

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

by

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Contents

Preface.....	1
SDSU War Memorial Profiles.....	3
World War II.....	4
Korean War.....	65
Vietnam War.....	74
Iraq & Afghanistan.....	97
Non-Combat Casualties.....	100
Generals & Admirals.....	105
Outstanding Aztecs.....	124
SDSU Military Benchmarks.....	144
War Memorial Statistics.....	150
References.....	152

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 initially 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 on the home front. 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 became



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 dead. 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 the spelling of a strange name etched in granite, who desired to feel more of a connection to those who had given their lives in defense of the nation in three major wars.

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 on 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 men 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 sneak 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 by the middle of the decade 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 in 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 1971 *In This Faraway Land*, author and former Arkansas governor Orval E. Faubus, who also served with John, recalled this stunning 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 year book 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 H. Addelson



Serving in the 101st Paratroop Division, Pvt. Herman H. Addelson died in Normandy, France on D-Day on his first and last jump mission in Europe. 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, 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. Leopoldville. 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. 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 an aircraft factory before entering the Army.



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 Club Azteca (along with future Air Force Gen. Robert Cardenas). Born in San Francisco, At age 27 he was killed in a plane crash while training near Yuma, Arizona on March 29, 1942.



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 their plane stalled and crashed while practicing S-turns on a road between Zuehl Auxiliary Field and Randolph Field in Texas. 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.



Richard H. Bailey



Pfc. Richard H. Bailey fought in Europe in the Army's famed 104th Division (Timberwolf Division). He died from non-combat injuries, according to information obtained via the National Archives. Although his infantry training at Fort Callan and, later, death was mentioned in the *News Letter*, Richard's name did not appear on Prof. Post's final list (he had asked for more information) nor was it on the memorial plaque at Hardy Tower. No local news source was found that mentioned the circumstances of his death.



William E. Baldwin

Fighting in the Army Air Corps, 2Lt. William E. Baldwin, 22, a Flying Fortress bomber pilot stationed in England, went down over

Holland returning from a mission over Germany and was initially declared missing in action on April 3, 1945. 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. In the crew photo he stands third from the left.

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 Tablet of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines his gravesite is 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. John, age 29, 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.

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 capture 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. Serving with the 5th Marine Division, 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. John 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 Bouganville 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. 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 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 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

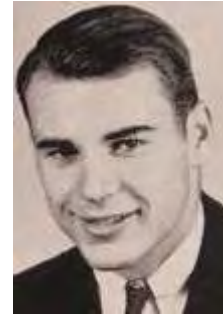
Army 1Lt. Frank Braisted, age 25, was a member of the Physics Club and graduated with a degree in chemistry in 1941. He was killed on October 28, 1944 during a bombing raid over Cologne, Germany (his 40th mission) when the nose of the plane he piloted was hit by enemy flak and crashed south of Duren. 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 and 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 and San Diego State (Class of '36), 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.

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. In May 1949 his remains were 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 month old when his father died.

Richard Whitaker Burch

Army Capt. Richard W. Burch, 23, a 1939 graduate and 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.



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.

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. Army Air Force Captain. 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, president of Toastmasters in 1942, and was a member of



Oceotl service group and Tau Sigma economists. 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.”

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. He and many other fliers were killed in an attack on the oil field at Ploiesti,



Romania on May 10, 1944. A 1942 graduate of West Point where he was on the cross-country team, he 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 (left), 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. Robert had attended

San Diego State in 1939. 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 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.

George R. 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 occurred on December 18, 1944. He was reported missing and was awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart. A resident of La Mesa, George began military service in 1938. He received an honorable medical discharge in 1938; studied at San Diego State for one year; graduated from the California Institute of Technology in 1941 where he was on the track team; and enlisted in the Army Air Force in February 1941.

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.

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. 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. 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.

Charles W. Dowell



Based in England with the 535th Bomber Group (mascot image below), 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.

Leslie Ward E. Duvall

Army Air Force 2Lt. Leslie W. E. Duvall, 22, was the only son of an Army colonel who had volunteered as an air cadet in April, 1940, and received 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 Statsenberg 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. Funeral Services were held at Forest Lawn Memorial Park “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 since age three. He was a freshman at the start of the 1942-1943 school year. His body rests in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Clifford Gene Erdman

At San Diego State in 1939, Army Air Force pilot 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. Clifford last resided in Vista. 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, he had resided in Los Angeles and was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery.



Paul Arthur Fern



Sadly, 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 his daughter was a student in his geography class. In March 1948, Paul's 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 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 on 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 or ‘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.



