1949 William's resting place has been Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Joseph Morrison Barkley

Lt. Joseph M. Barkley flew a Navy R4D-6 cargo transport plane that was reported missing June 7, 1945 after taking off from Manus Island north of New Guinea bound for Biak Island nearly 650 miles west. Age 27, he was born in Live Oak, Texas. Although his name is on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines his gravesite is a cenotaph (i.e., does not contain his body) in Rosecrans National Cemetery (Section MZ Site 98). At San Diego State, Joseph earned an aeronautics technician diploma in 1938. His widow, Leah, lived in Corpus Christi, Texas.



John Warner Bassett



Capt. John W. Bassett was in the Army Medical Corps and was reported to have been killed in action during the Battle of Attu in the area of the Aleutian Islands on May 29, 1943. He was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for having taken command of leaderless troops at his field hospital and fighting off enemy attackers. Bassett Creek on Attu and the Bassett Army Hospital at Fort Wainwright, adjacent to Fairbanks, Alaska, was named to honor his heroic actions. John attended San Diego State from 1931 to 1932 and had finished USC Medical School in 1939. Age 29, he had been a resident of Pacific Beach who assisted his father-in-law in the latter's medical practice. He left behind a wife, Donna, and a 7-month-old son, John Warner Bassett Jr. In 1948 his body was repatriated and buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

William Charles Batchelor Jr.



Known to family and friends as "Billy" and "Spider" because of his long legs, S1/C William C. Batchelor Jr., was born in San Diego. The son of a career Navyman, he graduated from Fork Union Military Academy in Norfolk, Virginia, attended San Diego State in 1940, then entered the Navy as a seaman in 1941. He had survived the sinking of the cruiser USS Houston which was encircled and bombarded by Japanese warships on February 28, 1942 in the Battle of Sunda Strait. While in Burma he wrote letters and postcards to his mother and father which today are held in the

“Cruiser Houston Collection” in the Special Collections Library at the University of Houston. He was reported to have been captured by the Japanese on the island of Java and was treated horribly in POW camps in Indonesia and Burma. He is believed to have perished at 80 Kilo Camp in Burma at age 21.

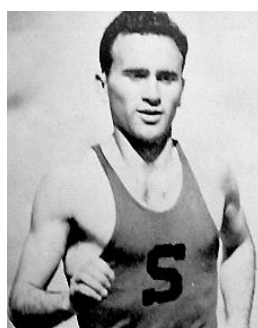
John Isaac Beck



Marine Pfc. John I. Beck (right), age 22, was a graduate of San Diego High School and as a freshman at San Diego State was a pitcher on the baseball team. At first trained as a Marine paratrooper, John was reassigned as a machine gunner and was a star pitcher on the Marine 5th Division team. His twin brother, Ernie, who also played on the baseball team, served in the Army. In 2013, Ernie told a reporter that John was “the best brother anyone could ask for,” and that he thought of him every day. John was killed during the horrendous bloodletting on Iwo Jima in 1945. He was one of the 67 young men who died in "F" Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Regiment of the 5th Marine Division. He rests in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Clair Vincent Berdel



Marine Capt. Clair V. Berdel, age 26, was a torpedo bomber pilot who was killed in a mission over Bougainville on June 16, 1944. A member of Tau Delta Chi fraternity, he was on the freshman football team, and as captain of the 1938 varsity track team he set the two-mile conference record. His San Diego home was on Dale Street. Clair was one of those who volunteered for military service shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was buried in Glen Abbey Memorial Park.



Jack Martin Berg

On the rainy day of December 24, 1942, 1st Lt. Jack N. Berg, age 20, took off from the Victorville Army Flying School to visit his parents in San Diego for the Christmas holiday, but promptly disappeared. Several months prior to this he wrote to Prof. Post:



“I attended State from the fall of 1939 till the winter of 1941. My purpose in leaving college was to add my two bits worth toward winning the war ...many things have happened since then and I don't think any of us who have left will see college again soon. I served with the Royal Canadian Air Force for one year and two months. Three weeks ago all Americans serving in the R.A.F and R.C.A.F. who wished to return to the U.S. Air Corps were given direct transfers from one to the other. I am now a first Lt. in the U.S. Army Air Corps and have been assigned to instruct in an advanced twin engine flying school. I imagine many of my friends on the campus will be surprised to hear of my good fortune.”



Jack financed his first flight lessons working as a grocery store clerk, soloed at age 15, and at age 18 earned a commercial pilot's license. He had been the youngest American ever to hold a commission in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Jack may have gotten lost in a storm and crashed off the waters of Lower California. Rescuers searched for fourteen days before giving up. Eventually parts of a Cessna AT-17 trainer, believed to be from his aircraft, were discovered on Rosarito Beach, Mexico, and it was speculated that he could have overshot a nearby air strip. His body was never found.

John Burdette Binkley



Born in Chino, California, Army Air Force 2nd Lt. John Burdette Binkley, age 24, arrived at San Diego State in 1939. He was a distinguished music major who played piano and, on occasion, played the accordion in campus shows. He starred in the campus play “Desert Song” and was in the Men's Glee Club, the A Cappella Choir, ROTC, and was a member of Omega Xi fraternity and the tennis team. Having accumulated flight lessons since his days at San Diego High, he was inducted into the Army Air Corps shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and quickly advanced through the ranks. He wound up in North Africa piloting an A-20 twin engine bomber pounding Gen. Rommel's Afrika Korps. His plane was downed by anti-aircraft fire during a raid over Siax, Tunisia, on April 2, 1943. John is buried at the American Cemetery and Memorial at Carthage, Tunisia. Posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Air Medal, in 1952 SDSU's branch of Arnold Air Society was named the John Burdette Binkley Squadron. One of

the most touching, eloquent, and unforgettable letters in Prof. Post's collection is from John to his parents just before his death. It reads, in part:

"Dear Mother and Dad:

Don't worry about me and how the war will affect me---that is without regard to actual physical injury. I mean emotionally and mentally. I believe that I am more stable now than ever before. What I mean is that I have probably reached a greater peace of mind. I am exposed to death fairly constantly, yet I can truthfully say that there is really no fear present. An occasional moment of nervous terror, yes---but if my number should come up, I am ready....Yet I do have a very strong faith. It is not a faith to be put into words but rather to be kept in the heart. The 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer give me a peace of mind that is real. Sometimes when I am flying I look out at the tremendous blue sky, the fleecy clouds, the earth below. I realize what a small yet somehow integral part of things I am. It constantly amazes me, this flying.... I know what we in the army are really going to see this thing through. I hope that the people at home do not tire of war until this is accomplished. When I look ahead I see a rather morbid picture but when I look back into history I see many which were equally frightful. Along with this morbid picture, I also see a very bright one. A few years after the war is over our standards of living will be changed to a new undreamed of level. Possibly this war will wipe out racial and political boundaries uniting this world in an intelligent peace and plenty for all. I'm getting tired so I will say good night. I am going to seal this up without reading it---otherwise I probably would never mail it."

John William Borum

On April 22, 1943 F/O John W. Borum, a 30-year-old Canadian national, was killed along with 36 other Canadian airmen when a German U-Boat torpedoed their British transport vessel "Amerika" on April 22, 1943. His body was not recovered. John's parents lived in Pine Valley and he had resided in Pacific Beach. His service in the Royal Canadian Royal Air Force is honored at the Ottawa Memorial in Ontario, Canada. A member of Phi Sigma Xi fraternity, he had graduated from State and attended the University of California. On furlough in San Diego in the fall of 1942, he visited the campus and his comments about bombing raids over Germany were reported in the student newspaper:



"On the first three trips over you're scared. After that you do not care what happens," said Pilot Officer John Borum. . . . He has served with the Royal Canadian Air two years. During most of this time he has been stationed in England. Borum piloted a heavy bomber of English make requiring a ten-man crew. On one occasion, he related the plane was pretty badly shot up. He managed to return to England and land.

Of the entire crew Borum was the only one in the plane alive."

Frank Braisted

Army 1Lt. Frank Braisted, age 25, was a member of the Physics Club and graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1941. He trained in the Chemical War Service before becoming an aviation cadet at the United States Army Air Force's primary flight school in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He was killed on October 28, 1944 during a bombing raid over Cologne, Germany (his 40th mission) when the nose of the plane he piloted was hit by enemy flak and crashed south of Duren. His wife, Nancy May, received the bad news at their home in Vista. An alumnus of San Diego High (Class of '36), Frank is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Forrest Plympton Brown Jr.



Hoover High School senior class president, San Diego State freshman class president and track athlete Lt. Commander Forrest P. Brown, age 26, was shot down by anti-aircraft fire while attacking Japanese cargo ships and destroyers. He was last observed floating in waters off the coast of Japan on February 16, 1945. The day before he disappeared he wrote to his parents: "At last our day arrived for

us to enter into combat. You would never know it as you hear the fellows laughing and joking around you. Seems like a pleasure cruise. Some of the boys you can see are little worried, but then who isn't." At the time of his death his father was actively serving in the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander. Long haunted by his MIA status and seeking closure, in March 1994 two of his sisters arranged for a "Celebration of Life" held at the MCRD complete with the playing of "Taps" and a 21-gun salute.



Maxton Brown



Army Air Force bombardier Lt. Maxton Brown got his junior high teaching credential at San Diego State in 1939. A graduate of the Oceanside-Carlsbad High School, he also has the distinction of being the first and sole graduate of Mira Costa College (Class of '35). Completing his studies at San Diego State (Class of '38), he was an employee of the San Diego Zoo before enlisting in 1942. The



youngest of five children, his last letter home, dated July 7, 1943, mentioned some “close shaves with death in the line of duty.” He had almost earned enough hours for a furlough and would have visited his parents when the fatal event occurred. Brown, age 28, was killed by a machine gun bullet while flying in a B-24 over Catania, Sicily on July 8, 1943. As a resident of Carlsbad, he had worked tirelessly to organize opposition to shooting in the Buena Vista Lagoon. The Lt. Maxton Brown Bird Sanctuary and Maxton Brown Park were named in his honor. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. Maxton rests in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno, Italy along with 7,680 other U.S. soldiers.

Warren William Brown Sr.



Killed in Lorraine Province, France, on November 4, 1944, at age 24, Army S/Sgt Warren W. Brown Sr. was with Gen. Patton’s Third Army. Born in Chicago, he attended Hoover High School and at San Diego State he was a member of Sigma Lambda fraternity. His remains were brought to San Diego in May 1949 and buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in a ceremony attended by his widow, Sarah Brown, and his son, Warren William Brown Jr., who was just seven months old when his father died.

Richard Whitaker Burch

Army Capt. Richard W. Burch, 23, had finished Sweetwater High School and in 1939 was member of Eta Omega Delta fraternity, left behind a wife and daughter. Stationed at Bassingbourn, England, he was killed June 20, 1944 on his twelfth mission over Hamburg, Germany. The bomber he piloted exploded in mid-air when hit by ground anti-aircraft fire. Only one of Richard’s B-17 crew survived. He had previously fought the Japanese in the Aleutians. Burch was awarded the Air Medal and the Oak Leaf Cluster. Fifty-five years after his death his daughter, Louise Burch Lippincott, wrote in a WWII memorial blog: “Thank you for this tribute to my Dad and the thousands like him who went (to war) sometimes before they were called without protest.”



Clarence Sydney Burgess Jr. (a.k.a. Jack Burgess)

A promising future seemed ahead for San Diego High School senior Clarence S. Burgess Jr., whose mother chose to call Jack, the name of a beloved relative that stuck. In 1938 his photo and that of a valuable ancient



Greek coin from his rare coin collection appeared in an article in the *San Diego Union*. In the 1940 San Diego State yearbook Jack is seen in a photo of the International Relations Club. But in his junior year, shortly after entering the Navy's reserve V-7 officer training program, things went terribly wrong. He soon moved to Los Angeles and worked there as a stock boy. The son of divorced parents, Jack turned to religion but became increasingly despondent. On May 11, 1941 his roommate discovered his lifeless body in their boarding room. Jack, at age 20, had shot himself in the head with a rifle.

John Clarence Butler



A bomber pilot who was killed following the Battle of Midway, Ens. John "Johnny" Clarence Butler, age 21, was awarded the Navy Cross after his squadron participated in destroying three Japanese carriers. He was attached to the carrier



Yorktown. On June 4, 1942, flying the Douglas Dauntless dive bomber (SBD) with gunner/radioman David D. Berg, he first attacked a Japanese battleship and claimed to have scored a direct hit on the stern. He next tried to attack the carrier Hiryu which was already engulfed in flames. But deadly accurate fire from swifter enemy planes sent his less maneuverable craft crashing into the sea. From the book *Incredible Victory* (1967): "In the Yorktown wardroom Butler had always said he wanted to be a fighter pilot and tangle with the Zeros. He got his chance---but in an SBD." Johnny was born in Liberty, Arizona. His mother, a resident of Phoenix, Arizona, sponsored the launching of the destroyer escort USS John C. Butler (above, right), christened on December 11, 1943.

Raul Callo



Born in the Panama Canal Zone, Lt. Raul Callo came with his family to the United States in 1917. He attended San Diego High School and was a junior at San Diego State when he enlisted in the Army in 1943. After basic training in the Army Air Corps in Fresno, Raul, age 21, flew photo reconnaissance missions in the Pacific Theater in his Lockheed P-38 Lightning and received numerous decorations. Returning from a photographic mission over Korea on August 6,



1946 in a F6D-15 Missileer he was killed attempting to land at Johnson Air Base in Iruma, Japan.

His body was later recovered and entombed at Cypress View Mausoleum in San Diego in August 1947. In May 1945, he informed Prof. Post: "I received my wings at La Junta AAF, Colorado on November 1944." He was survived by his parents, a brother and a sister. His flag-draped casket was carried into St. Joseph's Cathedral by military veterans where a requiem mass was held.

Wesley Evert Carter



A member of the Aztec Aero Club in 1937, Army Air Force Capt. Wesley E. Carter received his junior college diploma from San Diego State that same year for aeronautical technician training. In 1942 he was Squadron Commander of a dive-bombing unit at the Army air base at Blythe, California. Piloting a B-17 Flying Fortress on September 12, 1944 over Ottersleben, Germany, his badly damaged plane was ablaze so he gave the crew the order to abandon it. Two crew members gave differing accounts as to what happened next. One of the five who survived and was imprisoned said Wesley parachuted safely to the ground but that he was subsequently "lynched" by German civilians, a fate which he himself narrowly avoided. But another account, based on information a German intelligence officer relayed to another crew member, supposed that Wesley was injured when he bailed out, was not able to assist in properly deploying his parachute, and thus was killed on impact. A former resident of Ocean Beach, he was mourned by his wife, Bula B. Carter of Long Beach, California. Wesley, age 26, was buried in the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial, Neupre, Liege, Belgium.

Dennis Raymond Chamberlain

Lt. Dennis R. Chamberlain was a veteran of numerous missions in his P-38 Lightning and had destroyed two German fighter planes in aerial combat. Dennis was born in London, England and arrived in San Diego as a child with his family. He graduated from San Diego High and had attended San Diego State before entering military service in 1943. On August 3, 1944, at age 22, he was shot down while conducting a strafing operation near Le Mans, France.

According to his brother, Robert M. Chamberlain: "Lt.

Chamberlain's body was removed from the wreckage of his aircraft by two French teachers, Maurice Rattier and his wife, who were also members of the French Resistance. They buried him in a French church cemetery and tended his grave until the war ended and he could be buried in a U.S. military in France. The Rattiers ran a private school for young boys. To show their appreciation for her son's contribution to the war effort they sent Lt. Chamberlain's mother an eight volume, leather bound English version of *The History of France*."



The Lacey-Davis Foundation which locates family members of fallen soldiers has reported that a group in France had located the crash site and planned to have a monument erected in his honor, probably in June 2012 in Genne sur Glaise.

Gordon Clark Chamberlain

Lt. Gordon C. Chamberlain, 24, was one of the first glider pilots to land in France in support of D-Day operations in Normandy. For this he received a Presidential Unit Citation and the Air Medal for “superb performance in initial troop carrier phases of the invasion.” He had served in Europe for 15 months when he was killed in action in Germany on March 24, 1945. Another alumnus, F/O James W. Wallace, later reported he had seen Gordon’s final landing site and said: “I saw him in the field but there wasn’t much anyone could do. He landed his load in good condition and took care of his troops.”



At San Diego State he starred in the student-written play “Colonel’s Lady,” worked on the Publicity Committee for Associated Students and was appointed to a seat on the



Student Council. He was vice president of Sigma Delta Epsilon fraternity and was a member of Ocoatl service group and Tau Sigma economists. Gordon had also been campus president of Toastmasters International. In his honor, Toastmaster Clubs of San Diego and Imperial Counties awarded the Gordon Clark Chamberlain Perpetual Trophy for winners of high school student speech contests in the area. A graduate of Hoover High where he participated in ROTC, he married his sweetheart, Eloise Jensen, in 1943 while in the glider pilot training program in Kentucky. He wrote in his diary that being a glider pilot was “a job which I knew held considerable peril,” and had survived two near fatal mishaps. Just one month before his demise he wrote to Prof. Post:

“I thought our life was far from luxurious in England, but it was little less than that compared to our present set-up (in France). To say the very least, it is indeed a primitive way of life, but rather enjoyable for a while. It’s the same old stuff you’ve heard so much before from so many of the other guys—tents, mess kits, mud, etc., but no complaints....Perhaps my tour of the world may lead me to the Pacific theater eventually where I’ll doubtless see a lot of my college friends. This candle is getting low, so best I close up for tonite. Your friend, Gordon C. Chamberlain.”

The following year Dutch citizens who volunteered to “adopt a grave” began attending his gravesite in Margraten. Mr. Wil Offerman recently commented: “During the war, the Germans imprisoned my father for hiding Jews. The Americans liberated him from a Nazi prison two days

before he was scheduled to be executed. I show my appreciation for the sacrifice of these Americans by putting flowers on Chamberlain's grave at least once per month.”

Richard Robert Clark



26-year-old Capt. Richard R. Clark's final, tragic bombing mission was with the B-24 Liberator squadron he commanded based in Italy. On May 10, 1944, his bomber was one of five shot down in a raid to destroy an aircraft factory in Neustadt, Austria. Instead of bailing immediately he kept the bomber afloat long enough for every crew member to parachute out of the doomed plane until it was too late for himself.



Early on, Richard's driving ambition was to become a respected military officer. After graduating from San Diego High School in 1935 he attended a military preparatory school in San Francisco, was briefly a San Diego State College student and an Army private before joining the California National Guard in 1937. A year later he received his appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point where he was on the cross country team and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1942. He received his wings at Roswell Field, New Mexico. Richard earned the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster. His widow, Eveline Clark, resided in San Diego.

Richard Winton Clark



At San Diego State, Army Pfc. Richard W. Clark, age 22, born in Arkansas, was active in Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. An infantryman, Richard was killed in action in Holland, October 29, 1944, and was buried in Belgium. He never got a chance to appreciate the tourist spots he had heard about. He wrote to Prof. Post: "I had thought France was a gay, romantic country, but all I see is rain, mud and people who look like those in ancient history books."



Robert William Cochrane

Navy Radioman 3c Robert W. Cochrane was reported missing in action in the Gilbert Islands on November 24, 1943. His ship, the escort carrier USS Liscome Bay (below), was torpedoed by a



Japanese submarine causing an incredible explosion (a torpedo hit the ship's aircraft bomb stockpile), killing 644 sailors and sinking the ship. Born in Sioux City Iowa, Robert had attended San Diego State in 1939. Age 26, he left behind a wife, June Lenora, in National City. He is listed on Tablets of the Missing at Honolulu



Memorial. On May 8, 1952, his mother, Rose Cochrane, was one of three honored persons who planted a cedar tree in memory of fallen soldiers at the MCRD.

Thomas Hewitt Cozens

At 5 feet 10 inches 190 pounds A/C Thomas H. Cozens was a popular lineman on the football team. He had grown up in Encinitas and entered San Diego State in 1936. In addition to playing guard on the football team he was on the varsity track team, was Homecoming chairman in 1941, and a member of Omega Xi fraternity. He worked part-time in his father's construction company and was a lifeguard at Moonlight Beach. At age 25, while in the Army Air Corps flight training program in 1942, he and his instructor pilot were killed in an accident near Roswell, New Mexico, while on a weather observation mission. It was reported that in trying to avoid a storm front their Cessna AT-17 executed a sharp, perilous turn through a rain cloud that sent the plane into a vertical dive, crashing it nose first. Tom and his younger brother, Richard, also killed in an aerial training accident, are buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Harold Delbert Currey Jr.



2Lt. Harold D. Currey Jr., age 22, a graduate of San Diego High, attended San Diego State from 1941 to 1942. He left to attend Stanford University. Prior to leaving for the Pacific Theater he was based at Lemore Air Base in California. Harold was the co-pilot of a B-29 bomber (left) that was shot down on March 10, 1945 by anti-aircraft fire and crashed in Japan's Saitama



Prefecture. The survivors of the crash later died in a fire at a Tokyo military prison on May 25, 1945. His remains were interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on October 27, 1949. He was survived by his parents, two brothers, and a sister who live at 4261 Ethelda Place in San Diego.

George Robert Dall



Stationed in Saipan, 24-year-old Army Air Force 2Lt. George R. Dall's presumed fatal bombing mission over Japan in his B-29 (crew photo right) occurred on December 18, 1944. On a bombing mission to destroy a Mitsubishi aircraft plant near Nagoya, Japan, his plane with a crew of 11 experienced mechanical problems, was forced to leave the formation and presumably had to ditch in the ocean 80 miles west of Iwo Jima, never to be seen again. He was reported missing and was

awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart. Born in Lorain, Ohio, and a resident of La Mesa, George began military service in 1938. He received an honorable medical discharge later that year. He studied mechanical engineering at San Diego State then graduated from the California Institute of Technology (Class of '42) with a degree in engineering. He was on Cal Tech's track team. George briefly attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. Soon thereafter he enlisted in the Army Air



Forces as a Private. Three days before his death he sent a letter to Prof. Post, writing optimistically: "Have seen my brother Jim (a Navy pilot) and his wife Barb several times back in the states and expect to see him again when he comes over."

Thomas Joseph Davies

Navy Lt. Thomas J. Davies was reported to have drowned at age 24 on August 29, 1943. He had lived in Otay. An Internet site sponsored by the city government of Chula Vista shed additional light on his life and death. It reads, in part:



"He went to Chula Vista Junior High School and then on to Sweetwater High School. He graduated from high school in 1937. . . . attended San Diego State University for two years, later the University of California at Berkeley. Being the smart young man that he was, he went to the University of Maryland and received a Masters degree in agricultural economics (in 1942). He was put in the "Sixty-day Training" program and was shipped to an island in the Espiritu Santu near the New Hebrides Islands, which is off the coast of Australia. . . . He held the title Lieutenant Junior Grade in the supply room. His body was returned

and he was buried in March 1948 at the Holy Cross Cemetery (in San Diego). Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph's Cathedral."

Thanks to the efforts of local military veterans a street in Chula Vista is named in his honor.

His sister, Mary, wrote to Prof. Post to add to and clarify some details that had been published about Navy Lt. (j.g.) Thomas D. Davies whose accidental drowning on August 29, 1943 was reported in the *San Diego Union*.

"Joe went to State for two years (1937-1939), finished at Cal (UC-Berkeley, Class of '41), got his M.A. in Agricultural Economics at the U. of Maryland (1942), received a commission in the Navy, trained at Harvard (Graduate School of Business Administration) and then went down to the New Hebrides. He trained there for six months, till Aug. 29, 1943. . . . He was in the U.S.N.R. Supply Corps. He had had Dengi(sic) fever in June. The surf was a favorite sport for relaxation; until that Sunday when a heavy ripping current was too much for him to fight."

A San Diego native and graduate of Sweetwater High School, he received a formal military funeral and was buried in a "beautiful" cemetery on the South Pacific. In 1948 his remains were brought back to his hometown where a requiem mass was held at St. Joseph's Cathedral. He was reinterred in Holy Cross Cemetery. Thomas was survived by parents, two sisters, and a brother. Thanks to the efforts of local military veterans a street in Chula Vista is named in his honor.

Edward Bassford Davis Jr.



1Lt. Edward B. Davis Jr., a 25-year-old Marine, fought in the Pacific theater and was killed in action on Guam in 1944. Posthumously awarded the Silver Star, his mother said he had "crawled forward 200 yards under intense enemy fire forcing the Japanese to disclose their position before he was mortally wounded." He left behind a wife, Helen. After finishing San Diego High, Edward attended San Diego State from 1936 to 1939. He later earned his bachelor's degree at UC-Berkeley (general curriculum, 1942) and enlisted in the Marine Corps just one week after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. In a letter to Prof. Post in 1944 he commented on the school's Japanese American enlistees, perhaps a dozen or more, fighting in Europe. He wrote: "Shoji Nakadate was a classmate of mine and believe me I was glad to see his letter about the Nisei troops. It is a documentation of the ideals we're fighting for." It should be remembered that in the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor, in the spring of 1942, 57 of the San Diego State's Japanese American students were forced to leave the campus and live in "internment camps" while a significant number of them served nobly in America's war against racism and tyranny abroad. In 1938, Edward was treasurer of the school's International Relations Club.



Sherman Elmer Denny



In 1936, 2Lt. Sherman E. Denny (AAF) was a star half-back at Hoover High and later an Omega Xi fraternity man at San Diego State in the late 1930s. He had recently completed training at the Navy's Advanced Air School at Kelly Field, Texas. On February 4, 1941, at age 23, Sherman practiced

“high altitude tests” over Northport, Long Island, New York, in his Curtiss P-40 fighter plane, eventually executing a “power dive.” When the plane leveled off and traveled for some minutes the left wing suddenly ripped off causing it to crash. It was believed by some that he could have parachuted to safety but chose to stay with the plane to prevent it from crashing into a populated area. Others thought he might have lost consciousness when the aircraft reached 30,000 feet. Sherman was a good friend of Paul Siraton, another San Diego State alumnus who was killed in a plane crash three weeks prior. Survived by his parents and a sister, he is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Charles W. Dowell

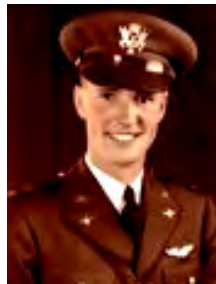


Based in England with the 535th Bomber Group (mascot image left), 503rd Fighter Squadron, Capt. Charles W. Dowell, age 27, was killed in action on his second tour of duty on November 21, 1944. Piloting a P-51D Mustang, he participated in a dogfight that brought down a German Me-109 before his own fighter plane was badly damaged by anti-



aircraft flak. Charles was forced to bail out near Munster, Germany---an emergency maneuver he did not survive. He was awarded the Air Medal and three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Nine months before his death he was interviewed by a reporter for the *San Diego Union* and tried to give some insight as to the mentality of a bomber crew in the heat of battle. He described the crew's palpable nervousness that is only overtaken by their business and careful attention to detail in order to accomplish the mission. “They are too damned busy,” he said, to be gripped with fear. Once the mission starts, he continued, “one has to be there to know the rest. Words don't work.” A graduate of Ramona High School who briefly attended San Diego State, Charles had served in the coast artillery and cavalry prior to becoming both a bomber and fighter pilot. He was buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery. His family lived on Monroe Street. He was survived by his parents and a brother.

Leslie Ward Elverson Duvall



Army Air Force 2Lt. Leslie W. E. Duvall, 22, was the only son of an Army colonel and had volunteered as an air cadet in April, 1940, receiving his commission at Stockton Field. He was in the 72nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment when he was killed at Clark Air Base in the Philippines on December 8, 1941 when high-level Japanese bombers and fighter planes attacked. His Distinguished Flying Cross citation reads:



“2nd Lt. Leslie Duvall, 0418431, Air Corps Army of the United States, distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as Pilot of a B-17 aircraft on 8 December 1941. During the Japanese attack on Clark Field, Lt Duvall succeeded in becoming airborne with his crew and managed to fight off and elude the enemy. After dark, with Clark Field unusable, his aircraft badly damaged, and himself wounded, Lt. Duvall ordered his 4 crew to parachute to safety, and then attempted to save his aircraft by landing at Fort Stattenberg without lights. The exemplary courage, fortitude, and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Lt. Duvall reflect the highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States.”

At San Diego State in 1939, Leslie was active in Epsilon Eta fraternity. His gravesite is in Manila, the Philippines.

Wesley Puckett Eby

Capt. Wesley P. Eby, age 24, was director of flying for Army Air Forces at Merced Field. On July 8, 1943, while on a mission to rescue a 15-year-old boy, he died in an accident when the left wing of his Vultee BT-13A clipped a tree and crashed near Fresno, California, in the High Sierra Mountain range. His passenger survived the crash but was seriously burned while trying to pull Wesley from the wreckage. Wesley had a wife and a 9-month-old son. Born in Indiana, funeral services were held at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, “under Christian Science auspices.” At San Diego State, Wesley was active in fencing. He is one of the persons enshrined in a plaque honoring WWII war dead from Berkeley, California.



Howard James Engle



Howard J. Engle, a 22-year-old Tec4 with the 712th Army Signal Corps, died in a hospital on March 7, 1944 from wounds received in an enemy beach strafing in the Admiralty Islands north of Papua New Guinea. He received the Purple Heart. Howard had lived in San Diego on Illinois Street since age four. A graduate of Hoover High School, he was a newspaper carrier for the *San Diego Union* until entering San Diego State in 1942. His body rests in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Clifford Gene Erdman

At San Diego State in 1939, Army Air Force pilot Capt. Clifford G. Erdman was secretary of Eta Omega Delta fraternity. Conducting an escort and strafing mission in a P-39 Aircobra in the 46th Fighter Squadron, 21st Fighter Group, his plane was last witnessed “tumbling violently” toward earth (the tail section of his plane was either shot off by enemy anti-aircraft fire or broke off due to structural failure) around Mille Island in the Marshall Islands and he was presumed killed on January 3, 1944, a month after his promotion to Captain. Although his crashed fighter plane was eventually located, the 604th Quartermaster Grave Registration Company failed to discover and identify his



remains. According to one researcher: “Local stories abound with versions of his death, but most claim he was dead or near death on landing, and was buried in the vicinity of his aircraft.” An Army search in 1949, 1995, and 1997 failed to find remains positively identifying Capt. Erdman. He had been a resident of San Marcos. Clifford was a graduate of Escondido High School and was drafted into the Army just nine weeks before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In June 1942 he was

commissioned a lieutenant in the Air Corps and in August received his Silver Wings in a ceremony at Randolph Field in Texas. Age 23 and a resident of Vista, he was awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart.

George Russell Ewing

2Lt. George R. Ewing, 20, was killed in the crash of his Douglas P-70 two miles west of Cocoa, Florida shortly after earning his wings at Williams Field in Arizona. On May 10, 1943, while conducting routine training from the Orlando Army Air Base, George flew too close to the ground, clipped a palm tree that spun him 180 degrees, knocked down three more trees and leaked a 200 foot trail of fuel that caught fire after



his plane exploded. In the fall of 1941 George was a freshman at San Diego State, living in a home on Saratoga Street.

Adelbert Faulconer Jr.



2Lt. Faulconer's sense of humor came through in a letter to Prof. Lauren Post dated March 29, 1943. He wrote:

"I'm here at the 'Bombardier College' (Army Air Force Bombardier School in Midland, Texas) trying to solve the mysteries of the bombsight and learn how to blow (the) hell out of certain pieces of geography that you used to try to pound into our thick skulls."

Adelbert, age 24, with the 533th Squadron, 381st Bomb Group, was killed in his first mission in Europe over Oschersleben, Germany, on January 11, 1944 at approximately 11:35am. Only one of his B-17's 9-man crew survived being rammed head on by a German fighter



plane that tore off a wing and caused a massive explosion. Six of the nine planes in his squadron were shot down that day. The son of a retired fireman and a 1938 graduate of Escondido High school, he had resided in Los Angeles and was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Paul Arthur Fern



Navy Ens. Paul A. "Stump" Fern, age 27, had been married a year when he was killed "in landing operations during the invasion of Vella Lavella in the British Solomons on August 9, 1943, leaving behind a wife, Dorothea Gladys, and a baby girl, Linda Ellen, who he never got a chance to see in person. At San Diego State he was president of Associated Men Students (AMS); manager of 1940 championship basketball team; member of Blue Key service fraternity; Eta Omega Delta fraternity; the Men's Glee Club; and was on the 1937 freshman basketball team.



Prof. Post, who in addition to teaching geography also coached the freshmen football squad, fondly recalled that Paul "got knocked out trying to stop Bob Cozens in that spring game, and how he was manager, mascot, and everything else to the basketball team." In the fall of 1963, Prof. Post was pleasantly surprised to learn that Paul's daughter was a student in his geography

class. In March 1948, his remains were transferred from Guadalcanal to Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Don Merle Finney



Don M. Finney (USN), age 26, was a Torpedoman's Mate 1c who was presumed to have been killed March 1, 1942 when Japanese

enemy planes attacked and sunk the fuel ship USS Pecos (photo below) near Christmas Island, 300 mile south of Jakarta, Indonesia. 172 sailors died in the attack. Awarded the Purple Heart, he is among those commemorated at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. Born in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1932, and a 1931 graduate of San Diego High School, Don was a student at San Diego State and a fraternity member (Delta Pi Beta). At the time of his death he had established residence in Pomona, California.



Gilbert Ord Fitzell

Army Air Force navigator 1Lt. Gilbert O. Fitzell, age 24, was killed when his B-17 bomber suffered a mid-air collision and exploded over Cerignola, Italy, on January 11, 1944. A graduate



of Hoover High, he played the cello and violin. At San Diego State in 1938 he was in the College Orchestra. Providing some insight into the life of an air cadet, he wrote to Prof. Post from Hondo, Texas, in February 1942:

“As yet I have not been able to fully realize that we are in a war, but when I read the letters from the boys I used to know who are over there getting in their licks, it makes me very impatient to get in mine....After this whirlwind navigation course, going back to school would be a grand vacation. I’ve never worked so hard in my life. We are in school 9 ½ hours a day and four hours on Saturday morning, besides drill and sports for an

hour each, daily. However the instructors are a bunch of ‘regular’ fellows and the course is immensely interesting.” Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Gilbert is buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

Howard Enoch Flisrand

Crew chief Army S/Sgt Howard E. Flisrand, 30, was first thought to be missing somewhere in the European theater around D-Day but a recent report indicates that he was killed when the Douglas C-47 he was aboard crash landed near Sebeville, France, on June 7, 1944. He had 3 sisters and 3 brothers and had worked as a bookkeeper and cashier when war broke out. Howard was a member of Sigma Tau economics fraternity and the Luther Club. Both he and his brother both graduated in 1938 with degrees in economics. His body was transported to San Diego in 1948 to be buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. A plaque at Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial honors his sacrifice.



John Joseph Frazer Jr.

Lt. John J. Frazer, age 30, was killed on May 11, 1945 along with 389 Americans aboard the aircraft carrier USS Bunker Hill while supporting the invasion of Okinawa. Two Kamikaze planes loaded with 250-pound bombs attacked and nearly sunk the ship (photo below). John had graduated from San Diego State in 1935 with a degree in secondary education and then studied law at the University of California before his enlistment in the Navy in October 1943. He had worked in Los Angeles for five years as an NBC radio announcer. At SDSU he was a member of the Student Council, chairman of the Assembly Committee, and a





member of Phi Lambda Xi fraternity. He left behind a wife, a daughter, and five months after his death his son, John Joseph Frazier III, was born in New York City.

Claude Freekerson

The Office of the Registrar could not find any record that a “Claude Freekerson” was ever enrolled at San Diego State, and a search of numerous databases and printed sources did not turn up this exact name or a similar name. In fact, “Freekerson” has never been used as a surname in the English-speaking world, nor can such a surname be found in any foreign country. The name was not on Prof. Post’s final list and was not included on the WWII memorial at Hardy Tower. It is either grossly misspelled or perhaps someone’s idea of a prank.

John Frost Jr.



Army Air Force 1Lt. John “Jack” Frost Jr., age 24, was declared missing flying an F-5A Lightning in action on August 26, 1943. A comrade told his parents that Jack disappeared over southern Italy on his first mission in a P-38. He once piloted a B-17 that photographed enemy positions in North Africa which helped



his unit received a Presidential Citation. His remains were eventually located in Italy and brought to Ontario, California for burial in Bellevue Cemetery. A graduate of Chaffey High School in San Bernardino County, in 1941 at San Diego State he played on the football team and was a pitcher on the baseball team. He had another year of football eligibility and, looking toward the future, he wrote to Prof. Post and asked whether or not he (Post) thought he could get back into shape and play again after the war. His mother wrote:

“...he always made many friends where he went. We were and are very proud of him but our hearts will ache for him the rest of our lives.”

Robert Morris Fuller Jr.

At just age 20, Pharmacist's Mate 3c Robert M. Fuller (USN) of the First Marine Division, was killed in action on Okinawa on May 2, 1945 while giving first aid to wounded soldiers. A native San Diegan who graduated from Hoover High, he was a resident of Point Loma, a Boy Scout, and a member of the San Diego Rowing Club. He was a student attending SDSU when he enlisted in the Marines in 1943 and finished near the top of class medical training class at Camp Pendleton. A year earlier he had stood in for his father to give the hand of his sister, Dorothy, another alum, in marriage. Robert was posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. In March 1949 his body was buried in Greenwood Memorial Park.



Lyman Judson Gage Jr.



At San Diego State a member of the Men's Glee Club and Epsilon Eta fraternity, Marine 2ndLt. Lyman J. Gage Jr., 21, married, and with a home in Laguna Beach, was lost at sea after his Corsair F4U-1 took off from Barbers Point (Hawaii) on December 13, 1943. Friendly and outgoing, he was nicknamed



“Jad.” He flew alongside alums 2Lt. Richard Rash and Maj. Ed Overend, commander of fighter squadron VMF 114. He was the adopted son of Lyman Judson Gage Sr., a resident of Point Loma who served as U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under Presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt.



Joseph Norman Gates

Bomber co-pilot Army Lt. Joseph N. Gates, 23, was killed by anti-aircraft cannon fire during a mission on October 9, 1943 near Menin, France. Though he died in the cockpit, three of the bomber's crew parachuted out. One evaded capture and made it back to England. In 1989 a Belgian journalist seeking information about three downed American planes near the Belgian-French border was assisted by a *San Diego Union* reporter who found records at Fort

McPherson National Cemetery in Maxwell, Nebraska, indicating that: “. . . Gates’s remains were reburied there on April 30, 1952. His mother, Nanette D. Bailey of San Diego, attended the funeral; his father, Earl F. Gates, of Waveland, Miss., did not.” Further investigation led to the location of Albert Lachasse, the bombardier who survived the hapless mission of the “Snoozy II” who remembered Gates as “lean and studious.” He commented further:

"Gates was more serious than the other guys. Most of us, when we were in England, were just interested in getting a drink and finding a nice English girl. My last memory of Gates is him trying desperately to put out the fire in the cockpit from the flak hits as we were going down. . . . Guys didn't talk about things like that. It was considered bad luck. All our bombing was being done in daylight and we knew one of two things would probably happen to us: shot down and killed, or shot down and injured."

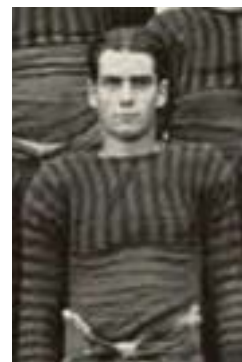
In high school Joseph spent three years in Junior ROTC. At San Diego State, he sang in the 1939 Men’s Glee Club, was a member of Catholic Youth, and was treasurer of the Newman Club. In his memory, his mother donated the tabernacle at St. Ann's Catholic Church (2337 Irving Avenue).

Clinton Burbridge Gaty

Army Air Force Col. Clinton B. Gaty’s name was added to the SDSU War Memorial in 2014. Most likely he had been overlooked because of the mysterious circumstance of his disappearance and death and because he left school and the San Diego area quite awhile before World War II



commenced. Born in 1907 in Orange, New Jersey, his family settled in La Jolla and he was a student at San Diego State in the late 1920s. He played guard on the freshman football team (photo right), was a star athlete on the tennis and swimming teams (his specialty was the 50-yard freestyle and the 50-yard backstroke), and was a member of Pi Delta Kappa fraternity.



In 1929, he married alumnae Helen Grace, a union that produced a daughter. By 1933, Clint was a lieutenant in the U.S Army Air Corps Reserve. An inventor, he had a hand in introducing the first helicopters used in World War II, the Sikorsky R-4. He had a patent for a device designed to

facilitate aerial photography called a “film magazine shutter control” (U. S. Patent # 2342512). An expert in the use of glider planes, in 1943, at the personal request of Philip Cochran who

“knew Clint’s reputation for getting things done,” he was ordered to leave his office at the Pentagon to join the war effort in the Far East.

Clint’s Republic P-47 Thunderbolt went missing in action (MIA) over Burma on the morning of February 26, 1945. After takeoff from the air commando fighter squadron base at Hay, India, he was spotted circling near Bahlaing, Burma. Ten miles away enemy Japanese fighter planes called “Oscars” challenged American pilots patrolling the region. A two-day search failed to find any trace of Clint’s plane. Probably because after he was separated from his family, because he was long absent from San Diego, and because an explanation for his disappearance was never established and his presumed death was not reported in local newspapers, he thus vanished from memory until rediscovery in 2014.

Albert J. Goeddel

Navy Chief Pharmacist’s Mate Albert “Al” Goeddel was a rather talented young poet. In the fall 1933 issue of the well-received student literary journal, *El Palenque*, he contributed a 28-line poem titled “Sonnet Sequence.” The first four lines read:

“And then again I see Minoan Circe,
Alluring, gorgeous, glittering, and cruel,
Rejecting love and loving without mercy,
Sing: Anyone but Circe is a fool”

He also had a wry sense of humor. In a letter to Prof. John Adams dated December 10, 1943 he wrote: “Today one of my patients told me that he did not think Lady Macbeth was really a nice girl. Look at the way she treated her dog: ‘Out, out damned Spot.’”

Albert, the son of a former City Manager of San Diego, at age 30, was killed in the Pacific theater on December 30, 1944. The evidence is a bit sketchy, but it appears he was killed while aboard a torpedo boat cruising in the region of Mindoro (Philippines) when Japanese planes attacked. Leaving behind a wife, Elsie, and a stepson, Albert had served in the Navy for eight years and was buried at the Manila American Cemetery.

