

TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

SECTION C

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WWI rules affected Elgin

Few people today recognize The Treaty of Versailles, signed June 28, 1919, officially ended World War I. Germany had surrendered on November 11, 1918, and all nations had agreed to stop fighting until a treaty could be drafted. Americans today celebrate the November date as the end of the war.

Exhibits and videos will be available and patriotic events will soon be held celebrating the centennial of the ending of this horrific world event where over nine million lost their lives. History students today recall the introduction of airplanes in fighting and the mustard gassing of troops, but seldom do we hear of the conditions back home from the time of 1914 to 1918 during this war.

Woodrow Wilson was president of the United States and he organized the Food Administration under the leadership of Herbert Hoover in 1917. This federal agency was given the task of making sure the limited amount of food America had as a result of World War I didn't go to waste, and to avoid importation of food as much as possible. Many necessities such as flour and sugar were in short supply, so Hoover used a sense of American nationalism to encourage families to take appropriate rations and save food. His goal was for people to eat less, use less essential ingredients. And the effort was rewarded when more

than 13 million families signed a pledge to observe the rules of the agency.

The United States grew short of nearly everything during this time of need. All citizens were asked to donate any weapons, horses and ammunition they possessed to help supply the army. Food rationing was required to benefit soldiers and citizens. Each town in the United States was assigned an amount to give for the administration of the Food Agency.

The Clean Plate Club

Hoover knew many Americans were willing to volunteer and had a strong sense of patriotism during the war, so he used that to his advantage when he advertised the idea of the "Clean Plate" campaign. Hoover promoted this idea to children who attended school with a pledge that read, "At table I'll not leave a scrap of food upon my plate. And I'll not eat between meals, but for supper time I'll wait." By doing this, young children developed the habit of eating everything given to them, thus "cleaning their plate."

The Elgin Courier reports new rules

The Elgin Courier of February 21, 1918, tells of new rules that had been adopted by the Food Administration that not only directed

See WWI, Page C2



The plane that won the Cold War

By Cindy Ginsel
cindy.ginsel@elgincourier.com

Merlyn Meyer began his service in Columbus, Ohio at Lockbourne Air Force Base. "I joined the service in March of 1953 and spent six weeks training in Upper Heyford, England. I also spent time training in Tampa, Flor-

ida and Little Rock, Arkansas." Meyer recalls while in Greenland, he flew over the northern end of Russia to see where their bases were experimenting. A jet mechanic, Meyer worked on the RB47, the predecessor to the B52. Said Meyer, "It was the plane that won the Cold War but never dropped a bomb."

Elgin's World War I Honor Roll Texas Heroes

The dates indicate the date of newspaper publication:

- Private Atchinson, died of disease, Sept. 6, 1918
- Private Alvy R. Owen, wounded in action, Sept. 6, 1918
- Private Charlie Mogenge, wounded in action, Oct. 18, 1918
- Private Floyd Adcock, killed in action, Nov. 15, 1918
- Private Henry A. Lundgren, killed in action, Nov. 15, 1918
- Private Anton Krompota, died of wounds, Nov. 29, 1918
- Private Virgil Soloman, wounded in action, Dec. 13, 1918
- Private John Casey, wounded in action, Dec. 13, 1918
- Private James H. Staples, wounded in action, Dec. 13, 1918
- Private Harvey E. Campbell, wounded in action, Dec. 27, 1918
- Private Otto F. Wolfe, wounded in action, Dec. 27, 1918
- Private Floyd Adeock, wounded in action, Jan. 3, 1919

Contributed by Casey Stinnett



Thank you

We salute
our nation's
veterans for their
service
and
sacrifice



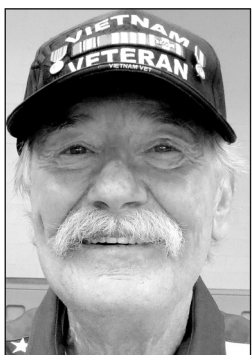
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James. D Adams



Howard Allen



Tom Allen



Kries Alyea



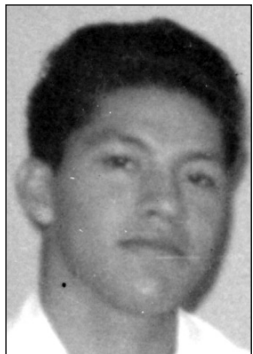
Alberto G. Arzola



Henry Arzola Jr.



