

*The Legacy
Lives on...*



*-remembering local heroes
of WWII-
CVHS*

CHARTIERS VALLEY
SCHOOL DISTRICT | *Inspiring excellence.*

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IN MEMORY OF:

Leonard Facciotti	United States Marine Corps
Joseph Garin	United States Army
Kenneth Heasley	United States Army
John King	United States Army
Owen Lewis	United States Marine Corps
Stanley Malinowski	United States Armored Tank BN
Russell McConnell	United States Army
James McGrogan	United States Army Air Corps
Charles McLaughlin	United States Army
Stanley Polanski	United States Army
John Stripp	United States Army
George Trumpeter	United States Navy
John Turner	United States Army
Harry Walls	United States Air Force
Frank Wilson	United States Navy
George Woods	United States Army
Robert Yeager	United States Air Force

THE GREATEST GENERATION

The Greatest Generation

By Tom Brokaw

“These men and women came of age in the Great Depression, when economic despair hovered over the land like a plague. They had watched their parents lose their businesses, their farms, their jobs, their hopes. They had learned to accept a future that played out one day at a time. Then, just as there was a glimmer of economic recovery, war exploded across Europe and Asia. When Pearl Harbor made it irrefutably clear that America was not a fortress, this generation was summoned to the parade ground and told to train for war. They left their ranches in Sully County, South Dakota, their jobs on the main street of Americus, Georgia, they gave up their place on the assembly lines in Detroit and in the ranks of Wall Street, they quit school or went from cap and gown directly into uniform.

They answered the call to save the world from the two most powerful and ruthless military machines ever assembled, instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs.

They faced great odds and a late start, but they did not protest. At a time in their lives when their days and nights should have been filled with innocent adventure, love, and the lessons of the workaday world, they were fighting, often hand to hand, in the most primitive conditions possible, across the bloodied landscape of France, Belgium, Italy, Austria. They fought their way up a necklace of South Pacific islands few had ever heard of before and made them a fixed part of American history islands with names like Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal, Okinawa. They were in the air every day, in skies filled with terror, and they went to sea on hostile waters far removed from the shores of their homeland.”

A SPECIAL THANKS

Mr. Robert Rodrigues

Social Studies Teacher, Chartiers Valley School District

Lauren Bittner, Rachel Jones, Amanda Mazzarini, Mitchell
McDermott, Kevin McGoogan,

Students, Chartiers Valley School District

Jamie Shafer

*CAD Student and Memorial Designer,
Chartiers Valley School District*

Mr. Chuck Barber

Architectural Design Teacher, Chartiers Valley School District

Students: Zac Farrow & Josh Was

Instructor: Charlie Sweeny

Masonry, Parkway West Career and Technical School

Student: Joe Hickey

Instructor: Todd Kieffer

Refurbishing/ Auto Body Repair, Sto Rox School District

Dr. Darby L. Copeland

Parkway West CTC, Executive Director

Anna D'Acerno & Rebecca Fallert

Brochure, Students, Chartiers Valley School District

TODAY'S PROGRAM

The following will be our program for this afternoon's event.

Introduction

Presented by:

Robert Rodrigues

"Star Spangled Banner"

Presented by:

Chartiers Valley Showband

Reading of the Biographies

Presented by:

Amanda Mazzarini, Rachel Jones, Kevin
McGoogan, Mitchell McDermott, Lauren
Bittner, and the Families

Unveiling of the Plaque

Presented by:

The Families

Gettysburg Address

Presented by:

Margret (Maggie) Ledrick

Remarks

Presented by:

Congressman Tim Murphy

Closing Remarks

Presented by:

Dr. Brian White

Taps

Presented by:

Chartiers Valley Showband

SPECIAL MESSAGE

Thank you to all of the community members who
provided information to help us discover each of these
hero's story.

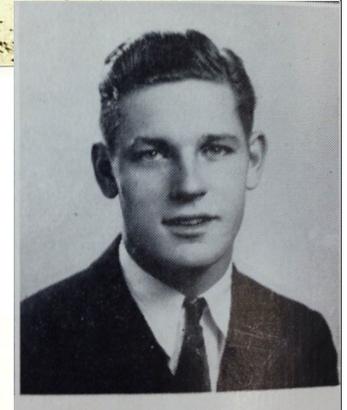
- Chartiers Valley School Board

LEONARD FACCIOTTI



Corporal Leonard Facciotti was born on May 24th, 1921. Leonard was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Facciotti. He had a brother named Joseph and two sisters named Irene and Rita. The family lived on Noblestown Road in Carnegie. Leonard grew up in the Carnegie area and later attended Connelly Trade School, where he played soccer. He later worked as a brakeman for the Pittsburgh and West Virginia railroad before voluntarily enlisting in the Marine Corps. He was killed in action in Guam during his 4th major battle on July 21st, 1944. Facciotti had previously fought in the Marshall Islands, where he was wounded, and in Saipan and Tinian. He had been overseas for 18 months. His brother, Joseph Facciotti also fought in the war as a Marine. After his death, Leonard was buried in Hawaii along with the other soldiers who also died in Guam.