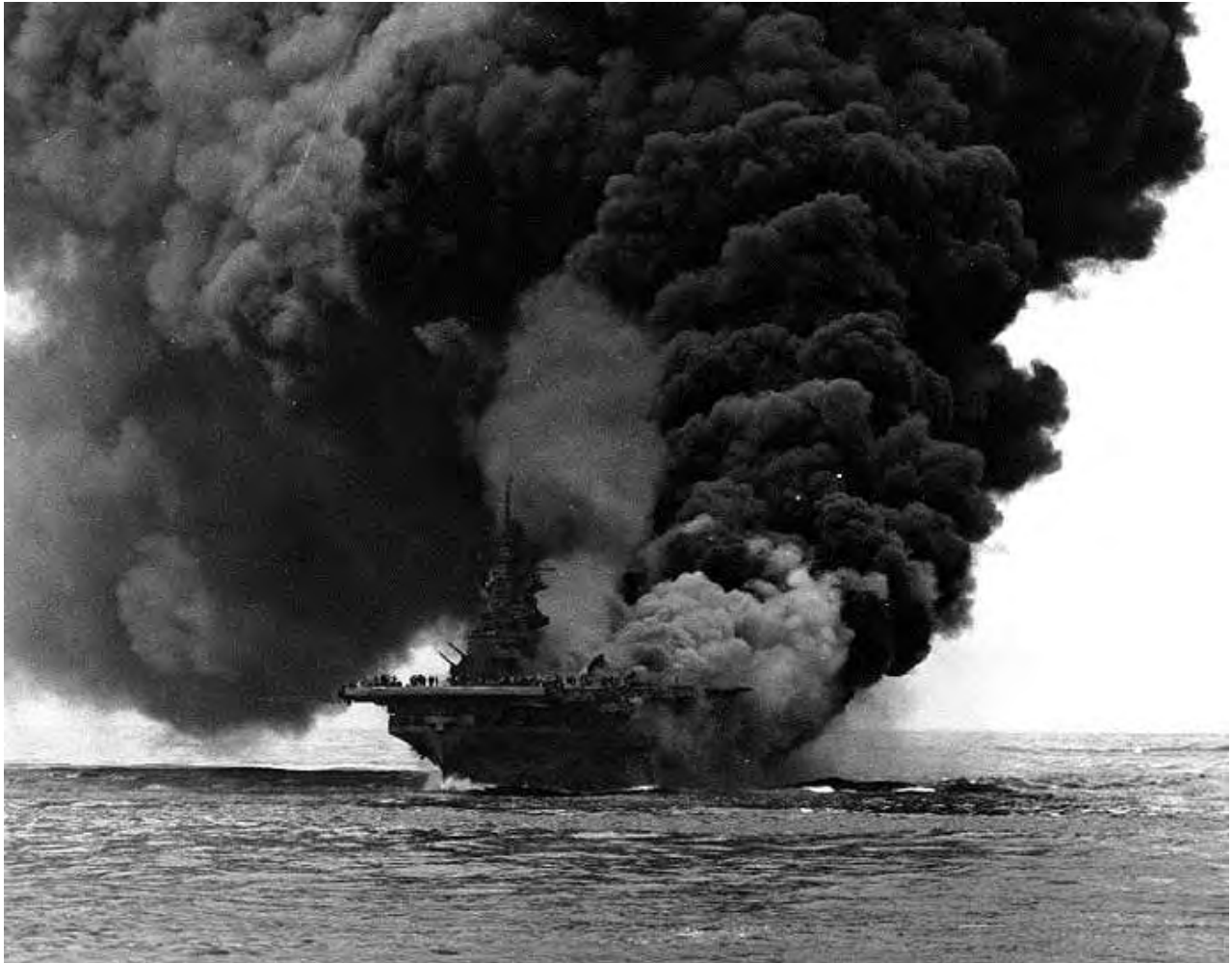
Howard was a member of Sigma Tau economics fraternity and the Luther Club. Both he and his brother both graduated in 1938 with degrees in economics. A plaque at Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial honors his sacrifice.



John J. Frazer

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.

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 Phi Lambda Xi fraternity. He left behind a wife and a daughter.



Attack on the USS Bunker Hill

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 in action on August 26, 1943. A comrade reported to his parents that Jack disappeared over southern Italy in 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 located in



Italy and brought to Ontario, California for burial in Bellevue Cemetery. 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 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. 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 in 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 Norman spent three years in Junior ROTC. At San Diego State, Joseph 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).

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 ‘beefier’---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. Robert's B-25 bomber was struck by enemy flak, lost an engine and lost altitude until it crash landed in the water off Mindanao, the Philippines on June 19, 1945. He did not survive but the majority of his crew was 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 Clairrupt, 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.

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 in the Army 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 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 graduate of San Diego State and St. Mary's Aviation School near Oakland, A/C Warren E. Hand (USNR), age 21, had been employed in a bank at Fifth and University. 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 was buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California.



James Chester Hardin



2ndLt. 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 buried in the field where his plane 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 W. Harris

Army Capt. Mason W. 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. It read, in part:



“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 off shore 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 R. 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.

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. 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, 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 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. A San Diego native, Douglas, age 26 and married, graduated from San Diego High and had attended San Diego State. He was working as a telephone company employee when he joined the military in August 1941. A repatriation funeral service was held for him at Benbough Mortuary on November 22, 1948.