Enrique (Henry) Arzola



Raul Arzola



Madelyn Ashby



Hjalmar Axelson



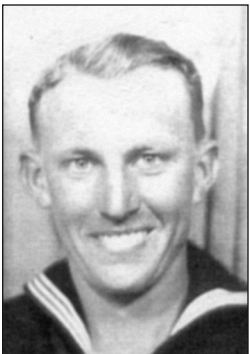
Anastacio H. Beltran



Antonio B. Beltran



John H. Beltran



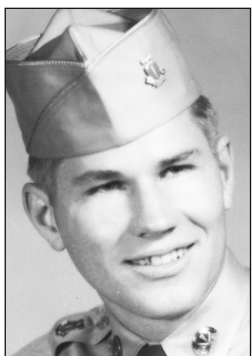
James Blomberg



Ernie Bogart



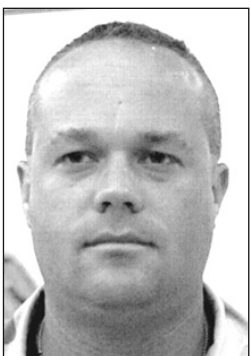
Bobbie Bostic



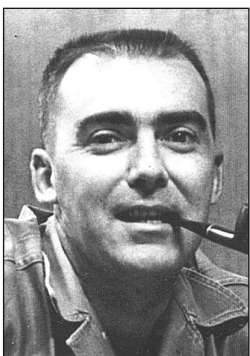
Julius Bostic



Pauline Speer
Marzec Bostic



Greg Bottoms



William Boyer



Ernest Bracewell



Alex Bradford



Ron Bradford



Andrew D. Bridges



Nikolas Briones



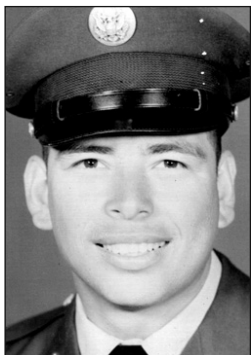
Tom Bristoll



Shawn Canady



Dale Cannon



Pete Cantu



Roy A. Cantu



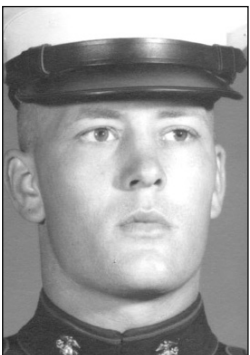
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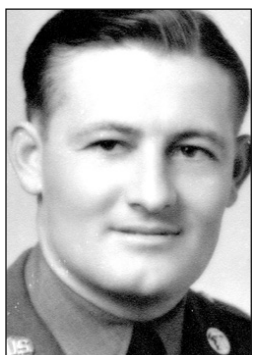
Eric Carlson



Leroy Carlson



Dale J. "Bo" Carter



Dale Carter



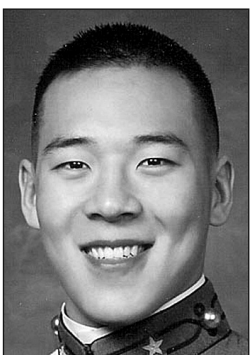
Fay Carter



James Cazares



Elisa Reyes Chamberlain



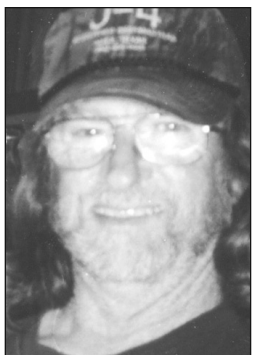
Wei Chou



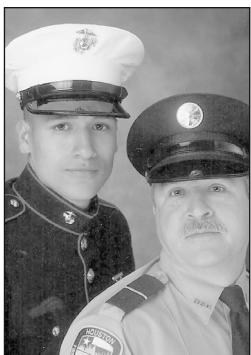
John Christensen



Justin Clark



Bernard Coates



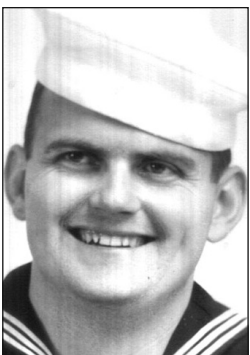
Eusebio Collazo Jr. and Sr.



Maurice Collins



Edward Corbett



Curtis D. Craig



John C. Craig



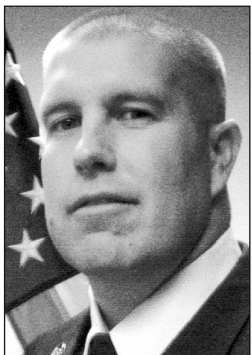
Dan Crow



Eddie Cruz



Brandon Z. Cutshall



Chance Davenport



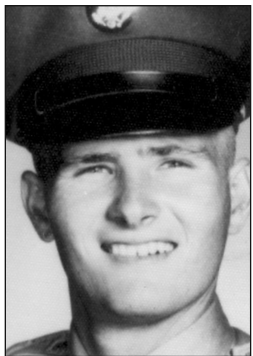
Mason Kyle Debarba



Danny Diebel



George Diebel



Curtis W. Dildy



Harold Dildy



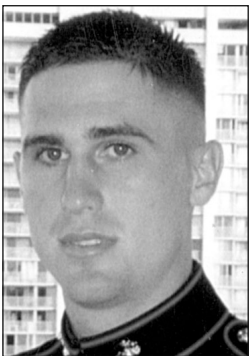
Jerry Dittrich



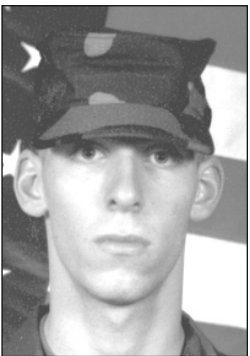
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Our thoughts are with the brave men and women serving our country and the ones who served before them.