William Steele Goodchild

An outstanding punter on the 1941 football team and a first string shortstop on the baseball team, Army Air Force B-26 co-pilot 1Lt. William S. Goodchild, age 22, a junior college transfer student from Fullerton, California, enlisted the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Prof. Post vividly recalled the college career of the “husky, good-natured athlete from Fullerton.” He wrote in the *News Letter*: “Some people used to call him a ‘beef’---he did himself—but





they failed to see that he was ‘beefing’ with a smile in his eyes, hoping to get someone’s goat, or to start a good argument.”

William was reported missing on a mission in the Southwest Pacific on January 7, 1943, serving with the 38th Bombardment Group, 71st Squadron. He co-piloted a B-25D sent to attack a Japanese resupply convoy that was hit by anti-aircraft fire and crashed into waters off the coast of New Guinea. Former student Russell Newbury, who was killed fighting in Italy months later, commented in a letter to Post: “...the news about Bill Goodchild was tough. I don’t believe there was a better liked man on the campus.”

Three years after his disappearance his status was changed to FOD (Finding of Death). Awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart, he is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery. The photo above shows William, left, with his father, Charles, center, and brother, Melvin, right.

Robert Daniel Graham



A native San Diegan, 1Lt. Robert D. Graham, age 27, attached to the 939rd Air Service Squadron, was killed in combat in the vicinity of Tacloban City, Leyte, Philippines. Sources cite his death as occurring on October 20, 1945, nearly two months after Japan formerly surrendered. It is believed he may have died as the result of an injury suffered sometime prior to the war’s end. His body was returned to San Diego for burial in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on September 9, 1948. Robert had graduated from San Diego High and attended both San Diego State and UC-Berkeley. He had a son, Robert Jr.

Robert Alfred Griffith

After graduating from San Diego High in 1939 and briefly attending San Diego State, Marine 1Lt Robert A. Griffith entered military service and completed basic flight training at the Naval Air Station at Pasco, Washington. On June 19, 1945 during a raid on Japanese positions north of Sarangani Bay (Mindanao, Philippines) one of his B-25 bomber’s engines was disabled by flak, forcing it to lose altitude until it crashed in waters nearly a mile offshore from the mission’s target. Robert and three of his crew died but four crewmen survived the crash and were rescued. He had flown 25 missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with Gold Stars, and the Purple Heart. He was 24 years old.



Frank Joe Guasti

Born in Los Angeles, Army Pfc. Frank J. Guasti, age 19, was killed near Raon L'Etape, France on November 20, 1944 while serving with the 398th Infantry. In 2002, fellow paratrooper Don Mason recalled:



"One of our company's most costly engagements was at Clairupt, France where we were caught under a barrage of mortar fire before most of us could get a roof on our foxholes. As I was helping to carry the dying body of S/Sgt Adam Rynkiewicz down the hill I looked to the side to see the body of Pfc. Frank Guasti. Partly buried by the wall of his foxhole. It was only two weeks before that I had shared a pup tent with him for two days while waiting orders to go into combat. Twenty-five years later I called Frank's parents in San Diego when the family took our son back to the Navy. Later, when I was living in Phoenix, I spent a memorable weekend with the Guastis. Frank's photograph was on the grand piano, which was a gift from his parents. Besides being a superb athlete, he was an accomplished pianist who appeared regularly on the radio."

He had graduated with honors in mathematics from Point Loma High where he was also senior class president. A pre-engineering student at San Diego State in 1943, he was interested in track and music. Frank often entertained at USO shows playing the piano and accordion for the troops. He was buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Stanley Donald Gue



Army T/Sgt. Stanley D. Gue was a top turret gunner and aerial engineer aboard a B-17 bomber (right) who was awarded the Air Medal for his performance in raids over Germany. Before his enlistment this La Jolla High graduate worked in a local aircraft factory. In a letter to Prof. Post several months before his death he



confessed to having failed to qualify as a pilot, bombardier, or navigator because of his poor eyesight and "lousy" math aptitude. Stanley was killed in a raid over Berlin on October 6, 1944. His bomber, nicknamed "West Virginian," was shot down by enemy aircraft as it approached Brandenburg, Germany. Only two of the crew survived. Stanley was one of the eight who did not. His remains were interred at the Ardennes American Cemetery at Neupre,

Belgium. Stanley, age 23, was the son of Stanley M. Gue, the administrative assistant of Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin.

George E. Hammond



Army 2Lt. George E. Hammond, age 23, with the 106th Infantry Division, was killed on December 16, 1944 on the front line near St. Vith, Belgium where German forces encircled American defenders. According to one source, he was “killed while observing and correcting fire from a standing position (and) received the Bronze Star.” He had



previously been stationed in Hawaii and the Fiji Islands serving with the 251st Coast Artillery. An Internet site devoted to the Battle of the Bulge featured a story and photo (above) of a military ceremony at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery in which George’s recovered suitcase was to be put on display 63 years after he was killed in battle. Born in Trenton, Texas, he was a graduate of Hoover High who was active in Boy Scouts and ROTC. George was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

Warren Edward Hand

A student at San Diego State and at St. Mary’s Aviation School near Oakland, A/C Warren E. Hand (USNR), age 23, was a graduate of Hoover High where he was a budding sports journalist. He had been employed in a bank at Fifth and University. Born in Pennsylvania, the son of a Navy lieutenant, at Hoover High School he was an editor of the school newspaper. Warren was a Navy aviation cadet in training when he was killed in a plane crash at Corpus Christi, Texas, on October 2, 1943. Because his family had moved to Vallejo, funeral services were held in San Francisco. He is buried along with his father, Navy Lt. Rupert E. Hand, and mother, Lillian A. Hand, in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California.



James Chester Hardin

2Lt. James C. Hardin, age 21, a P-38 pilot, was credited with shooting down a German ME-109 and was awarded the Air Medal and Presidential Unit Citation. He was killed in aerial combat over the village Baltati, Romania, on August 4, 1944, and was buried in the field where his plane had crashed. A graduate of Grossmont High, at San Diego State he was a member of Tau Delta Chi fraternity and joined the school's civilian pilot training program. He wrote to Prof. Post:



“I’m in Italy now and don’t especially care for it. The Italians here jabber too much. I was very fortunate to get in with a top notch outfit. My squadron is leading the group in victories and the group is leading in the theatre....Rec’d a letter from Bob Farmer in Oxnard and Bill Jennings in Salinas. It took so long for my mail to catch up with me. I suspect they sent it via dog cart. Got 35 letters in one crack. Haven’t seen any Aztecs here, but I always keep looking.”

In 1945, a \$50,000 American Legion Post and recreational park was proposed for El Cajon, James’s adopted home, and was to be named in memory of him.

Mason Willard Harris

Army Capt. Mason W. “Tex” Harris, age 29, of the 705th Tank Destroyer Battalion was one of the valiant men who held out at Bastogne, France, which had been surrounded by the enemy. He served in an armored division under Gen. Patton. Prof. Post printed excerpts from a letter from Harris in the *News Letter*. In it Mason expressed his elation at having received some desperately needed supplies from the air during the crucial battle. He wrote: “Doc, it’s not possible to put on paper what one feels in those instances. There were many grim sights such as you’ve probably heard, but it all came out in the end. It certainly makes a good story and has a good plot for a book, but I am not the literary type so someone else will have to write it.”



Post noted that Mason was the third person from the school’s 1940-41 championship basketball team to die in uniform (along with Ens. A. Milton Phelps and Lt. Paul Fern). He had been co-captain of the basketball team his senior year and was a member of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity. Awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, Mason was killed in action in Germany on March 3, 1945 and is buried at the Luxembourg American Cemetery.

William Sherwin Harshaw

Born in Oklahoma, Navy Lt. William S. Harshaw (USNR), age 24 and married, is believed to have been killed piloting a Lockheed PV-2 that left NAS Kaneohe Bay (Hawaii) on May 8, 1945 to conduct anti-submarine warfare training. The plane crashed offshore and the bodies of the six crew members were never recovered. At San Diego State in 1938 he was a star on the freshman football team and a member of the Roger Williams Club, a Baptist organization. He is one of those listed on Tablets of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial. Shortly after Prof. Post initiated the *News Letter*, William wrote to encourage him saying: “Knowing that so many of my



former pals are in the services, makes me more proud than ever, that I was a ‘Stater’....If you need any cash for the *News Letter*, let us know and we will all be glad to pitch in.”



William Ralph Headington Jr.

Army Pvt. William R. Headington Jr., age 20, got caught in a rip tide and believed drowned in Saidor, New Guinea, on February 7, 1944 while attempting to rescue the life of a fellow soldier. He was awarded the Bronze Star and is listed on Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery.

A graduate of Hoover High, he was a student at San Diego State from 1942 to 1943. Born in Oklahoma, he worked as an automobile mechanic and resided in Los Angeles. He was with the 28th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division. A metal grave marker “In Memory of William R. Headington” was placed in San Diego’s Greenwood Cemetery.

Edward Leo Imblum

Army Air Force navigator 2Lt. Edward L. Imblum, age 22, with the 570th Bomber Squadron



based in England that flew missions over Europe, was listed as missing in action on March 2, 1944 after bailing out of his damaged plane near Abbeville, France. According to one report: “...flak hit in tail blowing off pieces of vertical and horizontal stabs, as well as several feet of rear fuselage. A/C attempted to climb, stalled and dove down steeply and crashed (East of Oisemont, 10 miles South of Abbeville, France).” His body was later recovered and buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in France. Edward was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. Born in Colorado and a graduate of St. Augustine High School, he studied journalism at SDSU and also attend San Francisco State University. Shortly before his death he wrote to Prof. Post: “The name

‘Montezuma’ and one of your stickers of the venerable Aztec now adorn the navigator’s window of another army bomber---mine. Long may it fly.”

Douglas Arthur Jacks



1Lt. Douglas A. Jacks, age 26, was first reported missing on July 28, 1944 after a strafing mission near Granville, France. He had completed more than 70 missions in the 15th Fighter Group flying a P-47 and received several decorations. One source recapped: “(1Lt. Jacks was) piloting a P-51A on August 22, 1943, at Zephyrhills AAF, FL, when he



had a mid-air collision with a bird.” Five months earlier he had married Mary Alice Young in Dade City, Florida A San Diego native, Douglas had

graduated from San Diego High and at San Diego State he was a member of Phi Lambda Xi fraternity. He was working as a telephone company employee when he joined the military in August 1941. His body was repatriated and after a funeral service on November 22, 1948 at Benbough Mortuary he was buried in Glen Abbey Memorial Park, survived by his parents who lived in Coronado, and a sister.

Kenneth Lynn Johnson



Army S/Sgt. Kenneth L. Johnson, age 26, with the 710th Bomber Squadron, was the left waist gunner aboard his bomber that went down over the North Sea. Reported missing in action in Europe on March 2, 1944, he earned the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart (left). As a sophomore at San Diego State, Kenneth was a member of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity. He is listed on Tablets of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery at Margraten.



Paul Wesley Johnston



2Lt. Paul W. Johnston, a native of San Diego, was reported missing in action in March 1943. In May 1945 he was “liberated” from a POW camp in Europe, having been captured by the Germans at Anzio Beach (Italy) where he saw action in a raider battalion. Paul was given a 60-day furlough to return home. At San Diego State in 1938 he was a member of the Roger Williams Club. After the war he returned to campus and in the fall of 1945 he was registered as a student but did not complete a degree. In searching records on ancestry.com it was found that Paul was born February 24, 1920 and died on September 17, 1996 in Retsil, Washington. No evidence was found that he or anyone with the same name and with the same birth date in the military died or was killed while in active service. Paul’s name was not on Prof. Post’s final list nor is it on the plaque listing World War II dead at Hardy Tower. How his name wound up on SDSU’s war monument remains a mystery.

Charles Penton Jones

Having twice been seriously wounded in two previous engagements, Army Pfc. Charles P. Jones was reported to have died of a non-combat injury on Leyte Island in the Philippines. Charles, may have been born in Kentucky. He had last attended San Diego State in 1944. In the August 1, 1944 newsletter Post asked for the address for Jones in order



to send him the newsletter. The only other time he is mentioned in the newsletter is his supposed death notice in the Feb. 1, 1946 issue. He was also mentioned in Post's final list of war dead. He was listed in the 1943 student directory as being a freshman who resided at 6236 Vielle Ct., San Diego (Linda Vista). The government site confirms his death (DNB), Army rank (Pfc.), and hometown (San Diego), but no date of death or where he died. His headstone indicates he was a Bronze Star (BSM) recipient and that he was just age 19. He had been in the Army's postal service (9th V-Mail Detachment). Charles is buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery.

Richard Floyd Kates

After what was to be his last mission before returning stateside, 1Lt. Richard F. Kates, age 24, was reported killed in action. He was later said to be a POW. In the summer of 1944 he wrote to Prof. Post:



“I have 32 missions in B-24s, and it won't be long now. Just got back from my first leave, two weeks in Sidney. Those Australians are great people, and we all had a swell time down there. Combat flying has been pretty easy on me.”

It was eventually determined that his plane had left Kornasoren Airport in the Schouten Islands, Indonesia, for a bombing mission over Balikpapan, Indonesia. Withering Japanese anti-aircraft fire set the plane ablaze and caused it to crash near Balikpapan, killing eight of the ten-man crew. His body was “never recovered.” Today his name is listed on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery. The Kates family, which consisted of two older brothers and a sister, lived on Roswell Street. A graduate of San Diego High, he attended San Diego State from 1938 to 1941 when he joined the Air Force, four months prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Trained at the Air Corps Advanced Flying School at Stockton, he had survived 25 missions in the Southwest Pacific and had led a squadron of B-24 bombers. He was awarded the Air Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and Purple Heart.



Arthur Newton Kelly

Born in San Marcus but later a resident of Alhambra, California, Navy Lt. Arthur N. Kelly, age 32, was Junior Class President in 1931, President of Associated Men Students (AMS) in





1932, had participated in football and basketball, and was a member of Epsilon Eta fraternity. By 1936 he was a VF-5B pilot flying off the USS Ranger, later attached to the USS Abbott, then to the famed USS Enterprise. On April 1, 1943, Arthur, along with two crewmen, were killed when the seaplane he piloted crashed into an oil tanker. In the photo below of the burial ceremony conducted by crewmen of the USS Enterprise on the island of Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, the bugler plays “Taps” in front of a Marine Guard while crewmen stand attention.

His body was eventually recovered, transported, and reinterred in Greenwood Memorial Park on March 15, 1948. He left behind a wife, Gloria, in Los Angeles.

James Duane Koester

Son of a future mayor of Chula Vista, 2Lt. James D. Koester, age 21, had graduated from Sweetwater Union High School and briefly attended San Diego State. On November 16, 1942 he phoned his wife, Peggy, and told her he would be home for dinner soon. Minutes later his Army Lockheed P-38 pursuit plane crashed while attempting a landing at Grand Central Air Terminal in Glendale, California, killing him, two civilians, and seriously burning three persons on the ground. James had received his wings only six weeks prior to the accident and had only been married for three days. He was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Paul Anthony M. Kraemer

Army 2Lt. Paul A. M. Kraemer, age 25, was killed in action in Europe on January 16, 1945. He was with the 43rd Tank Battalion and was buried in Epinal American Cemetery in France. Born in Colorado, at San Diego State in 1936 he was a member Delta Pi Beta fraternity and was secretary of the Inter-Fraternity Council. He had married his college sweetheart, Zone Starr (Class of '37), on Christmas Day 1938, and they had a daughter, Katherine. President of Phi Sigma XI biology club, Paul was a geology major at SDSU but graduated with a degree in agriculture from UC-Berkeley in 1941. Before being shipped overseas he had been a battle training instructor in the armored replacement training center at Fort Knox.



Robert J. Landis



Born in San Diego and graduated from the San Diego Army and Navy Academy in 1934, Capt. Robert J. Landis was active in Epsilon Eta fraternity at San Diego State. He also attended UCLA. Called up for active duty in 1940, he spent 33 months in Alaska. Reassigned to Gen. George Patton's Third Army in Europe, he commanded the 2nd Battalion which braved enemy mines and artillery fire to seize the town of Eply, France. A fellow soldier who briefly encountered Robert in a battle zone described him as "a tall, handsome man," who "absolutely looked the part of an All-American." He had lived with his widowed mother at 5433 Gilbert Drive. His remains were brought back to San Diego and a military graveside service was held September 7, 1948. For eight consecutive years thereafter his loving mother placed a memorial notice honoring him in the *San Diego Union*.

Wendell Eugene Langford

Born in Iowa and later a resident of Lemon Grove, 22-year-old pilot 2Lt. Wendell E. Langford was killed when the engine of his P-70 stalled spinning the plane out of control and crashing it five miles northwest of Hammer Field in Fresno, California, on July 4, 1944. His radio operator was also killed. A graduate of Fallbrook High School, Wendell pledged Delta Pi Beta fraternity at SDSU in 1943. A year earlier while studying maps at Rankin Air Academy, having found useful application for what he had learned in Prof.



Post's geography class, he wrote: ". . . I was able to get a 98% for a final grade. I must have retained the important points. We are beginning our flight training here in the San Joaquin Valley.

We have a beautiful base and swell weather for flying.” Wendell was buried in an Oceanside cemetery next to his father, a World War I veteran.

James G. Leonard



After receiving primary training at Basic Flying School in Chico, California, 1Lt. James G. Leonard, single and age 26, saw duty in North Africa but eventually wound up in Tinwell, England where as a pilot he was killed in a mid-air collision in the Douglas C-47A Skytrain transport plane



(left) he piloted, July 8, 1944. At San Diego State he spent one year as a resident of Hardy Hall. In a letter to Prof. Post dated May 5, 1942 he revealed why he and so many other former students now fighting abroad held him in such high regard. He wrote: “In my estimation your experiment (*The Aztec News Letter*) is a success. The letters (from military alumni partially excerpted) are interesting but the list of addresses rates tops with me. There are several addresses I’ve been unable to raise thru channels which were contained in your list (in the newsletter). Thanks again for your help.” When airman David Farquhar read of James’s death he wrote this to Prof Post: “The October 1st issue of the new letter arrived today (October 9, 1944). The news of Lt. James Leonard struck me darn hard.” James is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles County

Allen Edward Lovine

Nicknamed “Swede,” 1Lt. Allen Lovine (Class of ‘38) attended Riverside Junior College where he was a star athlete, then transferred here and was starting quarterback on the 1936 and 1937 Aztec football teams. He was a Native American (Western Shoshone tribe from the North Fork, an unincorporated community in Northern Nevada, referred to as “root-diggers” or “diggers”). He was also a member of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity. Before entering military service in 1941 he was a teacher and boy’s adviser for the Carson Agency (Indian Reservation schools) and living in Ormsby, Nevada. He was inducted into the Army on June 22, 1941; was on active duty in the South Pacific; had attained the rank of sergeant, then was sent to officer’s candidate school at Fort Benning, Georgia. Allen was attached to an infantry unit in the ETO (European Theater of Operations). At age 32, serving with the 345th Infantry Regiment, 87th Infantry Division, he was killed March 27, 1945 and is buried in St. Avold, France, in the Lorraine American Cemetery.



Jack Ichiro Maeda

A/C Jack Maeda’s home was in El Centro where he was on the football team at Central Union High School. He was well liked, athletic, and at 135 pounds



was twice on the Aztec boxing team, 1939 and 1940. At age 19 he was killed at Federal Blvd. and 47th Street in San Diego when his motorcycle collided with an automobile on November 6, 1940. He was survived by five siblings, among whom was Marvel Maeda (Class of '38). His widow, Junichi, sued the motorist who killed him for \$10,500. Jack was buried in Evergreen Cemetery near El Centro. Because he was considered in transit taking a Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) course his family received the full amount of an accident insurance policy (\$3,000). He was not officially enlisted in military service and his death occurred before the United States officially entered World War II.

Howard E. McBride



Army 2Lt. Howard E. McBride, 29, was described by Prof. Post as “the blonde fellow who played the comic role in ‘Admetus’ back in 1941.” He acted in other campus dramatic productions, sang in the Christmas choir, and met his wife, E. Joyce McBride, when they were both

freshmen in 1935. Based in the Marianas, Howard, a navigator aboard a B-29 (crew photo below), tried to get his skipper to name their bomber “Monty.” Soon after returning from a raid that targeted a Mitsubishi aircraft engine plant in the vicinity of Nagoya, Japan, on January 23, 1945, his bomber was attacked by a swarm of enemy fighters, broke apart in mid-air and fell into the sea 15 miles south of the city. According to one eyewitness: “Three splashes were seen when the plane struck the water. Gas and oil fires were noted on the surface where the plane hit. No parachutes were seen.” His wife, Joyce, was the first to tell Prof. Post that the War Department had declared Howard “legally dead”. She wrote: “I think (his) last mission was about his 12th. . . He participated in the very first mission over Japan in November of ‘44 & he was very proud to be one of the few Aztecs who did. I have heard from some of his buddies who were with him on Saipan. . . .”



Lyle George McGlocklin



Having seen action in Europe and North Africa, Army Air Force 1Lt. Lyle G. McGlocklin, age 26, was killed when his bomber went down May 9, 1944 near Isigny-sur-Mer in northwestern France. It was reported that its left engine caught fire and no



enemy flak or fighter planes were seen in the area. Fifty-one years later, in 2005, two of his childless nephews and a niece were trying to scrape together details about his life via the Internet, realizing their branch of the McGlocklin line would soon wither away. They recalled: “The only thing that was returned to his mother. . . Effie McGlocklin, was a parachute jump cord with only part of his last name on it and his wings that were partially burned and melted.” Lyle was born in Boundary County, Idaho where today his name is on a monument that honors the county’s soldiers killed in four wars. He last attended San Diego State in 1938 and upon leaving he attended the University of Idaho. His remains were buried in Normandy American Cemetery.

John Baker Megrew



An English major who graduated with honors in 1940, 1Lt. John B. Megrew, 27, won prizes in the essay and short story categories awarded by the student literary journal, *El Palenque*. He later transferred to UCLA. John was in Gamma Psi journalism Lambda Xi social fraternity. Rancho Santa Fe and he had a with the 45th Infantry



fraternity and Phi His parents lived in wife, Edith. Serving Regiment, Philippine interned in a POW prisoners were onboard a Japanese POWs, was likely

Scouts, he was captured by the Japanese and camp at Cabantuan, Philippines, where some eventually rescued, but John was killed while transport ship. The ship, carrying American inadvertently sunk by attacking American airplanes. He had fought valiantly at Bataan and Manila for which he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. There is a memorial plaque honoring Lt. Megrew next to flagpole at Rancho Santa Fe Public Library at 17040 Avenida De Acacias. It reads: “Lt John B. Megrew, U.S.A. Who gave his life for his country in World War II and who was Rancho Santa Fe’s only casualty in that war.” He is also listed on the Tablets of the Missing Manila American Cemetery Manila, Philippines.



George Robert Mohr

Army Pfc. George R. Moore, age 22, was killed in Germany on January 31, 1945.

He lived with his father, two sister, and two older brothers in a home in San Diego on India Street and had studied for one year at San Diego State. His company commander recounted his final moments in a letter to his mother:

“The company was in a defensive position when attacked by the enemy. It was necessary to withdraw the platoon to which your son was a member a short



distance to form a new line. George volunteered to hold off the enemy with his automatic weapon, enabling his squad to withdraw to the new line. During this action he was killed instantly. He gave his life to save his comrades.”

George was born in Baltimore, Maryland, he attended Point Loma High School and had lived in San Diego for twelve years before entering military service. Posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (a recognition from the U.S. Army second only to the Congressional Medal of Honor) and Purple Heart, his body was repatriated and buried in San Diego in January 1949 in San Diego’s Greenwood Cemetery.

Francis M. Moore



S/Sgt. Francis “Frank” M. Moore was manager of the freshman football team. He graduated from San Diego State in 1942. He was born in Roseville, California and volunteered for military service in the Air Corps when World War II started. Frank, age 22, served in North Africa and Italy as a staff photographer. He later volunteered as a tail gunner and was killed in a bombing raid over Schweinfurt, Germany on June 26, 1944. Eight of his crew members survived but Frank went down with his plane. He was awarded the Air Medal (right), four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart. He was first buried in Neuville-En-Condroz Cemetery, Liege, France, but at the request of his family his remains were reinterred at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery 1950. Born in the Imperial Valley, his name appears on the Imperial Valley Veterans’ Memorial’s wall of fallen heroes.



Ray Edward Moore



1Lt. Ray E. Moore, age 21, a P-38 pilot who served in the 14th Air Force with Gen. Clair L. Chennault in India and China, got a chance to visit the Taj Mahal before he was killed in the Pacific theater in 1945. As a sophomore at San Diego State in 1943 he was a member of Eta Omega



Delta fraternity. In early 1945 he wrote to Prof. Post:

“I have been overseas six months now, three months in India and three in China....Life in China isn’t at all bad. Of course every once in a while I have a little trouble getting enough gas to fly a combat mission but outside of the supply problem, everything is pretty nice.”



Maurice Costello Morrell

Army Air Force 2Lt. Maurice C. Morrell, age 29, with the 95th Fighter Squadron, died in on February 23, 1944. During a test flight of a Lockheed P-38 Lightning he lost his bearings in heavy fog in some Italian mountains and “crashed in flames.” Prior to this he had escorted heavy bombers to their targets, occasionally got a chance to dive bomb, and had shot down a German Messerschmidt Me109 on his very first mission. In civilian life Maurice had worked as a fireman and was a registered Democrat. Maurice played football at San Diego State. He received the Air Medal and is buried at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy. Unfortunately, his name was mistakenly included in the section of Vietnam War dead on the SDSU War Memorial.

Kenneth Bruce Moyer

At age 20, Army Pfc. Kenneth B. Moyer died on October 16, 1944 in a San Diego hospital after a lengthy illness and after having been given a medical discharge. In 1943 he was studying mechanical engineering at the City College of New York where his medical problem commenced. In early 1944 he was hospitalized on Staten Island but was discharged in May 1944. A graduate of Hoover High School, in 1942 he was a quarter-miler and broad jumper on San Diego State’s track team. Kenneth was also a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. He had completed basic training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Despite his chronic illness he found time to write to Prof. Post thanking him for keeping him apprised of former classmates contesting the war around the globe.



Raymond Walter Mueller



Graduating with honors from San Diego State in 1939, Marine 1stLt. Raymond W. Mueller, age 28, had been an assistant of the revered Prof. Nasatir and a member of the German Club. After leaving San Diego State he earned a master’s degree in American history at UCLA. He had been a teacher at Roosevelt Junior High and Memorial Junior High. Raymond was killed during the



American invasion of Peleliu Island in the South Pacific on September 15, 1944. He and other ill-fated junior officers had found themselves in the near impossible position of trying to establish a beachhead against well-entrenched and camouflaged Japanese troops. We are told in the book *The Devil's Anvil: The Assault on Peleliu* (1994): “A witness chronicled the fate of the lieutenants trying to get things moving that morning. Raymond W. Mueller of C Company was shot through the head and instantly killed as he stepped onto the beach.” Raymond had earned a master's degree in history at UB-Berkeley in 1940. He was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery on January 12, 1948.

Russell W. Newbury



From 1938 to 1941, 1Lt. Russell W. Newbury played tackle on the Aztec football team and was a member of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity and Letterman's Club. Attached to 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, he had survived campaigns with the 5th Army in



Sicily and Tunis. Just days before his death he wrote to Prof. Post:

"I hope you don't mind the card but the Fifth Army is on the move and that doesn't leave much time for writing. Everything is going all right with the military operations and my own state of being. This campaign over here is going much slower than Sicily, but it is not quite as tough. In Sicily it was so blazed hot and we chased the skraut eaters so fast that it wore me down to the stub. The day I got to Messina I weighed 151 pounds. Best of everything to you, Doc, and best wishes for the holiday."

Russell, age 24, was killed by artillery shrapnel on November 11, 1943 near Caspoli, Italy, and was mourned by his wife, Elsie who lived in Anniston, Alabama. He was buried at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery at Nettuno, Italy.

John Roger Nolan

The son of a Navy Commander, Marine Pfc. John R. Nolan, 20, was killed in action in the fierce battle for Okinawa on April 15, 1945. He was with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines (2/4, nicknamed the "Magnificent Bastards"). John attended St. Augustine High and graduated from Grossmont Union High where he played on the football team. At San Diego State from 1941 to 1942 he was a member of Delta Pi Beta fraternity. John lived in La Mesa. Writing to Dr. Post, alumnus Navy Lieutenant Charles St. John lamented: "It's almost impossible to imagine a laughing, happy-go-lucky kid like him as being one of those to go. Lord, how many millions of us are praying for this awful mess to be over?!" John was buried at the Honolulu Memorial.



Frank Davis Oliver



As a sophomore in 1940 Lt. Frank D. Oliver sat on the Student Council representing Lower Division. He was a



member of Ocootl, Tau Delta Chi fraternity, and was an ROTC cadet. Frank was the first student at San Diego High School to complete a course at Super Flying Service and was the first college student south of Los Angeles to complete the CAA (Civil Aeronautics Administration) flying course. Four months before his death he had been awarded an associate's degree in liberal arts. The editor of *Contact*, the news publication of the Ryan School of Aeronautics in Hemet, dedicated an issue to Frank, writing: "(He) possessed in amplitude all of the qualities that we consider the vital foundation of officers, gentlemen and friends. Loyalty to his classmates, to his superiors, to his high concepts of right living were his most outstanding traits." At age 21, Frank was killed when the engine of his BT-14 trainer plane stalled and he crashed three miles west of Seguin, Texas, near Randolph Field. His remains were sent to San Diego for cremation.



Donald Cook Owen

An ace pilot with 5 kills flying the F4U and F4F Corsair, 31-year-old Marine Capt. Donald C. Owen was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Gold Stars



and Air Medal with Gold Stars. The medals were received by his parents. On May 26, 1945 on his second tour of duty, his plane was observed spinning out of control and crashing into the ocean. His body was not recovered. The boy who once walked the streets of Chula Vista now has name is on the Tablets of the Missing, Honolulu Memorial Cemetery. Donald had fought at Guadalcanal to hold Henderson Field, the battle for Okinawa and Iwo Jima, participated in raids on Tokyo, and had the distinction of serving under Major "Pappy" Boyington. He had returned to San Diego State to address the student body about the early difficulties of the war. During his college days in the late 1930s he was a member of Tau Delta Chi fraternity. Today a street in Chula Vista bears his name. Exactly one month before his death he wrote a letter to Prof. Post saying: "There isn't much I can tell you about myself, I've done just about the same things aboard a carrier everyone else does including scraping me off the island and fishing me out of the drink. I've been in a few (aerial) fights and have managed to build my score up to five so far and naturally want to get just a couple more."



James P. Parks

22-year-old Capt. James P. "Penny" Parks, a Marine, fought in



the Pacific theater for six months. He had participated in missions in the Solomon Islands and was credited with destroying a Japanese plane on Bougainville. According to his mother, Rose Miller Parks, who corresponded with Prof. Post, in the midst of a tropical storm on December 5, 1943 James's dive bomber ran out of fuel and was last observed crashing into the sea in a region of the New Hebrides. She wrote: "I am living just a day at a time, hoping and praying---trying to be a worthy mother of a Marine flyer." His body was not recovered. A year after being declared missing the navy formally declared him deceased. At San Diego State in the early 1940s he starred in both a radio dramatization and the student-written play "It Takes All Kinds," was a member of Eta Omega Delta and on the Inter-Fraternity Council. His father was a medical doctor whose specialty was tuberculosis, and his mother was treasurer of the city of La Mesa.

Royal Arthur Parks Jr.

On April 7, 1945, Army Pfc. Royal A. Parks, age 21, with the 68th Infantry Battalion, 14th Armored Division, was killed in action in Germany after fighting five months with the 7th Army. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart and is buried in Lorraine American Cemetery in France. Royal had been student body president at San Diego High and had been at San Diego State for one year when the U.S. entered the war and he enlisted. He was in Tau Delta Chi fraternity and the Rotary Club. While in the military he briefly studied engineering at the University of Cincinnati. He is buried in Lorraine American Cemetery in France.



Samuel John Patella



Few students in the school's history were as active in campus groups as Navy Lt. Samuel J. Patella who graduated with a degree in liberal arts in 1939. His activities included membership in Ocoatl service organization, Eta Omega Delta social fraternity, Tau Sigma economics fraternity; participation on the basketball and rack teams; senior class vice president and a seat on the Student Council; Del Sudoeste (yearbook) staff and reporter for *The Aztec* (student newspaper). In a letter to Prof. Post he expressed his feelings on



hearing of the deaths of former classmates:

"After reading of Bill Shropshire and Paul Fern, you can't imagine how I felt. I was in Corpus Christi when Milky was there & it was the same feeling I had as when I heard of his terrible accident. The thing that makes you feel so bad is knowing that you won't

have the pleasure of speaking to those boys again. ‘Milky,’ ‘Punchy,’ & ‘Sharpy’ were real, 100% American men and if for no other reason we should work harder to achieve victory.”

Upon hearing that Samuel was reported missing in action while conducting a bombing raid flying a B-24 Liberator in the South Pacific’s Tuvalu islands on October 20, 1943, Marine Maj. Ed Overend, an Aztec formerly with the “Flying Tigers,” commented:

“We struggled through our first ten hours together. Sam’s ever present smile and friendly way will never be forgotten. He was the kind of fellow you like to live with---that’s important out here.”

His assumed accident is reconstructed in the book *Bluejacket Admiral* by Vice Admiral John T. Hayward:

"Then on 18 October we lost Sam Patella's 32102. It just disappeared, flying into a serve cold front north of Funafuti on a run at Tarawa, a mission he'd requested. Two days earlier, flying that plane, I'd noticed his gyro horizon gauge was awry. Storm turbulence had tumbled it, probably, and thrown him into the sea. We did a three-plane sweep off his last known position but saw no trace of the plane. . . . Losing people in battle is hard to take. Losing Sam the way we had hurts more."

26-year-old Samuel left behind a wife, Marie, in Los Angeles, his hometown.

Robert Charles Peterson



S/Sgt. Robert C. Peterson, 28, son of the revered C. E. Peterson, Dean of Liberal Arts and track coach, died from combat wounds in a field hospital on February 24, 1945. Robert transported ammunition, was in charge of a heavy gun battery, and had earned his last rank upgrade in the field. The only child of a faculty member to have been killed in action, he had landed in France with Allied forces one day after D-Day. An outstanding scholar-athlete at Hoover High, at San Diego State he was a member of Omega Xi fraternity and graduated with a degree in physical education in 1935. He is buried in Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium.

Atwell Milton Phelps



The celebrated captain of San Diego State's only national championship basketball team (1941 NAIA Champions), for three consecutive years. Atwell M. "Milky" Phelps won the Paul W. Mott Basketball trophy and was a 1940 All-American selection. At age 23 he was killed in a Navy aerial training accident in Texas on November 12, 1942. His death was reported in the *New York Times* and he was awarded his bachelor's degree posthumously at the Spring 1943 commencement. The Phelps Memorial Trophy was established in 1943 by 17 of his former teammates to be presented to the basketball team's honorary captains. In 1988 he was added to the Aztec Hall of Fame. Milky Phelps was a member of Eta Omega Delta fraternity.

Leo Poole

Although the Office of the Registrar could not locate any record confirming that a "Leo Poole" had ever enrolled at San Diego State, attendance record for many the university's military has been lost, particularly those who were here prior to 1945. U.S. Census records reveal that a person named "Leo W. Poole" was born in San Diego in 1916 and resided here in the 1930s. And though online military databases and casualty lists did not mention a person by this name, an Internet site pertaining to the D-Day invasion features the recollection of a sailor who identified a "Leo Poole" as a boatswain aboard the minesweeper YMS-305 that was present off the shores of Utah Beach. The name "Leo Poole" was not on Prof. Post's final list nor was it included on the WWII memorial at Hardy Tower.

Raymond Craig Potter

Cpl. Raymond C. Potter, age 20, was killed in action on January 16, 1945 while fighting in Luxembourg. He fought in the famed "Yankee Division" of the Third Army. A graduate of Grossmont High, as a sophomore at San Diego State he was a member of Sigma Delta Epsilon fraternity and was on the 1942 Debate Team. A resident of La Mesa, he was the only child of his parents. In July 1948 his body was returned to San Diego for burial.



Gilbert Foon You Quon



Born in China, Air Force flight engineer 1Lt. Gilbert F. Y. Quon, age 27, died on April 14, 1945 and is buried at Ft. McPherson National Cemetery in Nebraska. His bomber took a direct hit from anti-aircraft fire while flying over Kawaguchi City, Japan, on April 14, 1945, then crashed killing the entire crew of twelve. At San Diego State in 1941 he was a member of Delta Kappa physical science fraternity. Born in China, after attending San Diego State he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at UC-Berkeley. His remains are buried in Ft. McPherson National Cemetery in Nebraska.

Lynn E. Rogers



A/C Lynn E. Rogers, age 26 and the only son of his parents, had been a pole vaulter on the Aztec track team. In 1937 he pledged Phi Lambda Xi fraternity. Born in Alameda, California, after attending San Diego State he earned a master's degree at Stanford University. He was once a member of the San Diego Rowing Club. Lynn died in an accident at Hemet, California, on March 10, 1941 when his Ryan PT-16A training plane collided with another plane in mid-air. The cadet pilot of the other plane, a PT-13 managed to parachute to safety and suffered only a broken leg. Lynn's civilian flying instructor was also killed in the accident. After a private ceremony his cremated remains were buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Kramer Wirth Rorig

Army Air Corps pilot 2Lt. Kramer W. Rorig, age 23, was killed in action in aerial combat over North Africa on April 30, 1943 when his plane was downed by a direct hit from enemy ground fire. Born in Pierre, South Dakota, his family lived in Elgin, Illinois before relocating to San Diego



in 1936. He could trace male ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. A student at San Diego State from 1937 to 1939, he was a member of the Catholic Newman Club and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. Kramer had been employed at Consolidated Aircraft Corporation prior to entering military service in 1941. He married just one day after receiving his wings and commission at Williams Field in Arizona. His widow and San Diego State alumnae, Gloria Phillips Rorig, received his posthumous Purple Heart and Air Medal. He is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

George Danilo Rosado

1Lt. George D. Rosado, age 27, died with his two crew members in a B-25D when it crashed 25 miles west of the Army Air Field at Victorville, California on October 2, 1944 during a training exercise. The pilot in another plane in the area observed George's plane in a spin at 5,000 feet. In 1937 the New York-born Aztec Radio broadcaster was in Eta Omega Delta fraternity. Amazingly, after numerous tries by searchers to relocate the crash site, it was eventually found and excavated. On July 10, 2005 at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery the wife, son, and daughter of George were handed 11 of his personal artifacts found at the site. The Rosado family placed a plaque at the crash site that included an excerpt from a poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson titled "Crossing the Bar." The plaque reads:



"In honor and remembrance of
 our beloved Husband and Father
 1st Lt. George Danilo Rosado
 United States Army Air Corps
 1917-1944
 with crew members:
 WASP Marie Mitchell Robinson
 and
 Staff Sgt. Gordon L. Walker
 Who died in the crash of B-25 #41-30114
 At this site, Oct. 2, 1944
 Sunset and evening star
 And one clear call for me
 I hope to see my pilot face to face
 When I have crossed the bar."

Richard Warren Roth



Army T/Sgt Richard W. Roth, age 23, was killed along with 20 other communication technicians in the crash of a B-32 on take-off in the Ryukyus on August 28, 1945. The technicians were in route to set up communication equipment in Tokyo in advance of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's arrival. Born in Fresno, Richard had graduated from San Diego High and attended San Diego State. He next worked at an area aircraft factory then enlisted in the Army and was a radio operator and gunner aboard a



Consolidated B-32. In 1941 Richard was on the Aztec boxing team. His body was repatriated and buried in Greenwood Memorial Park in March 1949.

James Wynbourne Routh Jr.



Army 1Lt. James W. Routh Jr. was remembered by fellow soldier and San Diego State alumnus Pfc. John F. Couvrette who reported the details of Jim's service. He wrote:

"Jim attended State College for about three years starting in 1936. He later went away to complete his studies. At the time the war broke out he was an officer in the Philippine Scouts. He suffered a wound that put him in the hospital, where he recovered. Upon his recovery he insisted upon returning to active duty with his troops instead of taking a rest prescribe by his doctor. Shortly after his return to duty he suffered another wound which proved fatal. Jim was one swell fellow and the

news of his death in action was a shock to us all."

An ROTC colonel of Hoover High School, he had been on the Aztec Fencing Team in 1938. James transferred to UC-Berkeley where he was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. He graduated there in 1941, then enlisted in the Army in San Francisco. James had seen action at Bataan. A Purple Heart recipient, he died April 9, 1942 fighting with the 23rd Infantry and is buried in Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

Francis Richard Ryan

Born in Chicago, Army Pvt. Francis Ryan arrived in San Diego in 1935. He was a graduate of St. Augustine High School. During his college days he was active in radio and drama and had been an announcer on radio station KGB, had given book reviews over KFSD, and while in training at March Field had



written and participated in radio service shows. Francis left San Diego State in 1942 to enter the military. He relayed this to Prof. Post in the summer of 1944:

“We were bivouacked in a Belgian count’s chateau. It was a lavish place with empaneled, embroidered walls, carved wood ceiling, elaborate chandeliers, etc. It had straw all over the floor for sleeping G.I.s. The count seemed an anomaly in our G.I. mess line. His worldly possessions were as far-flung as his outlook. We see numerous fleets of bombers en route to military objectives. This is beautiful country. The people speak French.”

At age 24 Francis was killed in Belgium by small arms fire during the Battle of the Bulge on December 21, 1944. He had previously been wounded in battle in Germany and was with the 635 Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Alvin DeWitt Sachs

Alvin D. Sachs was a freshman who drowned on April 13, 1940 when a strong wave washed him off a rock at Sunset Cliffs. No record was found to confirm active military service of this 18-year-old man and his death occurred before the U.S. entered World War II, however, like others, he may have acquired pre-enlistment/draft military training. Orphaned at age 9, he was raised in the home of his grandparents, the Rev. Philip and Catherine Sachs, in a home on Pershing Avenue and was described as “a fine Christian youth.” He was entombed at Cypress View mausoleum.



William Earle Sage

At age 23 1Lt. William Earle Sage, a Navy fighter pilot, was shot down in an area off the Solomon Islands on July 25, 1943. His body was not recovered. Posthumously awarded the Air Medal, he had earlier destroyed a Japanese bomber. William was supposed to have married his sweetheart, Gloria Weems Ortega, upon his return from battle. Instead, she placed a wreath at the foot of the SDSU’s War Memorial that has his name etched in granite, 53 years after his demise. He was a graduate of El Centro High School and was a member of Sigma Lambda fraternity. He is buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery.