Kenneth Lynn Johnson



Army S/Sgt. Kenneth L. Johnson, age 26, with the 710th Bomber Squadron, was 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, age 23, was born in Kentucky. He had last attended San Diego State in 1944.

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.”

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. Four of his crew survived captivity but Kates “was never found.” He was awarded the Air Medal.

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. Missing and presumed killed in action in the South Pacific on April 1, 1943, he left behind a wife, Gloria, in Los Angeles. His body was eventually recovered and he was buried in Greenwood Memorial Park on March 15, 1948.

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 civilian, 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 A. M. Kraemer

Army 2Lt. Paul A. M. Kraemer, married and 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. At San Diego State in 1936 he was a member of Phi Sigma XI biology club, Delta Pi Beta fraternity, and secretary of the Inter-Fraternity Council.



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. Called up for active duty in 1940, he spent 33 month in Alaska before being reassigned to the

Third Army in Europe. Killed in action in France on November 8, 1944 at age 28, his remains were buried at Greenwood Cemetery on September 7, 1948.

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, crashing near Hammer Field in Fresno, California on July 4, 1944. His radio operator was also killed.



James G. Leonard



After receiving primary training at Basic Flying School in Chico, California Lt. 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.



Allen E. Lovine

Nicknamed "Swede," Lt. Allen Lovine (Class of '38), age 32, was the 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. Swede was attached to an infantry unit in the ETO (European Theater of Operations). 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

At age 19 A/C Jack I. Maeda, a well liked and athletic student from El Centro, at 135 pounds was twice on the Aztec boxing team, 1939 and 1940. He was killed at Federal Blvd. and 47th Street in San Diego when his motorcycle collided with an automobile on November 6, 1940. Jack was buried there days after his death in Evergreen Cemetery near El Centro, California. 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, tried to get his skipper to name their bomber “Monty.” Soon after returning from a bombing raid over 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.”



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 his bomber’s 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 fraternity and Phi Lambda Xi social fraternity. His parents lived in Rancho Santa Fe and he had a wife, Edith. Serving with the 45th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts, he was captured by the Japanese and interned in a POW camp at Cabantuan, Philippines where some prisoners were eventually rescued, but John was killed while onboard a Japanese transport ship. 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.

George Robert Mohr

Army Pfc. George R. Moore, age 22, was killed in Germany in 1945. He 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 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.

Francis M. Moore



S/Sgt. Francis “Frank” M. Moore was manager of the freshman football team and 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.

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, was killed in a military accident in Italy involving his Lockheed P-38 Lightning on February 23, 1944. 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. He had been treated in Army hospitals before his discharge in May 1944. A graduate of Hoover High School, he was a quarter-miler and broad jumper on San Diego State's track team in 1942. Kenneth was also a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.



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. He 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. From 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 officer, Marine Pfc. John R. Nolan, 20, was killed in action in the fierce battle for Okinawa on April 15, 1945. He 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. He 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 Ocoatl, 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. At age 21 Frank was killed in a plane crash at Randolph Field in Texas on October 1, 1940.

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. 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.

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 mission in the Solomon Islands and was credited with destroying a Japanese plane on Bougainville. 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 mother, Rose Miller Parks, treasurer of the city of La Mesa, reported to Prof. Post that Penny was declared missing when he failed to return from a mission on December 5, 1943. She wrote: "I am living just a day at a time, hoping and praying---trying to be a worthy mother of a Marine flyer."



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.



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 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 C. Peterson



S/Sgt. Robert C. Peterson, 28, son of the revered C. E. Peterson, Dean of Liberal Arts and track coach, died from 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. A former track star at Hoover High, he was a member of Omega Xi fraternity and graduated with a degree in physical education in 1935. He is buried in Henri-Chapella 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. 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 sailors 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. As a sophomore he was a member of Sigma Delta Epsilon fraternity and was on the 1942 Debate Team.



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 crew of twelve. At San Diego State in 1941 he was a member of Delta Kappa physical science fraternity.

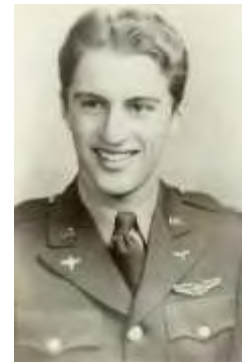
Lynn E. Rogers



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 Lynn pledged Phi Lambda Xi fraternity. He 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. He was 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. Born in Kane County, Illinois, his widow and San Diego State alumnae, Gloria Phillips Rorig, received his posthumous Purple Heart and Air Medal. At San Diego State he was a member of the Catholic Newman Club and Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. 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 Rosado'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 Lt. Rosado 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.”

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. 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



During his college days Army Pvt. Francis R. Ryan was active in radio and drama. 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.”

Pvt. Ryan 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. Born in Illinois, he was age 24.

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 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.



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.

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 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. He was buried in San Diego on April 30, 1949.