PHOTOS



ROBERT YEAGER



Robert Yeager was born in April of 1916. Before his enlistment in the war, Robert married a girl named Mildred Keifner. Together they had one daughter named Arlene. He was discovered to have fought in the Air Force branch of the United States Military. While serving as a rifleman in the 8th Division as part of the 121st Infantry Regiment, he was killed in action in Germany on June 1st, 1945. However, he was not killed during the battle. His daughter Arlene was only an infant at the time, and after her father's death, her mother, Mildred Keifner Yeager, remarried.

JOSEPH GARIN



Joseph Garin, the son of Nicholas and Anna, was born on April 5th, 1925. He relied on his seven siblings, Mary, Anna, Julia, Pearl, Nick, John, and Michael, to help guide him in the right direction. Garin worked as a chauffeur and drove buses, taxis, and trucks prior to entering the military. He went to high school for one year before enlisting in the war on January 31st, 1945. Garin was a member of the 24th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. He was killed in action on May 14th, 1945 at the Battle of Mindanao in the Philippines. The Battle of Mindanao was one of the many battles that in unison made up "Operation Victor V". The operation was a series of actions in which America fought against the Japanese in order to recapture the Philippines, a U.S. territory at the time. Garin is now buried in Holy Virgin Russian Orthodox Church Cemetery in Green Tree.

KENNETH HEASLEY



Kenneth E. Heasley was born in 1923, and was one of Edward and Sofia Heasley's eleven children. Before going to war at the young age 19, he attended grammar school. He was enlisted in the Army on March 4th, 1943. Heasley was a Private in the US Army and a member of the 45th Infantry Division. Kenneth Heasley was killed in action on December 9th, 1943. Kenneth's body was never shipped back home; he was buried in Anzio, Italy.

GEORGE WOODS



George Woods was born in 1911 in Allegheny County. He enlisted on May 1st, 1942 from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served as a Private and was drafted into the Immaterial Branch, meaning he was not assigned to a particular branch when he was drafted. However, Woods was eventually placed in the Army as a part of the 385th Engineer Battalion and earned the title of a Fifth Class Technician. Woods died on May 24th, 1945 and is now buried in Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avold, France, the largest American World War II cemetery in Europe, accounting for 10,849 graves.

FRANK WILSON



Frank Wilson is believed to have been born in 1922 and lived in a home located on McMichael Road near Rennerdale. He married Dorothy Ackman and had a daughter named Elaine who attended Chartiers Valley High School during the 1960's. His nephew, Frank Tinnion was named after him. Frank enlisted himself to serve in the Navy. During his service Frank was assigned to become a crew member on the USS Jacksonville. While on a tour throughout the Pacific the USS Jacksonville was tragically and unexpectedly hit by two torpedoes, fired by a German U-482 vessel on August 30th, 1944. Only two crew members managed to escape: an armed guard and a freeman. Wilson was one of the 76 casualties that suffered during the Jacksonville attack.

JOHN KING



John King was born and raised in Walkers Mill, a part of Collier Township. He was one of eight children. John was a tank commander with the Army and was killed in action by a German sniper. He was in his early twenties at the time of his death. Following his death, John was buried in the Henri Chappelle American Cemetery in Belgium. However, he was eventually brought back to Pittsburgh by his family. Today he is buried at All Saint Polish National Catholic Cemetery on Ewing Road in Collier Township.

OWEN LEWIS



Owen Lewis was born on December 31st, 1925 in Collier Township, the Camp Hill part of Noblestown Road. He was the sixth of eight children in the Lewis family.

There were four boys and four girls. Most of his older siblings attended the Scott Township High School. However, Owen never attended high school. After eighth grade Owen immediately started to work for the Vimco Macaroni Factory. A few years later, he married his girlfriend Evelyn Musswick in June of 1944. In the fall of 1945, she gave birth to a son whom Owen never had the opportunity to meet because he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on April 18, 1944. He was assigned to Company E; 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. Owen was killed in action in Okinawa, Japan on April 14th, 1945 at the age of 20. Owen's body was returned to the United States and he is buried in Chartiers Cemetery on Noblestown Road in Carnegie. When he died, he left behind his beloved wife, parents, and seven brothers and sisters. Robert Lewis, his youngest brother is the only remaining sibling and is with us today. Owen's only son, David, was also able to join us today.