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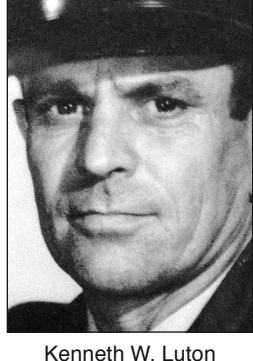
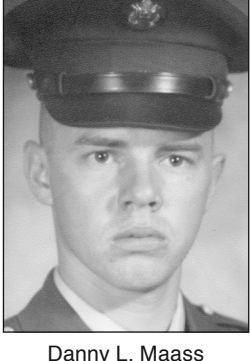
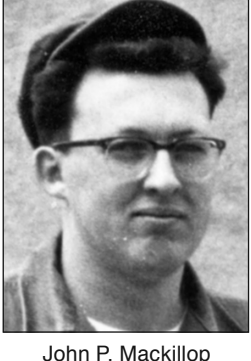
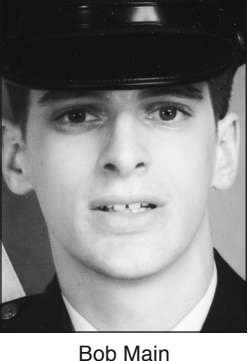
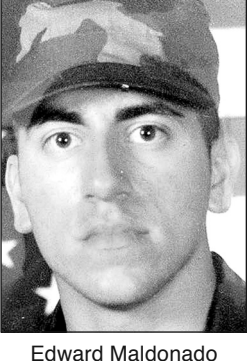
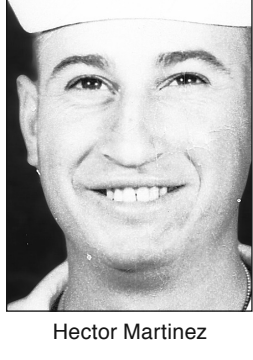
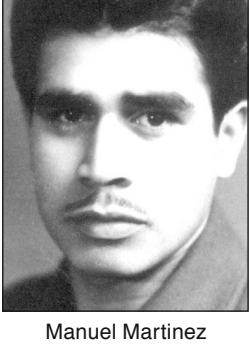
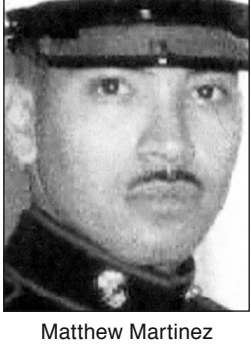
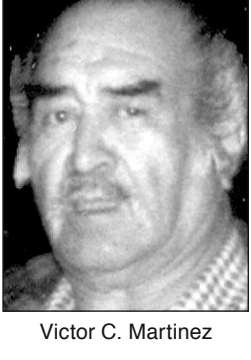
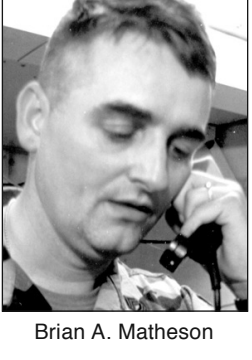
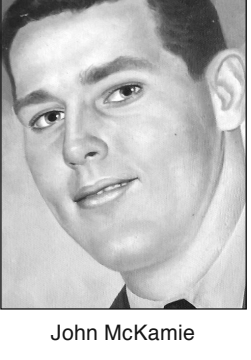