Richard J. 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 of 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. His body was repatriated and buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in April 1950. He had a son, Gary.



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 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.”

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. Frederick was one of eleven sailors killed and his body was buried at sea. He left behind a wife, Helen.

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. 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.



Thomas A. Skinner

At San Dieguito High School in Encinitas, Army Pfc. Thomas A. lettered in football, basketball, and track and was The Boy's vice president. At age 23, he left San Diego State after his second year and enlisted in the military in 1944. Initially, he was reported as missing in action, and later as having been mortally wounded in Germany on March 24, 1945. He had a wife, Betty Fae, and an infant 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. Born in Arkansas, 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 was hit and caught fire in the vicinity of Spinazzola, Italy before he could bail out. He was buried at 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, Lt. Robert H. Smith, 25, co-piloted a 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. In 1937 Robert was in Delta Kappa science fraternity and played football. He was awarded the Air Medal with several Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart, and the

Distinguished Flying Cross. He 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."

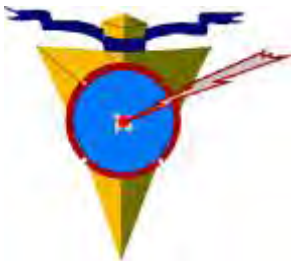


Victor Raymond Talbot



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. 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. 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.



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, 1944. 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 at Rock Island National

Cemetery in Illinois. The photo above 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 miles 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, 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.

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. He 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, born in Missouri, was shot down over Italy in April 1943 and was a POW. An airman who kept a diary had this to say about Alan'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 apparently did not survive captivity. He was awarded the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart. At San Diego State he had been a member of Phi Lambda XI frat and 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. He had planned for a

career in medicine and later enrolled at the University of Alabama, 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 hi 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), a 29-year-old glider pilot, 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. 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 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. Verdusco

1Lt. Frank R. Verdusco, a 27-year-old San Diego native, had starred in Radio Workshop dramatizations in and played in second violin in the campus orchestra. He was also a rather accomplished bass-baritone who once gave a recital on campus. Army Air Force bomber co-pilot Verdusco's B-24D failed to return from a raid over Rangoon, Burma and the entire crew nine of were declared missing as of November 29, 1942, and later 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

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. He 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 in 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 son of the car dealer who founded Colonial Oldsmobile. An only son, he was a graduate of La Jolla High School. Military funeral services were held at St James-by-the-Sea Church with members of his squadron as pallbearers.



Marks P. Wangsness



Ens. Marks P. Wangsness, a 27-year-old Reservist, lost his life on June 20, 1941 onboard the USS 0-9 (SS-70, right), 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). The bomber and the crew disappeared into the watery depths never to be recovered.

Born in Michigan and once an aspiring actor with two years of college, Lawrence was posthumously awarded the Air Medal and Purple Heart. 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 the Japanese



transport ships (called a "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. To the left is a photo of Clarence as a student here in Delta Kappa fraternity in 1924. In the photo above 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), 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.



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. He resided in El Cajon.

Louis Massey Winn Jr.

On February 14, 1942 Ens. Louis M. Winn Jr. (UNNAC), age 27, 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 an 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.



Charles M. Witt



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 PBY4 photographic plane at Atami, Japan. His remains were buried in Escondido on April 10, 1948.

Korean War

John Howard Adams

Air Force Capt. John H. Adams (Class of '48), 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 geography major in the late 1940s at San Diego State, John was a member the Geography Club, Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and Sigma Lambda social fraternity.



Byron Harold Chase



Marine 2nd Lt. 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 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



In 1949 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, an officer in the United States Air Force since 1951, 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).



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. His body was not recovered. At San Diego State he majored in engineering and was a member of the Phi Epsilon, Electronics Club, and Engineer's Association.

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 attended San Diego State in 1947. Charles is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

William Robert Lake

Capt. William R. Lake was a test pilot at Edwards Test Flight Center 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. 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 was married and had two young boys at home in San Diego.



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. 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 and had two children, Michael and Kathleen. El Cajon was his hometown. A married man, he had 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.

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 this service. After duty in Korea Don entered pilot training and was killed in the crash of his AT6 training plane at Bartow, Florida in May 1952.” John fondly remembered Don as “a charismatic person who had a gift for making everyone feel special.”



Leroy Albert Morgan Jr.

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



highway near Pyongyang, North Korea. Leroy was also a veteran of World War II. Back then he had flown a B-24 and was wounded by flak. Leroy



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. 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. 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.

The inclusion of his name of the War Memorial appears to be a mistake. A photo (right) and brief mention of his current activities is found in the student newspaper, *The Aztec*, dated April 9, 1954, and he is featured in the 1954 student yearbook. Furthermore, a check of 1954 commencement program confirms that he graduated with honors in air science in the spring of 1954. The Korean War officially ended July 27, 1953.



Lester Frank Page

After graduating from La Jolla High, Air Force 1st Lt. Lester F. Page, age 23 attended San Diego State for two years. In 1949 he was a member 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. His plane was damaged in the encounter and he was presumed killed. His body was never 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.