James Edwin Samuels



Although the Office of the Registrar could not find any evidence that a “James Samuels” was ever enrolled at San Diego State (a not uncommon finding), the name was never mentioned in the wartime *News Letter*, and a search of numerous databases and printed sources did not turn up this exact name, it is now believed that the person listed on SDSU’s War Memorial is actually “James Edwin Samuels.” The name “James Samuels” (minus a middle name) made Prof. Post’s final list of alumni war dead and is on the memorial plaque at Hardy Tower. Recently discovered sources reveal that James was born in Missouri, raised in Arizona, and that he attended San Diego State in the early 1930s and pledged Delta Pi Beta fraternity. A single man who loved playing polo, he later earned a master’s degree in education at Arizona State University, taught at a junior college in Phoenix and co-owned a lumber company there. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1940 and survived a crash in an A-12 trainer plane at Paumalu Plantation, Hawaii, on October 28, 1941. Though the circumstances of his death during World War II have yet to be uncovered, there is good evidence that he died in 1943 at approximately age 29 and had attained the rank of Captain. James’ contribution to the war effort is also recognized in Maricopa County, Arizona, as his name appears on a soldiers’ memorial there.



Joseph Hamilton Savage Jr.

Army Sgt. Joseph H. Savage, age 25, was a 1937 graduate of San Diego High School where he played football well enough to be selected for the All-Coast Prep League Team. Called “Sparky Joe” by his friend, he won a scholarship to Gonzaga University and later attended San Diego State and was a member of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity. In his last letter to his parents he wrote:

“Needless to say, at the present time my black hair is not quite as black as before. As a matter of fact, grayness has shown its ugly face. I believe you and papa both had gray hair in your twenties. Yes, folks, prayers are a very comforting thing and I take full advantage of them most of the time. Funny thing, I’m not concerned as much about my own welfare as I am with you two folks at home.”

Joseph, the only son of his adoring parents who had six girls, was killed in action in Normandy, France on July 7, 1944. After a requiem mass at St. Patrick’s Church he was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery on April 30, 1949.

Richard Joseph Sawaya

Army Air Force Sgt. Richard J. Sawaya, age 28 and married, was killed over Boulogne, France, on June 5, 1944 when his B-17 bomber collided with a damaged plane in mid-air. It was his first and last mission as a waist gunner. The son of Lebanese emigrants, Richard was born in San Diego. In 1937 he was on the Aztec freshman football team. Previously an aircraft worker at CACorp, he lived with his wife, Elaine, and son, Gary, in a home on 33rd Street. His body was repatriated and buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in April 1950.



Edward Lewis Searl III

Eschewing the relative safety of ferrying planes from Karachi, Pakistan into China, Army Air Force 2Lt. Edward L. "Eddy" Searl III, age 22, requested and was granted combat duty. Serving in the 16th Fighter Squadron of the 10th Air Force, he was reported missing in 1943. Later it was said he had been killed on June 5 while on a mission over Asson, India, but a flight log recorded at the time reported Edward was killed in a take-off accident at Cooch-Behar, India. The son of an Army officer, he was born in San Diego, graduated from Hoover High, and attended San Diego State for two years. His brother, Herbert, another San Diego State alumnus, was a POW in Manila. Edward was in Phi Lambda Xi fraternity, was coxswain for the San Diego Rowing Club, and on the 1941 Rally Committee. In March 1949 his body was repatriated and interred in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. His brother, alumnus Herbert H. Searl, along with Herbert's wife and child, were detained by the Japanese military in Manila and held for three years until liberated in early 1945. His father, Edward Lewis Searl Jr., an Army Air Corp lieutenant who was killed in an accident at Brooks Field in Texas in 1925, is also buried at Rosecrans together with his wife, Shirley Dorothy.



Maxwell Butler Sherwood



Ens. Maxwell B. Sherwood died on November 6, 1943 at age 31 in a naval hospital in Hawaii after an operation on an injury. He was a 1938 graduate in junior high education; was a member of Sigma Delta Pi fraternity; and a member of Roadrunners. Born in Washington State, Maxwell rests eternally in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



William Bryan Shropshire Jr.

A graduate of Point Loma High School, 24-year-old Ens. William B. Shropshire, the only son of his parents, was on the 1939 Aztec freshman track team and was a member of Eta Omega Delta fraternity. The son of a mining engineer, he had survived the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor and narrowly missed out on the crucial Battle of Midway. A flyer attached to the USS Detroit on convoy duty sailing between Hawaii and San Francisco, on June 27, 1942, William was ordered to take to the sky to try and spot a reported enemy vessel in the area. The *San Diego Union* picks up the story:



“His shipmates watched the plane disappear over the horizon and some time later received a radio message from him informing them that he was down but was doing all right as his plane was afloat and if it sank he would take to his rubber raft. For three hours he continued to talk to his ship, then just before his radio went silent he revealed that he had not received any word from the cruiser....Planes were sent up by the navy from Pearl Harbor, from San Francisco and from San Diego to scout the ocean, but the search proved fruitless.”

A year later (July 7, 1943) the Navy notified his parents it presumed him deceased.

Frederick Jefferson Simpson



Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate Frederick J. Simpson, age 31, was killed while onboard the USS William B. Preston (left) which was attacked by Japanese warplanes off Darwin, Australia



on February 19, 1942. His ship's zigzag maneuver in the harbor to avoid attacking enemy planes was only partially successful as it was badly damaged but not sunk, however 14 sailors were killed. Frederick was one of the three sailors declared missing in action and was buried at sea by “administrative decision.” It had been three year since he had seen his wife, Helen, in San Diego. He is listed among on the Tablets of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines. He was also survived by his father and two sisters in Erie, Pennsylvania.



Pfaeffle Kirkpatrick Simpson

A graduate of Hoover High and a 1945 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, Lt. Pfaeffle K. Simpson had attended



San Diego State from 1938 to 1940. While at the Academy in 1942, writing to Prof. Post he displayed the kind of esprit de corps typical of American soldiers at the beginning of war: “Several Men Back from the Pacific have told us something of the war, and they all, including Admiral Halsey, told of the courage and resourcefulness of the enlisted man. Well, all I can say is that when the time comes we won’t let them down, and I’m not just talkin.” At age 25, he had a wife, Shirley, and a daughter, Sherry Lynn. His father, Pfaeffle Simpson Sr., was also a Navy lieutenant. A pilot in training, on May 6, 1946 during dive bomber practice his plane’s tail tore off resulting in a fatal crash at 2:55 pm 10 miles from NAS Jacksonville (Florida). His body was cremated and buried at sea.



Paul O. Siraton

In 1939 A/C Paul O. “Babe” Siraton was a member of Alpha Eta Rho aeronautics fraternity and played on the football team. Born in New York, at age 22 he died when his private plane crashed into the basement of a building and exploded in Burbank, California, on



January 15, 1941. Previously, he has taken an aeronautics course in Chula

Vista and had trained with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He had been forced to leave San Diego State in 1938 because of an automobile accident which caused him temporary eye damage. His remains were interred in the Orthodox Jewish Home of Peace Cemetery in Los Angeles.

Thomas A. Skinner

At San Dieguito High School in Encinitas, Army Pfc. Thomas A. Skinner lettered in football, basketball, and track and was The Boy’s vice president. Just prior to the war he had worked as a riveter at Consolidated Aircraft Corp. At age 23, he left San Diego State after his second year and enlisted in the military in 1944. An air cadet turned paratrooper., he was “killed in an invasion raid over Germany” on March 24, 1945. He is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. He had a wife, Betty, and a daughter.



Barton Curry Smith (a.k.a. Curry Smith)

Unfortunately, the day before Barton C. Smith intended to enlist in the Army he got caught in a rip tide off Mission Beach and drowned on October 12, 1940. “I’m taking my physical exams for the army Monday,” he told co-workers at the county hospital, two hours before a rip tide at Mission Beach took his life. At the time the 22-year-old was working as an orderly at San Diego County General Hospital. He had



enrolled at San Diego State in 1938. Barton was buried in Harvey's Chapel Cemetery near his hometown in Marmaduke, Arkansas.

Frederick Bruce Smith



Born in Shellyville, Indiana, Capt. Frederick B. Smith played on the freshman football team in 1939 and was a member of Eta Omega Delta Fraternity. He penned two letters to Prof. Post in 1944. The following is excerpted:



“...believe me when I say that this old country (Italy) makes you appreciate the States. Confidentially, I am quite disgusted in the fact that (this) world of ours is supposed to be civilized and honestly one can hardly believe the sights one sees....Yes, I am here to tell you that I have been on

some interesting and disastrous raids. One of which was on a certain well known oil field. I have been recommended for the D.F.C. (Distinguished Flying Cross) and I already have the Air Medal with one cluster and the Purple Heart. I received the Purple Heart as a result of coming back from a raid and I lost one of my two remaining engines. I had to land in a certain sea and our plane broke in two. Lost 4 members of my crew and were picked up by the British shortly before the Germans arrived on the scene. I never want to experience it again. I am and have been a Flight Leader in a Heavy Bombardment Group.”



Shortly after writing the letters Frederick was killed on June 16, 1944 when his bomber crashed after being hit by anti-aircraft flak in the vicinity of Vienna, Austria. A photo (above) was snapped showing a crewman exiting from an escape hatch near the cockpit of Frederick's B-24 Liberator bomber which had burst into flames. Three crewmen survived and became POWs but Frederick could not bail out in time to save himself. His grave is in the Ardennes American Cemetery in Belgium. He left behind a wife, Betty, in San Diego.

Robert Harlan Smith

On a mission to destroy an aircraft factory, 2Lt. Robert H. Smith, 25, co-piloted a B-17 bomber called the “Anita Marie” that was downed by anti-aircraft flak over Leipzig, Germany, on July 7,

1944 and crashed at Altenroda, Germany, killing three of its crew. Six were captured as POWs. He had flown 43 missions. Born in Alma, Michigan, Robert was a graduate of Hoover High School and had attended San Diego State for two years. He was also a former employee of the *San Diego Union-Tribune* Publish Company. In 1937 he was in Delta Kappa science fraternity and played on the Aztec football team. He was awarded the Air Medal with several Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and was buried in Lorraine American Cemetery in St. Avold, France.



Samuel Carson Spade

A prominent student on campus in the mid 1930s, Samuel Carson Spade (Class of '35), who usually went by the name Carson Spade, was never in military service. It was mistakenly reported in the April 1, 1945 *News Letter* that he was “missing in action according to an unofficial report.” Prof. Post noted the mistake in the June 1, 1945 issue of the newsletter and stated flatly that Mr. Spade was, “Not missing nor is he in the service.” He continued: “Sorry we can’t give a complete accurate report now, and also we are sorry the original mistake was made.” Strangely, despite this correction, when the February 1, 1946 issue of the newsletter (with a new editor) presented a tally of the war’s dead and missing Mr. Spade’s name appeared in a list of twelve men considered still missing. But a search of the online databases confirm that Mr. Spade, who worked for many years in the San Diego County welfare office, was actually alive in 1996 when SDSU’s monument/war memorial was nearing completion and that he died in San Diego on September 19, 1996.



John Ferguson Stevenson

On March 3, 1942, 2Lt. John F. Stevenson (AAF), age 23, was killed when his Curtiss O-52 patrol plane fell from the sky in a spinning motion two miles southeast of Bithlo, Florida. A graduate of Hoover High School, at San Diego State in 1939 he was a member of the Physics Club. A chemistry major, John finished his studies at San Diego State in 1940 and proceeded to join the Army Air Corps and got his wings at Randolph Field in Texas. Said liberal arts dean C. E. Peterson: “We remember him as a very likeable lad with a sunny disposition.” A native San Diegan, he was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.





Victor Raymond Talbot

As a student in 1940 1st Lt. Victor R. Talbot was on the Rally Committee and was a member of Delta Pi Beta fraternity. He was declared missing in action after engaging enemy bombers and fighters in the vicinity of Port Moresby, New Guinea, on May 4, 1942, the day the Battle of the Coral Sea commenced. When Victor and the other three planes (Aircobras) failed to return from their mission over Japanese-controlled Lae Airfield it was thought the likely reason was bad weather in the region. Six months later a

cousin who thought he heard Victor's name mentioned in a list of POWs on a Japanese broadcast informed his wife, Lena, who tried in vain to get more details about his disappearance from the government. Two years after the his disappearance he was declared deceased. Known for his brave exploits, an airfield in New Guinea was named in his honor. Victor, age 24, was awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart. He had a wife, Leana. Talbot Court in Chula Vista is named in his honor.

William Henry Taylor



1Lt. William H. Taylor, age 22, a B-25 pilot with the 82nd Squadron of the 12th Bomb Group, left San Diego State after his freshman year. While being transferred to another based he was killed in a plane crash in India on September 20, 1945, five

month after his marriage to Marian Adams at Mather Field, Sacramento. He had served in the military for two years and had been abroad for eight months.



Ross Albert Tenney



1Lt. Ross A. Tenney, 24, born in Casa Grande, Arizona, starred in the campus produced operetta "Chaparral" in 1941 and played on the "Bee" football team. An Army Air Force co-pilot, he was killed in a B-24 bomber raid over Kiel, Germany, on May 14, 1943. He is buried in Rock Island National Cemetery in Illinois. The photo here shows the unfortunate crew of the "Annie Oakley Crack Shot" with Ross standing second from the left.



Clarence Frank Terry



Encountering bad weather conditions, Capt. Clarence F. Terry's Douglas A-24B crashed shortly after take-off on a flight from Yuma, Arizona to San Diego on December 18, 1944. Wreckage was found eight days later five mile east of the Naval Air Station at Holtville. Clarence, married, age 38 and a former Marine officer who switched over to the Army Air Force, worked as a newspaper reporter while attending San Diego State from 1926 to 1927, earned his law degree at the University of California at Berkeley, and had worked as both a police judge (1934 to 1937) and a municipal court judge (1937 to 1941). A collector of ancient weaponry, an amateur photographer and musician, and an experienced equestrian, in 1935 Clarence initiated and organized the San Diego Mounted Guard for service at the California Pacific International Exposition in Balboa Park. He is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Alan Thomas

The letter of Lt. Alan Thomas in the spring of 1942 reminds us of wartime censorship and separation. He wrote:

"...I look forward to receiving every issue (of the *News Letter*). I have been moving around a good deal but all my mail reaches me. Please bear with us if our letters are short and dull. Men in foreign service are not allowed to say anything about anything and that makes letter writing hard. I can, however, assure you that we all look forward constantly to the day when we will emerge from our foxholes and return to our sunny homeland and to State's beloved campus."



Alan, age 24, was born in Ft. Oglethorpe, Georgia, and graduated from San Diego High. He entered military service two months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and died from wounds received on the island of Cebu in the Philippines on March 29, 1945. He had served from Alaska to Guadalcanal and, according to a friend, "had five Fortresses shot up under him and brought them all back safely....he couldn't bring No. 6 back." At the time of his death his father, an Army colonel who had served in World War I, was a high ranking official of the American military government in Sicily. Alan had planned to become a minister. He is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Jerry Estle Thomas



Army Air Force Capt. Jerry E. Thomas, age 24, was shot down over Italy in April 1943. It is unclear if he was ever a POW, if so he did not survive captivity. An airman who kept a diary had this to say about Jerry's last mission: "Our target was an airdrome at Sicily. . . . We lost a plane, it was hit in the left wing by flak and caused it to catch fire.

Four chutes were seen to open. I saw it roll over on its back, go straight down and after three spins it broke up into a million pieces. . . . the co-pilot was my classmate and Capt. Jerry Thomas, the pilot was G. R. It was tough watching them go down but we have to do it. That's the second one I've seen explode in mid-air." Jerry was awarded the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart. At San Diego State he was a member of Phi Lambda XI frat and on the 1938 freshman basketball team.



Walter Lewis Tichenor



Army 1Lt. Walter L. Tichenor died from wounds received in Fountainbleu, France, on August 30, 1944. He had served for 27 months in Northern Ireland, England, and France and was awarded the Purple Heart. Walter, a graduate of Point Loma High School who attended Trinity Episcopal Church in Ocean Beach, resided in Pacific Beach and was last enrolled at San Diego State during the 1937-1938 school year. Though born in California, prior to the war he, along with his parents and two sisters, had relocated to Charleston, South Carolina. He had planned for a career in medicine and enrolled at the University of Alabama where he pledged Theta Chi fraternity, then studied anthropology at the University of Chicago.

An excerpt from the 2008 book *Anthropological Intelligence: The Deployment and Neglect of American Anthropology in the Second World War* by David H. Price, pages 87-88, quoted from a letter he sent to his department's newsletter, *Euphoria*: "Lieutenant Walter L. Tichenor of the Eleventh Infantry Division wrote after Christmas 1942 that his friend from Chicago 'needn't worry about me getting thru this show. Only the good die young, and I am certainly not included in that category.... (L)ooks as if Jerry should be reaching his last stage pretty soon. Before long I'll be back at school looking for a vacant spot in the lab.' Two years later, the cover of the January 22, 1943, issue of *Euphoria* announced, in memoriam, the death of Walter Tichenor, who was killed in action." At age 24 he was buried in Brittany Cemetery, Normandy, France.

Franklin Parker Totten



F/O Franklin Parker Totten (a.k.a. Parker Totten), age 29-, died as the result of a tragic event on April 14, 1945. Born in Alabama, he was with the 82nd Squadron, 436th Troop Carrier Group, and was killed during the last glider combat mission in Europe: the Rhine Crossing at Wesel, Germany. The exact cause of the crash that killed all five soldiers aboard, including Franklin who was the navigator, was never determined. After pledging Epsilon Eta fraternity, Franklin left San Diego State and enrolled at UC-Berkeley where in 1942 he

was a member of International House. Survived by his wife, Bettie, he was buried in the U.S. Margarten Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Thomas Leroy Traylor

Army Sgt. Thomas L. Traylor, age 21, was killed in action in Germany on March 28, 1945. A resident of National City, he played in a duet at his Sweetwater High School graduation. He left San Diego State as a freshman. Thomas began military service in 1943 and received the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster. In 1949 his remains were entombed in Greenwood Cathedral Mausoleum.



Bruce Hensell Van Buskirk

The listing of Bruce H. Van Buskirk (Class of '37) on the SDSU War Memorial is an obvious error. After a long illness Bruce died in his home in San Diego on May 14, 1940 at age 24. His death occurred 19 months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and there is absolutely no evidence he ever served in the military.



Frank R. Verduco



Lt. Frank R. Verduco, a 27-year-old San Diego native, had lettered in sports and was captain of the baseball team at San Diego High School. At San Diego State he starred in Radio Workshop dramatizations and played second violin in the campus orchestra. He was also a rather accomplished bass-baritone who once gave a recital on campus. He had trained at four flight schools before earning his wings at Stockton Field. His letter to Prof. Post several weeks earlier was rather lighthearted. He wrote: "The mail came in yesterday. You ought to see the boys go after it. That (is) all we live for. I received the total sum of one letter from a little gal in Florida. The time before I received 29 letters so I didn't feel (too) bad." And

he joked about the oppressive heat and insects at his air base in India. . . No one witnessed his bomber fall from the sky. Army Air Force bomber co-pilot Verdusco's B-24D failed to return from a raid over Rangoon, Burma, and the entire crew of nine were declared missing as of November 29, 1942, and later officially presumed dead on December 11, 1945. Like another brave SDSU aviator, Richard Dennis Aubert (see above), he too had worked as a delivery boy for the *Los Angeles Times* in San Diego.

John Henry Leon Vogt Jr.

Ens. John Leon Vogt was killed along with 2,400 other Americans in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. According to a close relative of the 26-year-old, on that fateful day he was "shot down flying a Scouting Squadron Cmdr. off the USS Enterprise as it was returning to Pearl Harbor from maneuvers," but according to military historians his SDB-3 Dauntless collided with an attacking Japanese aircraft and he was subsequently killed when his parachute failed to deploy at low altitude. At San Diego State John was on the 1934 track team and a member of Delta Pi Beta fraternity. Buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery, he was mourned by his wife in San Diego.



Leo Peter Volz Jr.



It was only natural that Navy Pharmacist's Mate 2c Leo P. Volz Jr., age 25, wound up distributing medicines since his father owned two drugstores in San Diego where he worked as a clerk. He had attended San Diego State during the 1938-39 academic year and later attended the University of Southern



California where he majored in pharmacy and was memorialized in the school's 1944 yearbook. In 2010, some details surrounding his death on August 21, 1943 were finally revealed in a journal article by pharmacy history researcher Dr. Dennis Worthen who wrote:

“ . . . (amphibious transport ship) LST 398 (photo above) was assigned to deliver men and supplies to the beaches of Vella Lavella in the Solomons. . . . The LSTs were under attack by Japanese bombers and fighters while they were unloading. Although LST 398 did not receive a direct hit, four crewmen were killed, among them was Leo Volz.”

In February 1948 his remains were transferred from a cemetery in the South Pacific for burial on U.S. soil.

Russell Dean Wahlberg



Ens. Russell D. Wahlberg, while acting as a student signal officer, was killed on April 29, 1945 when an out-of-control plane struck him during take-off at the Los Alamitos Naval Auxiliary near Los Angeles. He had earned his commission in September 1944. Russell, age 23, was the only son of the car dealer who founded Colonial Oldsmobile. He was a graduate of La Jolla High School. His family home was on Sunset Cliffs Blvd. Russell's military funeral service at St. James-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church was attended by several members of his squadron (some acting as pallbearers) who regarded him as "an exceptional Corsair pilot."

Marks Peyton Wangsness



Ens. Marks P. Wangsness, a 27-year-old Reservist, lost his life on June 20, 1941 onboard the USS 0-9 (SS-70, left), one of the Navy's oldest submarines at the time, when it sank off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. During a test dive the sub's

hull collapsed and it sank killing all 34 of its crew. In 1991, the remains of the sub were spotted but left untouched out of respect for those who had perished. An article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted his mother extensively as she called into question the Navy's employment of such an "obsolete," leaky sub. She wrote to Rear Admiral William T. Tarrant: "Marks didn't like the 0-9 and told me so Were inferior materials used in the submarine's reconditioning? Are American shipyards working so hard for Britain that our own ships are getting second attention Are authorities afraid to raise the 0-9 because it might show evidences of sabotage or hurried workmanship."



At San Diego State in 1934, Marks was a member of Tau Delta Chi fraternity along with future TV star Art Linkletter.

Donald L. Webber

Capt. Donald L. Webber, 24, shot down at least five enemy aircraft, survived numerous missions in the South Pacific, and was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross with four Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal. In 1939 he was social chairman of the Wesley Foundation, a campus Methodist group, and was yell leader. He told Prof. Post in August 1942:



“All in all Doc, we here (cadets at Luke Field, Arizona) have one purpose in mind and that’s to get over there with Griff Williams, the Long brothers and the rest of the boys to help carry on where Lt. Victor Talbot, Ensign William Shropshire, and the others left off. No Doc, the excellent work of Vic and Bill, two of the finest men I ever knew, was not in vain and they shall be avenged.”

Taking off from Daggett Municipal Airport, Donald flew his P-38L on a camera-gunnery mission on February 12, 1945 when another P-38L collided with his at Silurian Lake, California, in the Mojave Desert, killing both airmen. Large chunks of his plane are still visible today at the crash site. Buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery, he left behind mourning relatives and an 18-month-old boy.

Lawrence Irving Werner



Flying in a B-26 Marauder in the 22nd Bomb Group known as the “Red Raiders,” in April 1942 Coronado’s Army Air Force 1Lt. Lawrence I. Werner, age 23, helped to sink a Japanese transport ship and damaged two others before his plane collided mid-air with a Japanese Zero on July 4, 1942 and fell from the sky into the sea near Lae, New Guinea (the place where Amelia Earhart was last seen alive). He was the co-pilot on that fatal mission. According to witnesses, part of the bomber’s tail and right wing were sheared off, spiraling it into the sea so quickly that none of the crew had time to parachute out. The bomber and crew disappeared into the watery depths never to be recovered. Five weeks earlier he had been awarded the Purple Heart for an injury suffered during an attack on his plane.

Born in Michigan and a resident of National City and Coronado, he had once been an aspiring actor with two years of college. Lawrence left behind

his mother, stepfather, and younger stepbrother. In the photo of his ill-fated crew (right) he stands third from the left. VFW Post 7669 in Beverly Hills was named in his honor.

Clarence H. White



Born in San Diego in 1905, Army Maj. Clarence H. White attended San Diego State in the mid 1920's and, like his father, became a medical doctor (surgeon). He had the great misfortune of being in the Philippines when the Japanese invaded. Somehow he survived the Bataan Death March but in December 1944 he and hundreds of other POWs were crammed into Japanese transport ships (called "hell ships") bound for Japan. Clarence and more than three hundred other

POWs died as the result of unsanitary conditions, starvation, and attempts by Allied planes to sink the transport ship Enoura Maru. His body was never recovered and his name is enshrined among the 26,282 "Missing" at Manila American Cemetery. The date of his demise is given as January 11, 1945. Clarence was the father of two daughters, Mildred and Nancy. Years later Nancy chronicled the horrors of his voyage. Above is a photo of Clarence as a student here in Delta Kappa fraternity in 1924. In the photo right he stands top row center directly above a Japanese guard.



Clea Ernest Williams

Flying in a B-24 Liberator whose number-one engine failed, student co-pilot 2nd Lt. Clea E. Williams (AAC), born in Texas, age 22, along with three other men, were killed trying to make an emergency landing at Ft. Worth Army Air Field, March 26, 1944. Exactly thirteen months prior to the accident, Clea had won his wings at Frederick Field in Oklahoma, and just six days prior to the fatal crash he had married Helen Powell at that military air base.



Robert James Williams

The listing of "Robert James Williams" in the World War II section of the SDSU War Memorial is an apparent error.

Maurice Gardie Wilson



2nd Lt. Maurice G. Wilson, 22, was mentioned in the *News Letter* as having been “killed in a plane crash on the east coast.” More specific, he was killed on June 27, 1944 in the crash of a Douglas A-20G bomber seven miles southeast of the Army Air Field at Florence, South Carolina---an accident attributed to poor visibility and a stalled engine. Prior to this he had written to Prof. Post of an incident near Los Cruces, New Mexico, where he narrowly avoided crashing into an uncharted mountain peak at 8,000 feet. Maurice was treasurer of Ocoatl in 1941 and a member of Tau Delta Chi fraternity.

Born in Deer Creek, Colorado, he was a graduate of Hoover High School. A resident of both San Diego and El Cajon, and a member of North Park Baptist Church, he was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Louis Massey Winn Jr.

On February 14, 1942 Ens. Louis M. Winn Jr. (UNNAC), age 27, and graduate of San Diego High School and the son of an optometrist, joined a volunteer mission to search for some planes that were overdue to land in San Diego. His search plane crashed in a canyon 12 miles west of the Salton Sea and was discovered 31 months later. Researcher Alan Fraser gleaned from his service record that Louis enlisted as a apprentice seaman in 1934; served aboard the USS California and the USS Relief before being honorably discharged in 1938. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1941 and commenced flight training. His remains were buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Charles M. Witt

Bronze Star recipient Navy Lt. Charles M. Witt was born in Escondido, graduated from Hoover High School, and attended San Diego State for two years before enlisting in the Naval Reserve in June 1940. At San Diego State he enjoyed playing intramural tennis. During World War II Charles led photo reconnaissance missions in the Pacific theater and returned stateside at Miramar in the summer of 1945. But at age 25 on March 11, 1946 he was killed along with seven other individuals in the crash of a PB4Y photographic plane at Atami, Japan. His remains were buried in Escondido on April 10, 1948.

William Thoman Wood



Born in Colorado Springs, Colorado, 24-year-old Army Cpl. William T. "Billy" Wood, a married man, graduated from St. Augustine High School and attended San Diego State from 1936 to 1938 where he was a member of the Newman Club and played trumpet in the band. The son of a teacher in



North County, he left college and for three years was with the 29th Engineers in Portland, Oregon. He served in North

Africa and Italy before dying in Germany on April 25, 1945 of a non-combat cause, less than two weeks before the war ended in Europe. Billy's remains were received by his mother in the summer of 1949 and he was interred in Glen Abbey Memorial Park on August 13 of that year. His name was added on the

SDSU War Memorial in October 2013.



Korean War

John Howard Adams

Born in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Air Force Capt. John H. Adams, age 29, was a crew member onboard a B-29A Superfortress bomber on a night mission that was struck by a missile from a MIG fighter. The plane exploded over Kwaksan, North Korea, on June 10, 1952. His body was never recovered. A member of the Geography Club, Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and Sigma Lambda social fraternity, he earned a degree in geography here in 1948, the same year he married his San Diego State sweetheart, Juliana Milz (Class of '45). His cenotaph is in the Court of the Missing in the Honolulu Memorial.



Isaac Shelby Best

At 7:18am on September 19, 1950 there were 26 souls aboard the Navy R5D transport plane that Lt. Comdr. Isaac Shelby Best, age 33, served as a navigator. Bound for the Far East in support of an urgent airlift to resupply and reinforce desperate Allied forces on the beachhead at Seoul, the plane lifted off Kwajalein Island but soon after crashed and exploded at sea killing everyone. Born in Maryland, a married man and the father of four children, Isaac had been a member of Tau Delta Chi



fraternity and upon leaving San Diego State in 1939 entered the Army as an aviation cadet, then resigned and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and fought in Europe. In 1943 he transferred to the U.S. Navy in London. After the war he was stationed at Miramar and briefly attended classes at UCLA. His name was added on the SDSU War Memorial in October 2013.



Byron Harold Chase

Marine 2Lt. Byron H. Chase, age 24, was on the Aztec football team for three years and was 1950 All-Conference his senior year. Born in San Diego, he attended local schools and went to San Diego State on a football scholarship. He was a member of Omega Xi fraternity. Byron was killed when he stepped on a land mine on August 10, 1952, just



one year after enlisting in the Marines and one month after his arrival in Korea. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. Admired by the troops he led, he always took point. Upon hearing of his death a football game between the Aztecs and San Jose State was dedicated in his honor and a fundraising campaign was initiated to erect a memorial scoreboard dedicated to all the school's students killed in the nation's wars. Also, the Byron H. Chase Memorial Award was initiated to acknowledge SDSU's best offensive and defensive football players. Byron left behind a wife, Ginger, and two daughters. He is buried in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Kenneth Ward Cox



Air Force Reserve cadet Kenneth W. Cox, age 25, went down in his T-6F trainer (right) 1000 yard off the Old Mission Beach lifeguard station on July 16, 1950. He was stationed at March Air Force Base. He joined the Air Force in 1942, earned his wings at Luke Field near Phoenix, Arizona, and left active duty



when World War II ended. A graduate of San Diego High School, he was in the process of obtaining a degree in business administration at San Diego State and was working as a credit representative at SDG&E in the Escondido office. In 1949 at San Diego State Kenneth was vice president of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity. His name appears on the Korean War Memorial plaque at Hardy Tower and in 2007 his name was added to the SDSU War Memorial.

Robert Dean Dowdy



On February 12, 1955 Maj. Robert D. Dowdy, age 31, was a bombardier-navigator on a B-47 training mission when two of its engines caught fire and the plane exploded and crashed in the Canadian wilderness north of Winnipeg. His body was later found in the wreckage. In 1949 he was in Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Pi Kappa



Alpha social fraternity, and on the Aztec Housing Committee. He graduated with a degree in engineering. In March 1957 a new building at March Air Force Base was named Dowdy Hall in his honor. In attendance at the dedication ceremony was his wife, Aline, their three children, his parents, and brother.

Norman Nat Freeman

A graduate of Grossmont High, in 1949 Air Force 2Lt. Norman N. Freeman (Class of '52), 23, was a member of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity and the Montzoomers flying club whose activities included making flights to various cities. Norman was killed shortly after takeoff during a flight training mission 5 miles southwest of Misawa Air Force Base (Japan) on March 9, 1953 in a Thunderjet (F-84G). He is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Hiram Gunn Glotfelter

In May 1949 Hiram "Hi" G. Glotfelter was picked to appear on the locally popular CBS musical variety program "Horace Heidt Show." Enrolled for only one year at San Diego State, he was in the Men's Glee Club and a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. In the 1952 *City Directory* he was listed as a "seaman" with a wife, Irene. His extremely rare last name was misspelled on both the Korean War Memorial plaque at Hardy Tower and the SDSU War Memorial. Furthermore, based on information provided by ancestry.com, it is clear that Hiram did not die in military service during the Korean War. No war casualty database or news source was found that indicated that he died due to a wartime injury. He is most likely the same Hiram Gunn Glotfelter who died in Honolulu, Hawaii on December 15, 1981.



Donald Hugo Hagge



Navy Lt. Donald H. Hagge (Class of '49), age 25, piloted a AD-4 Skyraider dive bomber that was struck by anti-aircraft fire and crashed 20 miles North of the Kwachon Reservoir in North Korea on February 8, 1953. The attack mission was launched from the carrier USS Kearsarge. His body was not recovered. At San Diego State he majored in engineering and was a member of Phi Epsilon, Electronics Club, and Engineer's



Association. A San Diego native, his name is on the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Robert Gordon Harvey



In World War II, Air Force Captain Robert Harvey flew the B-24 Liberator bomber in the Pacific theater and was also a bomber test pilot. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Robert returned to civilian life in San Diego and became a vice squad policeman and also worked in the police department business office. Because he had a reserve commission, he was called to active duty in early 1952. At age 33, on October 31, 1952, returning from a night combat mission over North Korea, his B-29 Superfortress

, nicknamed "Lubricating Lady" (photo shows Robert kneeling, first left) went down, apparently due to mechanical failure, in waters 110 nautical miles from Okinawa where debris washed up at Naha Harbor. The plane's fuselage sank beneath the waves with Robert and ten other crew members whose bodies were never recovered. Both Robert and his wife, Mary, attended San Diego State, and they had three children. A son was born on the day his plane was reported missing.



Charles Caffrey Kinney



Air Force Lt. Charles C. Kinney, age 23, was killed when his plane crashed into the side of a mountain in his Republic F-47D Thunderbolt (left) near Umhausen, Germany on July 14, 1950.

Born in Ventura, California, he was a graduate of Hoover High School and had also attended the University of California. He studied at San Diego State in 1947. Charles is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



William Robert Lake

Capt. William R. Lake was a test pilot whose helicopter crashed on May 16, 1959 during an Armed Forces Day air show at Edwards Air Force Base and witnessed by 20,000 spectators. Two years prior he had graduated from the United States Air Force Experimental Flight Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base and had co-authored the report "High Altitude Take-Off and Landing Tests of the H-37A Equipped with Narrow Chord Blades". Born in Hanford, California, and an alumnus of Sweetwater High School, like so many other military alumni he first met his wife on the campus of San Diego State. In the late 1940s William was on the junior varsity football team and was a member of the Montyzoomers which promoted flying and made flights to several cities each year. He left behind two young sons. After a ceremony at Greenwood Mortuary his body was cremated.



Charles Robert Miller



Soon after takeoff for a mission over Korea on May 7, 1952, 30-year-old Marine Capt. Charles R. Miller's AD-2 Skyraider experienced mechanical problems and caught fire near the Han River. He was forced to ditch his plane and parachute out at too low an altitude. His body was recovered and shipped to San Diego two months after the incident. Charles had served in World War II. A married man, he had two children, Michael and Kathleen. El Cajon was his hometown. He attended Garfield School, Horace Mann Junior High, and studied at San Diego State for two years where he was a member of the Glee Club. In 1944 he graduated from the naval air training center in Corpus Christi, Texas. Charles is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Donald Wilbur McCormick

1st Lt. Donald W. McCormick, a 27-year-old native San Diegan, was a student at San Diego State when he was called to active duty in Korea in August 1950. He had previously attended Occidental College, where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega. According to his nephew, John McCormick: "Don had served late in World War II as a B24 navigator but did not get into combat. He completed a combat tour in Korea as a B26 navigator and was awarded Air Medals and a Distinguished Flying Cross for his service. After duty



in Korea Don entered pilot training and was killed in the crash of his AT6 training plane at Bartow, Florida, on May 1, 1952.” John fondly remembered Don as “a charismatic person who had a gift for making everyone feel special.” His body was interred in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Leroy Albert Morgan Jr.



Attached to the 8th Bomber Squadron, 3rd Bomber Wing, 31-year-old Air Force Capt. Leroy Morgan Jr., was declared missing in action on June 7, 1951 when his B-26C (right)



A.

failed to return from a night mission raid on a highway near Pyongyang, North Korea. Two other airmen were aboard. No trace of them or the bomber was ever found. Leroy was also a veteran

of

World War II who had flown in a B-24 and was wounded by flak. He was born in Boston, graduated from San Diego High, and had attended San Diego State. He had received the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross after thirty missions over Germany in WWII. Before entering the military he worked in perishable tools at Consolidate Aircraft Corporation, the predecessor of today’s Convair. He had been recalled to active duty in in 1949 and had served for three years in the Far East as a bombardier, navigator, and radarman. His wife, Mary, and two sons lived on Randolph Street. On March 22, 2000 his son, Chris, made a request on a military Internet site asking for anyone who knew his father to contact him.

Robert Charles Nida



S/Sgt. Robert C. Nida, age 23, a California native who enlisted in Greensboro, North Carolina, lived with relatives and worked at the Rodman Gas Company in San Diego. A graduate of San Diego High School, he attended San Diego State between 1947 and 1950. An active member of Sigma Lambda fraternity, he coordinated an event in May 1948 that, in part, benefited cancer research.

Robert was onboard the same training plane with 2nd Lt. Kenneth W. Cox that crashed and sank off Old Mission Beach on July 16, 1950. They received double funeral rites and were buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. Their names appear on the Korean War Memorial plaque at Hardy Tower and were added to the SDSU War Memorial in 2007. Robert died exactly one week after his fall wedding plans was announced in the *San Diego Union*. A resident of Escondido, at San Diego State he was a member of Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Robert had also attended UC-Berkeley.

Thomas Hall O'Brien



Thomas H. O'Brien was on the freshman 1950 basketball team, a member of the Tizoc Club (wrestling), president of Kappa Alpha fraternity and was one of the most distinguished cadets in the Air Force ROTC, having won the Air Force Association Award in 1953. However, his placement in the



Korean War section of the SDSU War Memorial was a mistake.

Thomas died on December 20, 1963 (ten years after the end of the Korean War) when his T-28 jet trainer crashed near DeFuniak Springs, Florida. Born in West Point, New York and a graduate of Hoover High School, in addition to his math degree from San Diego State he earned a degree in engineering at the Air Force Institute of Technology in Ohio. He served two tours of duty in South Vietnam in the early 1960s before the United States began sending combat units. Thomas was the father of a son and daughter.

Lester Frank Page

Born in Mercy Hospital, Air Force 1Lt. Lester Page grew up in Pacific Beach. His childhood fascination with aircraft lead him to spend hours creating balsa-wood planes which he hung from his bedroom's ceiling. After graduating from La Jolla High he studied engineering at San Diego State for two years. In in 1949 he was a member of Delta Kappa chemistry fraternity, Sigma Pi social fraternity, and was on the Inter-Fraternity Council. Lester destroyed one enemy plane and damaged another in his last mission over Korea in late December 1952. During the dogfight his damaged Sabre jet lost radio contact and was last seen "descending through clouds from an altitude of 30,000 feet." At age 24 he was presumed killed and his body was not recovered. In a ceremony held on campus with 600 ROTC cadets in attendance, his parents were presented the Oak Leaf Cluster in lieu of a second Air Medal. His cenotaph (empty tomb with headstone) is at Rosecrans National Cemetery. Over the years there has been speculation that he may have survived the crash, was taken prisoner, and wound up in a Russian gulag.



William Ernest Patton

A resident of El Cajon, Ens. William E. Patton, age 25, was declared missing on March 10, 1951. Nicknamed "Nails" by his comrades, he flew the F4U-4 Corsair fighter from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Princeton. On a mission near Changhung-ni, North Korea, his plane



took a direct hit from anti-aircraft fire and went down 15 miles east of Pukchong. His body was

not recovered. A member of Phi Lambda Xi fraternity, he left San Diego State after his sophomore year. He had two children. In October 2008 James Sparks wrote: "I was Bill's best friend through preflight, fighting training and during the Boxer cruise in 1950. I have never forgotten Bill and his loss has been a painful memory for 60 years."

Richard Henry Phillips



Marine Cpl. Richard H. Phillips (portrait right, housed at the MCRD's Command Museum) left San Diego State after his freshman year. At age 19 he was killed while engaging the enemy northeast of Seoul, South Korea on September 27, 1950. He destroyed two machine gun nests that had pinned down his platoon.

Posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal (left) at Marine Corps headquarters, he was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.



This tragedy was compounded when Richard's brother, 2Lt. Robert W. Phillips, age 22, who had escorted his brother's body to Washington, D.C. for burial, upon leaving the city was killed in a plane crash. Honoring the Phillips brothers, the only sons of their parents, Phillips Hall, a new parents gymnasium at the San Diego Recruit Depot, was dedicated on December 1, 1951. They were the sons of

Col. Earl Phillips who for a few years was the MCRD's supply officer. Richard and Robert are buried together under the same headstone at Arlington National Cemetery.



George Clark Pierce Jr.

Army Cpl. George C. Pierce Jr., age 21, died on March 16, 1952 of non-hostile causes while assisting the war effort near Chuk-Tong, North Korea. He had served with Battery A, 140th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, 40th Division. George was initially reported as killed in action (KIA). He left San Diego State in 1950 when his National Guard unit

was called up for active duty. He had lived at 3625 First Avenue with his parents and two siblings. No services preceded his body's cremation. A graduate of San Diego High, George attended San Diego State in the fall of 1949. His father was co-founder and owner of San Diego Furniture Company.

Willis Preston Smith

Air Force Capt. Willis P. Smith, age 26, piloted a B-26B bomber (photo below) that lost radio contact during a nighttime raid in the vicinity of Inchon on March 25, 1951. He is among the thousands of MIAs of this war who are presumed dead. He is listed on the Wall of Remembrance at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, South Korea, and he was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross. A native San Diegan and the son of a naval rigger, he graduated from San Diego High School in 1942, studied for six months at San Diego State, then entered military service in 1943. Willis left behind a wife, Marian May Smith. Family DNA was been obtained in case his remains are ever recovered. His name was engraved on the SDSU War Memorial in June 2010.



Herbert Allen Tompkins



A second string player who was hampered by an injury, Navy LCDR Corps officer Herbert A. Tompkins (middle initial "L" on the war memorial was a mistake) was on the 1941 national championship basketball team. He was also a sports reporter for *The Aztec* and a member of Omega Xi fraternity. He left school after his junior year to participate in the war effort and became a Navy aviator attached to the carrier USS Fanshaw Bay which was nearly destroyed battling in the South Pacific. At age 36 Herbert, along with 23-year-old Ens. Jerry Blakkolb died when their jet aircraft exploded and crashed near Kerr, Texas, on October 25, 1953. Herbert had resided in Long Beach, California, and a year prior to the mishap, as a carrier-based VC-61 photo reconnaissance pilot, he had been awarded gold stars in lieu of a fourth and fifth Air Medal at NAS Miramar.