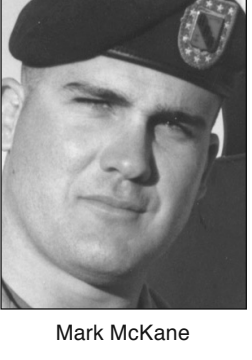
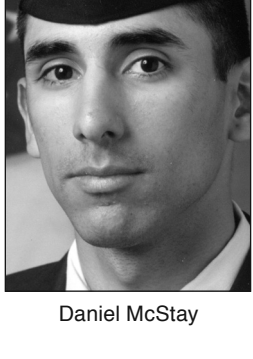
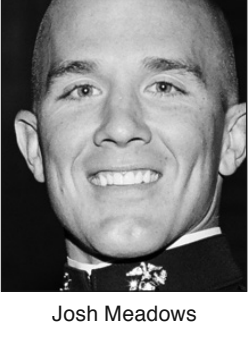
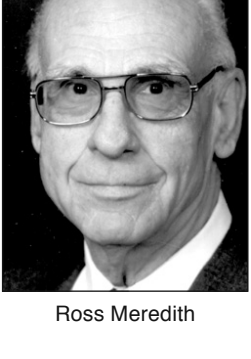
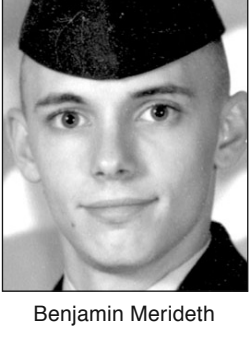
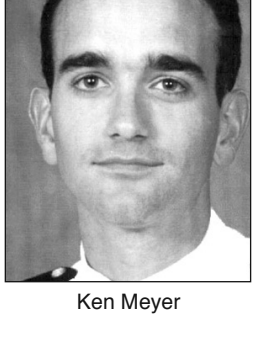
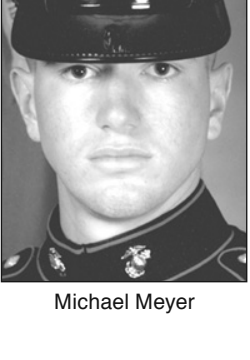
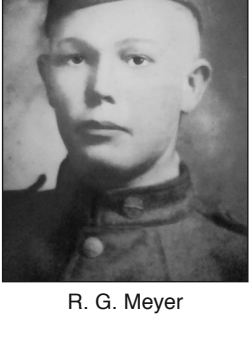
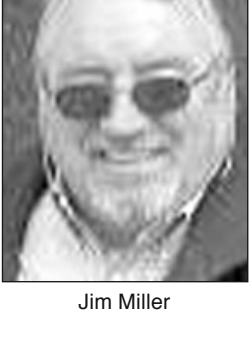
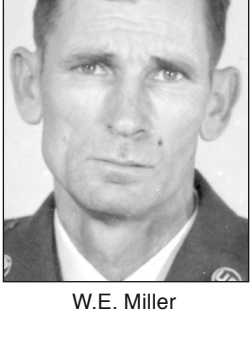
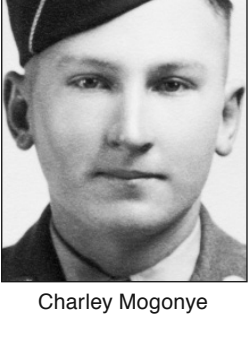
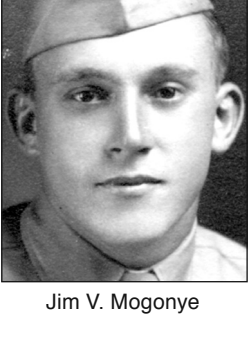