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 was a member of Battery A, 140th Anti-Aircraft Artillery (automatic weapons) Battalion, 40th Division. 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. It is believed that the “Robert James Williams” listed in the World War 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. 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.”

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.”



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. His remains were turned over the U.S. government on March 19, 1977. 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 (left) was shot down in a raid over Laos on 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.

William James Brashear



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 his 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 say about his pal:



to

“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 had attended 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 left). 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.”

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.



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 buried in Oceanside's Eternal Hill Cemetery. Had a wife and a 15-month-old son.

Ronald Lee Davidson



25-year-old Marine 2nd Lt. 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 Augustine 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. 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 sisters, 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, Vietnam 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 portion of his handwritten letter were sobering indeed. It read in part:

"I am writing this letter on of 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 for Escondido High School in 1963 and Palomar College in 1965. At SDSU he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

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. 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.

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. John was 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, MA.

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, and buried there.

Peter Warren Gilmore

Rifleman S/Sgt. Peter W. Gilmore, 23, a draftee in 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.



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”

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

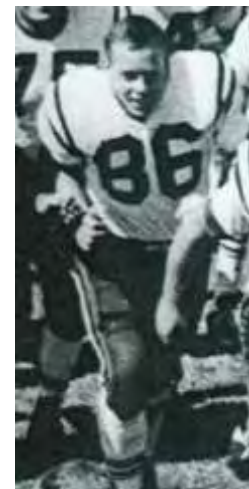
Army Pfc. Dennis A. Jenkins, 24, was on the glorious 1966 SDSU varsity football team that went undefeated, claimed the NCAA regional crown, and won the Camellia Bowl. Dennis was a light air defense artillery crewmember who received burns “while laying a fireline from a helicopter” on February 8, 1971. 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. Dennis is buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.



Stephen Douglass Joyner

1st Lt. Stephen D. Joyner (USMC Reserve), 24, was from La Habra, California. He 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. 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."

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

Having served ten years in the Marine Corps Maj. Robert V. Kurilich, age 30, a married man with three children, was killed when his helicopter was shot down over Quang Tri, South Vietnam on June 7, 1968. He 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. 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.

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 Calvary, on April 28, 1968 he was shot down by ground fire during a night mission flying an O-2A reconnaissance plane (right) over Thua Thien, South Vietnam. An anonymous relative expressed his feeling 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."

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 photo above) 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 1st Lt. 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.

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. A resident of Santa Ana, at SDSU he was member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. He was buried in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

James McNally Mitchell Jr.

From Encinitas, Marine 1st Lt. 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.

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.



William Craig Nystul

A deeply religious 29-year-old married man, Marine helicopter pilot Capt. William C. Nystul, a resident of Coronado who last attended SDSU in 1967, 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 above shows the burial at sea of William and a comrade.



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

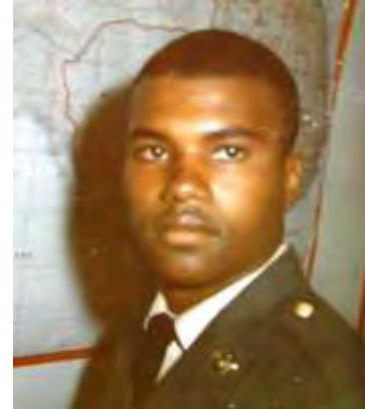


killing all three crewmembers. Their bodies were never recovered. A graduate of Hoover High School, he played defensive guard on the football team and was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity during the three years he attended San Diego State. He exited the university in 1962 to join the Navy's cadet pilot 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, is the lone African American on SDSU's war memorial. 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. 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, 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.

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 a 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" Robert, 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. He was married and had two children. 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 friend I ever had." His remains were returned to this country in 1994. 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.



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. 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."

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."

Gerould McLean Rumble III



Co-piloting a Huey helicopter on November 5, 1969, Army Warrant Officer Gerould M. "Chip" Rumble III, age 24, a married man, was killed when his aircraft experienced mechanical problems on take-off from



Lai Khe heading to Phuoc Vinh, crashed and burned. Two years prior he was at SDSU and a member or Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.

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. Richard earned his general studies degree at SDSU in 1960 and was an AFROTC cadet (photo right).



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 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 he majored in economics and graduated in 1954.

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, graduated from San Diego State in 1955. According to the San Diego Union, he was killed after his plane was "catapulted from the deck of the attack aircraft carrier Ranger



(CVA-61) and plunged into the sea." His A1H Skyraider was observed plummeting into coastal waters, possibly due to a mechanical problem. His remains were never located. At San Diego State he was in Kappa Sigma fraternity.

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 in 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 (above, left) the propeller accidentally reversed causing the plane to crash, killing all eight men aboard. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. 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. He suffered a fatal head wound while piloting an aircraft returning from a mission over Laos on March 19, 1970. 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. He 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 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



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 “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, and as of early 2013 his name had not been added to the SDSU’s War Memorial).