Robert Joseph Williams

Air Force 1st Lt. Robert J. Williams, age 29, the pilot of a B-26B Invader bomber on a night mission, was declared missing in action on February 28, 1952. In 1949 at San Diego State he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. He was married to Ruth N. Jones in 1948. His father was a retired Navy Lieutenant Commander and his brother a Marine Lieutenant Colonel. It is believed that the "Robert James Williams" listed in the World War II section of the SDSU War Memorial is a mistaken duplication of Robert Joseph Williams.



Vietnam War

Francis Archer Barnes



Army 2Lt. Francis A. Barnes, with the 25th Infantry Division, married, age 26, born in Lubbock, Texas, was a resident of San Bernardino, California, who was shot to death in combat in Hua Nghia, just one month after arriving in South Vietnam, on March 25, 1968. Eleven American soldiers were killed in the engagement. He had attended SDSU in the spring of 1966. His little sister, Debbie, who still searches for detail about his final day, recalled in March 2000:



“I remember a tall smiling brother who always had time for me. He was 12 years older than I was and he was my hero long before he ever got to Vietnam. He was a high school English teacher. A father to a 4 month old baby boy. A husband, a son, and a brother to 3 younger brothers and me, his little sister...his death almost killed my family with grief. I don't know much about his death, but, I know his life was one of joy and laughter. Always laughter.”

Francis is buried at Green Acres Memorial Gardens in Bloomington, California.

Gerald Dean Bell

A biology major at San Diego State, Air Force Sgt. Gerald D. Bell, 25, died as the result of non-hostile causes in Quang Nam, South Vietnam on May 30, 1969. His niece wrote in November 2005:



“Uncle Gary, you were my favorite uncle. I didn't remember that you died on Memorial Day, because I was too young. But I remember everything else. I missed you terribly growing up, however, I am so proud of your sacrifice for our country. I took my children to see The Wall when it was on tour. I have made sure they know what it takes to be free, to remain free.”

Born in San Diego and a graduate of Lincoln High School. He served in the 336th Civil Engineer Squadron, 355th Combat Support Group, 366th Tactical Fighter Wing. A single man, his death was the result of a non-combat accident in Quảng Nam, Vietnam. He is buried in Glen Abbey Memorial Park in Bonita.



Roy Howard Bowling

On November 17, 1965 Navy Capt. Roy H. "Hap" Bowling's A-4E Skyhawk was shot down returning from a mission over North Vietnam. He may have ejected from the aircraft as it crashed to earth because a parachute was seen in the vicinity. While he was listed as missing in action he was promoted to Captain. One of the two pilots who went in search of him was killed by ground fire. He survived being shot down but died at some point while a POW. His remains were turned over the U.S. government on March 19, 1977. He was cremated and the ashes scattered at sea. An article in the *Los Angeles Times* quoted his mother at length. Roy, age 35, was married, had three children, and lived in San Bernardino. He had graduated from San Bernardino Valley College before attending San Diego State where in 1952 he was in Alpha Kappa fraternity.



From Chula Vista, Air Force Lt. Col. William J. Brashear, a 39-year-old man, with the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing at Cam Ranh Bay Airbase, South Vietnam, was killed when his F4 Phantom jet (above) was shot down in a raid over Laos on

William James Brashear



May 8, 1969. Although he ejected from his aircraft and a parachute was seen to have deployed, there was never a confirmed sighting of him after the event. William was a graduate of Chula Vista High School. He left behind a wife, Elizabeth, and two sons.

Ronald Howard Brown

Described in his Verdugo Hills High School yearbook as “wired for action,” 31-year-old Marine Capt. Ronald H. Brown was killed by artillery fire when a convoy he was leading was attacked and overrun on the road between Phu Bai to Hue City on February 7, 1968. His cousin, Skip Dunn of Eagle River, Arkansas remembered Ronald thusly:



“Ronny was 14 years older than I and not around much when we visited his mom and dad's house. I remember him as bigger than life though, a football player for the Marine Corps team. When he was around, he was always willing to throw a ball so a little cousin could catch it, or not. Or walk in the park just across the street and push my little sister and me on the swings. He was married though I never met his wife; no children. I got the news of his death when I was in high school, it rocked the whole family. We all adored him, a college graduate and a career soldier, a rarity in those days.”

A resident of Sun Valley, California, he played guard on the Los Angeles Valley College football team and was football line coach at the MCRD. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at Montana State University and attended San Diego State as a graduate student. Ronald left behind a wife, Helen. The Capt. Ronald H. Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund was established at Los Angeles Valley College. He rests in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Michael Thomas Burns



Born in San Diego, 26-year-old Army Special Forces Capt. Michael T. Burns attended SDSU in the summer of 1964. He suffered serious wounds in a hostile encounter in Kien Tuong, South Vietnam. His friend Bruce Bradigan had this to say about his pal:



“Mike was my best friend. He was a gregarious guy and had lots of friends, but he was my best friend. We met on Okinawa as members of the US Army Special Forces (1st SF Gp (Abn), 1st SF). Mike had

a college degree, which few of us did, even the other Officers. He was a lot of fun, he had a lot of fun, and those around him had a lot of fun. But he had his serious side too, that not as many people knew. He spoke lovingly of his family and friends back in California and his desire to return there when he had done his duty.”

A Green Beret unit officer, while acting as an adviser to villagers in the Mekong Delta, he was hit by machine gun fire and later died on April 29, 1969 in a hospital awaiting additional surgery. The son of Dr. and Mrs. Francis J. Burns, he finished St. Augustine High School, played varsity football at the University of Notre Dame, and graduated from Santa Clara University in 1965.

Daniel Lewis Carrier



Born in Waukegan, Illinois, Capt. Daniel L. Carrier, age 24, arrived in San Diego in 1951. He attended Pacific Beach Elementary School, St. Augustine High School in North Park, last attended SDSU in the summer of 1963, and obtained his bachelor's degree at Marquette University where he played hockey. Daniel joined the Air



Force in 1965. On June 2, 1967, serving as the radar officer aboard a F4C Phantom in a mission over Ron, North Vietnam, his plane was observed crashing to earth in a ball of flames after being hit by enemy ground fire. Said his father, a former Navy pilot, upon the return of his son's remains in 1989:

“Daniel thought he'd like to be a flier, so he joined the Air Force in 1965. I didn't encourage him....Now I cry again when I see his picture....(Daniel) told me he deplored the fact that he might have to hurt somebody (in battle). That bothered him. But he also saw that he had to do his duty.”

A high school pal described Daniel as, “the embodiment of a true gentleman.” His remains now rest in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery alongside those of 60,000 other departed souls.

Rodney Balaam Carter



Also listed on his hometown Porterville, California's Vietnam War Memorial, Navy CDR Rodney B. Carter, a 40-year-old married man with six children, died at sea. He was one of 44



crew members killed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany when a terrible fire and explosion occurred on October 26, 1966 while the ship was in the Gulf of Tonkin (photo above). A comrade recalled: “Rod was wearing a red bandana around his neck when I first met him as CO of Attack Squadron 34 on the USS Saratoga in the Mediterranean (1964). We went west to war, Rod, me and the bandana, Rod as CAG Ten. He was the straightest shooter I ever knew in my short time as a Navy flyer and he cared for his pilots like no other.” He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

David Marion Christian

From Lane, Kansas, Lt. David M. Christian, age 24, took off in his A-4E Skyhawk from the carrier USS Midway on June 2, 1965. His attack jet was hit by anti-aircraft fire and was observed plunging to earth near the Tonkin Gulf shoreline. In 1986 the Vietnamese government returned his remains. After viewing the remains at the San Diego Naval Hospital his mother reluctantly signed papers accepting the findings of a very distinguished team of forensics experts who determined that bone fragments were indeed his. The remains were later cremated and scattered by a Navy plane in the ocean west of Point Loma. David was a 1958 graduate of Grossmont High who was last enrolled at SDSU in the spring of 1960.



Michael Jack Crawford

Capt. Michael Crawford (Class of '64), age 28 and a product of the university's Air Force ROTC program, was killed when his F-100 Super Sabre jet crashed in a vineyard during a training flight out of Luke Air Force Base in Arizona on May 15, 1970. He was preparing for his third tour of duty in Vietnam where he had served as a navigator and won the Distinguished Service Medal. A graduate of Hoover High School, he was company commander of his flight training class, and a married man. His parents lived in El Cajon. His name was added to SDSU's War Memorial in October 2016. He was buried in El Camino Memorial Park.



James Peyton Crook

Married and a resident of La Mesa, Army Pfc. James P. Crook, 24, who last attended SDSU in 1966, was killed just five weeks after his arrival in South Vietnam at Binh Long on February 11, 1968. James was a medic attached to the 1st Infantry Division. During the Tet Offensive his vehicle was hit by an anti-tank round, mortally wounding him. Wrote

Walter Van Oosbree in the year 2000:

“James' mother, Alta Fay Crook, was my 3rd grade teacher. One day she did not come to school and we heard that "Jimmy" had been killed. When she finally came back the life was gone from her also. She used to tell us many stories about JIM. Well James, your mom died just a few months ago and I know she was glad to see you again...so enjoy her forever. Your friend Woody.”

James is buried in Mount Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Daryl Wayne Crum



Married, from Garden Grove, California, 26-year-old Army Reserve 1st Lt. Daryl W. Crum, live most of his life in Oceanside. He was killed by a land mine in Dinh Tuong, South Vietnam, on March 18, 1968. Teacher David H. Allen recalled: “Daryl was a student of mine in Spanish in 1955-56 at the high school in Oceanside, CA. He was a strong student and popular with classmates. He was modest, athletic, and one of the nicest students I ever had in class.” Alan T. Solinski who served with Daryl wrote:



“I remember Lt. Crum very well. Served with him at Rach Kein South Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division. I was in FDC when he arrived & he was a forward observer. When he came back from missions, I would meet him at the chopper pad. Almost always, he would take out a picture of his wife, and as I remember, two small daughters, about 3 & five years old. The daughters sat on the lap of his wife. He was very proud. Lt. Crum was a natural leader, someone you would want to be around for added strength. He was big, powerful in his physical features and that way in his personality. I've visited the wall in DC on several occasions and weep when I see his name. He was a true brave man and hero. I wish somehow I could talk to his daughters to let them know how great a man they had as a father.”

Daryl is buried in Oceanside's Eternal Hill Cemetery. He had a wife and a 15-month-old son (shown above in a photo snapped during a camping trip in the Anza-Borrego Desert).

Ronald Lee Davidson



25-year-old Marine 2Lt. Ronald L. Davidson was from Hudson, Ohio. A married man with a daughter and of the Roman Catholic faith, he was mortally wounded when his vehicle struck a land mine in Quang Nam, South Vietnam on August 5, 1968. His friend Philip Reilly recalled:

“Ron Davidson, a classmate of mine at OCS and Basic School, was one of the most diversely talented people I ever met. He was a first rate athlete, strongest man in the Platoon, and at the same time, did extraordinarily well in the classroom. A man with a quirky sense of humor, he sometimes marched to his own drum, but that drum never interfered with his pursuit of excellence. He was a great friend, a leader, a compatriot, and, I am sure, was a fine combat officer.”

After earning a master’s degree at Ohio University he taught at Horace Mann Junior High School. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at the conclusion of the 1966-67 academic year and went through officer’s candidate school in Quantico, Virginia and at Camp Pendleton. Ronald was buried with military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Richard Agustine Deleidi



On his second run at a target in Quang Nam, South Vietnam, 24-year-old Marine Capt. Richard A. Deleidi’s aircraft was hit by enemy ground fire and he crashed into the water on February 7, 1969. His body was not recovered. Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. From a fellow Marine who wrote in 1999: “I served under Captain Deleidi in VMFA-334, I want his family and friends to know that he was a man who



gained the respect of many and his loss was greatly felt by all of us.... I have carried the loss of Capt. Deleidi for many years and was only able to put it to rest after laying his MIA Bracelet at the Wall in DC and revisiting Vietnam in 1998 to once again say good-by.” Richard (Class of ‘69) earned his undergraduate degree in mathematics. His hometown was El Cajon. In 2005 his sister, Yolanda Anderwalt of Alpine, was asked to submit a DNA sample to authorities in case his might be one of those bodies still being recovered from Southeast Asia.

Thomas Frederick Durbin



From Escondido, Army Pfc. Thomas F. Durbin, 21 years of age, with the 14th Infantry Division, was in his second month in South Vietnam when he was killed by a sniper's bullet near the town of Quang Tin on September 21, 1967. The unfinished letter he was writing to his parents was later read by Congressman James B. Utt on the floor of U.S. House of Representatives and entered into the *Congressional Record*. He requested a lot of goodies from home to make life a bit easier on the battlefield but portions of his handwritten letter were sobering indeed. It read in part:

"I am writing this letter on a rocky hill where my platoon spent the night. My squad was left here as a sort of a lookout and a

security element. This is why I have a chance to write. You might wonder if I have done any shooting or killing here. There are Viet Cong snipers everywhere and I have done my share already. That's all I can say about that. Four days ago a close friend of mine got killed by a VC booby trap and another buddy was wounded. We have killed about 10-11 VC snipers already. We could double or even triple that figure but most of the snipers get away before we can get to them and hide in vast tunnel complexes---some of them in solid rock."



Congressman Utt concluded by announcing: "Tom wanted to be a veterinarian. But God willed otherwise so friends of Tom have established the Thomas F. Durbin Scholarship Fund to assist others to carry on such work for him." Soldiers from Charlie Company, 14th Infantry (Golden Dragon of the Vietnam Central Pains) collected money in the field and delivered it to his mother. Tom was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for heroism. Acknowledging his "bravery and aggressiveness" while under fire as a rifleman-radio operator, the Army citation read in part: "Pfc. Durbin distinguished himself while keeping his squad constantly in contact relaying essential information to the front though constantly exposed to enemy fire."

Tom graduated from Escondido High School in 1963 and Palomar College in 1965. At SDSU he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park in Escondido.

Loren Eugene Engstrom



From La Canada, California, Army Reserve Warrant Officer 1 Loren E. Engstrom, 23, graduated from John Muir High School in Pasadena in 1962, got an Associates degree at Pasadena City College, and studied for a year at San Diego State. He was aircraft commander onboard an assault helicopter ("Buccaneers" of the 170th Assault Helicopter Company) that was shot down in battle (a .50



caliber round sheared off the tail rotor shaft) on November 13, 1968 in Binh Dinh Province. His name was inscribed on a plaque along with four other soldiers and the city of La Canada honored their memory with relatives present in a formal ceremony on Memorial Day 2000. Born in Pasadena, he was interred at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, California.

John Leroy Flinn

Capt. John L. Flinn, age 26, a 1960 graduate of Crawford High School, was killed on July 2, 1969 when his A-1 Skyraider was shot down over Muon Soui, Laos. His friend Jeff Steinke remembered: "Capt. Flinn flew on my aircraft, an A1-E, when I was a crew chief stationed in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand in 1969. Always seemed to be cheerful (as officers go) and never busted chops. God rest his soul." The photo of John here shows him escorting San Diego State's 1962 Homecoming Queen onto the football field. There once was a time when San Diego State's AFROTC regularly won drill competitions and was one of the top ten teams in the nation. It was in this era that Cadet Major Flynn lead the university's crack 27-man "Saber Drill Team" to victory. He also led the drill team that served as honor guard when President John F. Kennedy delivered the commencement speech to the university's graduates, June 6, 1963. John is buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Robert Michael Foley

From Boston, Massachusetts, Navy Lt. Robert M. Foley, married and age 37, died November 2, 1967 in Quang Nam, South Vietnam due to a non-hostile cause, namely accidental drowning. Attached to the Naval Support Activity at the Danang port, he was Port Operations Officer in charge of loading and unloading ships. He had spent 18 years in the Navy. Robert attended SDSU during the 1965-1966 academic year. His name is listed on the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Worcester. He is buried in Plain Street Cemetery in Braintree, Massachusetts.



Ralph Eugene Foulks Jr.



A member of Sigma Pi fraternity at SDSU, Navy Lt. Ralph E. Foulks Jr., married and age 24, was from Ridgecrest, California, in the Mojave Desert. Ralph was shot down in his A-4E aircraft while attacking an enemy convoy over North Vietnam on January 5, 1968. He was listed as missing in action until 1988 when the North Vietnamese delivered his remains to the U.S. government without explanation. Exactly 24 years after he was killed forensics experts



determined the remains were his and delivered them to his mother in Pensacola, Florida. In Ridgecrest, California in 1993 new community tennis courts were dedicated in his honor. He was buried in Barrancas National Cemetery.

Peter Warren Gilmore



Army Rifleman S/Sgt. Peter W. Gilmore, 23, a draftee in the 1st Cavalry Division, was killed in an ambush on May 24, 1970 in Cambodia. Peter grew up in Waltham, Massachusetts, where a playground was named in his honor. Later, he resided in La Mesa. His parents, two brothers, and four sisters attended Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church. At SDSU he was president of Theta Chi fraternity. A fellow soldier, Ernie Fugimura, recalled: "Peter was a warm friend to anyone and everyone and we had a special affinity since we were both from California. It is true that the good really do die young. Peter was the best of the best, and we are all poorer for his absence. Rest in peace buddy." Tennis courts in Waltham,

Massachusetts, where he was once a playground instructor, were also dedicated in his honor. He was buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Lawrence Himmer

With a wife and five children Capt. Lawrence "Moose" Himmer, age 29, Class of '62, had residences in Chula Vista and Fallbrook and had served in the Marine Corps for eight years. On April 16, 1968, fighting in Quang Tri, South Vietnam, he was killed during an enemy missile attack. An active Mormon, he made a hobby of designing backgrounds for church plays. Born in San Diego County, Lawrence



was a 1956 graduate of Sweetwater High School. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Medal, and Vietnam Campaign Medals. In 1999 his daughter, La Shel, wrote: "I was just a small child. I do not have any memories of him, but I do have a great love for him. I have great sorrow for not having him in my life. I have great respect for how he lived his life. I have great reverence for the memories of him from others. He was a very kind and considerate man. He loved my mother and he loved us kids. I feel his love for us today because I know he still lives. I feel his existence." Lawrence rests in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Henry Hudson Jr.

The accidental death of Navy Lt. Henry Hudson Jr., 27, occurred on February 26, 1970. The helicopter he co-piloted crashed in Thua Thien just thirteen days after his arrival in South Vietnam, killing all twelve individuals onboard. Born in Seattle, Henry was an unmarried man who had attended Clairemont High School and graduated from SDSU in 1965. His friend,



Jim Eckstrom, wrote: "Surely Henry Hudson was one of the very finest men that our country lost in the war." Following a funeral service at Holy Cross Lutheran Church he was interred at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Dennis Alan Jenkins

Army Pfc. Dennis A. Jenkins, 24, was on the glorious 1966 SDSU varsity football team that went undefeated, claimed the NCAA regional crown, and won the Camellia Bowl. Dennis was a light air defense artillery crewmember who received burns "while laying a fireline from a helicopter" on February 8, 1971. He later died in a hospital in Japan on April 22, 1971. An athlete,

Dennis played football at Hoover High and at Mesa College. He was on San Diego State's 1966-67 team that won its first national small college football championship. A friend since high school stated: "He was a good family member, and a good friend to those who knew him. He was quiet soft spoken with a big tough heart." Dennis is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Stephen Douglass Joyner

1Lt. Stephen D. Joyner (USMC Reserve), born in Hollywood but a resident of La Habra, California, played offensive and defensive end on the football team at SDSU and at Fullerton Junior College where the Joyner Memorial Award is given annually to the most inspirational athlete. Stephen intended to make the Marine Corps his career. From Gary Saucier who served with him:



“1st LT. Stephen Joyner was a friend, a leader and a Fine Marine. He saved a lot of lives including mine. He had compassion for his men. He treated everyone like a man, instead of some fighting machine. I was proud to serve with him and fight along side of him. After Lt. Joyner died I helped put him on a chopper and I carried his helmet and his cartridge belt for the rest of the time I was in Viet-Nam. I will never forget him as long as I shall live. God rest his soul!”



He earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education and graduated with honors at SDSU. Stephen was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star for saving the lives of seven wounded Marines near Khe Sanh on Hill 689 in January in 1968. At age 24 he was killed in ground action on June 15, 1968 in Quang Tri, South Vietnam. His funeral at his Yorba Linda church could not accommodate the large number of mourners and nearby streets were clogged with automobiles. A month before his death, he wrote to thank a girl scout for sending a "care package" to the troops: "I entered the Marine Corps upon graduation and plan to stay in the Corps for some time arrived in So. Vietnam in early Nov. 67. I plan to return home in early Dec., just in time for Christmas."

He was buried in Loma Vista Memorial Park in Fullerton.

Frederick Morrison Kasch



Navy Lt. Frederick M. Kasch, 26, from San Diego, graduated in 1963 majoring in biology. Small wonder he was such an outstanding gymnast: his father, Fred Kasch Sr., was SDSU's gymnastics coach.

The oldest of four children, he was a kind and thoughtful hero to his three sisters. A friend who knew Frederick as a student pilot in Jacksonville, Florida, commented:

“I had the impression that Fred was a religious man, because he radiated that inner warmth one associates with devout Christians. Always friendly and with a kind word for others, he seemed very



focused on learning the craft of flying, although remaining humble about his abilities and achievements.”

Upon returning from a mission over North Vietnam on July 2, 1967, Frederick’s A4B Skyhawk developed engine trouble and crashed into some houses. More than two decades later his remains were released to the U.S. government and positively identified in 1989.

Robert Vaso Kurilich



At South Pasadena High School Marine Corps Maj. Robert V. Kurilich was a tackle on the football team and best hurdler on the track team. He attended Pasadena City College before arriving at SDSU. Having served ten years in the Corps, at age 30, married and with three children, he was killed when his helicopter was shot down over Quang Tri, South Vietnam on June 7, 1968. Robert had served as operations officer of Headquarters and Services Co., 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. Wrote Col. Doug Ammon about this respected soldier: “A fine officer, a good friend, decent golfer. A man who should have grown old with us all.” Robert’s funeral service was held at St. Stephen’s Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in

Alhambra, California, and he was buried in the Serbian United Benevolent Society Cemetery in Boyle Heights. The Robert V. Kurilich Educational Fund was established in his honor. His name appears on San Marino’s War Memorial in Lacy Park. He last attended San Diego State in 1963.

Kenneth J. Lamberton



Just days before he was to leave for duty in Vietnam, Maj. Kenneth J. Lamberton, age 35, flying an F-105 Thunderchief, died in a training accident while performing rocket target practice on a gunnery range near Salinas, Kansas, on November 14, 1967. When the range officer noticed his jet approaching the ground too fast he yelled “Pull up, pull up!” but it was too late. A thirteen-year Air Force veteran, Kenneth was assigned to the 561st Tactical Squadron. At a ceremony in Tucson, Arizona, his wife, Mary Ann, was given his Air Medal and a citation recognizing his participation in making in-flight refueling history (San Francisco to Okinawa) in an F-102 in 1966. He was buried in Tucson’s Holy Hope Cemetery.

At San Diego State, Kenneth played on the freshman

basketball team, was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, was an AFROTC cadet, and in 1954 received his bachelor's degree in business management. In 2015, details of his military career and death were brought to the attention of the university and his name was engraved on SDSU's War Memorial.

James Franklin Lang



Air Force Capt. James F. Lang from Tipton, Missouri, married, age 26, was last enrolled at SDSU during the 1959-1960 academic year. A member of the Forward Air Controllers (FAC) which marked targets for the 1st Air Cavalry, on April 28, 1968 he was shot down by ground fire during a night mission flying an O-2A reconnaissance plane (above) over Thua Thien, South Vietnam. An anonymous relative expressed his feelings about James:



“A younger first cousin, courteous, friendly and well liked by all. He was a good sport, playful and nice to be around. I remember him as a happy, young man with the cheerful personality of his Mother, Aunt Louise and the practical mind of his Father, Uncle Frank who with the other children in his family were much loved by them. He is missed by many.”

On leaving San Diego State, James attended the University of Missouri. At the time of his death he and his wife had a 18-month old son named Gregory. He is buried in Fort Bliss National Cemetery, Fort Bliss, Texas.

John Jacob Lawendowski

1952 Cornell University graduate and battalion executive officer Marine Maj. John J. Lawendowski, age 39, was killed when North Vietnamese rockets struck the battalion's perimeter on October 26, 1967. On June 6, 2003 John, along with 47 other former students, were honored in a ceremony at Cornell recognizing the contribution of its 47 former students killed in Korea, Vietnam, and during the Cold War. John and his wife (seen together in the photo) had settled in Utica, New York. Although he was admitted to attend San Diego State he never registered and withdrew his application.



Victor Walter Lew

Army 1Lt. Victor W. Lew, age 26 and single, was with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade when he was killed in combat in Quang Nam, South Vietnam on July 4, 1971. Born in Lombard, Illinois, Victor was a resident of Bonita who was in the cadet corps at Chula Vista High School where he was an honor student and a captain of the Sons of the American Legion Post 434. At San



Diego State he was a history major and member of Phi Alpha Theta who graduated in 1964 then spent a year in the Peace Corps working in Ecuador. He earned a master's degree in history at Creighton University in 1968 and did some work toward the doctorate at UC-San Diego. Spec. 4 Donald Clark served under Victor and had this to say:



“Lt. Lew was a rock to his men and a credit to his rank. He did not fit the profile of what you would think an combat officer should look like but once you knew him you felt secure and confident. I would have followed him anywhere. His concern for his men was unconditional and he gave his life for them.”

John Paul Marken Jr.

Marine 2Lt. John P. Marken Jr., age 26, was killed in ground combat on January 19, 1968 in Quang Tri, South Vietnam. Bob Shuster recalled in 2001: “His parents were John & Gladis Marken who raised John Paul and his brother in a Christian home. I remember the shock felt by all members of our Church when word came through that John had given his life in a far away country.” While a student at Palomar College he won the Wall Street Journal Award for achievement in business administration. He graduated from San Diego State with a degree in insurance in 1965. He was active in the Luther League of Escondido. John had a wife, Phyllis. He was buried in Oak Hill Memorial Park in Escondido.



Jeffrey Lea Martin

Nine weeks after landing in South Vietnam Marine 2Lt. Jeffrey L. Martin, age 23, died on July 29, 1968 as the result of wounds received from an explosive device in combat in Quang Nam, South Vietnam. Born in Farragutt, Idaho but a resident of Santa Ana, California, at SDSU he was a member of

Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. In 2008, his roommate from his basic training days wrote: “Jeff, Your laugh, Humor, and Fun loving nature will always be remembered. It was however, all surpassed by your love of country, sense of duty, and sacrifice for your Corps and men. God Rest, Marine.” He was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

James McNally Mitchell Jr.



From Encinitas, Marine 1Lt. James M. Mitchell Jr., 25, was platoon leader of a rifle company who was killed by a land mine fighting in Quang Tin, South Vietnam, on August 31, 1965. In a letter to his wife, Jan, who awaited his return to the base in Hawaii he tried to lift her spirits but also unwittingly foreshadowed the manner of his death. He wrote:

“We are going to have such a good life once we are together again. If you only knew how much I want to see our little girl. I pray for the day that we will join each other. I hope it will come soon and without incident. Still working long hours long hours. No sleep without a pistol on my chest....One of the men was injured by a booby trap. They are worse than running into 20 Viet Cong. You don't know where they are and then, all of a sudden, boom!”

James was a graduate of San Dieguito High School where he played football, basketball, and ran track. Known as the popular boy in his class” he was elected the school’s student body president. He attended Palomar College and graduated from San Diego State in 1963. One individual who served with him was James L. Proctor who wrote:

“I was proud to have served with Lt. Mitchell. This man would listen to you without judging you and yet he was a tough officer but still a gentleman. He was a great leader and all his men respected him and knew they could count on him for making the right decisions in tough surroundings. Speaking for myself, I would have followed this man into hell itself. You are sadly missed LT by myself and all the men in the 2nd Plt. GOD BLESS YOU SIR, Semper Fi ‘LT’.”



James was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. The stepson of a Marine colonel, he had a daughter, Erin Lisa, whom he never had a chance to see in person.

Ronald Edward Morgan

Though born in Portland, Maine, Pfc. Ronald E. Morgan, 22, was raised in San Diego and attended Kearny High where he was involved in debating and in the California Scholarship Federation. At San Diego State in 1968, Ronald scribbled this favorite William Wordsworth poem on the inside cover of his poetry textbook:



“Though nothing can bring back the hour
Of splendor in the grass
Of glory in the flower,
We will grieve not; rather find
Strength in what remains behind.”

Drafted just several weeks short of earning his degree, he served with the 9th Infantry Division. Ronald was killed in action on May 29, 1969 in Kien Hoa, South Vietnam. He is buried in San Diego’s Greenwood Memorial Park.

William Craig Nystul

Born in Chicago, at age twelve Marine helicopter pilot Capt. William Nystul’s family moved to Coronado where he was on the high school football team and was a champion wrestler. After briefly attending California Western University he earned a degree in finance at SDSU. His father, Oliver G. Nystul, was a retired Marine captain. A deeply religious 29-year-old married man, he was one of the last two American soldiers to die in the Vietnam War. On April 29, 1975, upon returning from a nighttime search and rescue mission evacuating mostly fleeing refugees, William’s helicopter was about to land on the USS Hancock when it crashed into the South China Sea. While circling the aircraft carrier he may have had a premonition something disastrous would happen as his last known words were: “Someone is going to die up here tonight.” His body was never recovered.



In his honor, the University of West Florida, where he graduated in 1974, established the William Craig Nystul Professorship in Computer Science. At a ceremony there in 1986, attended by his then 12-year-old son, Sean, and the former Mrs. Nystul, William was remembered as, among other things, a football star and wrestling champion at Coronado High School and an alumnus of SDSU. The photo here (above) shows the burial at sea



of William and a comrade. In 2016, when some retired Marines tried to persuade the government to search for and retrieve the sunken helicopter which might contain William's remains, his family members declined to support such a project.

Charles Leslie Parker Jr.



On January 21, 1973 while onboard the carrier USS Ranger in the Gulf of Tonkin Navy LCDR Charles L. Parker Jr.'s EKA3B tanker (left) suffered a mishap and went over the side into the water and quickly sank, presumably killing all three crewmembers. Their bodies were never



recovered. A graduate of Hoover High School, he played defensive guard on the football team and was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity during the three years he attended San Diego State. He exited the university in 1962 to join the Navy's cadet pilot program in Pensacola, Florida. Charles, age 33, was a married man.

George Williams Pearson Jr.



The senior class president at Lincoln High School, SP4 George W. Pearson Jr., 21, was an outstanding student who was a perfect friend and citizen. He had played basketball and was on the track team in high school. Offered a scholarship to attend Chapman College, his father persuaded him to attend SDSU. He wanted to become a



high school teacher. George was drafted into military service during his junior year at San Diego State. He was killed in ground combat on August 19, 1969 in Tay Ninh, South Vietnam, and his remains rest in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. He was well known and liked by many as the following from Richard Jones attest:

"I knew George as a fellow soldier in arms in my platoon in Vietnam. In the few short months that I got to know George, it was obvious that he was one of the nicest and friendliest people I ever met. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word to share. George served his nation with honor and valor. All who knew him would be proud. George died trying to help his friends in combat....We don't know

why God took George, but God knows.”

A recipient of the Bronze Star, in 1975 the American War Mothers planted a tree in his honor at the MCRD.

Walter John Peters



Killed during ground combat in Quang Tin, South Vietnam, on January 4, 1968, Army Pfc. Walter J. Peters, 21, with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, was from Indio, California, and trained at Ft. Ord and Ft. Polk. He along with three other soldiers were the victims of a booby trap that was tripped. At SDSU he was a resident of Toltec Hall. A friend wrote in January 2005: “I have no pictures, except in the annals of my mind and there I know you as ‘Butch.’ I can see clearly your treasured German Shepard. I remember your smile, blonde hair and your brother Collin. I think of you often. Thank you for your selflessness.”



Terry Ward Ratcliff



Born in Oceanside, California and a graduate of Carlsbad High School, Army Staff Sgt. Terry W. Ratcliff was one of the top students in his non-commissioned officers school at Ft. Benning, an “Outstanding NCO” at Ft. Ord, and acting lieutenant for his platoon. Age 25 and married, serving with the 101st Airborne Division, he was killed by shrapnel from a mortar shell during ground fighting in Thua Thien, South Vietnam on April 1, 1970. A female friend recalled: “I went through school with Terry. He was the nicest guy. At dances, we had a joke about him not stepping on my feet. He deserved to have a wonderful life.” The son of an Oceanside police chief, Terry acquired his bachelor’s degree at SDSU in 1968 and intended to become a biology teacher. He declined Officer Candidate School because he planned to return to SDSU to get his master’s degree. He was buried in Eternal Hills Memorial Park In Oceanside, California.



Eugene Le Roy Rathmann



With the HHC 5th U.S. Cavalry, 1Lt. Eugene Le Roy Rathmann, a 22-year-old single man from San Diego, was killed in ground fighting in Phuoc Long, South Vietnam on December 29, 1968 when his platoon was sprayed with



automatic weapons fire as it approached Dong Xoai village. A native San Diegan and graduate of Helix High School, he spent two years at SDSU where he was a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. Following services at Christ Lutheran Church in La Mesa, Eugene was buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Gerald Ray Roberts



Navy LCDR Gerald R. "Jay" Roberts, 32, from San Marcos, Texas, was presumed shot down over North Vietnam in his A1H Skyraider while on his third attempt to destroy a bridge 35 miles north of Dong Hoi on December 2, 1965. The tragedy occurred just one week before he was due to return for permanent duty in New Mexico. Said Mickey Walker who grew up with Gerald in rural Texas: "I have so many

memories of this great guy and would love some time to meet his children....This world lost a true gentleman and one of the best friends I ever had." His remains were returned to this country in 1994. A 1963 graduate, Gerald had been a member of Air Force ROTC's Arnold Air Society. He was married and had two children. An article in the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* (February 13, 1997) described the formal military ceremony that honored this fallen soldier that took place off the coast of Oregon aboard the carrier USS Carl Vinson:



"Missing in action for 31 years since his aircraft was shot down by North Vietnamese gunners, Lt. Cmdr. Roberts was honored by his carrier squadron and a delegation from the crew of the Bremerton-based Carl Vinson in a brief but emotional burial-at-sea ceremony yesterday in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. His widow, Claudette West, daughter Helene Kephart and niece Leslie Rathman, flew to the carrier by Navy helicopter from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station for the tribute, organized by the ship and Medium Attack Squadron 196, the unit with which he was serving on Dec. 2, 1965, when he was killed in action....Kephart and senior chaplain Cmdr. Robert Stone walked to the edge of one of the ship's giant aircraft elevators and scattered her father's ashes into the jade-green water. Then, with tears streaming down her face, Kephart lofted a flowered wreath into the sea. Kephart was 4 years old when her father died. A brother, Dale Roberts, did not attend yesterday's ceremony. As the last notes of 'Taps' sounded over the water, four A-6E Intruders flashed by overhead, with one of the jets suddenly breaking skyward in the 'missing man' formation to honor a lost comrade."

On May 15, 2010 a ceremony was held to rededicate the Waco (Texas) Vietnam Veterans Memorial to which had been added his name etched in stone. Although his tombstone is in Post Oak Cemetery in Oglesby, Texas,



the inscription on it reads “Remains Returned Jan 1997 Burial at sea Feb 1997 U.S.S. Carl Vinson.”

Robert William Romero



Helicopter pilot Marine Capt. Robert W. Romero, a 26-year old native San Diegan, died from a head wound delivered from small weapons fire while flying in support of friendly forces fighting in Quang Tri, South Vietnam, on April 28, 1968. He had graduated from St. Augustine High School, attended the University of Arizona, and graduated from San Diego State in 1965 where he was a member in Sigma Chi fraternity. He was awarded the Silver Star a month earlier for leading a rescue mission to relieve surrounded American soldiers during which his helicopter was shot down but he survived and continued directing the effort to rescue and evacuate



men—living, wounded, and dead. In his obituary in the *San Diego Union* it was mentioned that: “At the time of his death, Romero was organizing a mail campaign to obtain clothing for Vietnam children of the Catholic orphanage in Hue, South Vietnam. It’s buildings were destroyed during the Tet offensive.” After a Requiem Mass was held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church he was interred at Holy Cross Cemetery on May 23, 1968.

David Jon Rose



Army 1st Lt. David J. Rose, a 26-year-old married resident of San Diego since 1956, was a graduate of Mission Bay High School. David attended California Western University, San Diego City College, and SDSU. He was killed by friendly fire fighting in South Vietnam on September 24, 1966 while acting as a forward observer calling in and coordinating artillery strikes in Tay Ninh Province. David was remembered by Heater McCracken, who wrote in 1998: “He moved across



country but he came back to town to visit ‘one last time’ before he shipped out. He was so handsome, he was a very kind person.” He was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.



Paul Warren Rose

Growing up in La Mesa, Army Sgt. Paul W. Rose attended Grossmont High. At age 26 he was killed in action in Binh Long, South Vietnam on March 13, 1970. According to one researcher “(he) lost his life when he was shot descending from the rope of a helicopter while on a

mission....(he) was the oldest of six boys in his family. His father was a Jr. High School teacher and his mother was a homemaker. Paul was a devout Mormon, an outstanding student, and a college graduate. He loved and enjoyed baseball, basketball, going to the beach, and fishing.... Sergeant Rose worked well with his unit. He was respected by the other soldiers. They trusted him.”

He was also remembered by neighbor and school principal William Melton:

“Paul was an all around great guy who enjoyed regular activities such as playing ball in the street with his friends. He was drafted into the army and became a Sergeant.... His death was surely a tragedy to all his friends and family....He was a good solid man.”

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, he lived in La Mesa. He graduated from Grossmont College before entering San Diego State where he was vice president of the LDS Student Association. He had also worked in a manager training program at a local bank. Paul was drafted during his last semester. He is buried in El Camino Memorial Park.

Gerould McLean Rumble III



Co-piloting a Huey helicopter on November 5, 1969, Army Warrant Officer Gerould M. “Chip” Rumble III, age 24, born in Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, a married man, was killed when his chopper experienced mechanical problems on take-off from Lai Khe heading to Phuoc Vinh when it crashed and burned.

Two years prior he was at SDSU and a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. The son of a Marine



Lieutenant Colonel who had served in WWI, WWII, and Korea, he was in

AFROTC at San Diego State. He was buried in his family’s plot in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, Virginia.

Richard Lee Russell

Capt. Richard L. Russell, age 31, flew the A-1 Skyraider combat plane in Pleiku, South Viet Nam where he was shot down on June 23, 1968. When his wounded jet landed the bombs it carried exploded, killing him. He was with the 6TH Air Commando Squadron, 14TH Air Commando Wing, 7TH Air Force, killed just six weeks after arriving for tour of duty. Richard earned his general studies degree at SDSU in 1960 and was an AFROTC cadet (photo right). Born in Memphis, Tennessee, it appears he had a wife and a daughter. He is buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.



Charles Joseph Scharf

On October 1, 1965 Air Force Lt. Col. Charles J. Scharf, age 31, along with another officer flew a reconnaissance mission over Hanoi. Approximately 15 kilometers from China their F-4C Phantom was shot down. One of the two men ejected thirty seconds before the jet crashed and was last seen parachuting to earth. Both men were listed as missing in action. After repeated visits to the crash site some human remains and personal effects



were recovered. A DNA match made using bone fragments and letters written to his widow, Patricia Scharf. His remains along with some mementos were buried

with full military honors at Arlington National

Cemetery on November 30, 2006. On that occasion Patricia, who never remarried and



considered Charles the love of her life, was handed the nation's flag. He was posthumously promoted to Colonel and given the Purple Heart.

At SDSU, Charles majored in economics and graduated in 1954. At the base of the towering sycamore tree next to Scripps Cottage is a plaque set in concrete that memorializes his sacrifice. It reads: "The Freedom Tree, With the Vision of Universal Freedom, For All Mankind, This Tree is Dedicated to Lt. Col. Charles J. Scharf, And All, Prisoners of War, And, Missing in Action, 1973."



John Wallace Tunnell

In his first mission over North Vietnam on June 20, 1966, Navy LCDR John W. Tunnell, 32, an 11-year veteran pilot from Vista, California, was killed after his plane was "catapulted from the deck of the attack aircraft carrier Ranger (CVA-61) and plunged into the



sea,” according to the an article in the *San Diego Union*. His A1H Skyraider was observed plummeting into coastal waters, possibly due to a mechanical problem. His remains were never located. A general studies major at San Diego State, he was in Kappa Sigma fraternity and had graduated in 1955.

John Albert Vogt

A graduate of Helix High School where he was captain of the varsity tennis team, Air Force Capt. John A. Vogt (Class of '60) majored in geography at San Diego State where he was commander



of the Arnold Air Society and member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. Upon completion of his AFROTC training at San Diego State he was commissioned an officer and received basic flight training at Laredo, Texas. Additional training took him to Tachikawa, Japan, where he was assigned to the 36th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group. Later, he was

attached to the 50th Tactical Airlift Squadron and “distinguished himself by meritorious service as a Standardization Flight Examiner at Chin Chun Kang Air Base in Taiwan, Republic of China, while engaged in ground operations against opposing forces from 17 April 1969-15 December 1969.” During a training flight on December 15,

1969 John’s C-130E Hercules transport plane’s propeller accidentally reversed causing the plane to crash, killing all eight men aboard. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. A native San Diegan, his remains are housed in a mausoleum at in Holy



Cross Cemetery. In 1986 his name was added to the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., one of the 110 soldiers added who had died outside the war zone. The 31-year-old airman left behind two daughters.

William Ernest Walters

Sgt. William E. Walters, 28, single, from San Diego, with the Army’s 173 Airborne Brigade, was killed by enemy fire while leading a platoon approaching “Hill 72” in Phuc Tuy Province, southeast of Saigon, on May 17, 1966. His military service had spanned eight years. A halfback on the football team and the fastest sprinter in the county while at Sweetwater High School in 1956, his uniform was retired and placed in a trophy case there. William attended San Diego State for one year, enlisted in the Air Force,



then switched over to the Army to become a paratrooper. He was buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



George Warren Ward

Buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery, Marine Lt. Col. George W. Ward, married and age 40, from San Diego, had fashioned a 22-year career in the Corps. In a mission over Laos on March 19, 1970 he was the rear seat pilot aboard a McDonnell Douglas TA-F4 Skyhawk attacking an enemy truck convoy hauling anti-aircraft missiles when bullets ripped through the aircraft striking him. His forward pilot took control and hurried back to base at

Da Nang but George would die of his injury. Born in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, he graduated from San Diego State in 1952 with a degree in journalism. A member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, he had worked as a copy editor for the *San Diego Journal*. He was a veteran of the Korean War and had served in the military for 18 years. George was survived by a wife, a daughter, and two sons who lived in Tustin, California.