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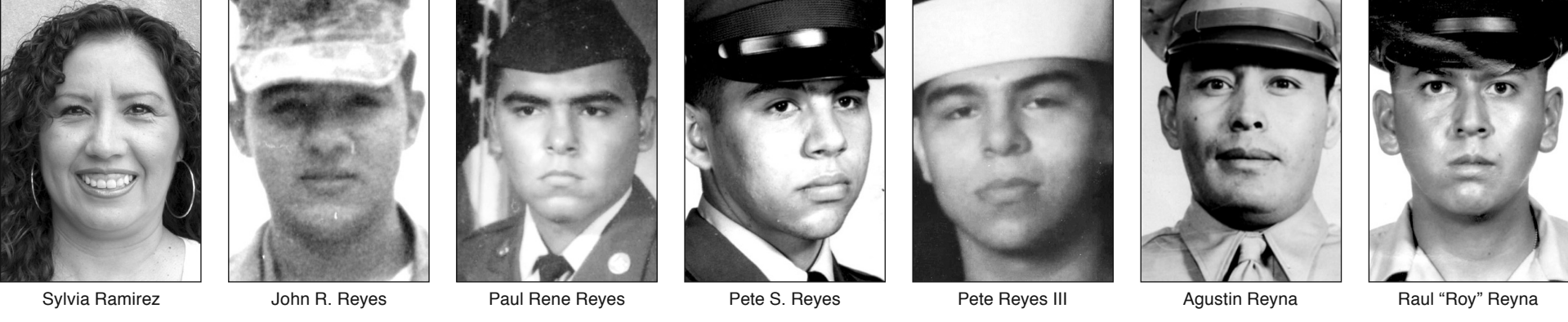
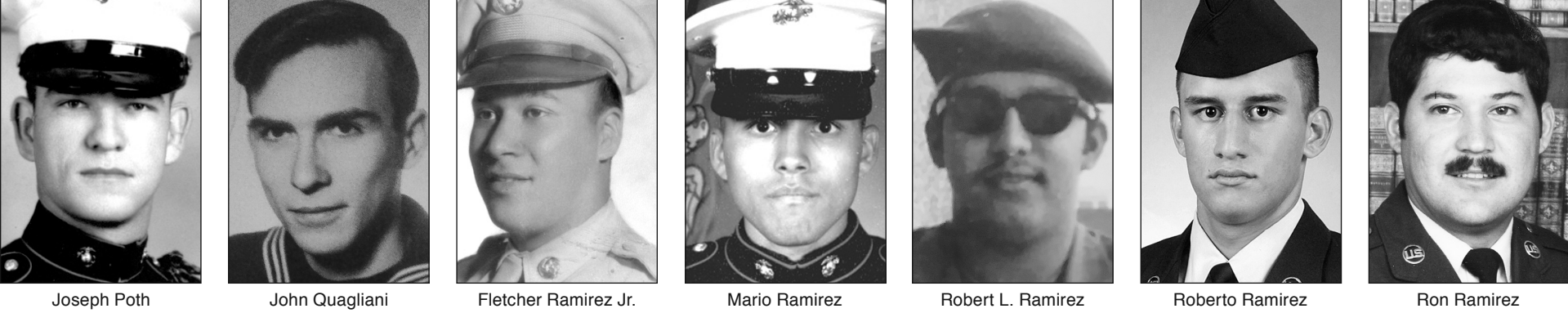
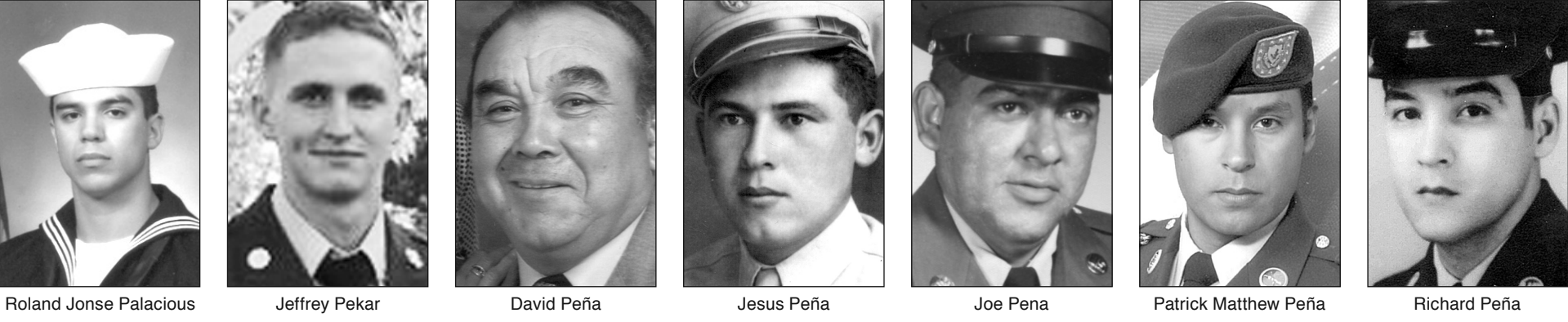
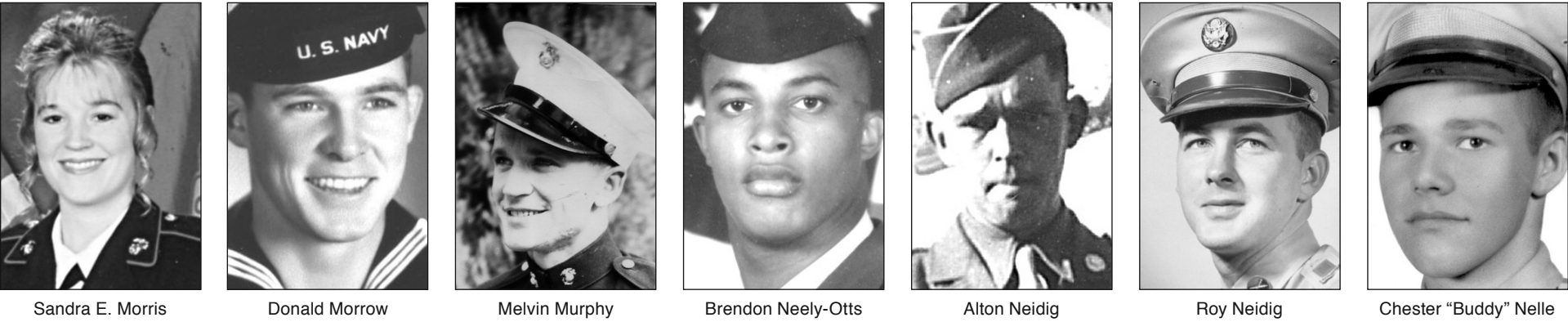
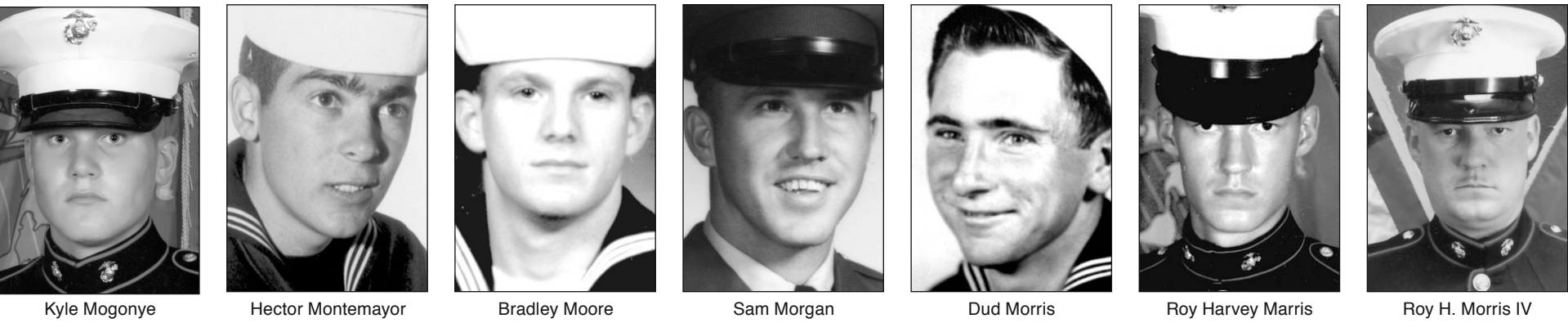
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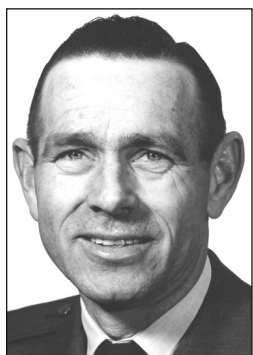
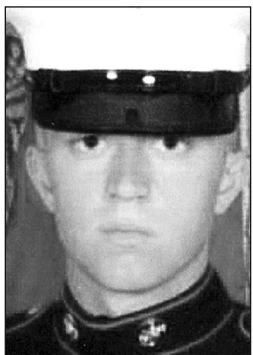
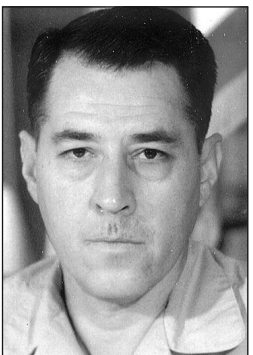
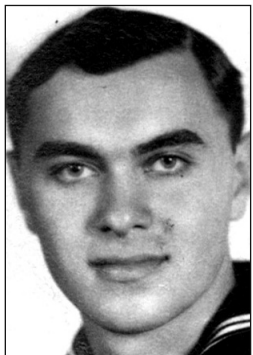