HARRY WALLS



Harry Walls was born on August 2nd, 1920 and he enlisted in the service 22 years later on July 2nd, 1942. He completed three years of high school before pursuing an occupation as a lab technician. Walls was a part of the Immaterial Branch, however he later joined the Air force. As a Private, he worked in the 32nd Airborne Division. On July 10th, 1943, he was killed in action and his body now rests in Chartiers Cemetery.

JOHN TURNER



John grew up in Rennerdale directly across from the neighborhood duck pond. He was a Private in the Army and was reported to have died from battle wounds. Little information was ever discovered about John's life or his war experiences. Fortunately, due to the simple finding of the memorial plaque, which once hung in the Rennerdale School, we do know John gave his life for something he believed in, and for that reason, he deserved to be recognized with the highest respect.

STANLEY MALINOWSKI



Stanley Malinowski was born on November 4th, 1921. Born and raised in Allegheny County, he had a loving family and great education. He enlisted on September 16th, 1942 and was a part of PFC Armored Tank BN. Unfortunately, Malinowski was killed in action on August 4th, 1944. Although not confirmed, it is believed that he was killed during the liberation of Rennes, a French city occupied by the Germans. He is now buried in All Saints National Cemetery in Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

RUSSELL MCCONNELL



Russell M. McConnell was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1922. He was also raised outside of Pittsburgh near Rennerdale. He completed four years of high school and worked as a payroll clerk. Just a few years after his high school graduation, he enlisted in the forces for the United States Army. He was ranked as a Private during his years of enlistment. Although we are unsure of how Russell died, we are certain that he died fighting for our country with pride. Russell was never married, but he left behind many loved ones when he gave his life for his country.

GEORGE TRUMPETER



George Trumpeter was born on September 2nd, 1919. He was the son of George and Hazel Trumpeter. They lived on Maple Avenue in Collier Township with George's other two siblings, Ruth and Russell. As a young adult, he enlisted into the Aviation Cadet Program (AVCAD). When World War II came to the United States, he became enlisted in the Navy as an Aviator. On November 8th, 1942, he was killed in action during Operation Torch at Safi in western Morocco on the Atlantic Ocean. Operation Torch was an attempt by the United States to open up a war front in North Africa so that Germany would have to fight a two-front war. George's body was lost at sea and never recovered. After his death, the U.S. Navy named a DE-180 destroyer "USS Trumpeter" in honor of his brave sacrifice. The ship was decommissioned in June 1946, and it later received authorization for sinking in August of 1973.

JOHN STRIPP



John A. Stripp was born April 15th, 1918. He grew up in Allegheny County with his family. Before enlistment, Stripp went to grammar school for a couple years, which later led him to his career as a semi-skilled miner and mining machine operator. Stripp enlisted on July 15th, 1941 in New Cumberland. John was a Private in the U.S. Army, as well as a Warrant Officer. John Stripp was killed in action on January, 29th, 1945.

JAMES MCGROGAN



Charles James McGrogan was born in 1922 to Mary and William McGrogan and was one of eight children. James was part of the Army Air Corps. During his service, James's plane was shot down around Christmas time in 1943. Only some of the crew members survived the plane by parachuting to safety. Sadly, James was not one of those lucky crew members. He died from the severe impact the plane crash administered to his body. McGrogan is buried at Holy Soul's Cemetery.

CHARLES MCLAUGHLIN



Charles McLaughlin, son of Mrs. Hugh McLaughlin, was born on July 26th, 1916 in Walker's Mill, where he lived the rest of his life. He was one of six brothers. All five of his brothers served in the military during World War II. After completing four years of high school, McLaughlin enlisted on April 4th, 1942. He was a Corporal in the Army and a member of the tanks corps. During World War II, Charles was a member of the 17th Tank Battalion and the 7th Armored Division. Unfortunately, Corporal Charles was killed in action in France on September 17th, 1944, most likely during Operation Market Garden, an allied military operation held throughout the Netherlands and Germany. Charles is buried in Chartiers Cemetery.

STANLEY POLANSKI



Stanley Polanski was born and raised in Allegheny County. He completed his education through high school. Shortly after he graduated from high school, he enlisted in the Army. He was a Sergeant and a part of the 1340th Engineer Combat Battalion in the U.S. Army. Stanley was honored with the Purple Heart medal, an award given to the soldiers who were killed or wounded in action. Stanley was killed in action on Saturday, December 2nd, 1944. At the time of his death, Polanski was buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium, and he remains there today.