Eulis Neil Burton Wilkes Jr.

2Lt. Eulis Wilkes Jr. was a 20-year-old single man who was born in Yuma, Arizona where he finished high school. He left San Diego State in 1966 to enlist in the Army Reserve and was commissioned an officer at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He was killed by an explosive device during a search-and-destroy mission in Ngai, South Vietnam, on January 20, 1968. His body rests in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. His mother, younger brother and sister had lived in Yuma, however, 32 years following his death the Yuma chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America was unable to locate family members to invite to a ceremony honoring the city's fallen soldiers. An obituary in the *San Diego Union* mentioned his affiliation with San Diego State and a check of the school's student "Redbook" confirms his attendance at SDSU. His name was added to the campus War Memorial in June 2010.



Gene Thomas Wright



Silver Star awardee Air Force Maj. Gene T. Wright (Class of '55), age 37, a native of San Diego, graduated with a degree in business management. A member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, he also competed on the track team and was a member of AFROTC's Arnold Air Society and Tau Sigma business and economics fraternity. During his senior year he worked as a Food Basket grocery store clerk. Gene had spent 14 years in the Air Force when on December 19, 1969 his KC-135A jet powered aerial refueling tanker crashed after climbing during takeoff due to low level windshear, killing all aboard upon crashing into the sea off the coast of South Vietnam. His body was recovered. He left behind a wife.

Iraq & Afghanistan

Matthew Gene Axelson

The final, heart-stopping moments of Matt Axelson's encounter with Taliban fighters in 2005 is recounted in the hit action movie "Lone Survivor" (2013, Universal Pictures). Portrayed by actor Ben Foster, the 29-year-old married Navy Seal and son of a Vietnam War veteran grew up in Cupertino, California, a gifted athlete and bright student at Monte Vista High School. Thanks to SDSU's College of Extended Studies, Matt was able to take eleven courses here which he used to finish his political science degree in 2000 at California State University at Chico, where he met his wife, Cindy, then soon after joined the Navy.



On June 28, 2005, four months short of his departure from military service and on his last clandestine mission to neutralize



a terrorist leader in mountainous

Kunar Province, Afghanistan, his four-man team was set upon by nearly 200 Taliban fighters. Matt, a sniper and sonar technician with the rank of Petty Officer Second Class, was one of the three team members who did not survive. According to the team member who did survive, his last words were: "You stay alive, and tell Cindy I love her." His body was discovered ten days later and after a memorial ceremony was held at home base in Hawaii his remains were cremated. Today, a

statue (above) of Matt alongside team member James Suh in the Veteran's Memorial Park in Cupertino honors their bravery and sacrifice. His name was added to SDSU's War Memorial in 2015.

Florence Bacong Choe

35-year-old Navy Lt. Florence B. Choe, the victim of an insurgent's random gunfire on March 27, 2009 at Camp Shaheen, Mazar-E-Sharif, had volunteered for duty in Afghanistan where she was a medical and logistics advisor to the Afghan National Army. A graduate of Monte Vista High School, she earned an associate's degree from Cuyamaca College, a B.S. degree from the University of San Diego, and a master's degree in public health at SDSU (Class of '97). Her home base had been the Navy Medical Center San Diego, the very place where she was born. Seemingly destined for military service, Florence, remembered for her boundless energy, quick smile, dedication, and love of family, had resided in El Cajon with her 3-year-old daughter and husband, a Navy doctor. She was buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Jason William Davis



28-year old Air Force 1Lt. Jason W. Davis (Class of '03) had hoped to become a navigator but on January 10, 2006, while returning from a low-level flight training mission headed to NAS Pensacola in a T-39 Sabreliner, he and three other servicemen died in a crash in a rugged forest in northwest Georgia. A graduate of Rancho Buena Vista High School in Vista, California, Jason was an SDSU AFROTC cadet who majored in business administration and minored in aerospace studies.

Commissioned as an officer in May 2003, he served his first six months of active duty recruiting cadets, earning his private pilot's certificate, and streamlining AFROTC's flight training program, accomplishments which contributed to his being awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal. Jason was class leader of his training squadron at NAS Pensacola. He is survived by a wife and son. Jason was buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. His name was added to SDSU's War Memorial in October 2016.

Curtis Joseph Duarte



Marine Lance Corporal Curtis Duarte was an Extended Studies student who took two linguistics courses here in 2011. He had graduated from West Covina High School in 2008 where, according to his sister, he was a “mischievous goofball who always liked to make people smile and never took life too seriously,” but was also “the glue that held the rest of us together.” His father and a brother served in the Marines. A rifleman assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Curtis, at age 22, was killed assisting a combat operation in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on August 1, 2012. A touching memorial service was held at his high school. (Notification of the death of Cpl. Duarte was made known to the university community in the summer of 2012).

Oscar Jimenez



Marine Corps Reserve 1Lt. Oscar Jimenez (Class of ‘99), age 34, grew up in the San Diego inner-city community of Logan Heights wanting to become a Marine. He attended La Jolla High School and was a criminal justice major at SDSU. A logistics officer, in 1991 he participated in Operation Desert Storm and was in his second tour of duty in Iraq when on April 11, 2004 the seven-vehicle convoy he commanded was ambushed near Fallouja and he was shot twice. A beloved husband and father of three children, revered as a selfless, caring leader, there was an outpouring of condolences as news of his death spread. To honor his memory SDSU’s chapter of Gamma Zeta Alpha, a Latino-interest fraternity, established the Oscar A. Jimenez Scholarship for graduating under-represented minority high school seniors.

Christian John Hescock

Navy Lt. Christian “Horse” Hescock, a married man, age 34, was killed when his MH-60S



Nighthawk helicopter crashed into the Fena Reservoir on the island of Guam during an evening training mission, September 24, 2007. Three crewmembers managed to escape without serious injuries but Christian was trapped in the craft that filled with water and sank. An extended

studies student at SDSU, he earned a degree in computer science. Born in Oregon City, Oregon, friends recalled he was a fierce paintball player



and in his memory the first Christian Hescocock Paintball Match and a scholarship fund was established. Christian's name was added to SDSU's War Memorial in October 2016.

Andrew David LaMont

Capt. Andrew D. LaMont (Class of '94), a 31-year-old single man, the youngest of nine children and whose father and grandfather were career soldiers, was a Marine helicopter pilot who had previously flown troops and materiel in operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Shortly after takeoff on May 19, 2003 his CH46 Sea-Knight helicopter crashed into a canal near Karbala, Iraq, killing all aboard. Upon hearing this, the city of Eureka, California, where Andrew completed high school and where his father was a city councilman, lowered the American flag to half-staff. Andrew had not planned on being a Marine helicopter pilot. He earned a degree in criminal justice from San Diego State University and envisioned joining the FBI or CIA after a stint as a military police officer. That changed when a Marine aptitude test revealed he had the skills to be a pilot.



Justin Lee O'Donohoe

Army Specialist Justin L. O'Donohoe (Class of 2000) grew up in a Navy family in Mira Mesa. A natural linguist who spoke Japanese and Russian and some Pushtun, he also enjoyed numerous and varied activities like strategy games, magic, piano, and martial arts. Upon earning his bachelor's degree in political science he worked as a computer technician for the San Diego Unified School District. Though he tested high enough



to qualify for officer's Candidate School he chose to be an enlisted soldier, demonstrated he was an expert marksman in boot camp, and was eager to test his metal in combat. On May 5, 2006 the 27-year-old scout and Humvee gunner in the 71st Cavalry Regiment was killed in the crash of a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a combat related mission near Abad, Afghanistan, in Kunar province. He is buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. His parent saved the voice message he left on their answering machine in which he said: "Hi, this is Justin. I guess I caught you at a bad time. I'm doing OK. I love you."



Jason James Paynter

Capt. Jason J. Paynter, born in Bermuda, joined the Marine Corps straight out of high school in 1989 and by 2001 had graduated from SDSU with a degree in business administration and promoted to second lieutenant. An experienced pilot with VMAQ-3, he was deployed to Afghanistan in 2005, again in 2006, and in 2008 was deployed to Iraq. But on April 12, 2010, flying in a T-39N, he was killed in a routine flight training accident along with three others aboard, leaving behind a wife, two daughters, and a son. Described by his father as a “real jokester,” “a good boy,” and man “living out his dream” as a pilot instructor, his name was added to SDSU’s War Memorial in October 2016.



Thomas Eugene Retzer

Navy Petty Officer First Class Thomas E. Retzer, a 30-year-old married man with two children, was a graduate of Serra High School where he was an All-American wrestler. For two years he studied at SDSU and majored in mathematics then left to do what his father said was really “the only thing he wanted to do”: become a Navy SEAL. An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing, camping, rock climbing, and scuba diving. His SEAL Team 3 was based in San Diego at North Island Naval Air Station but Tom relocated to Virginia with the Naval Special Warfare Command Group 2 a few years before he shipped out to Afghanistan where he served as an interior communications electrician. A convoy he traveled in was attacked near Gardez. Tom was mortally wounded and died in a field hospital on June 25, 2003. His wife, Courtney, vividly recalled his last departure because unlike previous ones where he hurriedly kissed her and their two sons and board the shipped, this time he paused and stared. “He stood there watching until I was out of sight,” she said. “That was the last time I saw him.” Thomas was buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Non-Combat Casualties

The alumni profiled here are not currently represented on the SDSU War Memorial. Most were killed in military accidents during peacetime. Though none died on battlefields, all died while on active duty in branches of the U.S. military.

Lawrence Monroe Alden

Acting coolly and bravely under pressure, Capt. Lawrence M. Alden, age 25, ordered his crewmen to bail out of their C-47 cargo plane whose engines had burst into flames shortly after takeoff from Roswell Field in New Mexico on May 16, 1949. The plane exploded before everyone could exit killing six, including Lawrence. Born in the Philippines where his father had served as an Army major, Lawrence graduated from Hoover High School. At San Diego State he was a member of Theta Chi fraternity and later fought in Europe in World War II. He had been married for just five months. Ironically, Lawrence perished the very same day his father had died fourteen years earlier, and they are buried beside one another in Arlington National Cemetery.



Carl Edward Alexander

In July 1951, after 100 combat missions over Korea,



Air Force Capt. Carl E. Alexander was the subject of a newspaper article that carried a photo of him sitting next to his adoring wife and little daughter on his lap. He had escaped injury and capture when his F-51 Mustang was shot down near Kaesong. Five years later, while

serving as a training officer at Nellis AFB, Carl's F-86 fighter mysteriously went missing. It took nearly three years before someone stumbled upon the scattered wreckage of his aircraft 70 miles east of Las Vegas. As a student at San Diego State in 1947 he pledged Epsilon Eta fraternity.



Burke Allen Bessher

Many lives may have been saved because 28-year-old Lt. Burke Bessher, a Korean War veteran, chose to stay in his disabled T-33 trainer jet, steering it to a less populated area near Tokyo on the night of January 12, 1959. When his engine failed shortly after takeoff he tried to return to base but crashed in a field less than a mile from Tachikawa. His wife and two children had left their home in La Mesa and were living with him in Japan at the time of the mishap. An alumnus of Grossmont High School, upon graduating from San Diego State in 1956 Burke was awarded the Meritorious Accomplishment Decoration. He is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Eugene Brecht Jr.

After graduating from San Diego High and attending San Diego State from 1926 to 1927, 1Lt. Eugene Brecht Jr. transferred to Drake University. He was a student pilot at March Field in California and Kelly Field in Texas. Three years active military duty in Hawaii was followed by two years in the U.S. Army Air Corps stationed at Selfridge Field in Michigan. In 1936, representing the 17th Pursuit Squadron, he won the Boeing Trophy Race flying a P-26 (see model aircraft above) streaking through the sky at 203.3 miles per hour. But on the stormy day of April 10, 1938, Lt. Brecht, age 27, a married man with two children, crashed his monoplane, a new Seversky P-35, on a mountain farm in Towanda, Pennsylvania. The farmer pulled his body from the flaming wreckage but it was too late.



Franklin Pullen Chapman Jr.

Born in Mercy Hospital and a graduate of San Diego High School, Marine Corps reserve Capt. Franklin "Frank" Chapman, age 32, last attended San Diego State in 1951. He earned a degree in French at UC-Berkeley in 1955. On November 7, 1964, four years after the tragic same-day deaths of his parents, Frank's trainer plane departing Glynco Naval Air Base in Georgia crashed nearly a hundred miles south and a half mile off the beach of St. Augustine, Florida, in 15 feet of water, killing him and his fellow pilot. A bachelor, he had lived in Berkeley and El Cerritos.

George William Kelly

A history major at San Diego State, Navy Lt. Cmdr. George W. Kelly (Class of '65), a married man with a 14-year-old son, was a specialist in anti-submarine warfare. On November 2, 1978, while on duty in the Philippines, he and three other airmen aboard a S-3A Viking took off on a routine training mission from the Subic Bay Naval Base northwest of Manila. Moments after takeoff the 36-year-old native San Diegan and resident of Coronado, along with the rest of the crew, was killed in a crash. He was buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Thomas Kolb



Marine Capt. Thomas Kolb (Class of '86), age 28, tutored students in math while at San Diego State and joined the Corps after graduation. A native of San Diego, he finished at the top of his flight training class and was selected to pilot the AV-8B Harrier Jump Jet (left). Flying in formation near Twentynine Palms on February 12, 1990, his aircraft caught on fire

and in the process of ejecting he suffered a broken neck and died two hours later at a hospital. His ashes were interred at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Bernard Dexter Lanois

On a routine training mission out of Loring Air Force Base, Capt. Bernard D. Lanois's B52 bomber crashed into an occupied farm house near Hastings, Minnesota on the night of September 16, 1958, killing seven crewmembers and severely injuring a family of seven. Bernard, 36, was the son of an El Cajon doctor. He was a star athlete at Coronado High and Salinas



Junior College. During World War II he was a pilot who flew "The Hump" in India and was awarded British and Chinese wings. Married in 1946, as a civilian he attended San Diego State until he was recalled to duty in 1951 during the Korean War. A year before the accident he had earned the distinction of being one of six B52 pilots who had flown non-stop in record time from Homestead AFB in Florida to Buenos Aires, Argentina to Plattsburg AFB in New York, a distance of 10,600



miles. Born in New Hampshire, he is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Edwin Raymond Leach Jr.

A graduate of Point Loma High School, 1Lt. Edwin R. Leach Jr. spent three years at San Diego State where he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. Entering the Air Force in 1951, he served in Korea and was assigned to the 516th Strategic Fighter Squadron. On February 9, 1956, while piloting his F84F jet fighter, he reported via radio that an explosion had occurred in his engine. He glided the aircraft ten miles before it finally crashed short of the runway at Malmstrom AFB at Great Falls, Montana. A married man, he was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Lee Rodney Little



Before leaving San Diego State in the Spring of 1952, Lt. Lee R. Little pledged Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. When contacted in 2013, fellow cadet Joseph Steward recalled:

“Lee Little was my classmate when we were in jet pilot training at Webb AFB, Texas, back in 1954. I knew Lee but was not close to him. I remember him as a big, strapping fellow who always had a serious demeanor about him, and was just a good guy. On this particular day Lee refused to go fly. I remember his instructor asked him why, and Lee said, “I feel like I need more instruction, for I think if I go fly I will kill myself or someone else.” I distinctly remember him saying that and I thought it was awfully strange at the time, for all of us were very Gung Ho and eager to fly. In retrospect, I think Lee was showing excellent judgment. It didn’t feel right to him and he didn’t want to do it. That was the kind of guy Lee was.”

At age 25, Lee was stationed at Turner AFB, Albany, Georgia. He was sent to Yuma Arizona for gunnery range practice where on February 2, 1958 he suffered a fatal accident. His wife, Edna, who remained in Albany, intends to be buried in the plot next to Lee in Westview Cemetery in Moultrie, Georgia.

Robert Lee Martin

Born in National City, at Hoover High School where friends nicknamed him “Fruty,” Airman 1st Class Robert L. Martin enjoyed his math classes and expressed an interest in becoming a naval officer. On the night of



November 27, 1961, his B47 jet bomber took off from Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire and later crashed and exploded near Plattsburgh Air Force Base in New York, possibly due to “icing condition” in the area, killing three of the four crewmembers. At age 25, Robert was survived by a wife, a daughter, and a son. He is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Asa Dan Morton Jr.



After leaving the carrier USS Shangri-La in the western Pacific Ocean on the night of May 14, 1958, Navy Lt. (j.g.) Dan Morton and his co-pilot, along with another A-4D Skyhawk with two pilots, mysterious vanished. The two fighter jets were participating in a “familiarization flight” that night and the best explanation the Navy could offer was that



maybe the attack planes somehow collided then sank beneath the waves. Dan, age 26, was married and the father of a one-year-old son. He was a graduate of Point Loma High School, at San Diego State he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity and earned his degree in business administration. A memorial service was held for the four men at the North Island Air Station Chapel. Dan’s headstone and cenotaph (empty tomb) is in Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Richard Craig Nodurft



A 26-year-old armor intelligence specialist in the California National Guard and a resident of Pacific Beach, Sgt. Richard C. Nodurft was killed September 16, 1972 when he was thrown from a military jeep that overturned on U.S. 395 near Victorville and subsequently struck by a car.

Two other soldiers were injured in the mishap. At San Diego State, Richard was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. Born in Kansas, he had married classmate Judith Lee Connor in 1968, and had one child. He is buried in San Diego’s Greenwood Cemetery.

Albert Thompson Oldham

Just hours before the C-130 transport took off from Little Rock Air Force Base with seven airmen aboard the maintenance crew had worked to correct the plane’s a fuel problem. But on May 12, 1982 the night sky lit up with an explosion and crash that killed Maj. Albert T. Oldham (Class of ‘62), age 42, and the others near Judsonia, Arkansas.

At San Diego State, Albert was an AFROTC cadet and, though he can barely be discerned (third row center), posed



for the Arnold Air Society group photo in the 1960 student yearbook. He was born in Oceanside, California. A graduate of Oceanside High School, at San Diego State he earned a degree in psychology.



Robert Frank Rimel

A Navy reservist, for four years, Lt. Robert Rimel, age 28, was also a pilot for Pacific Southwest Airlines. On June 12, 1970, Robert was aboard a radar plane that crashed in the Sequoia National Forest. A native San Diegan and graduate of San Diego High School, he attended but did not graduate from San Diego State. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Robert was survived by a wife and two sons who lived in La Mesa. He is buried in El Camino Memorial Park.

Robert Samuel Rye

1Lt. Robert Rye (Class of '54) was en route from his Marine air base in North Carolina to the Dallas Naval Air Station when his propeller plane crashed in a field near Gilmer, Texas, on June 22, 1957. It was believed he had attempted an emergency landing during a rainstorm. A witness was reported as saying the plane exploded "in a ball of fire" just prior to crashing. Robert, who had a twin brother, was born in Arizona and attended Point Loma High School. At San Diego State he was on the tennis team and was in freshman government and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He was buried in Rosecrans National Cemetery.



David Cedric Sproat

A native San Diegan, Coast Guard helicopter pilot Lt.(j.g). David C. Sproat was assisting in the rescue of a distressed tuna boat that had run aground when, at approximately 3am on January 29, 1979, his Sikorsky HH-3F Pelican crashed and capsized in waters near the Isle of St. Martin off



the west coast of Baja California. The chopper stayed afloat long enough for two crewmen to be rescued but David and his engineer succumbed. A graduate of Coleman College and the University of California at San Diego, David, age 28 and married, had last attended SDSU in 1972, and he had also studied at the University of Madrid. He rests in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Gregory M. Torres

Air Force Capt. Gregory Torres, age 28, from Los Alamitos, had been an Eagle Scout who graduated from Mission Bay High School and SDSU (Class of '72). He joined the service in the summer of 1972 and had been stationed in Germany for four years when on April 4, 1978, while assigned as navigator, his plane crashed near Frankfurt killing him and his pilot. Gregory's widow, who was stationed with him in Frankfurt, was also an Air Force captain. He was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Roy David Varner Jr.



Born in Maywood, California but raised in Coronado, Lt. Roy D. "Sonny" Varner Jr. attended two military prep academies before landing at San Diego State in 1952 for one year of study. He then moved on to the United States Military Academy at West Point but soon had to quit.

Determined to become a jet pilot, he resurfaced in the Naval Aviation Cadet program and was commissioned an Ensign in 1956. Three years later, after

being promoted to Lieutenant (j.g.) Sonny was transferred to NAS Alameda. Along the way he got married and had three children. But on March 18, 1959, the personable 28-year-old was killed in an aircraft accident at the base. He rests in Arlington National Cemetery.



Alexander Watson



In 1958 the first Alexander "Gobby" Watson Trophy was presented to the outstanding alumnus of the California chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, named in honor of Marine Maj. Alexander Watson, a recipient of the Silver Star during the Korean War, who was killed in a terrible accident in 1956.

Alexander had lived in San Diego for thirty years, had graduated from Point Loma High School, and attended San Diego State in the 1940s where he pledged ΣAE. On February 17, 1956, piloting a RD5 transport plane with 38 Marines on board on a flight from El Toro and Camp Pendleton to the Alameda Naval



Air Station, his plane crashed in heavy fog near Niles, California, 21 miles short of its destination. All were killed. He was survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Susan. His remains reside in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Lawrence R. Zimmerman

A Senior Airman in the California Air National Guard, 26-year-old Lawrence Zimmerman's main parachute failed to open completely and his reserve parachute opened too late during a routine training jump from a C-130 plane 43 miles east of Oakland, California, on July 12, 1977. It was his 58th jump. Lawrence, born in Council Bluffs, Iowa, was an alumnus who had been a graduate student at SDSU in the early 1970s. He had been active in the San Diego Mountain Rescue Team and was a member of the Air Force 129th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service. He was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Thomas Howlett Stringer & Carl Clinton Ball

Lt. Col. Thomas H. Stringer (right), age 39, who for a year had been commander of Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AFROTC) at San Diego State, and Maj. Carl C. Ball (below), age 44, who also worked with the same AFROTC detachment as an assistant professor providing flight instruction, died on the morning of December 14, 1961, forty minutes after taking off in rainy weather from Norton Air Force Base. Their twin-engine C-



47 transport was on a return flight to San Diego when the plane, piloted by Stringer, slammed into the side of a mountain one mile northwest of Santiago Peak on the Riverside-Orange County line. The C-47 was being flown to NAS Miramar for orientation flights for San Diego State AFROTC cadets. All aboard---Stringer and Ball along with the flight engineer---were killed instantly. Stringer, a participant in 27 bomber missions in World War II was survived by a wife and five children. A decorated airman who fought in both WWII and Korean War, Ball, who had arrived from duty in Taiwan six months prior to joining the AFROTC program, left behind a wife and two children. Both Stringer and Ball were buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



David John Schmitz

On June 30, 2020, 32-year-old 1st Lt. David J. Schmitz died in a training accident at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. David had earned a pilot license at age 17, been an outstanding cadet in SDSU's Air Force ROTC program, and after graduation had served in the Air Force as a C-17 loadmaster and instructor who helped deliver materiel to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. Born in Santa Barbara, to fulfill his goal of becoming a fighter pilot he earned an undergraduate degree in aeronautics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and later won awards and recognitions. He had been practicing flying the F-16 fighter jet when the fatal accident occurred. David left behind a wife of seven years, Valerie, and numerous friends and relatives. To honor his memory a scholarship fund for future aviators and a memorial fund to assist the families of fallen airmen were established.



Generals & Admirals

SDSU has provided the nation with talented leaders in the top ranks of its military, including a 4-star general in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an admiral who guided the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, and a commanding admiral of the Pacific Fleet.

Kelly Almon Aeschbach

After RADM Kelly Aeschbach obtained her bachelor's degree at George Washington University she acquired her M.B.A. at San Diego State University (Class of '98). Before being named Director of the [National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office](#) and Commander of the [Office of Naval Intelligence](#) in 2019, she previously served as Director of Intelligence, U.S. Strategic Command, in Omaha, Nebraska; Commanding Officer for Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia. She had also been deployed to Alaska, Tennessee, California, Virginia, Florida, Hawaii, Japan, England, and the Arabian Gulf. She was promoted to Rear Admiral after recommendation by President Barrack Obama in September 2016.



She is the recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

George J. Allen



After a 35-year career in the marines, Maj. Gen. George J. Allen earned his art degree at SDSU (Class of '77), working his way through school selling his artworks. He had previously acquired an MBA at Oklahoma City University and an M.S. in national resource strategy at National Defense University. His military assignments included Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6, I Marine Expeditionary Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; Unified Plans Branch Chief, Defense Communications Agency-Pacific; S-3 Officer, MWCS-38, 3rd MAW; Marine Communications Instructor at the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Assistant Chief of Staff, G-6, I Marine Expeditionary

Force, during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Currently, he divides his time painting at his home studio in Annandale, Virginia, and working as an independent information technology specialist for area companies.

Bertram Allison Bone



Born in San Diego, Marine Brigadier General Bertram Allison Bone (1893-1961) attended SDSU in 1914 when it was known as the State Teachers College of San Diego, then transferred to the University of California at Berkeley where he graduated with a degree in civil engineering. During World War I he



was a 1st Lieutenant posted to the American Legation in Peking, China. By 1939 he was back in San Diego leading the newly formed 1st Marine Defense Battalion, later responsible for the protection of Wake Island, and Johnston and Palmyra Islands when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. For their valiant service his “Wake Island Defenders” received the Presidential Unit Citation while he received the Legion of Merit medal in 1942. Bert was also the officer in charge when the 2nd Marine Defense Battalion was formed in San Diego in 1940 but its leadership had changed by the onset of war.



By the end of WWII he was chief of the Ordnance Division on Hawaii; then commanding officer of the 10th Marines 2nd Division; and in 1946 he was the commanding office of the Recruit Training Regiment at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. Upon leaving active duty he was a local educator who taught mathematics until his retirement. He is buried alongside his wife, Ruth, in Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Garry James Bonelli

Raised in a tough, largely Irish/Italian American neighborhood of New York City, Rear Admiral Garry Bonelli once considered entering the priesthood but after flunking out of college, and fearing he might be drafted during the Vietnam War, he enlisted in the Navy. He eventually signed up with the Navy SEALs and, because of an injury, had to endure two “Hell Weeks.”



After two tours of duty in Vietnam he paused to attend college and

eventually got his masters’ degree in mass communication at SDSU (Class of ‘76). He returned to the Navy and got a direct commission as a public affairs officer and later rejoined the SEALs. As a reservist, in 1990, during the first Persian Gulf War, Garry was recalled to active duty and was a SEAL commander. Several years passed and he was promoted to head the Naval Special Warfare Command’s WARCOM as rear admiral.



Charles W. Brown

An exceptional administrative career resulted in the promotion of Long Island, New York native Charles W. Brown to Rear Admiral. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, he later obtained a master's degree in mass communications and media studies at SDSU. Climbing the ladder to flag rank his service included being public affairs officer (PAO) for the Third Fleet and Pacific Fleet, PAO for U.S. Naval Air Forces, PAO for aircraft carrier USS Constellation and Cruiser Destroyer One, and fleet media officer for U.S. Fleet Office Command. Once deployed to support Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom, among his recognitions are a Silver Anvil Award and an Award of Excellence from the Public Relations Society of America.



Carl Edgar Bull



Rear Admiral Carl E. Bull was born in Baltimore, Maryland. At age 17 he enlisted in the Naval Reserve. A commissioned officer by 1940, in 1943 he commanded his first ship, the destroyer escort USS Whitman which partook in the invasion of Tarawa and the Gilbert Islands. Later, he commanded the USS Gilligan (right) which survived a kamikaze assault in Lingayan Gulf, sunk a midget Japanese submarine, and saw action at Okinawa that earned him a Silver Star. During the Korean War he commanded allied forces in Wonsan harbor, North Korea. When that war ended he became commanding officer of the Recruit Training Command at Great Lakes, Illinois. Commencing a second career in civilian life in 1959 he owned a Mexican restaurant in Old Town called "Manuel's". Carl received his master's degree and a teaching credential at San Diego State and taught American government at Horace Mann Middle School and Crawford High School. He died at his home in Bonita in 2001 at age 92 and was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Robert L. Cardenas

Born in 1920 in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, Robert L. Cardenas and his family became residents of San Diego in 1925. An exceptional student at San Diego High School, he won a two-year scholarship to study engineering at San Diego State. While a student here he joined the California National Guard.



He later finished aviation cadet training and by 1941 was a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant. A B-24 pilot in World War II, Robert survived being shot down over Germany in 1944 and for the balance of the decade built upon his exceptional record as a test pilot.

Best remembered as the pilot of the aircraft that released the X-1 rocket plane flown by Chuck Yeager that was the first to break the sound barrier, October 14, 1947, in the 1950s and 1960s Robert served in high level Air Force tactical and administrative posts in Okinawa, Southeast Asia, Spain, Belgium, and the U.S.

Appointed in 1971 as chief of the National Strategic Target List Division of the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, he had responsibility for devising a list of targets to be hit in case of a nuclear war. Promoted to Brigadier General in 1968, he retired in 1973 to an active civilian life. He returned to his alma mater in October 2013 to be the keynote speaker at the annual SDSU War Memorial ceremony.



Ralph Scott Clem

A 1965 graduate of San Diego State's Air Force ROTC program who earned his bachelor's degree in geography, Ralph S. Clem entered military service as a 2nd Lieutenant and worked in the Office of Special Investigations for a decade. From 1978 to 1990 he was Chief of Intelligence for the 93rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, then the 482nd Tactical Fighter Wing at Homestead Air Force Base in Florida. Other assignments in intelligence, strategic air operations and mobilizations followed at Fort George G. Meade in Maryland and Kelly Air Force Base in Texas.

In 1998, Ralph was named Deputy to the Chief of Air Force Reserve headquartered in Washington, D.C. By the year 2000 he was working in the Pentagon as an Air Force mobilization expert at the rank of Major General. A respected scholar, Ralph has edited three books and written several book reviews dealing with the history and demographics of Russia and the former Soviet Union. Retired from the military since 2004, today Clem is Professor of International Relations and Director of the new Center for Transnational and Comparative Studies at Florida International University



Thomas M. Cole

In September 2010, Army Brig. Gen. Thomas Cole handed over his command and retired as program executive officer-Intelligence



Electronic Warfare & Sensors (PEO IEW&S). During his 31 years in the Army he was responsible for \$4 billion of acquisitions. A graduate of West Point, he started as a field artillery military officer. In 1987 he earned his master's degree in aerospace engineering at SDSU.

John William Cox

Vice Admiral John William "Bill" Cox was a former Surgeon General of the Navy and had also been the commanding officer at Balboa Naval Hospital before arriving at SDSU in 1983 in the Graduate School of Public Health as its associate director and part-time lecturer, serving until 1986 when he was appointed San Diego County Medical Director. A native of St. Louis, Missouri, he obtained his doctorates in medicine and physiology from St. Louis University. Bill died in 2002 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Thomas R. Cullison



Having graduated in 1968 from Hanover College with a degree in music and experiencing three tours of duty as a Navy diver during the Vietnam War, Rear Admiral Thomas Cullison was granted his pre-med degree at San Diego State, then got his M.D. at Indiana University, and completed his internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. By 1986 he was Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Camp Pendleton; from 1998 to 2001 Commanding Officer, Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune; Fleet Surgeon, U.S. Pacific Fleet from 2001-2003; Command Surgeon, U.S. Pacific Command from 2003-2004; Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, 2004-2005; and Commander, Navy Medicine East and Commander, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, 2005-2007. Thomas retired from the Navy in 2010 as Deputy Surgeon General. In 2013 he was senior advisor to the Center

for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine.

Hollis Eugene Davison

Born in Camarillo, California, Hollis Davison received his undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri and his MBA degree from San Diego State in 1972. He finished Marine Corps basic training in 1958. After career enhancing stints in Lebanon, Okinawa, Thailand, and Vietnam he was made Inspector General of the Marine



Corps in 1985. In 1990 he earned the post Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Hollis retired in 1992 with the rank of Major General.



Gordon M. Dawson Jr.

Thirteen months before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor which he survived, Brig. Gen. Gordon Dawson (1915-2003), serving in a San Diego-based National Guard regiment, was sent to Hawaii to set up anti-aircraft defenses on Oahu. After nearly three years in the South Pacific he was ordered to the European Theater where he was promoted to flag rank directing anti-aircraft fire at German planes and buzz bombs at Normandy and participating in the Battle of the Bulge, earning him a Bronze Star. Twenty years later his National Guard contingent was called up to contain the 1965 Watts Riot. Gordon was born in Washington State but grew up in San Diego, graduated from San Diego High School, then attended San Diego State for two years.

Frank Worth Elliott Jr.

Though he did not complete his undergraduate studies at San Diego State, Frank W. Elliott did attend the here in 1941 before earning his pilot wings and flying bomber missions in the Mediterranean during World War II. In the post-war years he was assigned duty with the Strategic Air Command (SAC), the United Nations Truce Observer Team in Palestine (1949), the War Plans Division at U.S. Air Force headquarters (1965), and the U.S. Logistics Group at Ankara, Turkey.



He once admitted to having resided in 28 homes around the world. Frank tested bombers in Alaska and flew combat missions in Vietnam. Promoted to Major General in 1972, he retired from active service in 1975 and became a prominent citizen of Chanute, Illinois. He died in 1997.

Thomas Joseph Haynes

Thanks to San Diego State's Air Force ROTC program Thomas J. Haynes earned his wings as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1972. For the next five years he trained and commanded weather recon units in Guam and California. In 1980 Thomas joined the Pilot Tactical Airlift, 143 Airlift Squadron in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. He attended the Air War College in 1995. Still with the Rhode Island National Guard, by the year 2005 Thomas was Commander, Joint Force Headquarters, located in Cranston, Rhode Island. He was promoted to Major General on May 16, 2005.



Maurice Gardner Holmes

In 1928, when Brig. Gen. Maurice Holmes was a Marine captain in command of a small force in Nicaragua, his men were surrounded and attacked by a much larger group of bandits, but he organized such an effective resistance that he was awarded the Navy Cross. Born in Chesterville, Mississippi, in 1892, Maurice spent seven years in Spanish America and in retirement returned to school. He studied for a master's degree from 1949 to 1950 at San Diego State where he was a member of El Club Azteca and the History Club. He later earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of Southern California and in 1963 published the book *From New Spain by Sea to the Californias, 1519-1668* (Arthur H. Clark Co.). Holmes died in 1973 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Joseph Leon Howard

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, Rear Admiral Joseph L. Howard arrived with his family in San Diego at age two. He matriculated at San Diego State in 1935 but left three years later to complete his bachelor's degree in economics at the University of California at Berkeley. After graduation in 1940 he returned to the city to work at Consolidated Aircraft Company and applied for an officer's appointment in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Called to active duty in March 1941, nine months later then Ensign Howard found himself in Hawaii performing makeshift medical triage in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. As a Supply Corps officer he excelled in logistics and procurement procedures and advanced in rank. Assignments in Japan and at the Pentagon preceded his appointment in 1961 as executive officer of the Naval Supply Center in San Diego and his final post as Commanding Officer of the Naval Supply Center in Charleston, South Carolina. Retired in 1972, he was active in the local Rotary Club and became president of San Diego Historical Society. A scholar and writer who had studied at both the Navy War College and Harvard University, he authored the books *Our Modern Navy* (1961), *A History of San Diego Rotary Club 33* (1981), *Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink: Her life and Times* (1990), and the novel *The Diamonite Conspiracy* (1980). RADM Howard died on June 7, 2003.



Robert Ballantine Johnston

Robert B. Johnston (Class of '61) was an English major--- not surprising since he was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and immigrated to the U.S. in 1955. A commissioned Marine officer straight out of college, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam. A series of assignments in administrative and command posts at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C., the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) in San Diego, and Camp Lejeune in North Carolina was interspersed with study at the Amphibious Warfare School and the National War College.



In 1984 he commanded the Officer Candidate School at Quantico. In 1988 Commanding General of the Marine Corps Base at Camp S.D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan, and in 1990 he was deployed with CENTCOM to Saudi Arabia as Chief of Staff during the Persian Gulf War. Upon becoming Commanding General of the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton in 1991 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General. Retired since 2000, Robert is sought out by news reporters for insights on violence in the Middle East.

Robert Joseph Kamensky

In April 2013, Rear Admiral Robert Kamensky became Deputy Chief of Staff Submarines for NATO Maritime Command. A graduate of Texas A&M University, in 1980 he reported for duty in San Diego aboard the nuclear attack submarine USS Drum. By 2007 he was Submarine Force Reserve Component Chief of Staff, then Vice Admiral Submarine Force, Pacific theater, and he has served as director of the Organizational Process Management Office. A former student at SDSU in the Executive Learning program, in 2011 Robert was an invited speaker at the annual SDSU War Memorial ceremony.



Bryant Kearney



After 40 years of military service Brig. Gen. Bryant Kearney (Class of '30) retired from the California National Guard in 1960. The following year he was elected president of the San Diego State's Alumni Association. Considered an expert on Civil Service in the western states, he also obtained his master's degree at San Diego State in 1956 with the thesis titled "Wage Administration in California Countries" that was used as a handbook. Fluent in Spanish, the government sent him to teach personnel administration in Guatemala

At the end of World War II Bryant was Assistant Director of Personnel for San Diego County and at the time of his retirement led the 251st Field Artillery Unit. Married to the former Ruth A. Buscholz (Class of '34) and a long-time resident of Chula Vista, he died on March 10, 1983.

Karol A. Kennedy

Prior to her retirement Army Maj. Gen. Karol A. Kennedy directed 25,000 troops of the 99th Regional Support Command which consisted of 200 units in five states and Washington, D.C. In her civilian job she was deputy comptroller of the U.S. Army Reserve. Born in Seattle, Washington, she grew up in San Diego where her father was a fisherman. She entered military service at age 18. Advancement through the ranks was assisted by a bachelor's degree in English literature at SDSU and a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University. In retirement Karol, who also is a professional dog trainer, worked with the America's VetDogs program which provides disabled veterans with guide dogs.



Dennis Michael Kenneally

Army Maj. Gen. Dennis M. Kenneally was born in Boston. At age 17 he enlisted in the military and during the Vietnam War became a helicopter pilot and pilot instructor. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Distinguished Flying Cross. At SDSU he earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1972 and a master's degree in public administration in 1974. He later acquired the MBA at Marymount University and studied at the National Defense University, Army War College, and Harvard University. From 1983 to 1989 he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Reserve Affairs. In retirement he has served as consultant and board member for numerous government agencies, NGOs, and private businesses.



Frank Myers Kyes



Rear Admiral Frank M. Kyes was born in Parker, South Dakota, on May 13, 1908, but his family moved to San Diego when he was still a child. A graduate of San Diego High School, he attended San Diego State for one year (1926 to 1927), was a reporter for the student newspaper and a member of Epsilon Eta fraternity, then transferred to the University of Southern California



where he played tennis, got his bachelor's degree and, in 1930, his doctorate in dental surgery. He worked in private practice until 1936 when he joined the Navy and was stationed in Guam. He later taught at the Naval Dental School in Bethesda, Maryland, and at the U.S. Naval Academy where he managed the dental clinic. Frank ran toothpaste tests that resulted in the Navy approving Crest over other brands. He rose to chief of the Navy's Dental Division of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery and was elected 3rd Vice President of the American Dental Association. Before his retirement in 1970 he was director of dental services for the 11th Naval District. A champion of fluoridated drinking water, as a member of the San Diego County Dental Society in 1969 he campaigned for a ballot measure to have fluoride added to the city's water. Following his death from Lou Gehrig's disease on December 16, 1986, his cremated remains were inurned at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

Nancy S. Lacore

Subsequent to acquiring her master's degree from SDSU, Rear Admiral Nancy S. Lacore graduated from the Air Command Staff College, then the National Defense University at the Joint Forces Staff College. By 1993 she was flying helicopters at posts in Virginia and California. In the year 2000 she transitioned to the Navy Reserve. In 2017, after several commands across the nation, she became commanding officer of the strategically located Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa, a naval expeditionary base prepared to respond to situations in areas of the Persian Gulf.



Arthur Navarro Langston III



In April 1988, prior to the first Gulf War, naval forces of the United States and Iran clashed violently in the Persian Gulf. Then Commander Arthur N. Langston III, flying a Grumman A-6 Intruder from the famed USS Enterprise, was a leader of the air wing that destroyed an Iranian cruiser and

blasted off-shore Iranian installations in what was called Operation Praying Mantis. At SDSU Arthur had majored in public administration (Class of '68). In 1999, after spending three decades in the Navy, he retired from the Pentagon as Director of the Navy Staff and Chief Information Officer with the rank of Rear Admiral. In civilian life he was a vice president at Oracle Corporation and Salesforce.



Anthony Long

In the 1930s National Guard Brig. Gen. Anthony Long (1911-2003), a native San Diego, studied architecture at San Diego State, designed homes in the city, and owned a cocktail lounge in Hillcrest. He was one of several lucky alumni who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and by the end of World War II was an anti-aircraft artillery specialist. Anthony retired from military service in 1969 as commanding general of the 114th Artillery Brigade in San Diego. Married and with three children, a past president of the Hillcrest Kiwanis Club, he died in El Cajon, a victim of Alzheimer's disease.



Terry Lee McCreary

Admiral T. L. McCreary began his career in the Navy in 1978 in the Pacific Fleet as a surface warfare officer. He eventually moved into public affairs and became assistant public affairs officer for the Commander of the 7th Fleet. Upon earning his master's degree in mass communications and public relations at SDSU in 1987 he went to the nation's capital to serve as the new director of the Navy's 30-minute television news broadcast "Navy News This Week." From 1989 to 1992 he was aboard the USS Missouri as public affairs officer, sailing with her to the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm and watched her decommissioning. Back in San Diego he was public affairs officer for Submarine Group Five until 1994. He was next assigned to the 5th Fleet in Bahrain; then Bureau of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C.; and in 1997 was public affairs officer for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command, in Hawaii. Having served as public affairs special assistant for Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard B. Myers, in 2003, Terry was made Navy's Chief of Information in charge of all of its varied programs. After retiring from the Navy in 2006 he worked as communication director of the U.S. Special Operations Command and the National Counterterrorism Center, and since 2008 has been vice president of Monster Worldwide Inc. and president of Military.com, its subsidiary.