Oscar Jimenez



Marine Corps Reserve 1st Lt. 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 and 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.

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.

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 recently 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."



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.



Florence B. Choe

35-year-old Navy Lt. Florence Bacong Choe, 1973, 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.

Non-Combat Casualties

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

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 accident. 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, 1st Lt. 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.

Michael Jack Crawford

Capt. Michael Crawford (Class of '59), age 28 and a product of the university's Air Force ROTC program, was killed when his F-100 Super Sabre jet crashed during a training flight at 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.



Jason William Davis

28-year old Air Force 1st Lt. 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.

Albert Jacob Heppner



Seven-time All-American and collegiate national champion racewalker Spc. Albert J. Heppner, age 29, was a star in the Army's World Class Athlete Program. He had already earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin Parkside and was an aspiring journalist and a graduate student studying communication at SDSU when his life went into a fatal tailspin. On February 19, 2004,



three days after a disappointing qualifying race at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, he drove his SUV to a towering bridge in Pine Valley and jumped 450 feet to his death. He left behind a grieving father and mother in Columbia, Maryland and many stunned friends and acquaintances.

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.

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 in Ft. Rosecrans National 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.



Jason James Paynter

Capt. Jason J. Paynter 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 was promoted to second lieutenant. An experienced pilot with VMAQ-3, he was deployed to Afghanistan in 2005 and in 2006 and 2008 was deployed to Iraq. But on April 12, 2010 he was killed in a flight training accident, leaving behind a wife, two daughters, and a son.

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 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.



Paul Lewis Storms



A math major, Paul Storms (Class of `91) worked as a security guard at SDSU's Open Air Theater and was a night manager at Aztec Center. He became a Marine helicopter pilot and flew the CH-53E Super Sea Stallion and participated in the first

Gulf War. On September 5, 1994, at age 26, Paul and two other pilots and a civilian were killed when their rented Cessna crashed shortly after take-off from a Truckee, California airport. He is buried in his home state of Florida in the Barrancas National Cemetery at Naval Air Station Pensacola. To honor his memory, the 1st Lt. Paul "Woody" Storms, USMC, Memorial Scholarship was established by friends in conjunction with the Tailhook Educational Foundation.



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.

Thomas Howlett Stringer & Carl C. 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 (left), 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 Lt. Col. 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. Stringer was buried in his native Claremont, Oklahoma, and Ball in Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

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 and an admiral who commanded the world's first nuclear-powered submarine.

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 at 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.

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 at 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, Cardenas 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 Cardenas 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.

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 Clem 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, Clem 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

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. Davison retired in 1992 with the rank of Major General.

Frank W. Elliott Jr.

Though he did not complete his undergraduate studies at San Diego State, Frank W. Elliott did attend the school 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. Elliott 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 Haynes 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 Haynes was Commander, Joint Force Headquarters, located in Cranston, Rhode Island. He was promoted to Major General on May 16, 2005.

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. Johnson (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 was Commanding General of the Marine Corps Base at Camp S.D. Butler in Okinawa, Japan; and in 1990 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, Johnston is sought out by news reporters for insights on violence in the Middle East.

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 Kearney 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.

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 and 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. Adm. Kyes 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.

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 office 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, Admiral McCreary 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, McPeak 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. McPeak 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, McPherson 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 McPherson 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.



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, 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 this wife in 2005, were scattered off Point Loma.



Dolf E. Muehleisen



After acquiring his undergraduate degree 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, Muehleisen 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 experience pilot who flew World War I vintage DeHavilands 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). Muehleisen wound up his career as Commander of the 29th NORAD Region, retiring in 1965 to Menlo Park, California where he died in 1992.

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 he was director of mission systems for a high tech company.



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, Neil 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 Niel, Dymott, Frank, Harrison & McFall. A defense attorney, Neil is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Elizabeth S. 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



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. Payne 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. His final assignment before retirement in 1958 was as Inspector of Marine Air Reserve Training Command. He lives in Rancho Mirage, California.

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 later 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 he 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).

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, Potter 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 right). Putnam 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, Putnam died of cancer on March 10, 1995 at age 75.



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 in the Marine Corps. He progressed to become 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.

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. Ritland 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 Ritland 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. He retired in 1965 and worked as a vice president for McDonnell Douglas. Ritland died on March 23, 1991 in Rancho Santa Fe, California.



Charles R. 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 hundreds of diplomats in Somalia for which he was awarded the Bronze Star. He 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 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 he 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.

Robert Scurlock

San Diego native Maj. Gen. Robert Scurlock started his college career in at SDSU, 1947-1948, and 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. Along the way he earned a bachelor's degree at Ohio State University and graduate degrees at the University of Southern California, George Washington University, and 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 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 school 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

Arthur D. 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 Sikes 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. Sikes retired in 1999.