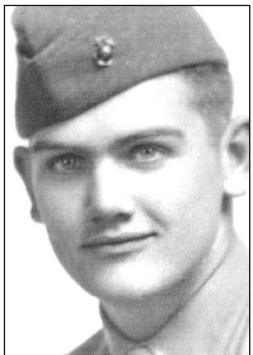
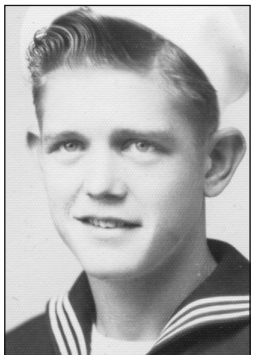
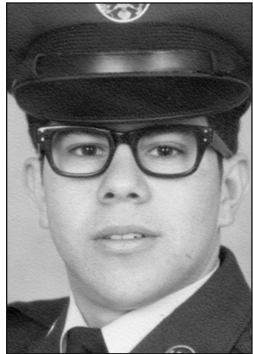
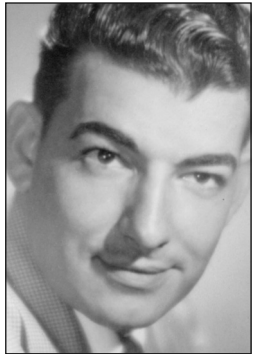
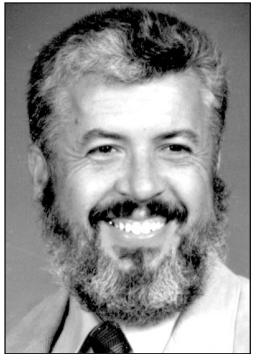
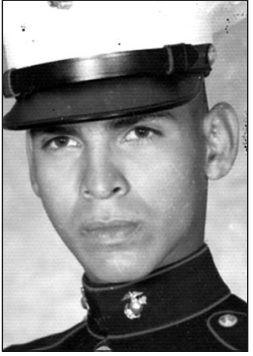
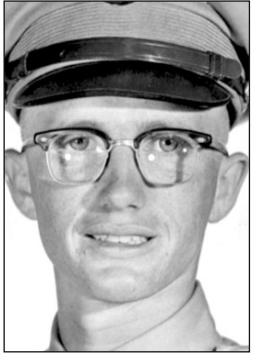
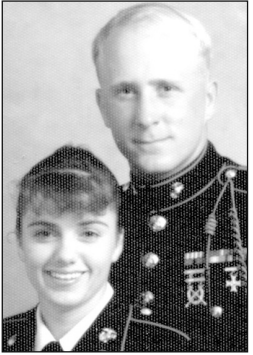
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Erwin Marburger	Alfred Marek	Ann Marie Marquez	Blake Martin Jr.	Gordon "Bubba" Martin	James D. Martin	Scott Martin
						