Merrill Anthony McPeak

In 1990 four-star Gen. Merrill A. "Tony" McPeak (Class of '57, ROTC) ascended to the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, the highest military position ever held by a San Diego State alumnus. Completing officer pilot training in Texas, McPeak was a fighter pilot who logged more than 6,000 hours and was a flight instructor. In 1968 he performed with the

famed Thunderbirds Air Force precision flight demonstration team.

During the Vietnam War he was with the 612th Tactical Fighter Squadron and led Operation Commando Sabre. A military fellow at the Council of Foreign Relations in 1975 in New York City, Merrill advanced in 1982 to Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe (Ramstein Air Base, West Germany); and tapped in 1988 as Commander in Chief of Pacific Air Forces (Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii). Among his awards and decorations are the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 13 oak leaf clusters, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallery Cross with Palm. Merrill retired in 1994.

James Edwin McPherson

Both a native San Diegan and an alumnus (Class of '77, public administration) distinguished jurist James E. McPherson also holds two law degrees, one from the University of San Diego and one in military law from The Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. At first an Army military policeman who served in Korea, James later crossed over to the Navy and by 1979 was a commissioned Ensign in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (USRN). From 1983 to 1985 he was a trial counsel at the Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) in Norfolk, Virginia; then Station Judge Advocate in the Philippines at the Naval Air Station at Cubi Point; and in 1988 was Command Judge Advocate aboard the USS Roosevelt. More legal experience followed—including capital murder cases and increasingly responsible administrative assignments---until James was promoted to Rear Admiral in 2004 and made history that year on November 10 when he became the 39th Judge Advocate of the Navy.



Francis D. Morley

Rear Admiral Francis Morley is Naval Air Systems Command vice commander, stationed in Patuxent River, Maryland. Born in Phoenix, Arizona, he obtained his bachelor's degree in physics and commissioned an Ensign through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) program at SDSU. He flew fighter jets attached to several aircraft carriers and saw action in operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom, among others, flying at least 35 types of aircraft. Francis also served as a test pilot but eventually he found his niche in fighter craft program management and won awards in this field.

George Stephen Morrison



U.S. Naval Academy graduate Rear Admiral George S. Morrison witnessed firsthand the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, while serving aboard the minelayer Pruitt. He later flew missions in the Pacific Theater. In the post-war years he was in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as a nuclear weapons projects instructor. During the Korean

War he was awarded the Bronze Star for his work at the joint operations center in Seoul. He took command of the aircraft carrier USS



Bon Homme Richard in 1963, the flagship of the 3rd Fleet Carrier Division in the Pacific, based in Alameda, California. By 1975 he had been promoted to Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in the Marianas in time to receive fleeing refugees from South Vietnam. After retiring in 1975, while residing

in Coronado and Chula Vista, he took refresher classes at SDSU and considered becoming a college math instructor. One of his three children, the internationally idolized but tragic rock singer Jim Morrison (photo above with dad), with whom he did not enjoy a close relationship, famously died at age 27 from a suspected drug overdose. George died in 2008 and his ashes, like that of his wife in 2005, were scattered off Point Loma.



Dolf Edward Muehleisen

After acquiring his undergraduate degree Air Force Maj. Gen. Dolf E. "The Mule" Muehleisen (Class of '26) earned a second degree from the University of California's College of Business in 1931. A National Collegiate Doubles tennis champion in his youth, Dolf was a member of the first class of aviators to graduate from the Army Air Corps at Randolph Field in Texas and flew the U.S. mails in 1934. A widely experienced pilot who flew World War I vintage DeHavillands to supersonic fighter jets, during World War II, he was involved in antisubmarine warfare along the Atlantic Coast and flew B-29 bombers stationed at Guam. Recognized as an expert in air defense strategies, after attending the National War College in 1952 he became a faculty member there. Starting in the late 1950s he



took on various assignments with the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). Dolf wound up his career as Commander of the 29th NORAD Region, retiring in 1965 to Menlo Park, California where he died in 1992.

John William Murphy Jr.



Another Annapolis graduate (Class of '25) who also attended San Diego State was Rear Admiral John W. Murphy Jr. who studied here from 1955 to 1956 and was a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. During WWII he commanded the submarine USS Tambor. He had an older brother, Marion, who became a vice admiral. In 1946 he directed the navy's War Crimes in the Pacific program which resulted in, among other things, a death sentence for Japan's Adm. Koso Abe who had approved the execution of nine American POWs. In the post-war era he commanded the attack cargo ship Union and was the Navy's Communications Officer for the 11th and, later, the 17th District located in Kodiak, Alaska.

David R. Myers

Former ROTC cadet and math major Air Force Brig. Gen. David Myers (Class of '66) was mobilization assistant to the communications and information director, Headquarters Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. He had previously worked in computer systems, and missile, aerospace, and satellite operations and testing. Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, at SDSU he was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. In retirement David was director of mission systems for a high tech company.



Robert C. Nowakowski

Chicago native RADM Robert Nowakowski earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering at SDSU and an M.B.A. at Cal State-San Marcos. His military training includes Air University's Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base; Joint Forces Staff College; and the Navy Senior Leadership Seminar. His military service in the Navy Reserve started in the year 2000. He began as training officer, U.S. 3rd Fleet Naval Cooperation and Protection of Shipping. A surface warfare officer and joint qualified officer,



Robert has managed training for 3rd Fleet Naval Cooperation and Protection of Shipping, Military Sealift Command (MSC) Pacific, and at Fleet ASW Training Center Pacific in San Diego, California.

Mobilizations include deputy branch chief, engagements division and director of training, Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa in Djibouti, Africa, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. His command tours include LCS Seaframe Detachment 103, U.S. 3rd Fleet Joint Forces Maritime Component Command Detachment Phoenix; Commander Navy Region Southwest Regional Operations Center; and Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters.

Michael Ira Neil



Class of '62 pre-law graduate Michael I. Neil picked up his law degree at UC-Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1966. Upon earning his officer's commission at Quantico he was shipped off to Vietnam where he was a Marine platoon leader and air observer, service that earned him a Purple Heart, the Navy Cross, and six Air Medals. Back in U.S. in 1968, Michael capitalized on his legal background and worked as a lawyer prosecuting and defending personnel at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. Switching gears once again, he took advantage of his training in amphibious warfare and participated in major exercises. In 1989 he was promoted to Brigadier General and in 1990 assumed the post of Commanding General of the Marine Corps Base at Camp Pendleton. Presently retired from military service, he is senior partner in the San Diego law firm Neil, Dymott, Frank, Harrison & McFall. A defense attorney, he is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Neil E. Nelson

In 2015 Maj. Gen. Neil "Rick" Nelson (Class of '84) was given command of all Marine forces in Europe and Africa. He had previously commanded the 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, housed at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Japan. A distinguished graduate of the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Advanced Course, he has also attended the Marine Corps Command, Staff College and the School of Advanced Warfaring, and the U.S. Army War College. He had previously commanded engineer support battalions in this country and abroad. In Iraq his unit with the Task Force Tarawa and 1st Marine Division operated as an assault bridge battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom-1. After commanding The Marine Corps Engineer School at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina from 2006 to 2008, he was appointed Chief of Staff, II Marine Expeditionary Force and returned for duty in Iraq, then was assigned to



duty in Japan in 2011. Among his decorations are the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit with 2 Gold Stars, Navy Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Elizabeth Schuyler Niemyer

The twenty-third director of Navy Nurse Corps is Rear Admiral Elizabeth S. Niemyer who is also Deputy Chief for Installation & Logistics. With a nursing degree from the University of Maryland and a graduate degree in education and training management at SDSU (1994), she has served in administrative positions at facilities in Bethesda, Maryland, Quantico, Virginia, and Camp Pendleton, California, Okinawa, Japan, and Rota, Spain. A graduate of the Naval War College, among her honors is the Legion of Merit Medal (Gold Star).



George William Norwood



As a student at San Diego State, Maj. Gen. George W. "Nordie" Norwood (Class of '67) majored in mathematics. His initial pilot training took place at Williams AFB in Arizona and soon thereafter he was flying combat missions in Vietnam in the A-1H Skyraider which earned him several decorations. Returned to the U.S. in 1974, he completed an MBA degree at Golden Gate University and attended the Air

Command and Staff College and the National War College prior to his appointment as commander of the 86th Tactical Fighter Wing at Ramstein Air Base in West Germany. In May 1993 he became Deputy Inspector General in the office of the Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, D.C., and in November 1995 he was named deputy chief of staff/United Nations Command and United States Forces Korea (USFK), Yongsan Army Garrison. Upon retirement in 1997 he formed Norwood and Associates, Inc. in Tampa, Florida, offering technical advice and planning services to government, the military, and private firms.



Frederick Rounsville Payne Jr.

A Marine Corps pilot since 1936 and a much decorated World War II ace and Korean War veteran, Brig. Gen. Frederic R. "Fritz" Payne attended San Diego State for a year, 1932 to 1933, before earning his undergraduate degree at the University of Arizona and entering the Corps in 1935. He saw action at Guadalcanal in 1942 and was credited with 7 1/2 aerial kills. Following liaison, command, and control assignments in Korea he was elevated to Director of Policy Analysis Division, Headquarters, Marine Corps. He next commanded a helicopter

training group and was Tactical Air Commander for the 4th Atomic Exercise Brigade. A recipient of the Navy Cross, Frederick's final assignment before retirement in 1958 was as Inspector of Marine Air Reserve Training Command. He lives in Rancho Mirage, California.

Michael Joseph Peters



Looking back over his 33-year career retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Michael J. Peters, a graduate of Escondido High School and SDSU (AFROTC, Class of '63), can recall such memorable experiences as saving 34 lives in rescue missions during the eruption of Mt. St. Helens; being the first commander of the first Air Mobility Wing; being shot down on his 28th combat mission over

Vietnam and escaping capture; and participation in Operations Desert Storm and South Watch. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, and Distinguished Flying Cross.



Edward James Philbin

Born in New York City, Air Force Maj. Gen. Edward J. Philbin (Class of '57) was an engineering student at San Diego State, a member of Ocoatl and Blue Key, who later earned his law degree at the University of San Diego



(summa cum laude) and graduated with distinction at the Air War College in 1978. He taught at both USD and the Air War College. In 1979 when he was Commander AFIS/RE Detached Training Site 10 at March Air Force Base he was named Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. In 1984, Edward was Commissioner for the Federal Maritime Commission and



in 1989 was appointed member and chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission. By 1999 he had retired as commander of the New Jersey Air National Guard and as executive director of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

Leonard Francis Picotte



Prior to graduating from SDSU with a master's degree in political science (Class of '75), Rear Admiral Leonard F. Picotte had served in explosive ordinance disposal, weapons, and propulsion positions on three ships. In the early 1970s he had commanded the attack transport USS Marathon. In the 1980s he commanded the dock landing vessels USS Alamo and USS Duluth. From 1989 to 1990, Leonard commanded the multipurpose

amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (photo above). He started his Navy career as Seaman 1C and rose to Commandant of the Surface Warfare School (San Diego) and Commander-NATO Exercises Mediterranean and North Atlantic.



Joseph Vaughn Potter



Born in San Diego, Brig. Gen. Joseph V. Potter (Class of '63)) as an Air Force ROTC cadet at San Diego State was a Distinguished Military Graduate who later earned three master's degrees from other universities. After additional training at the Air War College and the National Defense University, service as a jet fighter and bomber pilot who saw action in the Vietnam War, participation in the U.S. invasion of Panama, and with experience as a university professor, Joseph retired from active service in 1991 at the rank of Colonel. He next became a Brigadier General in the Vermont State Militia. In 2002 he was appointed Deputy Commander of the 8th Brigade of the U.S. Army Volunteer Reserve which encompassed

Montana, North and South Dakota, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. He recently served as Commanding General of the United States Volunteers, known for its Civil War battle reenactments.

Ira Dwight Putnam



A survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and a participant in the Battle of Midway, Rear Admiral Ira D. Putnam (Class of '41) service in the military spanned 34 years and two major wars. Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, his family moved to San Diego when he was a small boy. He graduated from San Diego High in 1937 and was a psychology major and member of Kappa Phi Sigma fraternity at San Diego State in 1940, the same year he was



commissioned as a naval officer. Aboard the sea tender USS Thornton at Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, he escaped injury and spent part of the balance of the war patrolling the seas in submarines. By the end of WWII he had won the Silver Star and was serving aboard the submarine tender USS Proteus (see above). Ira later saw action in the Korean War; was commander of the San Diego Naval Reserve Training Center from 1952 to 1954; and in civilian life worked in several

positions at the San Diego County Probation Department, including supervising officer for San Diego Juvenile Hall. Before his retirement in 1974 he was thrice appointed to the 11th Naval District Reserve policy board. A resident of Lemon Grove, he died of cancer on March 10, 1995 at age 75.

Osmond Jay Ritland

Born in Colorado, Maj. Gen. Osmond J. Ritland was a student at San Diego State from 1929 to 1932. He left to train as a fighter pilot at Randolph Field in Texas and by 1935 was a pilot for United Air Lines. He became an Air Force test pilot in 1939 flying every conceivable type of plane and, eventually, prototype jets. During World War II he served in the China-Burma-India theater and earned the Bronze Star and Air Medal. In the post-war 1940s he helped the Air Force develop and acquire aircraft and in the 1950s oversaw testing and equipping the Air Force with nuclear armaments. From 1959 to 1961 Osmond was Air Force Ballistics Missile Division commander. His last major assignment was as Deputy to the Commander of the Air Force Systems Command for Manned Space Flight.



Peter Joseph Rowe

Born in Connecticut, Marine Brig. Gen. Peter J. Rowe lives most of his life in San Diego and obtained a master's degree at SDSU in 1973. He had tried studying at Xavier University in Cincinnati and pro football (Washington Redskins) before enlisting the Marine Corps. He progressed to direct the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade that landed in Saudi Arabia in February 1991 to join with the effort to push the Iraqi invasion force out of Kuwait. Peter later led troops in assisting survivors of cyclone-ravaged Bangladesh. In June 1991 he was deputy commander of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, the largest concentration of Marines on the West Coast. He retired from the Corps in September 1992. On March 4, 1996, at age 57, Peter was killed in a freeway accident on Interstate 5. He had a wife and three children.



Charles Raymond Saffell Jr.



Retired Rear Admiral Charles "Chuck" Saffell received a B.S. in production management at SDSU and began his military career flying transport planes. He eventually led a squadron of Hawkeye (E-2B) early warning aircraft and was an instructor for the E-2C. Commands aboard the USS Forrestal and the USS Saratoga followed. He picked up graduate degrees at the Naval Postgraduate School, the Naval War



College and the University of Washington. In 1990 he traded his post at the Pentagon as Deputy Director of the Office of Program Appraisal (OPA) for command of the amphibious transport USS Guam, participating in Operations Desert Storm, Desert Shield, and the rescue of hundreds of diplomats in Somalia for which he was awarded the Bronze Star. Charles took command of the USS Wasp in 1991 and four years later commanded the 16,000 men and women sailors and Marines who comprised Amphibious Group Three in San Diego. Retired in 1997, he had executive positions at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), the Titan Corporation, and Nortel Government Solutions.

Clarence Howard Schmid

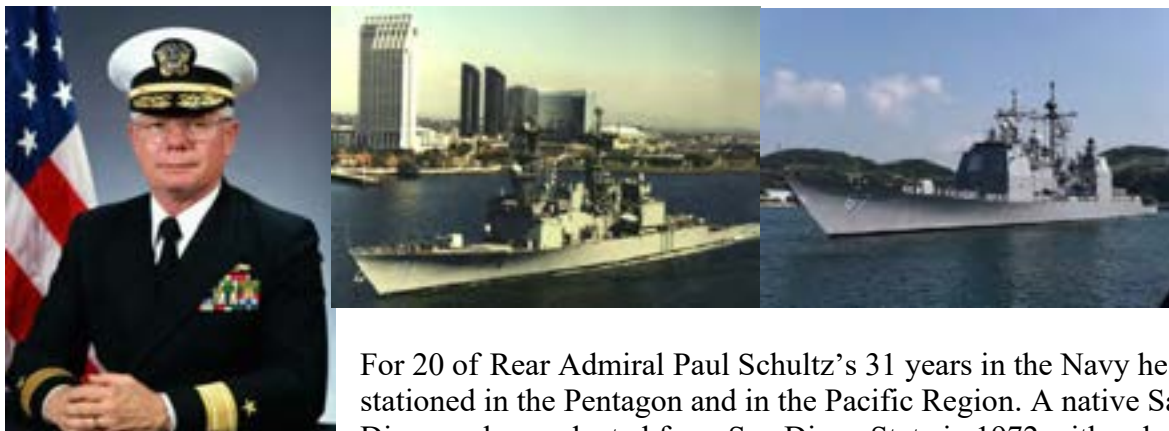


While at San Diego State a member of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, Tau Sigma economics fraternity, and Photophans photography club, Marine Maj. Gen. Clarence H. Schmid (Class of '43) joined the Corps shortly after graduation. He advanced through the ranks as a supply specialist at several bases across the U.S. and saw service in Vietnam (1970-1971). Along the way Clarence acquired a master's



degree at George Washington University and became a 33rd Degree Mason. Married in 1944, this native San Diegan for a long time resided in Spring Valley. His last assignment was as Commanding General of Logistics Supply Base Atlantic in Albany, Georgia. He died August 23, 1977.

Paul S. Schultz



For 20 of Rear Admiral Paul Schultz's 31 years in the Navy he was stationed in the Pentagon and in the Pacific Region. A native San Diegan who graduated from San Diego State in 1972 with a degree in geography (also has a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University), before his fall from grace he had commanded the missile cruiser USS Shiloh and the destroyer USS John Young.

Robert Scurlock

San Diego native Maj. Gen. Robert Scurlock started his college career at SDSU, 1947-1948, then entered the Air Force to earn his wings in 1949. He fought in the Korean War and by 1954 was a flight test officer affiliated with the Lockheed Aircraft Company. Administrative assignments in data systems, aircraft maintenance, procurement, and logistics followed at McClellan AFB, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ent AFB, the Defense Supply Agency, and abroad in Lebanon and Spain. Clarence earned a bachelor's degree at Ohio State University and graduate degrees at the University of Southern California, George Washington University, and he completed a course of study at the Air War College. His decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He retired in 1979. Still an active pilot, he performed the flyover at the 2011 SDSU War Memorial ceremony.



Elliott Marchant Senn

Rear Admiral Elliott Marchant Senn was born in Alaska in 1897. As the captain of the heavy cruiser USS Quincy (photo below) in WWII he bombarded the Normandy coast preceding the Allied landing on D-Day and subsequently transported President



Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Yalta Conference in 1945. Other potentates who came aboard were Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, King Farouk of Egypt, and Winston Churchill. The son of an admiral himself, Elliott attended San Diego State for two years and did practice teaching at local high schools as part of his studies. Before retirement in 1951 he was commandant of the Treasure Island training center in San Francisco Bay, instructing 10,000 sailors. A widower, he died in 1980, leaving a portion of his will to be administered by the Navy to establish the Elliott M. Senn Memorial Fund, specifying that money be given to “NROTC midshipmen as prizes for essays written on naval topics, and as direct education grants to former U.S. Navy enlisted personnel currently in the NROTC Program.”



USS Quincy

James Edward Service



Taking leave from his duties as a flight instructor at NAS Corpus Christi, from August 1955 to January 1957 Vice Admiral James E. Service was a student at San Diego State. A combat pilot during the Korean War and having flown numerous combat



missions during the Vietnam War, between 1972 and 1977 he was commander of the fast support ship USS Sacramento and the aircraft carrier USS Independence (photo below). A three-year stint in Naval Operations at the Pentagon was followed by command of fleet units in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean. In

1982 he was named the 42nd president of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. From 1985 until he retired in September 1987 he was Commander, Naval Air Forces, United States Pacific Fleet, at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego.

Arthur Duke Sikes Jr.

A distinguished Air Force ROTC cadet and honors graduate in economics (Class of '69), Big. Gen. Arthur D. Sikes Jr. was later granted a master's degree in public administration at Auburn University and studied at the Air Command and Staff College, Air War College, and the NATO Defense College in Rome. Sikes began his career as an intelligence officer and flight commander who was posted to Great Britain, Thailand, Italy, West Germany, South Korea, and Turkey with experience in such sensitive areas as electronic security, tactical cryptography, and tactical reconnaissance. He also contributed his expertise to Operation Desert Storm and the NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. In 1997 Arthur was at the Pentagon as Deputy Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations. In 1999 he became Director of the Customer Support Office at the National Imagery and Mapping Agency in Reston, Virginia. He retired in 1999.

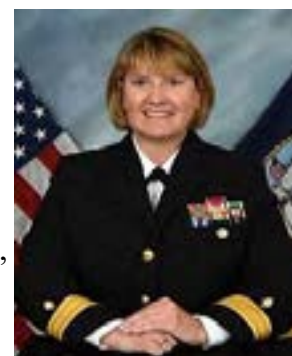


Michael P. Sullivan

A graduate Beverly Hills High School, San Diego State, and the Naval War College, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Michael P. Sullivan won the 1974 Alfred A. Cunningham Award as Marine Aviator of the Year. He mastered piloting a number of aircraft from the Douglas A-1 Skyraider to the AV-8B Harrier and several helicopters. A commissioned officer since 1956, he had two combat tours in Vietnam. From 1985 to 1988 he commanded 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) and prior to his retirement was Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia.

Anne Marie Swap

Promoted to Rear Admiral in January 2016, Anne S. Swap was previously Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan, and before that was Executive Officer at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. She has served in administrative posts in naval hospitals, clinics, and offices in Yokosuka, Japan, California, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Tennessee, and from 2007 to 2008 was deployed in



Kabul, Afghanistan as Senior Health Care Administrator for the Afghanistan National Army. Born in Fort Ord, California, after receiving her undergraduate degree from James Madison University she earned her master's degree in public health at SDSU (Class of '94). A past Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, she is currently Director of the Navy's Medical Service Corps and Director of Medical Resources, Plans and Policy Division.

Scott Harbison Swift

On May 27, 2015, Scott "Notso" H. Swift (Class of '79) he was promoted to Admiral and took control of the Navy's Pacific Fleet. As the Fleet's 35st commander since 1941 his headquarters is at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Scott had most recently served as Director of Navy Staff at the Pentagon. In the spring of 2006 he was president of the Tailhook Association. An alumni of the Naval War College and the Strike Fighter Weapons School, since 1980 he has logged more than 4,000 fight hours in sophisticated attack aircraft including the VFA-122 Super Hornet. In 1989 he was U.S. Pacific Fleet Landing Signal Officer of the Year; in 1992 Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet Attack Aviator of the Year; and took part in Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was the keynote speaker at the SDSU War Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony on November 4, 2016.



Jimmie Wilkes Taylor

Rear Admiral Jimmie Taylor, from Nashville, attended the University of Tennessee but graduated from San Diego State (geography, Class of '79). He got his private and commercial pilot's licenses and had been a pilot instructor before obtaining his wings as a Navy flyer in 1958. Most of his career was spent piloting F-8 and F-14 fighter jets attached to several carriers and the rest in administrative duties such as Chief of Naval Air Training, Head of Naval Aviation Plans and Programs, and for awhile had responsibility for the Navy's Blue Angels flight demonstration team. Jimmie also had



combat experience during the closing days of the Vietnam War. After 34 years in the Navy he retired in 1991 to his home state, was active in civic activities, and continued flying.

Edward George Usher III



A third generation Marine, Maj. Gen. Edward G. Usher III (Class of '74) majored in psychology at SDSU. Commissioned as an officer in 1975 he studied at the Amphibious Warfare School in 1981, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in 1987, and the Naval War College where he received the M.A. degree in national security and strategic studies in 1997. He has held varied command posts in materiel and supply management at Marine bases from Camp Pendleton in California, the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia, Fort Belvoir in Virginia, and also service overseas in Okinawa, Japan, and six months duty as Chief of Staff for the Chief Operating Officer, Coalition Provisional Authority, in Baghdad, Iraq. Edward's

decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Currently, he is U.S. Marine Corps director of Logistics Plans, Policies and Strategic Mobility.

Jeffery D. Valenzia

Brigadier General Jeffery Valenzia was a cadet in SDSU's Air Force ROTC program who



graduated in 1994 with a degree in athletic training. Today he is the Director, Joint Force Integration, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy, Integration and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Arlington, Virginia. An F-16 pilot, he had duty stations in Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, Arizona, Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, South Korea, Qatar, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Jeffery has a master's degree in national resource strategy from The Eisenhower School, Fort Lesley J. McNair, in Washington, D.C. Prior to his present position he had been Commander, 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Afghanistan and Commander, NATO Air Command-Afghanistan, Headquarters Resolute Support,

Kabul, Afghanistan. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters. He was promoted to Brigadier General on April 1, 2020.

Earl Sumner Van Inwegen



Born in Illinois and a 1960 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Earl S. "Van" Van Inwegen was granted his MBA at San Diego State in 1971. Finishing at the top of his pilot training class at Spence Air Force Base in Georgia and Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas, he became a C-131 aircraft commander and pilot

instructor with the 13th Aeromedical Transport Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, California. During the Vietnam Conflict he logged over 800 combat flying hours in the C-123. Famed Army Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf commented in his autobiography that Earl's volunteer rescue flight at Pleiku, Vietnam, was "the most heroic act I'd ever seen."



Upon completing the Air War College in 1979 Van was made chief of the Space Operations Division in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Plans and Readiness headquartered in Washington, D.C. In 1981 he advanced to deputy director of the Directorate of Space at the Pentagon, and in 1984 he was promoted to Brigadier General and appointed deputy chief of staff, intelligence, for NORAD and Air Force Space Command. In 1985 he was assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to assist in negotiating the Strategic Defense Initiative with the Soviets. His last major assignment was deputy chief of staff for operations, U.S. Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado. Retired from active duty in 1988, Van worked in high level positions at TRW in Redondo Beach until 2000. A married resident of La Jolla and the father two grown children, he is currently on the Board of Trustees of the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial Association.

Philip A. Whitacre



The president of Sigma Chi fraternity at San Diego State in 1955, and on the Varsity Debate and various campus committees, Rear Admiral Philip A. Whitacre later completed OCS and proceeded to earn his stripes in the Supply Corps, serving during the Korean War and retiring as Deputy Commander of the Naval Supply Systems Command for Fleet Support. His activities in retirement were extraordinary. He became Chief Development Officer for the National



Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. For his considerable work as a humanitarian he was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Philip A. Whitacre Scholarship Fund in Palm Beach County.

Eugene Parks Wilkinson

Vice Admiral Eugene P. “Dennis” Wilkinson (Class of ‘38), a native of Long Beach, California, briefly taught chemistry and mathematics at San Diego State after graduation. Two years later he was a commissioned officer aboard the USS Louisville, a heavy battle cruiser that later survived two kamikaze hits. At the beginning of World War II Eugene was in the U.S. Naval Submarine School in New London, Connecticut. He served on two submarines during the war and was awarded the Silver Star. Service on three more subs, including the USS Cusk, the first sub to fire guided missiles, and work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Argonne National Laboratory preceded his first command of a submarine: the USS Volodor. He



subsequently commanded the USS Sea Robin, the USS Wahoo and, in 1953, became Commanding Officer of the USS Nautilus (above), the first nuclear-powered submarine, an assignment that earned him the Legion of Merit.

A stint at the Naval War College was followed in 1958 by command of Submarine Division 102; then in 1961 command of the missile cruiser USS Long Beach, the first nuclear-powered surface ship. By 1963 Eugene was director the Submarine Warfare Division for the Chief of Naval

Operations. Three years later he was Chief of Staff of U.S. Forces in Japan; in 1969 commander of Submarine Flotilla Two; in 1970 promoted to Vice Admiral and Commander of Atlantic Submarine Force; and in 1972 appointed Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (submarine warfare) at the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. After his retirement in 1974 he was honored by the Uranium Institute and the National Academy of Engineering. He also acted as a consultant to the Navy and other federal agencies and companies and contributed to publications of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. He died July 16, 2013.

Donald Erwin Wilson

Rear Admiral Donald E. Wilson (Class of '55) made his mark in the U.S. Navy Supply Corps wherein he became the Navy's "top retailer" when in 1981 he took command of the Navy Resale and Services and Support Office in New York. Prior to this he had been commanding officer of the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia, and had gained considerable experience working in logistics at the Pentagon. An accounting major at San Diego State, he earned an M.B.A. in management at the Navy Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Donald wore several decorations obtained during the Vietnam War. Though he grew up in Coronado, California, after retirement in 1987 he settled in Springfield, Virginia and operated Fishing World, a bait and tackle supply shop in nearby Alexandria. He died of cancer on February 3, 2002 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Garland P. Wright Jr.

In 1977 at the U.S. Naval Academy, Rear Admiral Garland P. "Gar" Wright was co-captain of its first National Championship Sailing team. An extended studies student at SDSU, he was granted an M.B.A. in finance at the Naval War College and received further training at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. A stint as a naval flight officer with Sea Control Squadron (VS) 38 Red Griffins preceded an assignment as instructor at Air Anti-Submarine Warfare Wing Pacific. Starting in 1986 he served in the Navy Reserve aboard the USS Constellation; he was at NAS North Island; next as director of the Maritime Homeland Defense, 3rd Fleet; and as Commander of Joint Task Force 134 (Detainee Operation) in Iraq. Currently, he is Deputy Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency headquartered in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.



Outstanding Aztecs

There are numerous alumni who distinguished themselves as soldiers but who were not killed in battle or were top brass. These exceptional, oftentimes unheralded individuals deserve to be remembered for their extraordinary achievements. Just a few of them are profiled here.

Edmund Fryer Overend



SDSU's most successful fighter pilot in any war was Maj. Edmund F. Overend (Class of '39), credited with 8 ½ aerial victories. Piloting P-40s, the first five of the ace's kills occurred while he was a member of the famed Flying Tigers which challenged Japanese invaders over Burma and China. (Another SDSU alumnus who flew with the Flying Tigers was Lt. Edwin S. Conant).

Returning to the U.S. in October, 1942, Edmund entered the Marine

Corps and led Squadron 321 which saw action in the South Pacific in a vast area of islands stretching from the Solomons to the Marianas. Flying F4U-1 Corsairs he tallied 3 ½ more combat victories. Back stateside in November, 1944, he was commanding officer of the Air Group at El Toro until his military service ceased in December, 1945. In the summer of 1944 he wrote this thoughtful, eloquent reminder to Prof. Post:



“Let me add my note of sincere gratitude for the wonderful work you are doing. Believe me, we all appreciate it---even those of us who accept the welcome *Newsletter* and then fail to acknowledge them. Our only happiness comes from memories of the past and plans of the future. One gets a satisfaction in accomplishment from the work at hand, but it's much too grim to give us much in the way of happiness. Your work has awakened for all of us many pleasant memories.”

An honors graduate in education at San Diego State, he was a member of Lambda Xi fraternity and in 1939 played the roll of Louis XI in the campus production of “The Vagabond King.” Among his decorations were the Distinguished Flying Cross, insignia for the Chinese Air Force (wings), Chinese Order of the White Cloud Banner, the Chinese Silver Star, the Hans Schwei awarded by Madam Chiang Kai-shek, and the British Distinguished Flying Cross. From 1956 to 1961 Ed was chief of the UNESCO mission in Taiwan. He died on August 6, 1971 in Santa Cruz, California, and was buried at sea.

Masato Nakagawa Bert Motoru Tanaka



Army Staff Sgt. Masato “Mas” Nakagawa (left), a second generation Japanese-American who was born in San Diego County, attended San Diego State from 1937 to early 1941 when he was drafted into military service. Like other Japanese-Americans who were victimized by the war hysteria on the West Coast following the attack on Pearl Harbor, his family of farmers and gardeners was forced to evacuate their home and live in a “relocation center” in Poston, Arizona until the end of WWII. Despite this, like a dozen or so other Japanese-Americans who had attended San Diego State, Masato was eager to prove his patriotism. With the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1944 at La Houssiere, France, Masato crawled through a minefield cutting wires attached to mines. He then stood up in full view of German troops and directed submachine gun fire at one of their positions wounding some and prompting others to flee in terror as emboldened GI

comrades advanced. His show of courage and selflessness in the heat of battle earned him the Silver Star awarded in the fall of 1945 at a ceremony in Leghorn, Italy. Masato, who in his youth lived in Encinitas and San Diego, died in Chicago in 1983.

Another Japanese-American alumnus, 1Lt. Bert M. Tanaka, attended San Diego State in the late 1930s until he joined the Army. An enlisted man stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, he was just five miles from where Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941. He later earned his battlefield commission in Italy in 1944 where he fought with the segregated 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry regiment at Anzio, Salerno, and Leghorn. It was in Italy in 1944 that he crawled ahead of his stalled unit and, avoiding blistering enemy fire, tossed grenades that wiped out a dugout of German defenders, thereby earning him the Silver Star. After the war he supported his family working as a television technician and became president of the Japanese American Citizen’s League. He died in San Diego on August 26, 1986.



Thomas Hoag Greer

Capt. Thomas H. Greer was born in Brooklyn, New York and was a student at San Diego State from 1931 to 1934. After finishing his bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. in history at UC Berkeley, he returned to teach at State from 1938 to 1942. Married in 1939 to the former Margaret Cheney (Class of ‘35) who was a Hollywood actress and elementary school teacher, and following duty in the Army Air Force during WWII, he worked briefly in the Pentagon as the official Air Force Historian. From 1947 until he retired in



1977 Thomas taught United States history at Michigan State University. He became chairman of MSU's history department and authored the scholarly books *American Social Reform Movements* (Prentice-Hall 1949), *What Roosevelt Thought* (MSU Press, 1958), *Classics of Western Thought* (Harcourt, Brace & World, 1964), *A Brief History Western Man* (Harcourt Brace & World, 1968), and *The Development of Air Doctrine in the Army Air Arm, 1917-1941* (GPO, 1985). He died in East Lansing, Michigan in 2004.

Griffith Paul Williams J. Royden Stork

Because of their participation in one of the most daring missions in the history of modern warfare, Army Air Force Maj. Griffith "Griff" P. Williams (right) and Capt. J. Royden "Roy" Stork, both alumni of San Diego State, are profiled here together. Both were co-pilots aboard B-25s that lifted the spirits of a victory-hungry America when their tactical force of 16 planes made a surprise bombing of Tokyo and other strategic locations on April 18, 1942, celebrated as the "Doolittle Raid."



Thought impossible by some, the bombers were refitted to launch from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet (see photo, left), then flew 800 miles to bomb Japan and continue on to land in China. Maj. Williams' crew of five was assigned to bomb targets along the waterfront of Kobe, after which his plane crash landed off the coast of China and he came ashore safely. Married and age 21, he was the youngest of the "Doolittle Raiders." He was shot down over North Africa on June 4, 1943 and spent the remainder of the war in POW camps in Italy and Germany.

After completing his bombing and photographic reconnaissance mission over Japan, Capt. Stork (right) parachuted to safety in China. Next, he was posted with the 10th Air Force in India until August 1943 when he returned to the U.S. to fly for the Air Transport Command and became chief of the foreign equipment and flyable aircraft unit at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. In the post-war period he went to Hollywood and worked as a Fox Studios make-up artist. Born in Frost, Minnesota, he graduated from San Diego High and was a pre-med student at San Diego State. He died in Los Angeles on May 2, 2002, survived by his wife.



Both Maj. Williams and Capt. Stork were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. In May 2016 President Obama signed legislation that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to them and the rest of the daring airmen called Doolittle Raiders who pull off a surprise bombing attack on Japan.

Wendell Ralph Lipscomb



The three Lipscomb brothers began attending San Diego State in the early 1940s. Olin was athletic and played on the freshman basketball team; Ira was smart, outgoing and one of the most popular and distinguished students on campus who made it into *National Collegiate Who's Who*; and Wendell was keen on science and active in several organizations. During the war Olin was an Army Staff Sergeant in Italy. Ira was an Army Captain in India and the Pacific Theater who after the war was a teacher and counselor in Los Angeles. All three corresponded with Dr. Post. As a boy Wendell hung around airfields, washed planes and got pilots to give him basic flying lessons. At age 16 he had his pilot's license and at age 17 tried to enlist as a pilot to fight in the Spanish Civil War. Wendell found his way to Tuskegee Institute where he earned his wings and became a flight instructor teaching the famed Tuskegee Airmen whose exploits in the

European Theater are now legendary. Upon his return to civilian life he graduated from State "with distinction" in 1947 and acquired his medical doctorate from the University of California in 1953. He spent a short time in war-ravaged Korea, earned a master's degree in public health at the University of Michigan, and was briefly a commercial pilot at British Airways (U.S. airlines refused to hire black pilots at the time). Also a musician and teacher, Wendell became a pioneering physician in the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Area where he died in a pedestrian accident on May 6, 2004.



Blue Angeles:

Richard Lee Cormier

Robert Lawrence Packer

Paul Brantuas

Edwin D. McKellar

Damon William Kroes



SDSU has produced four Blue Angeles pilots. World War II ace Capt. Richard L. "Zeke" Cormier (Class of '42), a member of the cheerleader squad, shot down 8 enemy aircraft in the Pacific theater and was recognized for his attack on a German U-boat and his participation in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. By 1953 he was flight leader of the Blue Angeles and oversaw the flight team's transition from F9F-5 Panthers to the swept-wing F9F-6 Cougars. Founding president of the International Aerospace Hall of Fame (later part of the San Diego Aerospace Museum), he retired



from active duty in 1964. In 1995 he joined with two other celebrated pilots, Wally Shirra and Phillip Wood, as principal author of the book *Wildcats to Tomcats: The Tailhook Navy*. He died of cancer at his home in Rancho Santa Fe on February 23, 2001.



From 1992 to 1993 Lt. Col. Lawrence "Larry" Packer (Class of '82) flew the right wing position on the Navy's famed Blue Angels flight demonstration team. A native of Los Angeles, he married alumnae Carole Gamboa (Class of '83). Larry, a criminal justice major at SDSU, spent his first 14 years of military service in the Navy then 6 years in

the Air Force. He retired in 2003 from the Oregon Air National Guard. Interviewed in 2002, he told a reporter: "The toughest part of flying with the Blue Angeles is being away from my wife, Carole, and two boys, West and Riley. The team is gone over 300 days a year, and





even when you are home, your time is not your own. It's kind of like being a celebrity where nobody recognizes your face. You have to go to functions and things like that."

An information and decision systems (IDS) graduate, native San Diegan Lt.

Commander Paul Brantuas (Class of '97) has been a commissioned Navy officer

since 1998. A veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom, he has been deployed aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln and the USS John C. Stennis. Having logged more than 1,500 flight hour and 280 carrier landings, flown the F/A-18 Hornet, and taught other pilots about flying and weapons systems, by September 2007 he was a member of the Navy's renowned demonstration squadron, the Blue Angels, flying right wing until the end of the 2009



performance season. The son a Navy pilot, Paul is the third SDSU alumnus to have participated in this elite corps of aerial daredevils.

In 1980 Capt. Edwin McKellar was installed as executive director of the San Diego's Aerospace Museum in Balboa Park. A highly decorate pilot, he flew 124 missions during the Korean War and for three years was a member of the Blue Angels, the Navy's famed flight demonstration squadron. Edwin acquired his business administration degree at San Diego State in 1960.

From 2016 to 2018 flying the #2 jet in the renowned Blue Angels flight demonstration team was



LCR Damon Kroes, a 2006 political science graduate of SDSU, who also was a F/A-Hornet instructor

assigned to the Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron ("the Sharpshooters") at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California. A native of Fremont, California, he had logged more than 1,300 flight hours and 280 carrier landings before joining the Blue Angeles.



Susan Ahn Cuddy
Irene Kinne Englund
Frances Coughlin
Ruth Lindley Mueller
Sandra Jo Raveling



Born in Los Angeles in 1915 to the first Korean married couple to immigrate to this country, Lt. Susan A. Cuddy (right, Class of '40), determined to help the war effort, refused to be barred from joining the Navy in 1942 and became one of the first female Asian American enlistees. During World War II she taught pilots to fire machine guns, gave LINK training (flight simulation), became the Navy's first female gunnery officer (a graduate of the Pensacola Gunnery School) and, owing to her language fluencies, wound up working in intelligence. In the post-war era she was employed by the National Security Agency from 1947 to 1959 and was awarded an NSA fellowship to pursue East Asian Studies at the University of Southern California in 1956. After retiring from the NSA she returned to Los Angeles to work in her family's popular restaurant called "Phil Ahn's Moongate, named after her actor brother. A proud mother of two children, she had long been actively involved in the Korean American community, on March 24, 2003 she was honored as California Assembly District 48 "Woman of the Year" in a floor ceremony in the Chamber of the California State Assembly. Her life's story is recounted in the 315-page biography titled *Willow Shade Tree: The Susan Ahn Cuddy Story* by John Cha (2002). Active in charitable causes until the end, shortly after giving an inspiring talk to Korean American kids at a summer camp she died in her sleep at age 100 in Northridge, California, on June 25, 2015.



Irene K. Englund (left) grew up in Encinitas, graduated from Oceanside High School and entered San Diego State in 1938, the same year she acquired her pilot's license. In 1943 she volunteered for duty in what became the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) and was selected as one of the 1,074 women to fly military planes (i.e., bombers, fighters, transports, etc.) on domestic missions. Stationed at Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, for 18 months she ferried planes, personnel, and towed aerial gunnery targets logging 1,200 flight hours in such varied aircraft as the twin engine B-26 Martin Marauder bomber and the four engine B-24 liberator bomber. After the war she taught at San Dieguito High School, married and had three children, moved to New York state and joined the Tuftonboro Police Department. She began flying again

in 1975 and as late as 1998, at age 82, was filmed flying alongside a helicopter for a television segment on her career. Following her death from a stroke on February 15, 2005, she became the first of the WASPs to receive a military funeral at Arlington National Cemetery.



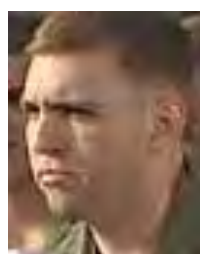
Approximately 150 SDSU female alumni and faculty served in the armed forces during World War II. Two others standouts were Frances Coughlin (left), vice president of the 1941-1942 Associated Student Body, and Ruth Lindley Mueller (right), president of Phi Sigma Nu sorority. Both were WASPs who flew military aircraft. Ruth's WASP flight jacket (below) is owned by the Smithsonian Institution and has been displayed



alongside sixty other pieces of military uniforms in its collection, including those worn by generals Colin Powell, William T. Sherman and Presidents George Washington and Dwight Eisenhower. Among SDSU women soldiers climbing highest in military rank, in February 2003 former SDSU journalism major and ROTC cadet Sandra Jo Raveling (above), a maintenance and transportation specialist, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel serving in the United States Army Reserve.



