November, 2014

VETERANS DAY

Maya Angelou — How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!

Oliver Wendell Holmes— Lord, bid war's trumpet cease; Fold the whole earth in peace.

These are just a few of the many veterans and those on active duty in the Diamondhead Community. They have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment.

Bob Jones – On leave from Ft. Monmouth, NJ, when he was in the Drum & Bugle Corps.

“We are a proud military family. Freddy served 28 years as a Warrant Officer in the Army. Our oldest son, Freddy served three years in the Navy and our youngest son, Manuel is now serving in the Army.”
—The Western Family

“appreciate your recognizing the veterans. I volunteered and served in the army from 1964 to 1967. I spent 18 months in Turkey (Ankara) and 4 months in Vietnam, leaving Vietnam on Christmas Eve, 1966 – a nice Christmas present!!”
—Bob Jones
From the world wars of Europe to the jungles of the far East, from the deserts of the Middle East to the African continent, and even here in our own hemisphere, our veterans have made the world a better place and America the great country we are today.

Senior Army Instructor

Larry D. Seals

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Larry D. Seals

Larry entered the Army in 1967 and served 22 years. His assignments included service in the Republic of Vietnam as a Cobra helicopter pilot, Press Officer to the U.S. Military Government in Berlin, Germany, and Press Officer to the Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon.

Lieutenant Colonel Seals holds a Bachelor's degree in Business and Economics from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a Master's of Criminal Justice from Wichita Stat University. He is a graduate of the Army Military Police Officer's Advance Course, the Defense Information School's Public Affairs Officer's Course, the Air Force Advanced Public Affairs Course at the University of Oklahoma, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Charlie Smith
U. S. Navy
Hospital Corpsman
2nd Class
1972 to 1977

Ken Benck

I" was drafted into the Army in Sept. 1967 during the Vietnam War. After basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY, I was sent OJT to Homestead Air Base, where I served the rest of my duty. I worked for the Adjutant typing up court martial and various other military orders.

After discharge from the military, I went to work in law enforcement for over 30 years. I retired from Sarpy County Nebraska Sheriff's Dept. in 2004.”

Sonny Clement

July, 1946 to August 1949
U.S. Army/Air Force
Corporal
8th Air Force - 509 Bomb Group
Based in Roswell, NM
Delivered B-29's to the British in 1949
The sacrifices made by veterans and those on active duty and their willingness to fight in defense of our nation merit our deep respect and praise.

**LUCAS HICKEY**

Marine Corps
Corporal
1998 - 2002

U.S. Army
Corporal
2003-2007

**A Family of Veterans**

**John D. Combs**

LTC (R) U.S. Army 1975-2003

**LTC John S. Combs**

Active Duty U.S. Army, 1996 – Present
Currently Stationed in Naples, Italy
Serving as Commander, U.S. Army
NATO Brigade

**Doyle Williams** (Suzi’s Dad)

**DALTON L. BRATTON**

Sgt. Dalton is active duty U.S. Army and is presently deployed in the Kunar Province, Afghanistan. Dalton, a Cavalry Scout, began his Army career in 2011 and, prior to completing his first duty contract, reenlisted for another term.

This picture of Dalton was taken on 9/11/14 as a tribute to all who have served as a result of the devastation which occurred on 9/22/2001.

**Jim Hannon**

“I joined the U.S. Marine Corps after college in 1967 and went to OCS and Officer’s Basic School in Quantico, VA. I then took helicopter flight training before going to live in Danang, Vietnam for a year in 1969-1970. We flew missions in support of ground operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. After five years on active duty, I moved to Atlanta, GA and worked as a pilot/patrolman for the DeKalb County Police Dept. in metro Atlanta. I also served another 15 years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve in Atlanta, retiring in 1987.

The aviation background helped me get a job with an aviation insurance company, and I worked there as an underwriter and manager before retiring when we moved to Diamondhead.”

**Paul Geiss**

U. S. Navy
1944 to 1946
World War II
Seaman 1st Class
Weatherman
Invasion of Okinawa
While only one day of the year is dedicated solely to honoring our veterans, Americans must never forget the sacrifices that many of our fellow countrymen have made to defend our country and protect our freedoms.

MAX ENGLISH
Sgt. Major
U.S. Army (Ret.)


I served and saw the end of four wars, was involved in three of them, in both theaters during World War II and Korea. I did not make Vietnam.

During my service I served in Europe twice—the first time in combat, and I also served in Japan, Iceland, the Philippines and Korea.

My stateside duties were in Shreveport, LA three times, Houston, TX and in Little Rock, AR with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. I served 28-1/2 years of active duty and 5-1/2 years in the Army Reserves.”

Burr Ives
U.S. Army
Combat Medic
Ranger & Airborne
Served in Indochina & Switzerland
Based in Fort Lauderdale

Here are just a few more of our Diamondhead Veterans: Charlie Davis (Coast Guard—Ret), Mike MacFarlane, Dave Diercoff, Charlie Smith (Coast Guard—Ret), Charlie Wood (Air Force, Ret), Tom Lockette (Air Force), Larry Johns, Michael Oetken (Marine Drill Instructor), Rodney Jennings (Marine), and Elaine Moore (Army Nurse).

In the words of our first President, George Washington, “in order to protect our freedoms—We will die on our feet before we will live on our knees”. Thank you veterans and those on active duty, and thank you to the families who support the work that you do.