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The 'Fallen Soldier' in the Elgin Courier window

By Kim Brakhage
ar@elgincourier.com

Have you ever wondered who made the fallen soldier wood stand in the window of the Elgin Courier? The artist is Retired Army Sgt., Major Art Konsler. He was an army ranger as well as a Green Beret. According to Chuck Swain, the commander of the local VFW #6115 hall, Art really liked the design of the fallen soldier, so he decided to make one for the Post and its Commander.

Art was very active in the Veterans Memorial Day ceremony held each year at the Fairview cemetery in Bastrop, Texas and was also one of the founders/committee members of the Red White and Blue Festival in Bastrop until he passed approximately five years ago.

We thank Art for the wooden statue we proudly display, and always will, in our front window. And on this Veterans Day we remember our fallen soldiers.



The hand-carved Fallen Soldier in the Elgin Courier window. Photo by Kim Brakhage

Camp Swift Days

By Marjorie Speer Sutton

I graduated from Elgin High School in May 1941. The first job I had was secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Virgil Rabb came and asked me if I could take the job until they could find someone permanent. This was the first introduction I had to Camp Swift. My job, among others, was to show houses and apartments that were for rent. At first, it was for construction workers’ wives, and then later it was army personnel looking for off base housing in order to have their families with them until they were sent overseas. (If you had a structure with four walls and a door, it was for rent!)

Some were reasonably priced while some took advantage, “scalping” the poor fellows. I felt sorry for those with children because so many would not rent to anyone with children. One lady told me she spent one whole day looking for a place to live. Just as she found something she could afford, they would ask if she had children and hearing she had two little boys, the deal was off. Late that afternoon, she found the perfect place. The landlady said, “Honey, I love kids,” and so she was able to rent the rooms.

My office, if you could call it that, was a corner of a feed store with a desk, typewriter and telephone. The feed store also was where the farmers brought their butter and eggs on Saturday to sell. It was also headquarters for the highway patrol for issuing drivers licenses. It was funny to see how visibly shaken the patrolman would be

when he came back from a driving test. One lady he rode with was a “disaster going somewhere to happen.” One day, after the third attempt, he came in, pale as a ghost, shook his head and said, “There wasn’t any improvement, but I passed her anyhow because I don’t intend to ride with that woman again!”

I left that position and went to work at one of the PXs before it was completely finished. We were paid \$52 every two weeks. Back then, that was a lot of money. The soldiers paid 13 cents for a pack of cigarettes (\$1.30 per carton). We sold boxes of candy as well as individual bars. Candy was rationed two bars to a customer, as well as tissue, two boxes to a customer. You wouldn’t believe all of the reasons they came up with to try to get more.

We worked so close to the boys they almost felt like “family.” On the whole, they were very nice and respectful, but with that many there were some less than desirable. Sometimes, one rotten apple can spoil a bushel, but you learned pretty quick though as to which was which. You had to be mother, secretary, counselor and general flunky also – including picking up their uniforms at the cleaners, writing to their mothers to let her know he would be out in the field for a week or so and not to worry if she didn’t hear from him during that time, listen to all their problems, and to those who were home-sick, stories of home. The PX was their place to get together to smoke, drink and relax.

See SWIFT, Page 12C



John Butler and Jerry Kraft stand together in Elgin’s Veteran’s Park.

Photo by Cindye Ginsel

A Korean veteran and Vietnam veteran meet

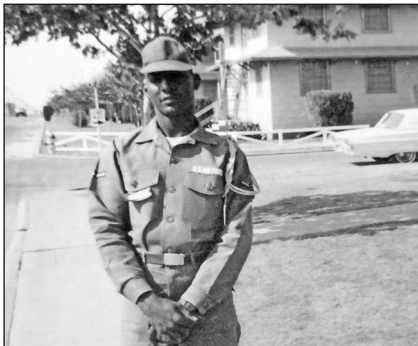
By Cindye Ginsel
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The plan was to take a photo of my Veteran friends, Jerry Kraft, a Korean War veteran, and John Butler, who served in Vietnam, for this upcoming Veterans issue. After introducing them, I invited Jerry to come to my office to tell his story about his service in the war and invited John to come along to tell his story as well.

John’s story came first. He told how he had grown up in New Orleans, Louisiana, in a segregated school. Tired of high school, he quit. “My dad found out I quit school,” said John. “He told me to either get a job, go back to school – or go. Like a wise guy, I chose to go. I moved in with my sister and her nine children. Not long afterward, I decided to join the Air Force and left New Orleans on a Greyhound bus.”