Patrick Honeck Richard Guy Bensing



Though not as well remembered as the U-2 spy plane incident of 1960 or the USS Pueblo incident of 1968, the 2001 capture of the crew of the an EP-3E plane after colliding in mid-air with a Chinese jet fighter was one of the most widely publicized ordeals of American military surveillance personnel by a non-hostile power in the post-World War II era. Aboard the EP-3E were second-

in-command Lt. Patrick Honeck (left, Class of '93) who helped land the seriously damaged plane, and Ensign Richard G. Bensing (right, Class of '99), a cryptologic officer who successfully destroyed sensitive equipment and documents before Chinese authorities could take the 22 crewmembers into custody. In recognition of their courage, ingenuity, and decisive action under pressure, on April 27, 2001, SDSU President Stephen Weber presented both men with the seldom awarded President's Medallion.



Robert Charles Cozens

The story of the Cozens family of San Diego is one of unusual sacrifice and success. Of the four brothers who served during WWII two did not survive the war: San Diego State alumnus A/C Thomas H. Cozens was killed in a flight training accident in New Mexico in 1942 and 2nd Lt. Richard B. Cozens was killed in an accident in 1944. Edward H. Cozens entered the war as a seaman at age 17.



Lt. Col. Robert Charles Cozens and his wife, the former Patricia Hamrick, both San Diego State alumni, left school shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Bob, celebrated as the best athlete on campus, rocketed from 2nd Lieutenant on July 26, 1942 (the day he received his wings and also married Patricia) to Lt. Colonel just two years later after having been a squadron leader, piloting 25 Flying Fortress bombing missions over Germany, and winning the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with three clusters.

Meanwhile, Patricia helped build B-24 aircraft at Consolidated Aircraft Company. Bob finished the war at a desk job at the Pentagon. He ran B. G. Cozens & Sons, an excavating and grading contracting firm, from 1946 to 1960. He entered politics in the mid-1950s and was elected 5th District San Diego County Supervisor, serving from 1960 to 1969. From 1970 to 1975 he was Gov. Ronald Reagan's director of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Retired from the Air Force Reserve in 1966, he retired from work in the construction industry and government administration in 1992. He died April 2, 2012.



James George Dionisopoulos Harry F. Painter Richard Severn Rash



Three SDSU alumni had two things in common: they all became Marine Corps colonels and, most unusual of all, each served in three separate wars spanning three decades (WWII, Korea, and Vietnam). James George Dionisopoulos, the uncle of SDSU communications professor George N. Dionisopoulos, retired after 36 years in the Corps. He died in Carlsbad, California in 1989. Harry F. Painter (right, Class of '43) served for 26 years in the Marine Corps. He was decorated with the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star. After combat duty in Vietnam he retired from active service, earned a master's degree at George Mason University



in 1971, then taught biology for 14 years at Northern Virginia Community College. He died of cancer in 2001. Pilot Richard Severn Rash (left), whose ancestors came to San Diego with Father Junipero Serra, attended San Diego State from 1940 to 1942. An extreme lucky man, he was shot down on three occasions and bailed out on three other occasions after experiencing engine trouble. He saw action in Korea and flew 200 combat missions in Vietnam. Retired from military service in 1973, Lt. Col. Rash returned to the classroom to earn a sociology degree at George Washington University. He died in 1988.

Harold T. Henson Allison M. Henson Jr. Peter H. Henson



Aside from the fact that both of the Henson brothers were on the same San Diego State wrestling team in the late 1940s, that both were military wrestling champions, and that both achieved the



rank of Army colonel serving with distinction in three major wars, their careers took rather surprising but successful paths when they both retired from military service in 1970. Their African American father and Native American mother had moved the family from Oklahoma's Choctaw reservation to San Diego during the Great Depression. In 1941 Harold T. Henson (Class of '50) entered San Diego State and, encouraged by older brother Allison, became a member of the wrestling team (seen above). With the onset of World War II Harold left campus to join the Army (photo left). In 1946 he was a European Area Army wrestling champion. He returned to campus in the late 1940s and, according to sports writer Mark Palmer, made sports history as the first African

American ever to compete at the national level: at the 1949 NCAA Wrestling Championships held at Colorado State University.

Harold reentered the Army and served in Korea where he earned the Bronze Star. He retired from the military with the Legion of Merit medal. Back in civilian life he worked for 21 years for the city of Washington, D.C., rising to Deputy Director of Public Works. He died in 2014.

Brother Allison M. Henson (photo left) was in the Army Corps of Engineers during WWII. He returned to San Diego State in the late 1940s, served in the Army during wars in Korea and Vietnam and earned both the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Upon leaving the Army he was awarded a doctorate at the National College of Chiropractic in Illinois and practiced his profession until his death in 1986 in Alexandria, Virginia, the city where brother Harold and his wife of more than 60 years have resided.



Continuing the family tradition, Harold's son, Peter H. Henson, along with his sister Tanja, graduated from SDSU in 1976. After obtaining a graduate degree and working as a clinical psychologist he entered the U.S. Air Force and spend a career a as a bomber navigator and instructor, retiring in 2003 as a Lieutenant Colonel. In retirement he was administrative pastor at Eagle's Nest Worship Center in Omaha, Nebraska.

Augustine Samuel Apra

After attending San Diego State in the early 1930s and then working for the Marston Company, Capt. Augustine S. Apra, a native of Argentina, entered the Army Reserve in 1936. Called to active duty in 1939, by the spring of 1942 he was with the 60th Philippine Coast Artillery



Command on Corregidor when the Japanese took the heavily fortified island. Gus spent the duration of the war in three different POW camps.

His weight dropped from 150 to 117 pounds but he maintained his spirit by teaching fellow prisoners Spanish, Italian, and French, gardening, reading, singing in two choirs, and writing letters to his wife, Carmen, who believed he had been taken prisoner in April 1942 in Bataan. The photo above shows Gus at the Zentsuji Camp in Japan sitting in the middle of fellow POWs wearing a dark shirt. Upon his return to the U.S. mainland in October 1945 he was awarded the Silver Star and promoted to Captain. He became a long-time resident of San Luis Obispo where he died at age 80 on January 19, 1992, and was buried in the San Joaquin National Cemetery.

Howard Malcolm Avery Francis E. Pierce Jr.



In the early phase of WWII Capt. Howard M. Avery led a squadron that patrolled the Atlantic Ocean searching for and sinking German submarines prowling for victims in Allies convoys. Flying Avenger and Wildcat aircraft from the USS Card, in October 1943 he participated in strafing and dropping torpedoes on U-402 which he photographed (see below) before helping to sink her. For assisting in the flow of supplies to Murmansk the Russian government awarded him the Order of the Fatherland, First Class. After the war

Howard was a naval attaché in Europe and in 1961 he became the first commanding officer of NAS Lemoor (a.k.a. Reeves Field). In 1927 as a freshman at San Diego State he played guard on the football team. On July 4, 1987, at age 78, he died in San Francisco and was buried in San Francisco National Cemetery



The son of a distinguished military hero, ace pilot Lt. Francis E. Pierce Jr. shot

down six enemy aircraft and sank two enemy barges in the Pacific Theater. In one dogfight he downed three Japanese planes though wounded in both legs. A few years prior he was a 2-miler on the San Diego State track team (photo left). Today the model aircraft kit manufacturer Revell-Germany sells a replica of Maj. Pierce's FG-1A Corsair, nicknamed "Mary" (photo above). Both Capt. Avery and Maj. Avery were awarded the Navy Cross, the highest decoration bestowed by the Navy.

Orlie Gordon Baird



After a long and distinguished military career CDR Orlie G. Baird retired in 1977 and commenced a second, civilian career upon earning his MBA at San Diego State. A World War II veteran, his highest accomplishment was his command of two large Navy ships: the destroyer USS Cogswell from 1964 to 1966; and the USS Mount Whitney, dubbed the most sophisticated Command, Control, Communications, Computer, and Intelligence (C4I) ship ever commissioned, from 1970 to 1971. He retired once more in 1991 to live in San Diego close to his six grandchildren.



USS Cogswell



USS Mount Whitney

Richard Erie



SDSU ROTC graduate and ex-fighter pilot instructor CRD Richard "Corky" Erie (Class of '88) contracted diabetes and became the F-14 representative at the annual NAS Oceana Air Show (Virginia Beach, Virginia) which regularly features performances of the Navy's Blue Angels and the Canada's Snowbirds. He has been director of the air show since 2004, and since 2008 he has also held the post of Deputy Director for the Air Operations Program, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic. Like the show at NAS Miramar, the NAS Oceana Air Show features a mix of civilian and military aircraft. "When I'm planning air show, the first thing I do is mentally walk through show day as a spectator, down to the level of walking the show grounds in my imagination," he

said. . . .“ A lot of folks will start planning from the front and not really know where they’re going. I know exactly what the show’s going to look like because I planned it first and then I marched it all backwards.”

Debra Maria Ryken

Former Navy Capt. Debra M. Ryken (Class of ‘78, biology), a native of Los Angeles, began her military career as a dental assistant but eventually earned her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from Boston University. Her first assignment as a dentist was at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Virginia, transferring to the USS Shenandoah in Norfolk in 1987, then back to San Diego in 1989 in the Naval Dental Center. After obtaining a master’s degree in organizational management at the University of Phoenix she was posted to the USS Bristol County, USS Carl Vinson, and in 2006 was Executive Officer, Naval School of Health Sciences in San Diego. She earned the Mastership award from the Academy of General Dentistry, Navy SWMDO Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy the Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Charles Mason Melhorn

During his career LCDR Charles M. Melhorn participated in the 3rd Fleet’s final bombing against Japan in 1945 and was awarded the Navy Cross after leading a torpedo bomber attack that sunk the Japanese battleship Haruna on July 28, 1945. In civilian life he acquired a master’s degree at San Diego State and a Ph.D. in military history at UC-San Diego. The son of a Navy Admiral, Charles taught history at SDSU and published the book *Two Block Fox: The Rise of the Aircraft Carrier, 1911-1929* (Naval Institute Press, 1974). In retirement he moved to Los Angeles where he was involved in civic improvement, serving of Mayor Tom Bradley’s task force examining more low cost housing for the city and on an advisory committee on landfills in Los Angeles County.



Chester Sweeny DeVore



Chester S. DeVore (Class of ‘42) was on State’s 1940-41 national championship basketball team and was president of Omega Xi fraternity. In WWII he fought with the Marines at Bouganville, Emirau, Guam, and Okinawa. He received the Purple Heart,



Bronze Star, and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel. In civilian life he married, raised four children, was a teacher and basketball coach at Chula Vista High, was President/Superintendent of Southwestern College from 1961 to 1981, and Commissioner of the Pacific Coast Conference in 1982. Among his many accomplishments one in particular is of special significance to all Aztecs: in 1993 he initiated SDSU's War Memorial Committee which shepherded the project that produced the university's attractive war monument in 1996. He died January 7, 2011.

Benjamin Wallace Cloud

In the book *Black Sailor, White Navy* (2007) by John D. Sherwood, El Cajon native Benjamin W. Cloud is credited with almost single-handedly diffusing a race riot aboard the powerful aircraft carrier USS Kitty Hawk, perhaps the most frightening in a series of violent racial incidents that occurred on numerous ships throughout the fleet during the latter years of the Vietnam War. Born in 1931, the son of San Diego's first black policeman, as a teenager Cloud played violin in the California Youth Symphony. From 1949 to 1952 he attended SDSU, winning a \$50 first place prize in the annual engineering student essay contest that merited mention and his photo in *The Aztec* (photo above). The Korean War cut short his studies but he eventually was awarded a bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland and a master's degree in foreign relations at George Washington University. Cloud trained to become a Navy pilot and flew jets like the F8U Crusader and the RA-5 (photo above), earning the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1966 he became the first black to serve as a White House military social aide. A top graduate of his Naval War College class, in August 1972 Cloud made history again as the first African American Executive Officer of the Kitty Hawk, just in time to put himself directly in harm's way when random violence broke out



on October 12. He told angry, rampaging blacks, "For the first time you have a 'brother' who is the Executive Officer," then later faced down a group of 150 armed whites intent on retaliating. But his calm, decisive action that day was not fully appreciated or rewarded by the Navy. Later, Cloud directed the NROTC program at Prairie View A&M University and commanded



U.S. Naval Support Activity in Naples, Italy. After retiring as a captain in 1984 he was involved in local real estate development and for many years was a board member of the San Diego Air & Space Museum.

Richard E. Farwell

Capt. Richard E. Farwell (Class of '40) commanded two Navy vessels. The first was the USS Ward which had the distinction of sinking a Japanese midget submarine off the coast of Hawaii on December 7, 1941, just a few hours before the surprise attack on U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. Richard was onboard as an Ensign at the time and eventually took the helm of the destroyer.



USS Ward



USS Upham

Amazingly, exactly three years later (December 7, 1944) the Ward was sunk off the western coast of Leyte Island, Philippines without losing any crewmen. It merited 9 battle stars for wartime service. On July 2, 1945, Richard took command of the newly commissioned USS Upham, a high-speed transport ship which barely missed war duty in the Pacific.

A Class of '40 liberal arts and commerce major, he was an unusually active student at San Diego State---a member of Delta Pi Beta social fraternity, Tau Sigma business fraternity, Ocoatl service fraternity, Inter Fraternity Council, Senior Cabinet, and the wrestling team.



Paz Beltran Gomez

On July 20, 2009, former Capt. Paz B. Gomez took command of the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) which oversees planning, design, and construction of shore facilities around the world for the Navy. Prior to this she had been Deputy Director of Installations Requirements and Management, working at the Pentagon. Paz, a Filipina American who earned a civil engineering degree at SDSU in 1983 and a master's degrees at Stanford University and Troy State University, was also a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer.

John K. Williams



During his school days in the mid-1930s at San Diego State, CMRD John K. Williams, whom everyone called “Bing,” was active in Toastmasters, Tau Delta Chi fraternity, and played first base on the Aztec baseball team. Several months after joining the Navy in 1941 he happened to be at Pearl Harbor on that fateful December morning when the Japanese devastated the American fleet. A torpedo boat commander at the time, he helped rescue scores of men from sinking ships. Later, during the Battle of Midway, his PT boat downed an enemy plane, and his proficiency in rescuing stranded airmen and tracking enemy movements during the New Guinea campaign gained his squadron a unit citation. In June 1944 he directed PT boats that assisted the



D-Day invasion of Normandy, France. In the post-war period John was assigned as executive officer of the USS Rowan, and subsequently put in command of the destroyer USS Henderson (photo above) in 1955. A fifth generation California who married his high school sweetheart, he died of prostate cancer in 2004.

Patrick Gramuglia

Col. Patrick Gramuglia (Class of ‘87) was Commanding Officer of Marine Aircraft Group 16, stationed in San Diego. During the early 1990s he flew helicopters and was deployed with the 13th and 15th Marine Expeditionary Units that supported Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Africa. Later high-level administrative assignments in flight training and safety were in Corpus Christi, Texas and El Toro, California, followed by postings abroad in response to flare-ups in East Timor and twice in Iraq. An executive fellowship at the Rand Corporation in 2007 preceded his current assignment. A pilot who has logged nearly 5,000 hours in flight, among his recognitions are the Air Medal with Numeral “7”, and the Single Mission Air Medal.



Alan Yoshiaki Hayashi



Despite being born in the World War II Japanese-American internment camp in Poston, Arizona, Army Sgt. Alan Hayashi (Class of '69) was taught, he said, “the value of loyalty to my country,” and answered the call of military service during the Vietnam War, winning, among other decorations, the Bronze Star for his engagements with the enemy along the Ho Chi Minh Trail near Da Nang. He served in the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne. Alan has been active in veterans groups in California and has recorded narratives of his wartime experiences.

Jon H. Moretty

Having entered the Navy immediately after graduating from high school, Cmdr Jon H. Moretty acquired his engineering bachelor's degree at Oregon State University and his M.B.A. at SDSU (Class of '02). In 2008 he was awarded a master's degree in strategic studies and national security at the Naval War College where he was selected a Mahan Scholar and researched China's nuclear weapons programs. He has taught at the Submarine Training Center at Point Loma and served as engineering officer aboard the submarines USS Asheville, USS Pennsylvania, and USS Kentucky, and for nearly 2½ he was skipper of the nuclear-powered fleet ballistic-missile submarine USS Henry M. Jackson (photo below).



Christopher J. Papaj



A psychology major at SDSU, retired Marine Col. Christopher Papaj (Class of '85) began flying helicopters in 1988, training in the Sea Knight (CH-46E). He fought in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Iraqi Freedom. In between such major actions he earned a master's degree in military studies at the Command and Staff College and another master's degree in strategic studies at the U.S. Army War College. In 2010 he took command of Marine Aircraft Group 49 at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey.



Michael D. Robinson

The Commanding Officer of the Marine Corps Security Group located in Quantico, Virginia, is SDSU alumnus Col. Michael D. Robinson (Class of '89) who received further education at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Command and Staff, and the Joint Forces Staff College. Col. Robinson has previously held military leadership posts in Korea, Iraq, Japan, and several American states including Company Commander, Weapons Training Battalion, Parris Island.

Stanislaus Joseph Sowinski



Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, CDR Stanislaus J. Sowinski (Class of '53), orphaned at age 16, enlisted in the Navy at age 17, enrolled in art school in La Jolla (he is a painter of some distinction), and graduated from SDSU with a degree in education. A ROC Program student, as an Ensign he was a gunnery officer on the USS Gregory and the USS Navarro. He commanded his first ship, the ocean tugboat USS Abnaki, stationed in Hawaii in 1960, then the USS Surfbird in 1962 stationed in Japan.

Naval Intelligence School followed, then two years of service as an exchange officer to British Intelligence in London. During the Vietnam War he was in command of Landing Ship Squadron 1 comprised of 21 ships. He last commanded the amphibious landing ship USS Fresno (photo above) before retiring in 1971. He died in San Diego on January 8, 2010.



Roger Alan Dutton

In 1968, Army Capt. Roger Dutton Class of '65) received not just two Bronze Stars and a Soldier's Medal, but also a Silver Star for acts of bravery in separate actions on the battlefield in Vietnam. For single-handedly destroying an enemy bunker with a grenade, thus sparing his platoon death and injury he won the Silver Star; and for dodging exploding mines and extinguishing fires to rescue his men he got the Bronze Stars and Soldier's Medal. Born in Oregon but a resident of Rancho Santa Fe and Solana Beach, Roger, who married a year after graduation, died at age 53 on August 17, 1997.



Terry L. Boyer

In the final years of his outstanding military career, from 1981 to 1984 Air Force Lt. Col. Terry L. Boyer was aerospace science professor at SDSU. Born in Los Angeles, he entered the Navy in 1956 and was a submarine sonar operator before studying at the United States Naval Academy. By the mid-1960s he had switched over to the United States Air Force, earned his pilot wings, and was flying F-4 Phantoms in Southeast Asia. On December 17, 1967, Terry was forced to eject over North Vietnam and was a POW in that country until March 14, 1973, a total of 1,915 days. Throughout this long, tortuous ordeal he refused to cooperate with his captors who sought to exploit him, and

for this he was honored with a Silver Star for courage and gallantry. He returned to active duty in 1976 and worked mainly in flight training until arriving at SDSU.

Christopher Calhoun



A U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduate with a master's degree from SDSU (Class of '01), aside from several upper level administrative assignments Capt. Christopher Calhoun was Commanding Officer of the 180-foot USCGC Hornbeam, a 1,000 ton Sea-going Buoy Tender homeported in Cape May, New Jersey, with a crew of 55 seamen.



Clinton A. Carroll



For two years, 2007 to 2009, Capt. Clinton Carroll commanded the 453-foot 4,100 ton USS Robert G. Bradley which was dispatched to the Arabian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. A 1985 graduate of Annapolis and with a MBA from SDSU (Class of '02), he also studied at the National War College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Université de François Rabelais in Tours, France.



Render R. Crayton



Commissioned an Ensign through NROTC at Georgia Tech, Capt. Render Crayton got his aviator wings in 1954. On his second tour of duty in Southeast Asia he was shot down over North Vietnam in 1966 and held as a POW until his release in 1973 (2,563 days). He recuperated from injuries at the Naval Hospital in San Diego and earned his master's degree at SDSU (Class of '76). He resumed

his naval career serving as executive officer at NAS North Island, Chief of Staff at the Naval War College, Commander of Naval Station Rota, Spain, and, before retirement in 1984, Commanding Officer of the Navy ROTC program at the University of San Diego.



Jack W. Hayes Jr.

In 1940, during his junior year at San Diego State, Col. Jack Hayes left to train as an air cadet.



He had been on the board of Associated Men Students, was president of Omega Xi fraternity and vice president of the Interfraternity Council. Having survived 62 missions over Europe in World War II piloting the B-17 and 35 missions in the Korean War, he next commanded the 78th Fighter group at Hamilton AFB (California). Jack was a military advisor in Turkey in 1952 and served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington before being tapped deputy commander of the Strategic Air Command's 341th Bomb Wing at Abilene,



Texas. He recounted the highlights of his military career in his 262-page book *Cavalry Trooper to Fighter Pilot—and Three Wars* (Sunflower University Press, 1997).

Christopher John Miller

Army Maj. Christopher Miller was Assistant Professor of Engineering and Computer Science at the United States Military Academy at West Point. An Information Systems Officer, his research interests were autonomous intelligent systems and robotics. Christopher was granted his bachelor's degree at West Point and his master's degree in computer science at SDSU in 2008.



Guy Monroe Miller

Among the most miraculous survival stories of World War II, the widely publicized “Impossible Flight of Sweet Pea” is unparalleled. As reported by the Associated Press, the facts of the



amazing event are these: On a bombing raid over Debrecen, Hungary, September 21, 1944, the B-17G Flying Fortress piloted by 21-year-old Lt. Guy M. Miller was stuck by a large chunk of flak that blew a hole in the side of the bomber “large enough to drive a jeep through,” killing two crewmembers and injuring others. Incredibly, extensive damage to the plane did not incapacitate all of the control cables, thus with masterful manipulation of the engine throttles and precise guidance, Guy, along with his co-pilot and navigator, managed to keep the plane in the sky for the 600-mile return trip to base in southern Italy. Upon crash landing and coming to a halt the bomber nearly broke in half. The photo here is

worth a thousand words! For his efforts he was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Medal, Silver Star, and Distinguished Service Cross. In civilian life after the war, Guy married his sweetheart in 1947 when they were both students at San Diego State. He worked downtown as a salesman at Jayne’s Piano & Organ Company and occasionally wrote letters to editor that were printed in the San Diego Union in support of one of his favorite pastimes, organ music in Balboa Park. He died in Texas on September 23, 1988 and was buried in Houston National Cemetery.



Caroline M. Olinger

In March 2013, Capt. Caroline Olinger ended her 29-year career in the Navy as Chief of Staff of the Naval Service Training Command at Great Lakes, Illinois. In 1990 she received her master's degree in Asian Studies at SDSU.



Lee D. Price



A draftee who fought for twelve months in Vietnam while his wife coped with life as a new mom in San Diego, Sgt. Lee Price worked with German Shepherd scout dogs sniffing out enemy emplacements. He was awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and three Air Medals. Returning home in 1967, Lee earned his master's degree and taught English and math at Einstein Junior High School until 1974 when he died prematurely at age 33. An alumnus of Point Loma High School, at San Diego State he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

John M. Trumpfheller

An Air Force ROTC Distinguished Graduate at SDSU in 1990, Col. John Traumpfheller soon after began flying attack helicopters. Today he engages the enemy in combat commanding 5 squadrons and 3 geographically separated units of the 651st Air Expeditionary Group, Camp Bastion, Afghanistan. Previously, he was stationed for a total of seven years in Japan. He has studied at the National War College, Air University, and the National Defense University.



Royal Allen Wolverton

Navy Capt. Royal Wolverton last attended San Diego State in 1963 at age 54. A graduate of Annapolis (Class of '30), he commanded the destroyer USS Murphy when on D-Day, June 6, 1944, it provided effective heavy fire that helped the



successful assault on Normandy beaches and subsequently bombarded Cherbourg. His Silver Star citation read in part: "Maneuvering through heavily mined waters and under intense and accurate gunfire from enemy shore batteries, Captain Wolverton directed his ship in delivering devastating fire against enemy fortifications and gun emplacements and in screening heavy ships from enemy surface forces and submarines." Royal also commanded the



attack cargo ship USS Seminole. He died in Chandler, Arizona on December 29, 1992.

Alva Douglas Henehan



As a 20-year-old fighter pilot Alva Henehan destroyed three German aircraft resting on the ground. But on December 21, 1944 during a combat mission in the vicinity of Pisa, Italy, his P-47 was hit by an enemy 88mm shell that blew a hole in a wing wide enough for him to stand in, which is exactly what he did posing for a photo (left). It took extraordinary strength and agility but, miraculously, he somehow managed to fly back to base and land safely. Decades later, stationed in Thailand, Alva fought in Vietnam War, and

from 1969 to 1971 was commander of the North Truro Air Force Station in Massachusetts. Known for his “incomparable wit,” while at San Diego State he was on the freshman basketball team, a member of Sigma Lambda fraternity, and member of Ocoatl and the Rally Committee. Retired as a full colonel, Alva died in 1990.

Arthur E. Laehr Jr.



Air Force Lt. Col. Arthur Laehr Jr. was one of the last American soldiers evacuated from Saigon, Vietnam by helicopter on the evening of April 29, 1975. He later co-authored a book about the harrowing event titled *Last Flight From Saigon* (University Press of the Pacific, 2003). He recalled the following incident on the overcrowded flight from Saigon to the deck of the USS Midway: “About twenty minutes after lift-off, a gentleman who shall remain unnamed, offered me a swig from his canteen. In the dark, assuming it was

water, I chug-a-lugged straight bourbon. What a surprise to climax the evacuation!” Arthur grew up in La Mesa and graduated with a degree in engineering at San Diego State where he was in Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. He flew B-52s during the Vietnam War and spent much of his military career in the Strategic Air Command (SAC).

Harold Guy Hevener Jr.

Attacked during a mission near New Guinea in 1943, the gunners on Lt. Col. Harold Hevener's bomber blasted two Japanese Zeros out of the sky. Later, enemy fighter planes disabled two engines in a mission near Northern Australia but he brought home his B-24. Awarded the Silver Star and other decorations, in the post-war era he taught for 28 years in Sierra Joint Union High School and retired as base vice commander at Castle AFB. Born in Fullerton, California, Harold first attended San Diego State in the early 1940s, volunteered for military service his junior year, and returned to campus after the war to earn his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history. He died April 21, 2012 and had a graveside ceremony with full military honors at Miramar National Cemetery.



Theodore Melvin Smyer



A pitcher on our 1942 baseball team, by the time the Battle of Okinawa had commenced Capt. Theodore Smyer was a fighter pilot partaking in sorties launched from the USS Yorktown. In one encounter he downed a Zeke (a lightweight Japanese Navy fighter plane). Theodore's career as a Naval aviator spanned World War II, the Korean War (he survived being shot down by anti-aircraft fire), and the Vietnam War. He retired as Chief of Staff, 6th Naval District, died in 2001, and was buried in his native Texas.

Orin Henry Rigley

Lt. Col. Orin Rigley had spent a year at San Diego State, later graduated from West Point, and had only been at Hickam Field in Hawaii for two days when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. A veteran of 90 bombing missions in the Pacific theater, he earned the Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star. Orin also had the unusual distinction of being the pilot who flew then popular comedian Joe E. Brown to locations to entertain the troops. By 1944 he was back in the U.S. as commander of the Army airfield at Galveston, Texas, and at the end of the war was posted as an attaché at the American Embassy in Havana, Cuba. In the early 1950s he headed the AFROTC program at Penn State. Orin returned to San Diego State to acquire his master's degree in physics in 1965. He passed in 1983.



Page Hildrup Tulloch



1943 was an amazing year for Lt. Page Tulloch whose battlefield was the Mediterranean and whose weapon was the swift and deadly PT boat. For a brief time he was the personal chauffeur of Gen. Mark Clark, ferrying him to strategic locations leading up to the Allied invasion of Salerno, and spent days on end laying down smoke screens to protect against enemy air raids. But this was just the opening act. Nearly blown out of the water by prowling German bombers, the lieutenant's crew finally got their revenge when a Focke-Wulf German fighter plane attacked at a low altitude and dropped a bomb close enough to bend the boat's rudder. The attacker then faced the fury of boat's gunners who fired away until the smoking plane crashed nose first into the ocean. It was a type of

encounter that rarely occurred. Later, PT-211 rescued 27 seaman from two burning Liberty ships.



In early November 1943, while on patrol with another PT from their base in Sardinia, a 4,000-ton German tanker with three armed escort boats were spotted south of Elba. Page, quoted in the *San Diego Union*, recalled:

“We sneaked inside the escort and before they knew what was happening we fired our fish. The Germans were so confused they were blinking us asking for

identification. They finally opened up with 75-mm shells, which whizzed by not more than six feet over our heads. But it was too late. As our torpedoes found their mark the tanker exploded in a solid sheet of flame. The whole superstructure flew through the air like kindling wood. It was a beautiful sight.” It only took a few seconds for the tanker to disappear beneath the waves. For his leadership in this and other actions he received Navy Letters of Commendation.

Born in Washington, D.C., Page grew in Point Loma. An aspiring journalist since his days at San Diego High where he was on the track and debate teams, at San Diego State in 1933 he was president of the freshman class (photo left, above), on the cross country team, and a member of Epsilon Eta fraternity. He worked in the National Youth Administration prior to the war and after the war was a newsman in Laguna Beach. He returned to the area to live in Poway where he died in 1992.



Paul Vernon Tuttle Jr.



Born into a military family, as a freshman here in 1933, Lt. Col. Paul Tuttle Jr. (1916-1994) pledged Tau Delta Chi fraternity but soon left, eventually to finish his studies at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1939. Commanding two battalions of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division, by the war's end Paul had participated in actions from Normandy, France, to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, along the way earning for himself the coveted Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, and two Presidential Unit Citations. In the post-war years Paul returned to West Point for two teaching stints and concluded his teaching career as Professor of Military Science & Tactics at North Carolina State University. His ashes, along with that of his wife who died months later, reside in the Old Cadet Chapel Columbarium at West Point.

Robert J. Hutson

In an audacious one-man assault on an enemy position in Italy on July 5, 1944 that earned him the Distinguished Service Cross, Sgt. Robert J. Hutson was victorious and walked away unscathed. His action was reminiscent of the legendary Sergeant York of World War I fame except that Robert took no prisoners. The *San Diego Union* recapped the Army's account: ". . . a machine-gun nest (was) pouring fire on medical aids attempting to remove wounded men from the field near Riparabella. He crawled within 25 feet of the nest and threw a hand grenade 'then fearlessly sprang to his feet and assaulted the position,' the Army reported. 'By the time his automatic rifle ran out of ammunition, the ground was littered with 11 enemy dead.'"



Robert was a pitcher on the 1942 Aztec baseball team. He was also a member of the Newman Club. In civilian life he worked as a purchasing agent for General Atomic Corp., co-owned an industrial supply company, and in 1964 ran for a seat on the County Board of Supervisors.

Archie Warren Chatterley

It was recorded that in March 1945, while still detained in a camp in Germany, appreciative ace pilot Lt. Col. Archie Chatterley became the first American POW to donate to the San Diego Red Cross by directing his family members to give \$50 to the group from his government allotment check. Five years earlier Archie had arrived on campus, a prospect for the freshman football team. But his passion was flying so he enrolled in the oldest aviation school in the nation, the Ryan School of Aeronautics, located then at Lindbergh Field. When war erupted Archie joined the RAF and subsequently transferred to the U.S. Army Air Force, 8th Fighter Group. Having flown 100 missions over Europe, on March 21, 1944, a few days after being decorated for his

last kill, his P-47 Thunderbolt was shot down over Tours, France. Archie parachuted safely to earth but was captured and interned at Stalag Luft 3 until liberated after thirteen months. He was one of 22 San Diego State students who were held in POW camps in Europe during World War II. Accounts vary, but he is credited with from 4.5 to 7 kills. After the war he continued his military career, serving during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Born in San Francisco, he died in Honolulu in 1998.



Walter Verne Harlin



Some military men joked that LST stood for “Large Slow Target” but it really meant “Landing Ship, Tank” and was an indispensable amphibious craft that hauled heavy equipment,



men, and supplies. CDM Walter Harlin was in command of LSTs during both World War II and the Korean War,

sailing the 280-foot long vessels to battles throughout the Pacific. In the 1950s he worked at the Pentagon and in the 1960s was a military advisor in Africa. An economics major at San Diego State (Class of '36) he was assistant editor of the student yearbook, manager of the varsity football team, and a member of the Lettermen's Club and Tau Sigma. In retirement in San Diego he worked in banking and real estate. Walter died in 1978.

Richard F. Kenney



The military career of Air Force Col. Richard F. Kenney (1920-1914) who attended SDSU in the early 1940s reads like a riveting adventure novel or movie filled with danger, suspense, suffering, and triumph. A graduate of Coronado High School, he won Coronado Yacht Club regattas and became a licensed pilot. In 1942 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and deployed to North Africa to engage the enemy in his Lockheed P-38 Lightning. On one memorable mission flown just several feet above Mediterranean waters to destroy a German merchant troop transfer ship, he righted

his plane just in time to blast a stalking Messerschmitt out of the sky. Action that day resulted in receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross. On another occasion he attacked and destroyed two Italian transport planes then downed another Messerschmitt. Later, had his guns not jammed during a mission over Sardinia he would have become an ace pilot, instead he settled for a clever bluffing maneuver that saved the life of a fellow airman which brought him some attention from the news media back home (a UPI headline read "Coronado Flier Bluffs Enemy"). His luck ran out two months later when anti-aircraft fire wounded him and he became a POW. Transferred to Stalag Luft III in Germany he was repeatedly tortured by his Nazis captors but eventually recovered enough to assist Allied prisoners escape, thus helping to inspire the celebrated movie "The Great Escape" (United Artists, 1963). After two years of captivity and surviving a death march in sub-zero weather he was liberated by Gen. George Patton's 14th Armored Division.

Awarded two Purple Hearts, Richard remained in the Air Force as a flight instructor, even teaching flyers in Mexico. He easily made the transition from propeller planes to jets and mastered the F-86 Sabre and F-100 Super Sabre. Over a 27-year career he logged over 6,000 flight hours, was carrier qualified, worked at the Pentagon, commanded a squadron in Japan, and was the subject of newspaper articles and television shows. Today his Avenue of Heroes Banner is displayed at the corner of Third Street and I Avenue in Coronado, Glenn Curtiss Park.



Albert George Pelling



Born in Montreal, Canada, after finishing San Diego High School in 1927 Capt. Albert Pelling attended San Diego State in 1928 before leaving the state to enter the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated in 1933. He transferred from submarine service to the gunnery division and saw action in the Pacific during World War II aboard the carrier ships USS Hornet and USS Saratoga. In 1947, Albert was made Commander of destroyer USS Rowan (right) and in 1957 was Commander of the attack transport USS Navarro. From 1962 to 1964 he was Commander of Naval Base San Diego. He died in San Diego in 1995.



Donald Walsh



It is not widely known that SDSU alumnus and retired Navy Captain Don Walsh has been called “one of the world’s great explorers” by *Life* magazine and has been awarded the National Geographic Society’s most coveted honor, the Hubbard Medal. A product of the San Francisco Bay Area, Don’s career in the Navy included service as a crewman in torpedo bombers in the late 1940s, graduation from the Naval Academy in 1950, and service aboard four submarines. In retirement he earned a Master’s



degree in political science at SDSU in 1968 and a Ph.D. in

oceanography from Texas A&M

University. He was Dean of Marine Programs and Professor of Ocean Engineering at the University of California and formed

his own exploration company, International Marine

Incorporated. But what he is most celebrated for is his

exploration of the Mariana Trench (a depth of 35,798 feet)

along with Jacques Piccard in the bathyscaphe *Trieste* on

January 23, 1960; and his explorations of the megaships Titanic

and Bismarck in the MIR submersible. Don was appointed by

President Carter to the U.S. National Advisory Committee on

Oceans and Atmosphere (reappointed by President Reagan) and

was given the Navy’s Distinguished Public Service Award.



John Kidwell



Lt. John Kidwell (Class of '04) commanded the Coast Guard ship Narwhal, based at Corona del Mar from 2001 to 2003 until he left to pursue a degree in educational technology at SDSU. He has served as Coast Guard Training Officer at

New Haven, Connecticut, and most recently at Wilmington, North Carolina.



Charles Warren Aldrich



In quiet retirement Navy Captain Charles W. Aldrich (1931-1990) earned his teaching credential at San Diego State in 1962, taught school for a short time, moved to Encinitas, and worked in the county Department of Social Services. But at the height of his military career he commanded the destroyer USS

Massey. During the Battle of Okinawa on June 5, 1945 the ships in his unit dealt with a coordinated suicide attack of kamikaze suicide

planes. His Navy Cross citation for masterful seamanship that saved American lives read: "By his fearlessness, calmness, and tactical skill (he was) able to prevent any damage to the other ships of the unit by maneuvering around them and directing fire from his ship in such a manner that it materially aided in the destruction of eight of the attacking planes." For previous service as Commander of the USS Dale he was awarded the Bronze Star for "courage under fire and devotion to duty" in actions against Japanese forces in the Caroline and Marshall Islands.



Karrey DeWayne Sanders



From January 2014 to April 2015 CDM Karrey Sanders (Class of '97), from Oakland, California, was Commander of the USS Pearl Harbor, a dock landing ship armed with missiles and guns and with a crew of 419. Prior to this command he had served as



an officer aboard the carrier USS Midway, the destroyer tender USS Cape Cod, the guided missile frigate USS Curtts, the destroyer Higgins, the dock landing ship USS Rushmore, and the amphibious assault ship USS Tawara. Karrey enlisted in the Navy in 1986, earned his computer science degree at SDSU, a master's degree in software engineering at National University, and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies at the Naval War College.

Edward Albert Williams

Born in Coronado, Capt. Edward Williams (1920-2014), affectionately called "Capt. Ed," had a



32-year career in the Navy and in retirement acquired a bachelor's degree at SDSU in economics in 1969. A cheerleader in high school, he joined the Navy as a sailor in 1940 and three years later had advanced to midshipman.



He served during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Trained as an anti-submarine warfare expert, he commanded two ships: the

armed high speed transport USS Begor and the destroyer USS Braine (photo above).

James E. Fanell

Former Navy Captain James Fanell (Class of '85) has put his long experience as a military intelligence officer to practical good use by moderating an information service called Red Star Rising which reports on the reach of Chinese influence in Asia and the effects this has on American political and security interests in this region of the world. A National Security Affairs Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution from 2005 to 2006, during his two decades of active military service he was assigned to cover Soviet Far East air defense targets, was a team chief assessing bomb damage in Iraq, and at the height of his career was chief of intelligence for the Pacific Fleet.



Catherine Kang

On September 11, 2001, Coast Guard Commander Catherine Kang was a military aide to then U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and assisted coordination of emergency measures with the White House, Secret Service, and the armed forces. One of just nine females to graduate from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1989, she next earned a master's degree

in educational technology at SDSU, and later an MBA at MIT. Having been a navigator aboard the Coast Guard's Tall Ship Eagle, stationed on ships conducting search and rescue operations, involved in security and law enforcement, her final assignment was special assistant for policy for the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Reed Stephenson



During his 25 years in the Coast Guard Capt. Reed Stephenson was the commanding officer of two Coast Guard cutters: the Harriet Lane and the Assateague. A graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, he obtained two master's



degrees, one in education at SDSU in 1963. In 2015, Reed retired as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown in Yorktown, Virginia, which trains and employs 800 men and women.

Gary Dean Solis



In 2010, Cambridge University Press published *The Law of Armed Conflict: International Humanitarian Law in War* by Marine Corps veteran and SDSU graduate Gary Solis (sociology, Class of '63). An expert on the laws of war and a veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, Gary D. Solis was once a military judge advocate and Marine prosecutor. He took his law degrees from UC-Davis and George Washington University and his Ph.D. in political science at the London School of Economics. He has taught at Georgetown University, George Washington University School of Law, the

United States Military Academy, and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

Roy J. Grimse

The top player on the 1940 Aztec tennis team was Roy Grimse (1921-1993), a pre-med student then. But another major interest was film and in the early 1940s he worked in Hollywood and was a cameraman for the movie "For Whom the Bell Tolls." In 1943 he joined the Army as a photo cadet



and got his officer's commission at Yale University. He filmed the American takeover of the Palau islands, narrowly avoiding being shot by snipers and being blown up by a land mine. Roy also film the aftermath of the bombing of Hiroshima. After the war he was a pro tennis player and freelance journalist reporting from Acapulco, Mexico.

Lois Prothero Kessler



SDSU health sciences professor and dean Lois P. Kessler (1925-2009) served in the Navy as a surgical nurse aboard the hospital ship USS *Repose* treating soldiers injured while fighting in Korea. Born in St. Louis, she grew up in Los Angeles where she was a cadet nurse at Good Samaritan Hospital. Following her eleven years in the Navy she studied nursing at the University of Rochester and in 1966 received her master's degree in health education at SDSU. Here she helped to establish this nation's first women's studies program and co-founded the San Diego chapter of Planned Parenthood. She retired from SDSU in 1990 and upon her death in 2009 was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

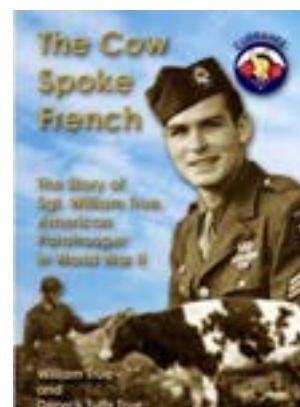
David Glann Farquhar Jr.

Former Air Force Staff Sergeant David Farquhar was one of several Aztecs who were horribly mistreated as POWs during the World War II. A turret gunner aboard the B-29 bomber "Lady's Delight," he and the rest of his crew members survived being shot down over Tokyo but were then classified "special prisoners" or war criminals instead of prisoners of war. They were consistently tortured and humiliated during their three-month detention in horse stalls and concentration camps. Liberated in late August, 1945, David rebounded nicely after an extended hospital recovery stay. He earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from San Diego State in 1948 and returned to his home in Redlands, California, where he worked as a schoolteacher for forty years.