Scott Harbison Swift

In the spring of 2006 Scott H. "Notso" Swift (Class of '79) was promoted to Rear Admiral. That same year he was president of the Tailhook Association Officers. An alumni of the Naval War College and the Strike Fighter Weapons School, since 1980 he has logged more than 4,000 flight 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. Presently, he is Deputy Executive Officer for Naval Aviation and Tactical Air Systems at the Office of the Secretary of Defense in Washington, D.C.



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. His 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. Presently, he is U.S. Marine Corps director of Logistics Plans, Policies and Strategic Mobility.

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. 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.

Eugene P. 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 Wilkinson 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. Wilkinson subsequently commanded the USS Sea Robin, the USS Wahoo and, in 1953, became Commanding Officer of the USS Nautilus (above, right), 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 Wilkinson 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, Wilkinson 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.

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. Wilson 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. Wilson 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; at NAS North Island; 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 were 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, 1st Lt. 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 Greer



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. Their recollections of the Dolittle Raid have been printed in various publications and can be found on the Internet.

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



SDSU has produced two 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 Diegoan 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.



Susan Ahn Cuddy Irene Kinne Englund



Born in Los Angeles in 1915 to the first Korean married couple to immigrate to this country, Lt. Susan A. Cuddy (left, 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 who has 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, published in 2002 by the Korean American Heritage Foundation.

Irene K. Englund (right) 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, transport, 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 (right) 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 (left), 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 play 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.

James George Dionopoulos 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 Dionopoulos, the uncle of SDSU communications professor George N.

Dionopoulos, 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.

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.



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.

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 below).



Both Capt. Avery and Maj. Avery were awarded the Navy Cross, the highest decoration bestowed by the Department of 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 an 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 M. Ryken



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, transferred 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 has been awarded 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 and 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 sank 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, 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, is 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) is 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, LCDR 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.

Christopher J. Papaj

A psychology major at SDSU, 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 previous 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; next 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



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 has produced at least 23 generals and 14 admirals.

Namesakes of SDSU Military Alumni:

SDSU alumni who served in the military have had parks, buildings, a ship, a professorship, scholarships, and geographic locations named in their honor.

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)
 Chula Vista 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** 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. "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** and **Donald C. Owen** both scored 5 aerial victories there. Navy aviator Capt. **Howard M. Avery** staffed and dropped torpedoes that sank two German U-Boats in the Atlantic.

At least 49 alumni have been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action (**John Edward Abbott Jr.**, **Constantine Angeles**, **George C.**

Alexander, **Augustine S. Apra**, **Gene Ivan Basel**, **John W. Bassett**, **Edwin H. Brewer**, **Ronin Bruce Brown**, **Carl E. Bull**, **John Dewitt Clark**, **Byron H Chase**, **Arvin R. Chauncey**, **Richard L. Cormier**, **Edward B. Davis**, **Roger S. Dutton**, **John Frost Jr.**, **Robert M. Fuller Jr.**, **Howard L. Grimmell Jr.**, **Omer N. Hall**, **Laurie W. Higgins**, **Whitworth Warren Hoskins**, **W. Dean Hunter**, **Jess Jessop**, **Julius Jacobson**, **Curtis Randolph Kimes**, **Charles S. Kirchmann**, **Edward M. LaDou**, **George Raymond Lawlor**, **Albert R. Lepore**, **Lowell K. Marcus**, **John B. Megrew**, **Merrill McPeak**, **John Hugh Murphy**, **Masato Nakagawa**, **Edmund F. Overend**, **John Francis Perry** (a.k.a. **Edwins S. Conant**), **Eric Stitt Pfefferkorn**, **Nick Popaditch**, **Richard H. Phillips**, **Joseph V. Potter**, **Frank Vaughn Quillin**, **Thomas A. Richards**, **Gerald Robertson**

Jr., Daniel T. Streib, Joseph M. Suozzo, Bert Tanaka, Wyatt Waldron, Norman A. Webb, Robert Wedgewood, Eugene P. Wilkinson, and Gene T. Wright).

Lt. Laurie W. Higgins, a former band leader and later medical doctor, “traveled nearly a mile through heavy sniper fire to administer aid to the wounded.” Maj. Julius J. Jacobson was one of pilots whose daring secret mission succeeded in downing the plane of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, killing the man who masterminded the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Corpsman Roy Youngblood, who was injured while attending to wounded Marines, became board president of the Oceanside Unified School District. Col. Nathan R. Smith was severely wounded while rescuing his Marines in Korea. Army infantryman Curtis Kimes earned his Silver Star while gathering intelligence for the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. Murphy piloted one of the most publicized bombers of World War II, a B-24 nicknamed "Shoot Luke," whose reputation for surviving repeated heavy damage was legendary. Tank commanders Maj. John Colin Moore and Capt. Nick Popaditch fought in Iraq, as did Cpl. Wyatt Waldron who turned an enemy ambush into a rout there. During World War II Lt. Howard Grimmell and Capt. George Alexander downed enemy planes in the Pacific and Italy respectively, and Army Capt. Albert Lepore was recognized for his bravery in the taking of Bayreuth, Germany. Air Force pilot W. Dean Hunter (class of '56) fought in both Korea and Vietnam then became a professor and published author.