John continued, “I passed all the tests, got my diploma, and headed to Amarillo, Texas, for basic training.” After about 18 weeks, John received his orders. He was headed to Nakhon Phanom, Thailand to repair helicopters.

“After that I was sent to Vietnam,” said John. “During one of our missions, we picked up ground fire and a helicopter went down. We rescued



John Butler (left) and Jerry Kraft are pictured here during their years of service.



Courtesy photos

several men who were injured. Then I saw the tall grass move. I realized it was a kid holding an AK-47 rifle. I didn’t want to shoot. He fled.”

He continued, “Our helicopter took 37 hits. One ironically came in at an angle, narrowly missing our tail rotor. God must have been with us.”

For those rescue efforts, John received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Jerry’s story came next. “I grew up in Brooklyn, New York,” said Jerry. “Where we lived borders on Brownsville, which was a tough neighborhood at the time. We were more middle class. Before Little League, I wanted to play baseball. There were so few young men left. We merged into two leagues, and I found myself playing with the Brownsville league.

Our coach was experienced and made a hitter out of me.”

“The season ended and, to keep out of the war, my father wanted me to get married to a girl named Sandy,” continued Jerry. “I didn’t want to get married, so I went into the military. I became an Infantry NCO Sergeant in Seoul, Korea. I served in the Third Infantry Division – that was Audie Murphy’s division; however, he was five or six years ahead of me. I was in harm’s way, but I escaped.”

Said Jerry in closing, “I was proud of my service. It changed me. I am a lot more tolerate now.”

As John and Jerry got up to leave, Jerry extended his hand to John. Instead of shaking his hand, John reached over and hugged Jerry, and they walked out together as friends.



Is there a Veteran we missed?

If you have a veteran’s photo you would like to have added to our annual Veteran’s Day special section, contact the Courier anytime before next November.

ELGIN COURIER

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SWIFT ...

From Page 10C

I worked with the 95th, 97th, 102nd, and 10th divisions. Every time a division was sent out, we promised ourselves we would not let the next one coming in “get to us,” but that was just a good thought. Our manager told us that if we didn’t make a sale that day for us to talk to them as they were hurting, too, and they were only putting up a brave front. Some would come by to say goodbye and would be clowning, trying to cheer us up. There were not very many dry eyes among the workers on those days.

There were identical twins from Erie, Kansas, who were like two peas in a pod. (The policy was to keep twins to-

gether if they requested it.) They came to the skating rink as often as they could and were as good as professional skaters. They got the best laugh out of confusing so many people. They were in the same company, but in different platoons. One day when they were having inspection, the major was going down the ranks and came to Lester and kept on going until he came to Chester. They said he stopped and looked back to where he had seen Lester and told Chester, “You stand right there, and don’t you move! I will be right back.” He thought he was seeing double. Everything was not all fun and games. We had our serious times, too. There was a fellow who came in quite a lot. He was quiet, but friendly. They were field training on how to crawl

on your stomach with your rifle through enemy lines. They were using live ammunition but had a loud speaker that repeated over and over, “We are using live ammunition. Keep your heads down,” however, he crawled up on a rattlesnake. As a natural reflex he reared up and was hit.

The 10th Mountain Division came here from Ft. Carson, Colorado, where they had been training in the mountains and it was very cold. They arrived at Camp Swift in June while weather was fiercely hot. Just after they got here, some officer in his infinite wisdom, sitting in an air-conditioned office, ordered them on a five-mile forced hike in the heat of the day through deep, sugary sand (shifting real estate). It was too much for them, and they started falling. There were am-

bulances going by the PX and medics were running in for cold towels. I don’t think they lost anyone, but we heard the officer who ordered them out drove out in his Cadillac to pick some of them up.

You wouldn’t believe Elgin at that time. We were a thriving little metropolis. You could see license plates from nearly every state. It was like Saturday night traffic every day. Business places sprang up overnight. Would you believe Elgin had taxis? I guess everyone felt the inconveniences of rationing since we were not used to having to cut back on what we bought. The government issued ration stamp books that contained one’s quota. There were stamps for meat, sugar, tires and gasoline. If you were a farmer who used his car or

truck for business purposes, you received a “T” stamp. That was five gallons a week, but just for everyday driving, you received only two or three gallons.

When a service man or woman was home on leave, you could apply for more food ration stamps. If you saved bacon grease or other meat grease, you could turn them in for extra meat stamps. Some of the soldiers brought extra sugar from Camp Swift. They could get sugar when we couldn’t.

I guess one of the happiest days of my life was the day Japan surrendered, and the war was over. But it was also sad to see Camp Swift evacuated and only a vacant field with concrete foundation forms where there had once been an elaborate military installation.



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Our Elgin HEB In-Store Veterans: from L to R: Becky Van Baale, Chris Baugh, Jovo Cosic, and Todd Lawrence

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