William True

Former Army sergeant William True (economics, Class of '48) was one of those soldiers who on D-Day parachuted into Normandy with Company F, 506th PIR 101st Airborne Division, famously known today as the "Band of Brothers" of Easy Company popularized by the HBO television series. When William first touched ground in a pasture, grateful to have escaped death from enemy fire, he greeted a nearby cow in English. Of course, there was no response since the animal only knew French, hence the title of his book six decades later chronicling his wartime experiences, *The Cow Spoke French* (Merriam Press, 2007), co-authored with his son, Deryck True.



Orien Roy Gossett

Born in Pensacola, Florida, as an 8-year-old Orien Gossett (Class of '60) had the terrifying experience of being with his family stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when it was attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941. A graduate of Point Loma High School, he joined the military at age 17 and fought in Korea as an Army Ranger with the 7th Infantry Regiment. Among the recognitions he received during his four tours of duty in Korean were the Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars, and two Bronze Stars. At San Diego State he studied ancient history and later did graduate work in public administration at Brigham Young University and got his doctorate at Midwestern University. He taught at colleges in Montana, Utah, and Colorado. In retirement he was a Mormon missionary, worked odd jobs, and mastered several languages. He died in Utah on May 15, 2015.



Carolyn J. Patrick



An honors graduate in psychology at SDSU in 1991, Col. Carolyn J. Patrick has served most of her Navy career in personnel management which has taken her numerous duty stations, including Japan, Turkey, and Iraq. Along the way she picked up a master's degree at Arizona State University and studied by correspondence at the Air War College and the Air Command and Staff College. Among her decorations are the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster and Global War on Terrorism Medal. She currently serves as Vice Commander, 88th Air Base Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

Michael J. Taylor



A 1987 graduate of SDSU who received his Navy officer's commission through the university's NROTC program, Capt. Michael Taylor served aboard ships as an engineer; participated in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm; commanded the frigate USS Ford from 2006 to 2008;

and was Deputy Commander, Afloat Training Group Pacific from 2008 to 2011.



Leslie DeAnn Crosby



On May 6, 1994, Capt. Leslie DeAnn Crosby (Class of '85) became the first woman Air National Guard pilot of an F-16 after completing a flight training program at Tucson, Arizona. A veteran of the Persian Gulf War, she was next stationed with the 704th Fighter Squadron at Bergstrom Air Reserve Station in Austin, Texas. Interviewed by a reporter about her historic accomplishment she commented: "I don't think about being the first female reserve pilot, but the big deal is meeting the standards and qualifying as part of a five-member team."

Robert A. Goff



"Mostly I was what they call a surface warfare officer . . . so I drove ships and I eventually got my own ship and then I had a squadron of ships, so I got to do everything I wanted to do." This was how retired Capt. Robert Goff (Class of '65) summarized his 37-year career

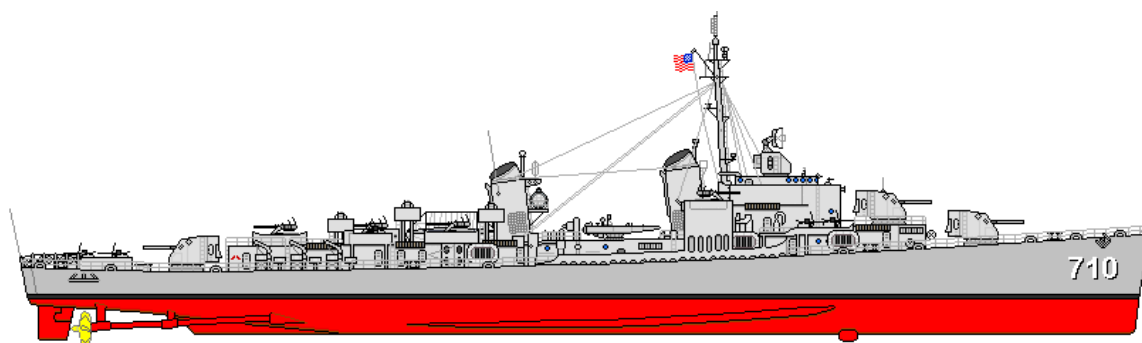
in the Navy. From 1983 to 1986 he commanded the frigate USS Lang (photo right). In 1990 he was given command of Surface Squadron One comprised of five Guided Missile Frigates (FFGs), two Landing Ships Tanks (LSTs), and a Rescue and Salvage ship (ARS). Robert's daughter, Stephanie, and her husband also attended SDSU.



Allen Sidney Jefferis

CMDR Allen Jefferis died on Memorial Day, 2008, when he fell from a ladder attempted to raise high the American flag at his home. Born in Glendale, California, he entered the Navy in 1948 and was commissioned an Ensign in 1953. During his 30-year career in the Navy he was Commanding Officer of the destroyer USS Gearing (drawing below). In retirement he earned his bachelor's degree in business at SDSU in 1984 and was involved in charitable work in the city.





Arthur Kutz Keevil



From 1958 to 1960 Korean War Veteran Capt. Arthur Keevil was Commanding Officer of the submarine USS Clamagore. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he acquired his master's degree in education from SDSU in 1980 and became Professor of Naval Science at the University of New Mexico. Arthur died in 1993 at age 71.

John W. (Jack) O'Neill Sr.



Capt. John Wilson "Jack" O'Neill (1918-2014), who was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, from 1946 until his retirement in 1974 commanded five Navy ships, including the USS Formoe (photo right), and in 1970 was put in command of Amphibious Squadron



Amphibious Squadron One comprised of 7 vessels. After serving in three major wars, Jack got his bachelor's degree in public administration at SDSU then worked for eight years on the Planning Commission of Chula Vista, California. His military recognitions included the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

Donald Arthur Scherer



Submarine Capt. Donald Scherer (1911-2009), a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, commanded the USS Permit and the USS Pampanito during World War II. Starting in 1950 he attended SDSU intermittently



until he received his master's degree in physical science in 1965. Donald was awarded both the Silver Star and the Bronze Star. In retirement he was a local marine engineering consultant.

Alexander Panos



Before joining the Marine Corps, Staff Sergeant Alexander Panos graduated from SDSU with a fine arts music performance degree. A trombonist, he had also played in the San Diego Symphony for a couple of years and performed with assorted musical groups in the city where he grew up. On November 23, 2015, at Camp Pendleton Alexander was named the Marine Corps' Staff Non-Commissioned Officer "Musician of the Year."

Richard B. Williams



It took five years of training for retired Capt. Richard “Rick” Williams to become an experienced Navy hydronaut and command a take command of the deep submergence vehicle SEA CLIFF in the mid-1989s, described as “an ‘inner space ship’ built for deep ocean recovery with a crew of fourteen special projects submariners including three officers,” capable descending to a depth of 20,000 feet. In the early 1990s Rick commanded the nuclear powered USS Spadefish which made two under-ice voyages to the North Pole. While still on active duty in 1996 he completed his MBA at SDSU.

John P. Farnam

A fighter jet pilot (F/A-18 Hornet) and 1990 SDSU graduate Col. John Farnam was CO (Commanding Officer) Marine Corps Air Station Miramar from July 25, 2012 until August 28, 2015. As an instructor, in 1998 he was chosen Marine Corps Naval Flight Officer of the Year. Also a graduate of the National War College he participated in operations Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom.



John Flintham Kellogg



One of the more compelling stories reported by nearly 40 SDSU alumni held as POWs during wartime was that of Capt. John “Jack” Kellogg (1917-2012), a co-pilot of a B-17 that was shot down over Czechoslovakia, June 7, 1944. He bailed out of the doomed plane and parachuted into a forest completely unaware of his location. Using his wits he survived for eleven days until a sympathetic farm boy gave him shelter and civilian clothes. But when he crossed the border into Hungary he was captured by enemy soldiers who nearly beat him to death (lost a kidney and later required extensive bladder surgery). Still suffering from the beating, he along with 10,000 other POWs were forced to march in sub-zero weather to a train station to be transferred in cattle cars to the notorious Stalag III in Germany, then a prison in Nuremburg and finally one at Moosberg near Munich where Gen. George Patton tanks crashed through barbed wire to liberate him.

Edward Charles Raymer

Navy deep sea diver and former SDSU Extension student CMR Edward Raymer (1920-1997) rose from being an enlisted sailor to directing a five-man team of divers who employed welding and cutting techniques he developed that are still used today. Edward’s efforts to repair and salvage ships damaged and sunken in the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are recounted in his 1996 book titled *Descent Into Darkness: The True Story of a Navy Diver*. He risked his life on several



occasions in the dangerous, dark, and oily waters that often required a delicate sense of touch and the fortitude to withstand seeing floating dead bodies while performing the job that had to be done.

Robert Milton Gillett Jr.



Born in Bremerton Washington, the son of a Vice Admiral, Capt. Robert Gillett Jr. (1935-2013) was a 1958 graduate of San Diego State and later of the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey. Probably the most memorable event of his military career was in 1974 when in command of the destroyer USS Stein (photo left) his ship was picked to escort the



HMS Jupiter that made a port call at Honolulu with Prince Charles aboard.

Mary Townsend-Manning

A chemistry graduate with high honors (Class of '75), retired Navy Capt. Townsend-Manning went on to get a master's degree in mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA at Southern Utah University. One highlights of her 28-year military career was as engineering duty officer aboard Trident submarine USS Pennsylvania as its only female crewmember. She reached the pinnacle of her service as Commanding Officer of Naval Undersea Warfare Center-Keyport.



Joe Roderick Perry



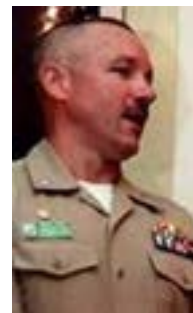
Having joined the Navy as an enlisted man in 1933, CDR Joe Perry (1916-2009) rose to command two LSTs, participated in the Normandy invasion, the Battle of Okinawa, occupation of Japan, the atomic bomb test at Enewitok Atoll, and the Korean War. In 1960 he commanded the USS Colonial (photo left).

Discharged in 1967, he then finished his bachelor's degree at SDSU in 1969.

Mark E. Davis



Having served as executive officer of the attack submarine USS Scranton, in 2004 SDSU graduate CDR Mark Davis began his two-year command of the fast attack submarine USS Montpelier, armed with 20 Tomahawk cruise missiles. He next was commanding officer of the Pre-Commissioning Unit North Carolina (SSN 777). Presently, Mark resides in Washington, DC.



John C. Moore



At SDSU, Lt. Col. John C. Moore majored in international business and later earned a master's degree in Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University. His academic background served him well after stints as a military advisor and tank commander in Iraq, and service in missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, South Korea, and Turkey, for in July 2014 he was named Defense Attaché of the United States to Lithuania.

James E. McPherson

On January 2, 2018, James E. McPherson was sworn in as the 22nd General Counsel of the United States Army, responsible for taking legal positions and directing a legal staff as the Army's chief lawyer. He had previously been Executive Director of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and before that he was the General Counsel for the Department of Defense Counterintelligence Field Activity. He retired as Judge Advocate General of the Navy. Starting his military career as an enlisted soldier, he graduated from SDSU in 1977 and earned his law degree at the University of San Diego in 1981. James also has a Master of Laws degree in military law from the Judge Advocate General's School of the Army.



Jason A. Burns



NROTC graduate at SDSU (Class of '93), Capt. Jason A. Burns began his military career flying helicopters. Following several administrative assignments, postings abroad, and training at the Naval War College where he



completed the Maritime Advanced Warfighting School's Naval Operational Planners Course, he became Navigator of the USS Nimitz, then in 2015 as Executive Officer of the USS Essex, a Wasp-class Landing Helicopter Dock designated an amphibious assault ship. In June 2017 he took full responsibility for control of the USS Essex as its Commanding Officer.

The Fighting Professors

Lester Irwin Tennenberg

Thomas E. Mullen

Carl William Lasiter

George Paul Pavis

Gerald Rosenbaum

Arthur Tenney Emerson

Charles Warren Hostler

Kramer Jesse Rohfleisch

Frank Jacob Irgang

Alvin David Coox



Several SDSU professors had notable military experiences during wars and peacetime. One was Dr. Lester Tennenberg (aka Lester Tenney) who survived the hellish Bataan Death March in April 1942 following the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. An Army staff sergeant and tank commander, he was transported to Japan and forced to work 12-hour days in a coal mine until the war ended. Lester began teaching administration at SDSU in 1966 and earned his Master's degree in business education here before departing. He returned to campus in 2012 to lecture on his wartime ordeals which he elaborated in his book, *My Hitch in Hell: Surviving the*

Bataan Death March (Brassey's, 1995).

Who could have guessed that Fallbrook resident Dr. Thomas Mullen, who near the close of his varied career taught economics at San Diego State and National University, was wounded repeatedly as a soldier in Europe during World War II? Then a TEC 5 trooper (Technician Fifth Grade) he received both the Purple Heart and Silver Star. The ex-paratrooper (the Army's youngest Jumpmaster at that time) and former corporation CEO could boast having been blessed by Pope Pius II, dined with Queen Elizabeth, and lectured at Oxford. He died February 18, 2013.



On February 5, 1968 Lt. Col. Carl Lasiter had to eject from his fighter jet over North Vietnam. He was captured by the enemy and for the next 1,865 days (more than 5 years) was held as a POW. Prior to this he had been awarded the Silver Star for his heroic effort to rescue a downed pilot. Carl quickly recovered from his physical injuries when released in 1973 and was posted at SDSU as Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies in the AFROTC program. He taught at SDSU until 1979 when he retired, and while teaching earned a Master's degree here in rehabilitation counseling.



Capt. George Pavis (1923-2013), born in New York City and a 1946 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, was the skipper of two destroyers: the USS Grand Canyon and the USS Hoel (photo right). After three decades in the Navy he retired to San Diego and took the job of physics lab instructor at San Diego State, and got involved in charity volunteer work.

SDSU psychology professor Gerald Rosenbaum (1923-2009) received the Bronze Star for valor serving as an Army medic in the 354th/89th Infantry, the Division that liberated Ohrdruf concentration camp in Germany in World War II. Renowned for his work in alcoholism, neuropsychology, anxiety, and



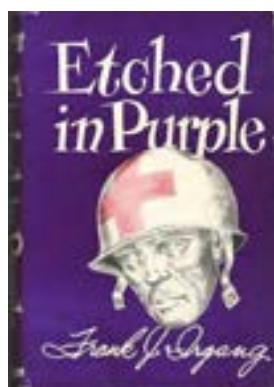
schizophrenia, a scholarship fund was established in his memory at Wayne State University where he had previously taught.

Former Capt. Arthur Tenney Emerson (1894-1975) was a mathematics professor at SDSU from 1947 to 1964. An Annapolis graduate, he retired twice during the course of his military career which included a term as the Navy's governor of Samoa.



In World War II Charles Warren Hostler (1920-2014) was spy/provocateur OSS agent in Nazi-occupied France for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit and the French Legion of Honor. He later was an Air Force colonel, U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain, earned a doctorate in political science at Georgetown University, and was an SDSU adjunct professor. Two buildings and a scholarly institute honor his achievements.

During World War II, Maj. Kramer Rohfleisch (1911-2000) worked in Intelligence Operations. He wrote histories of the Army Air Force in the South Pacific, among them *Guadalcanal and the Origins of the Thirteenth Air Force* (1945) and *The Thirteenth Air Force, March-October* (1946). Kramer wrote his Ph.D. thesis at the University California at Berkeley. He taught history at SDSU from 1947 to 1974.



Army medic Frank Jacob Irgang (1922-2011) was one of a score of Aztecs who were on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The fighting was so fierce and the situation so desperate at Utah Beach that Frank had to forgo his duties as medic and became a rifleman. He later saw action in the Battle of the Bulge and at the Bridge at Remagen, and won the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. In the post-war era he earned a doctorate in industrial engineering at the University of Michigan. In 1956 he began his 26-year career as a professor at SDSU. Among his books is *Etched in Purple*, an account of his wartime experiences.



One of the most highly regarded professors in the university's history, Alvin D. Coox (1924-1999) had completed his Ph.D. in history in 1951 at Harvard University and was teaching there when Johns Hopkins University hired him as an operations analyst to figure out how American soldiers could best destroy the Russian T-34 tank being used by communist forces in the Korean War. The Army commissioned him a Major, stationed him in Tokyo, and sent him to



battlefields to study the T-34 and its American rival, the M-4 tank, which needed a redesign. The Army acted on Alvin's recommendations. Leaving the military, he arrived at SDSU in 1965 and for the next 30 years taught military history to rapt students and published impressively, most notably his prize-winning 2-volume work *Nomonhan: Japan Against Russia, 1939* (Stanford University Press) which, among other things, linked the decisive defeat of the Japanese by the Russians in Mongolia to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Serving God and Country

Army Lt Col. Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, who earned a master's degree in counseling at SDSU (Class of '79) and a social work degree at the University of Michigan, was the only Muslim chaplain ministering at the Pentagon crash site on 9/11. Wearing a



crescent on his collar, in 1993 he became the first Muslim chaplain in the U.S. military. Inspired by the writings of Malcolm X, the Buffalo, New York native converted to Islam at age 20. The married father of seven children, he served at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC; was posted to Iraq in 2004; and retired in 2012 as the Command Chaplain for the US Army Public Health Command.



Former Navy Seal and Vietnam War Veteran Col. Samuel Birky, upon graduating from San Diego State and getting his divinity degree from Golden Gate Seminary, entered the Army as a chaplain and remained in that capacity. Before serving at U.S. Army Civil Affairs/Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), Fort Bragg, he was chaplain of the Combined/Joint Civil Military Task Force, headquartered in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina.



Nanson Hwa

The Army's first Asian-America deep water "hard hat" diver was SDSU alumnus Nanson Hwa. Born in Tsingtao, China, he moved to the United States with his parents at age three. His father had served in the Navy since 1928 and was a POW in World War II. After graduating from Coronado High School, Nanson entered the military in 1966. Upon completing basic training he joined the 77th Engineer Company, Port Construction at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. His initial request to sign up for diving school was denied but a lucky break allowed him to replace a disqualified candidate and train at Fort Eustice in Virginia. Nanson made numerous dives across the nation while serving as a diver

with the Army Corps of Engineers. Leaving the Army, he earned his bachelor's degree in public administration and economics at SDSU (where he met his wife) in 1975 and began a career working for the State of California, Department of Business Taxes. In retirement he performed volunteer service for Navy and Coast Guard affiliated groups and remained active in the affair of San Diego's Chinese Community Church, United Church of Christ.

Ernest H. Joy II

Commissioned a naval officer in 1967, Capt. Ernest Joy became Commanding Officer (CO) of three warships, including the amphibious USS Blue Ridge (see photo below), the flagship of the U.S. Seventh Fleet in Japan. Born in Palo Alto, California, he had several academic degrees, including a master's in education in 1984 from SDSU and a Ph.D. from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) & State University.

Later, Ernest was Professor of History and graduate course manager and the National Defense University in Washington. D.C. and was department chairman and Professor of Naval Science at VPI. He died in retirement on July 30, 2020.



SDSU Military Benchmarks

What follows are some easy to remember points that can be used to celebrate and publicize the varied and outstanding achievements of SDSU's military alumni.

Top Military Brass:

SDSU can lay claim to least 31 generals and 24 admirals.

Namesakes of SDSU Military Alumni:

SDSU alumni who served in the military have had parks, streets, buildings, a ship, a professorship, scholarships, and geographic locations named in their honor.

James G. Dionisopoulos Endowed Scholarship (MiraCosta College)
Bassett Creek (John W. Bassett) on Attu Island in the Aleutians
Brown Cup Award in honor of Forrest Plympton Brown
Lt. Maxton Brown Bird Sanctuary & Maxton Brown Park in Carlsbad CA
USS John C. Butler (commissioned in 1943)
Talbot Airfield (Victor A. Talbot) in New Guinea
Phillips Hall Gymnasium (Richard H. Phillips and brothers) at MCRD
James C. Hardin American Legion Post (proposed) in El Cajon, CA
William Craig Nystul Professorship in Computer Science, Univ. of West Florida
Frank Elliott Field airport in Rantoul, Illinois
Dowdy Hall (Robert D. Dowdy) at March Air Base in Riverside, California
Oscar A. Jimenez Scholarship at SDSU
Wilkinson Hall (Eugene Wilkinson), Naval Submarine School in Groton, CT
Steve Joyner Memorial Award for athletes at Fullerton College in California
Al Heppner Memorial Fund of the U.S. Olympic Training Center
Orien W Todd Jr. Memorial Scholarship at SDSU
Giles T. Brown Forum Lecture Hall at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa
Murl Gibson Counseling Department Scholarship at San Diego Mesa College
Freedom Tree honoring Lt. Col. Charles Scharf, MIAs and POWs, at SDSU
Moki Martin Inspiration Award, annual Navy SEALs Superfrog Triathlon
Willie Steele Memorial Scholarship Fund at SDSU
Robert V. Kurilich Educational Fund established in Alhambra, CA in 1968
Capt. Ronald H. Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund, L.A. Valley College
Thomas F. Durbin Scholarship Fund, established at Escondido National Bank
Harry F. Painter Memorial Scholarship, Northern Virginia Community College
Lt. Lawrence I. Werner VFW Post 7669, in Beverly Hills, California
Peter J Rowe Memorial Scholarship (Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation)
Thomas and Elliott M. Senn Memorial Fund (Navy administered for NROTC)
Gordon Clark Chamberlain Perpetual Trophy (Toastmasters)
Matthew Gene Axelson Foundation (Chico, California)
James W. Routh Jr. Liberty Scholarship (UC-Berkeley)
Alexander “Gobby” Watson Trophy (Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity)
Elmer B. Magin Memorial Scholarship (Calexico High School)
Hilda and Colonel Robert L. Dodge Endowed Scholarship for AFROTC (SDSU)
Charles C. Durlan Scholarship (Coronado Middle School)

Lt. Christian Hescock Memorial Paintball Match (Oregon)
Charles W. Hostler Institute on World Affairs (SDSU)
Charles Hostler Hall (SDSU)
Lt. David Schmitz Scholarship Foundation
Lt. David Schmitz Memorial Fund
Charles Hostler Student Center (American University of Beirut)
Philip “Moki” Martin Advanced SEAL Delivery System Maintenance Building
 (Pearl Harbor, Hawaii)
Paynter Memorial Fund (Pensacola, Florida)
A. Norman Webb Jr. Legacy Society (U.S. Lacrosse Foundation)
Gerald Rosenbaum Endowed Scholarship in Clinical Psychology Fund (Wayne State University)
Philip A. Whitacre Scholarship Fund in Palm Beach County (Florida)
William J. Hobbs Memorial Trophy (California Air National Guard)
 ChulaVista Streets Named in Honor of SDSU Fallen Soldiers
 Alber Street (Robert Marshall Alber)
 Brashear Place (William James Brashear)
 Davies Drive (Thomas Joseph Davies)
 Himmer Court (Lawrence Himmer)
 Jones Street (James Penton Jones)
 Koester Street (James Duane Koester)
 Lew Lane (Victor Walter Lew)
 Owen Drive (Donald Cook Owen)
 Talbot Court (Victor Raymond Talbot)

Expert, Precision Flyers:

SDSU alumni have flown in both the Navy’s Blue Angels (**Richard L. Cormier, Edwin D. McKellar, Paul Brantuas, and Robert L. Packer**) and the Air Force Thunderbirds (**Merrill A. McPeak**).

Personal Accomplishments:

Eugene P. Wilkerson commanded the first nuclear powered sub, the USS Nautilus, and the first nuclear-powered surface ship, the USS Long Beach. **George S. Morrison**, father of famous rock singer Jim Morrison, commanded the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme. **Wendell R. Lipscomb** was a Tuskegee Airman who trained the famed black pilots of World War II.

Griffith P. Williams and **J. Royden Stork** participated in the famed “Doolittle Raid.” **Donald C. Owen** flew with Maj.



George “Pappy” Boyington.

World War II ace fighter pilots **Edmund F. Overend** shot down 8 ½ enemy planes in the Pacific Theater, **Richard L. Cormier** tallied 8 kills, **Frederick R. Payne** scored 7 ½, **John Francis Perry** (a.k.a. **Edwin S. Conant**) 7, **Francis E. Pierce Jr.** 6, and **Donald L. Webber**, **James J. Kinsella**, and **Donald C. Owen** both scored 5 aerial victories there. Navy aviator Capt. **Howard M. Avery** strafed and dropped torpedoes that sank two German U-Boats in the Atlantic. Capt. John Walsh was hailed by the *Life* magazine as “one of the world’s great explorers” of his era. Lt Col. **Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad** was the first Muslim military chaplain in U.S. history.

Top Military Honors

Listed below are SDSU students, faculty, and staff who received six of the nation's highest military honors.

Indicated next to each name is the war(s) during which the person served or achieved the honor (II [World War II], K [Korea], V [Vietnam], Gulf War [GW], W [War on Terror]), followed at the end by the branch of the United States military in which they served (A [Army], AF [Air Force], N [Navy], M [Marines], and CG [Coast Guard]).

The **Navy Cross**, bestowed on sailors and Marines; the **Distinguished Service Cross** for Army soldiers; and the **Air Force Cross** are second only to the **Congressional Medal of Honor**, the nation's highest recognition. The crosses are awarded to exceptional members of the United States military who exhibited "extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force and going beyond the call of duty."

The **Silver Star** (or Silver Star Medal) is the nation's third highest military award and is available to members of every branch of the American military who perform acts of gallantry in the face of enemy opposition.

The **Bronze Star** is given to members of branches of the United States Armed Forces who perform acts of valor in combat or, less frequent, demonstrate outstanding work in accomplishing military objectives.

The **Legion of Merit**, a neck order, is typically awarded to upper level military officers in recognition of their superior performance of assigned duties. Occasionally, lower level military personnel, politicians, and foreign dignitaries are given this medal.

Navy Cross



Charles W. Aldrich II N
Howard M. Avery II N
Matthew G. Axelson W N
Daniel C. Battershell V N
John C. Butler II N
Wilkinson Hall II N
Maurice C. Holmes II M
James E. Malloy Jr. V N
Charles M. Melhorn II N
Michael I. Neil V M
Frederick R. Payne II K M
George W Peck II N
Francis E. Pierce Jr. II N
Thomas A. Richards V M
Ray Edgar Wilson Jr. II M

Peck



Richards

Distinguished Service Cross



Orien R Gossett II A
Whitworth W. Hoskins II A
Robert J. Hutson II A
Guy A. Miller II AF
George R. Mohr II A
Paul V. Tuttle II A



Tuttle



Hutson

Air Force Cross



Frederic M. Donohue V AF



Silver Star



John E Abbott Jr. II A
Constantine Angeles II K
George Alexander II A
Augustine S. Apra II A
Richard Arnold V A
Matthew G. Axelson W N
Gene Ivan Basel II AF
John W. Bassett II A
Robert H. Botts II M
Terry L. Boyer V AF
Edwin H. Brewer II AF
Robin B. Brown II A
Carl E. Bull II KN
Byron H. Chase K M
Marvin K. Chase Jr. K A
Arvin R. Chauncey V N
John Dewitt Clark II A
Brent A. Clemmer W A
Daryl D. Cole K V AF
Randolph Copeland V M
Richard L Cormier II AF
Render R. Crayton V N
Edward B. Davis II M
Lowell D. Davison V A
James Dionsopoulos II M
M. J. Dube V M
Roger A. Dutton V A
Darwin W. Enloe V N
Albert J. Fern Jr. K A
James Fink K A
John Frost Jr. II AF
Robert M. Fuller II N
Joseph M. Galindo K A
George Gilliland II A
Lloyd W. Gilmore II A
Orien Roy Gossett K A
Howard Grimmell Jr. II N

Omer N. Hall K A
Robert Hall V N
Paul Hammond V A
Scott W. Harvey V A
Jack W. Hayes Jr. II AF
Harold G Hevener II AF
Laurie W. Higgins II N
Whitworth Hoskins II A
W. D. Hunter K V M & AF
John F Hutsel II A
Jess Jessop V N
Julius Jacobson II A
Danny L. Jones K V N
Curtis R. Kimes V A
Chas. Kirchmann II K V N
Edward M. LaDou K AF
David Landersman W M
Carl W. Lasiter V AF
George R. Lawlor II K V A
George R. Lee Jr. V M
Albert R. Lepore II A
David H. Lewis V N
Donald S. Lindstrum II AF
Alastair J. Livingston V M
Richard L Maki V AF

Douglas R. Manning K M
Lowell K. Marcus II AF
Rex W. Mattson II N
Harold C. McAuliff II AF
Edwin McKellar Jr. K V N
Merrill A. McPeak V AF
John B. Megrew II A
Richard D. Moon V N
Richard D. Mullen V N
John H. Murphy II A
Masato Nakagawa II A
Tillman T. Ogdahl II M
Edmund F. Overend II M
Kenneth L. Pattison V A
John Francis Perry II N
Orin H. Rigley II AF
Eric S. Pfefferkorn II N
Richard H. Phillips K M
Nicholas Popaditch W M
Floyd Porterfield II N
Joseph V. Potter V AF
Lee D. Price V A
Ira Dwight Putnam II N
Frank V. Quillin II A
Thomas A. Richards V M
Gerald Robertson Jr. V A
William A. Romero V M
Richard Rothwell II M
Arthur W. Ruff II AF
Edward J. Ryan V A
Charles D. Sankey V A
Maurice W. Savage II M
Donald A. Scherer II N
Elliott M. Senn II N
Russell L. Silverthorn II M
Nathan R. Smith K M
Lyle H. Stumbaugh II A

James A. Steele II AF
Daniel T. Steib K A
Charles P. Strong II A
Joseph M. Suozzo II N
Bert Tanaka II A
Edgar L. Tidwell II K V A
Stephen C. Turple V A

Paul V. Tuttle II A
Marion A. Viera Jr. V M
William J. Vogt II AF
Wyatt Waldron W M
Alexander Watson K M
A. Norman Webb Jr. V A
Robert Wedgewood II A

Eugene Wilkinson II K V N
Royal A Wolverton II N
Matthew Woodall W M
Gene T. Wright V AF
Roy L. Youngblood V N



M. K. Chase



Cole



Landersmann



Mullen



Davison



Birky



Ogdahl



Gilliland

Bronze Star

John E. Abbott Jr. II A
Robert M. Alber II A
Charles R. Aldrich II A
Joe L. Alford II A
Henry J. Ancinec II K A
Constantine Angeles II K A
John D. McArthur V A
Richard S. Bain II A
Lyman W. Ballinger II N
Lillian Bankerd II A
Z. Allen Barker II M
Richard Barkley II K V AF
Richard L. Bates II N
Dennis Berge K A
Jack W. Berliner II M
Victor E. Bianchini V M
Arthur S. Blaisdell II A
Eugene Bochemuhi II A
William Boone II A
Neil G. Boothby II A
Calvin E. Bornholdt V A
Robert H. Botts II M
Albert L. Bousquet K M
William C. Boyd II AF
Ernest Braun II A
Arthur Brindley II A
John Brink II M
Conley E. Broome K V AF
Dayton R. E. Brown II A
Carl Bull II K N
Emil H. Bushert II A
Edward Butler II M
Joe C. Butler V A
James F. Carlson II A
Allan Carroll V A
Joe Carter II A
Richard Cervantes W M
Stanley A. Childs II K A
John R. Clark II A
Stuart T. Clark K V M
Robert L. Clarke II N



Brent A. Clemmer W A
William D. Clemons K M
Dennis C. Cline V A
John D. Coker II A
Sidney J. Colvin II A
Roger F. Combs II AF
Gorton C. Cook K V M
Gene M. Cornell II A
Millard J. Cronister V A
Donald J. Crouching II M
Timothy Cruickshank W N
Francis C. Cush K M
Reginald S. Davis II AF
Hollis E. Davison V M
Gordon M. Dawson II A
John D'Aura Jr. II K A
David Dennis V AF
Geoffrey De Tingo W A
Chester S. DeVore II M

M. J. Dube V M
Curtis J. Duarte V M
Thomas F. Durbin V A
Roger A. Duton V A
Delmar L. Dyreson II A
Gene Earl II N
Sam Edwards II A
William Edwards A
Darwin W. Enloe V N
Edwin Fey II N
Kenneth Fiegenger II K V M
James Fink K A
Ralph Finnerty II A
Charles J. Fisher W A
John C. Flanigan V A
Gregorio R. Flores Jr. V A
Herman Fritzenkotter II A
Charles V. Fry II A
Edward Fuller V A
George Gilliland II M
Robin Goodenough K N
Michael Goodman W A
Orien R. Gossett K A
Caesar M. Grassino II N
Robert E. Grice II A
Herschel E. Griffin II K A
Darryle J. Grimes W AF
Frank A. Grippe W A
Harvey W. Hall II N
Omer N. Hall K A
George E. Hammond II A
Charles Hargreaves II A
Adrian M. Harrell V AF
John E. Harris V N
Mason W. Harris II A
William Headington II A
Bryan Healea W AF
Edward L. Hendricks K A
Samuel Henley K V AF
Allison Henson Jr. II K A
Harold T. Henson K A

Lawrence Himmer V M
Scott Hodgdon W A
Gregory G. Hoen V M
William G. Horn V M
Joseph L. Howard II N
William M. Howie II N
Derrick A. Hoxie V A
Duncan Hunter V A
W. D. Hunter K V M & AF
John F. Hutsel II A
Frank J. Irgang II A
John I. Jacobsen II A
Allen S. Jefferis V N
Richard M. Jeffries V A
Norman A. Jensen K A
Robert B. Johnston V M
Charles P. Jones II A
Danny L. Jones K V N
Stephen D. Joyner V M
Gilbert D. Juarez W M
B. Kaasman II K V M
Robert C. Kemp II A
Dennis M. Kenneally V A
Michael S. Kerr V AF
James J. Kinsella K N
Mary Lacour II A
Michael A. Lana V A
Thomas Lang V M
Bernard D. Lanois II AF
John Lathrop W A
George R. Lawlor II K V A
George R. Lee V M
David LeMay V A
Daniel W. Lemon W AF
Glenn D. Lindeneau II A
Scott R. Lister W N
Charles W. Listmann II A
Robert Logan II A
Winford B. Logan II K A
John V. Long II A
Gordon C. Luce II A
Phillip "Moki" Martin V N
Robert A. Mays Jr. V A
Jack McEnroe V M
Gerald A. McIntire V AF
Jerry T. McKeen V A
Andy Mecca V A
John B. Megrew II A
Marshall Miller II AF
William C. Mohler II A
Albert R. Molinare V N
Leland Montgomery II M
Joseph Morici II M
George S. Morrison K N
D. Muchleisen II K V AF
Richard D. Mullen V N
Frederick Nash W A
Ronald K. Nelson V A
Robert S. Newsom II K M
Marvin Nottingham II N
Henry C. O'Leary K N
John O'Neill Sr. II K V N
Billy E. Pafford V M
Harry F. Painter V M
Christopher J. Papaj W M
Royal A. Parks Jr. II A
Carolyn J. Patrick W AF
Gerry Patrick II A
Ronald S. Patrick V M
Stephen Patterson K A
Kenneth L. Pattison K AF
George Pearson V A
Shawn Pecinovsky W A
Joe R. Perry II K V N
Michael Peters V GW AF
Warren L. Peterson II A
Albert C. Pierson II A
Elon A. Place V A
Marvin K. Polk II A
Robert Ponsford II A II N
Floyd Porterfield II N
David W. Powell W A
Lee D. Price V A
Eduardo A. Quero W AF
Frank Quinn K V M
Larry B. Rader V A
William Reed V N
Edward A. Reese II A
Alexandros D. Regas II A
H. J. L. Reid V N
Gavino Rivas W A
Peter J. Rowe V M
Richard T. Ruetten K A
Thomas Rice II A
David P. Riley K A
Osmond J. Ritland II AF
Thomas Rizzo V GW, AF, N
Valjean F. Robbins II M
Clyde R. Roberts V M
Gerald Robertson V A AF
Jerome Roebuck A
Gerald Rosenbaum II A
David C. Ross V A
Edward J. Ryan V A
James W. Ryan V N
Charles Saffell Jr. V GW N
Rebecca C. Samson V A
Charles D. Sankey V A
Maurice W. Savage II M
Eric Schaefer W M
John W. Scott II A
Robert Scurlock V AF
Herbert G. See II A
James E. Service V N
Myron G. Sessions II A
Arthur D. Sikes V GW AF
Charles R. Smith V A
Fred C. Smith II A
Nathan R. Smith II K V M
Russell Smith II K N
William K. Snyder II M
Eleanor V. Spinola II A
Burns W. Spore II N
Wallace Springstead II M
James E. Stacy II A
James A. Steele II AF
Bruce R. Stephens V A
Michael Stevens II AF
Fred D. Stevers II AF
Howard Stidham II M
Raymond L. Stone II A
Daniel T. Streib K A

Lyle H. Stumbaugh II A
 Anne M. Swap W N
 Scott H. Swift W N
 Daniel D. Taylor K V AF
 Earl W. Thompson K M
 Frank B. Thornton II A
 Edgar I. Tidwell II A
 William True II A
 Paul V. Tuttle Jr. II A
 George Tweedy Jr. II AF
 John Tyers II A
 John A. Vogt V AF
 Kenneth S. Wade II AF

Robert Wade II A
 James Wainwright V M
 Lloyd A. Walker Jr. II AF
 Ralph Wallace II A
 Gary F. Walls V A
 Albert Walters V A
 George L. Watkins II M
 James C. W. White II N
 John E. B. Wilbur II AF
 Herman P. Wiggins VA
 Carroll H. Wight II AF
 Eugene Wilkinson II K V N
 George H. Williams II A

John K. Williams II N
 Michael W. Williams W N
 Larry A. Wilske W N
 Donald E. Wilson V N
 Jayme F. Winders W M
 Robert Winslow V M
 Charles M. Witt II A
 Ernest F. Witte II A
 Garland P. Wright W N
 James H. Wright Jr. II AF
 William R. Wygal W A
 Clyde Young II A



Anciniec



Clemmer



Flores



Fry



Grassino



Grimes



Grippe



Heale



Hoen



Horn



Peterson



Mays



Peterson



Powell



Spore



Wight

Legion of

Kelly A. Aeschbach W N
Howard M. Avery II N
Henry J. Bedinger V N
Adam S. Benenson II K N
Victor C. Bianchini V M
David R. Black V W A
Bertram R. Bone II A
Robert V. Bowersox W AF
Joe C. Butler V A
James R. Campbell V N
Robert Cardenas II K AF
William Carey W N
Bernard Carroll Jr. II AF
George A. Chester II A
Ralph S. Clem V W AF
Dennis C. Cline V A
Noel J. Dahlke W N
John D'Aura II K A
Hollis E. Davison V M
Geoffrey De Tingo W A
Frank W. Elliott II K V AF
Harry T. Galpin II K V AF
Thomas J. Haynes V W AF
Robert A. Goff V N
Herschel E. Griffin II K A
Darryle J. Grimes W AF
Christopher Hall W CG
Thomas J. Haynes V W AF
Harold T. Henson II K A
Kathryn M. Hobbs W N
Scott Hodgdon W A
Harris S. Holmboe II M
Benny J. Hornsby K V N
Charles W. Hostler II A
Joseph L. Howard II A
Raymond Jardin V W A
Mark Johnson W N



Robert L. Johnston V W M
Ernest H. Joy V N
Robert J. Kamensky W N
Dennis M. Kenneally W N
Michael S. Kerr V AF
George C. Knapp II K M
Frank M. Kyes II K V N
Nancy C. Lacore W N
Arthur E. Laehr V AF
Charles E. Mason II K N
Edwin D. McKellar K V N
Merrill A. McPeak V AF
James E. McPherson W N
W. Neal Moquin W CG & N
George Morrison II K V N
Dolph E. Muchleisen II A
Michael I. Neil V M
Neil E. Nelson W M
Elizabeth S. Niemyer W N

Merit

George W. Norwood V AF
Robert Nowakowski W N
John W. O'Neill W K N
Harry F. Painter II K M
Christopher J. Papaj W M
Frederick R. Payne II K M
Michael J. Peters W GW AF
Edward Philbin V AF
Leonard F. Picotte V N
Joe Plenzler W M
Joseph V. Potter V AF
Frank Quinn II K V M
William Reed V W N
Peter J. Rowe V M
Dexter C. Rumsey K V N
Rebecca C. Samson W A
Donald A. Scherer II N
Clarence Schmid II K V M
Robert Scurlock V AF
Elliott M. Senn II N
James E. Service V N
Arthur D. Sikes V GW AF
Russell Smith II K N
Anne M. Swap W N
Michael P. Sullivan V N
Scott W. Swift W N
Jimmie W. Taylor V N
Dennis P. Tucker Jr. A AF
Kermit A. Tyler II K AF
Edward G. Usher W M
Jeffery D. Valenzia W AF
Earl Van Inwegen II AF
Eugene Wilkinson II K VN
Edward Williams II K V N
George Worthington II N
Garland P. Wright W N
Wardell C. Wright V N

Paul A. Ziemer V N



Holmboe

Jardine

Moquin

Picotte

Tyler

War Memorial Statistics

	<u>Avg. Age¹</u>	<u>KIA³</u>	<u>Pilots</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Acc. B-A²</u>	<u>Acc-O⁴</u>	<u>Acc.-D⁵</u>	<u>POWD⁷</u>	<u>Persons⁶</u>
World War II	24	78	81	37	10	9	29	3	152
Korean War	26	9	16	8	1	6	6	0	23
Vietnam War	27	40	25	24	0	10	1	0	55
Iraq/Afghanistan	29	5	4	7	0	2	3	0	10

Totals	25	132	126	76*	11	27	39	3	240

¹Avg. Age=average age at time of death

²Acc.B-A=accidental deaths that occurred before the U.S. officially entered war or after war officially ended

³KIA= killed in action

⁴Acc.O=accidental deaths that occurred overseas

⁵Acc.-D=domestic accidental deaths (i.e., accidental deaths occurring in the U.S.)

⁶Personnel=total number of persons listed on monument for that war

⁷POWD, POWs who died in captivity

*these married men fathered at least 58 offspring

References

Aside from stops at SDSU's Office of the Registrar and browsing the Internet, quite a few books, newspapers, magazines, and online databases were used to gather information about SDSU military alumni. Here are some of those most frequently consulted.

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Access Genealogy (databases, sections on San Diego County WWII casualties)
Accident-Report.com (database for military accidents)
Alumni & Associates Directory (1982, 1994)
Alumni Directory (1999)
American Battle Monuments Commission (database for military burial sites)
Ancestry.com (genealogy database)
Archives.gov (National Archives databases for military registration and casualties)
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SDSU War Memorial Committee (1996)

Left to right: Bob Menke, Lois Roberts, Chuck Kerth, Joe Suozzo, Wilbur Kelley, Ish Galligan, Harry Hodgetts, Chet DeVore, Jess Dominguez, Bob Cozens, Ed Moore.