At least eight alumni (**John C. Butler, Howard M. Avery, Charles M. Melhorn, Michael I. Neil, George W. Peck, Francis E. Pierce Jr., Thomas A. Richards, and Ray Edgar Wilson Jr.**) received the Navy Cross, a military recognition for bravery and heroism second only to the coveted Medal of Honor. Butler, Melhorn, Peck, and Avery scored direct hits on enemy ships. Martinez, a former gang member later turned author, became the first Latino American Navy Cross recipient since the Vietnam War and the first Marine to be so honored since the War on Terror. Pierce was an ace pilot and Neil fought the enemy a la Sergeant York. Wilson guided tanks to enemy positions on Iwo Jima. SDSU also can boast of one Air Force Cross recipient: **Frederic M. Donohue**, an AFROTC graduate (Class of '54) and an exceptional helicopter rescue specialist who lead an attack on a North Vietnamese POW camp.



Perry/Conant



Jacobson



Higgins



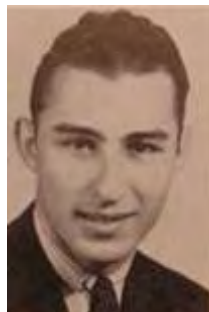
Grimmell



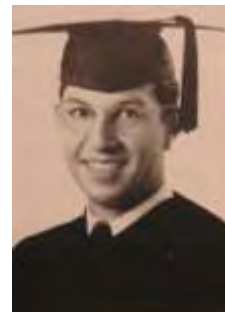
Brewer



Chauncey



Alexander



Lepore



Kimes



Popaditch



Peck



Suozzo



Hunter



Youngblood



Marcus



Moore



Clark



Hall



Pfefferkorn



Robertson



Murphy



Richards



Wilson



Hoskins

War Memorial Statistics

The following is a statistical chart pertaining to the 230 individuals listed on the SDSU War Memorial. More than half were pilots, nearly one-quarter were married, and the average age at death was 25 years. In addition to what is revealed in the chart it might be of interest know that the three youngest casualties were all age 19, that the oldest were age 40, and that among the 230 enshrined names there are 4 Asian Americans, 1 African American, 1 Native American, 4 Hispanic Americans, 1 female, and 4 were born in foreign countries.

	<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	76	80	34	10	9	28	3	150
Korean War	26	9	15	8	1	6	6	0	22
Vietnam War	27	39	23	22	0	10	0	0	53
Iraq/Afghanistan	31	3	1	3	0	2	0	0	5

Totals	25	127	119	67*	11	27	34	3	230

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

⁷POWs who died in captivity

*these married men fathered at least 57 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.

360 Magazine (2003-)
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)
Aviation Archaeology Air Force Accident Reports (database)
The Aztec (1926-1961)
The Aztec Alumni Newsletter (1946-1951)
Aztec Alumni Newsletter (1951)
The Aztec News Letter (1943-1946)
Aztec Report (1975-1983)
 Coffelt Vietnam Database (Bruce Swander)
 Commencements Programs (1925-)
Daily Aztec (1974-)
The Daily Aztec (1962-1967)
Del Sudoeste (SDSU student yearbooks, 1922-1984)
 Familytreelegends.com
Fatal Army Air Forces Aviation Accidents in the U.S., 1941-1945, by Anthony J. Mireles
 Findagrave.com
 Findarticles.com
 Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery database
 Google Books
 Grave Locator (U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs)
 Homeofheroes.com
 Koreanwar.org (database for Korean War casualties)
 Legion of Valor (<http://www.legionofvalor.com>)
Los Angeles Times
 Missing Air Crew Reports (Internet database)
 Navylog.com
 NCTimes.com (*North County Times* online newspaper)
Polk's San Diego City Directory (1952-1973)
ProQuest Historical Newspapers Los Angeles Times (newspaper database)
ProQuest Research Library (periodicals database)
San Diego Daily Aztec (1961-1962)
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San Diego Union
San Diego Union Index
San Diego Union-Tribune
San Diego State Alumni News (1964-1976)
San Diego State College Daily Aztec (1967-1970)
San Diego State College Service Men's News Letter (1942)
San Diego State Daily Aztec (1970-1972)

San Diego State University: A History in Words and Images, by Raymond Starr (1995)
 SDSU Archives/Special Collections boxes of letters from WWII alumni to Prof. Post
 SDSU Magazine (1994-2002)
SDSU Report (1983-1993)
 SignOnSandiego.com (online database for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* newspaper)
San Diego State University Daily Aztec (1972-1974)
State Summary of War Casualties: California (U.S. Navy, 1946)
Student Handbook (1935-1957)
 Virtualwall.org (database and commentary concerning Vietnam War casualties)
 World War II Honor List of Dead and Missing, State of California (War Dept., 1946)

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.