

# **Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Prospect Post 1337**

**Proudly Presents**

## **Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Director**



**Terry Prince  
U.S. Navy  
Veteran**



**Memorial Day  
27 May 2024**



## **Terry Prince**

**Master Chief USN (ret)**

### **Our Keynote Speaker**



Terry Prince was appointed Acting Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs by Governor JB Pritzker on April 1st, 2021 and confirmed by the Senate Executive Appointment Committee on March 28, 2022.

As Director, he leads a team of 1,200 professionals, in partnership with numerous local and state organizations, to provide beneficial services for more than 600,000 veterans and their families across the State of Illinois.

Upon joining IDVA, Director Prince developed a Six-Point Plan for the Future of IDVA, which he and his team have diligently worked to execute change and maximize opportunities. Over the course of the year, IDVA's leadership team has been reimagined. It has recruited and hired staff for key roles across IDVA. Communication and culture have been enhanced. Infection control systems have been elevated and many policies, procedures, and technology have been updated and implemented. The five Illinois Veterans' Homes across the state continue to provide excellent care delivered by trained medical professionals and staff. The Veteran Service Officers interface with veterans and their families to help them identify and obtain earned benefits and services.

Prior to this appointment, Director Prince served as the Superintendent of the Ohio Veterans Homes. In this capacity, he led 850 employees providing skilled nursing and domiciliary care for 801 veterans at three separate facilities, including the 5th largest Veterans home in the country. At the conclusion of this assignment, he was awarded the department's inaugural Major General Manning Force Award, an honor that recognized his distinguished service in a position of significant responsibility.

Director Prince began his military career in 1986 and went on to serve at 14 different duty stations around the world. His most recent tours include: Command Master Chief at Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, NC and the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, MD. Later, he was handpicked to be the 1st Senior Enlisted Advisor at the Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, VA. He closed out his illustrious 31-year career in 2017 as the 13th Director of the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps and Force Master Chief of Navy Medicine.

Force Master Chief Prince's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Superior Service Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (six awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards) and the U.S. Army Order of Military Medical Merit. He is also triple warfare qualified as a Surface, Aviation and Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist.

Director Prince earned a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership from Chapman University and is a graduate of the National Defense University Keystone Leadership Fellowship, Navy Senior Enlisted Academy and the Navy Command Master Chief course. He is a proud Eagle Scout and finisher of the Ironman Hawaii Triathlon World Championship.

There is a strong history of military service in Director Prince's family, with his grandfather, three uncles and two brothers all having worn the cloth of our nation. He and his wife, Dr. Jennifer Prince, a 12-year Navy veteran, reside in Chicago.

# Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 History



Post 1337

1925-2022

Memorial Day

1925

For the first eight years after its 1925 chartering, Mount Prospect's VFW Post 1337 members from World War I met in a farmhouse on North Wille Street, which has since been torn down, and busied themselves with meetings, ceremonies, fundraisers, trap shooting for ducks and geese and donating trees and flagpoles around town. They even donated a trench mortar from the war to be placed in front of the then-Village Hall.

In 1933 the local VFW moved its headquarters to a farmhouse at Elmhurst Avenue and Memory Lane where they remained until the late 1940s when they constructed a new facility at 601 N. Main Street on property donated to them by Walter Krause Jr. The parcel had been part of the William Pohlman farm but Krause purchased it to donate to the veterans so that they would have room to accommodate the influx of World War II veterans.

Veterans from both wars worked for a full year to build their new structure on Route 83. Everyone pitched in their skills. For instance, a tanker during the War who was, by then, a carpenter, donated his carpentry skills and others contributed electrical and plumbing expertise. Yet another had a connection with a concrete company and convinced them to pour all of the concrete.

Over the years that followed, the hall was used for regular VFW meetings, American Legion meetings, dances, bingo, weddings and much more. The VFW Women's Auxiliary also played a pivotal role in keeping the place running by holding fish fries, bake sales, picnics and more. And members handled as much of the building maintenance as they could.

But by 1983 financial difficulties and waning manpower forced the veterans to sell their home to Moose Lodge 660 and the veterans instead met in various locations around the area. Happily, the Moose welcomed back both VFW Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525 and they are once again holding their meetings in the building the local VFW members built so long ago.

**If you are a veteran and eligible for the VFW (*have served in a combat zone*) they meet the 1st Monday of the month. If you served in any capacity you are eligible for the American Legion they meet the 2nd Monday of the month. Both meet at 7pm location Moose Lodge 660 601 N Main Street, Mt Prospect, be our guest.**



# OUR CENTENNIAL 2025 THE HISTORIC EVENT CELEBRATE WITH US

*On 7 April 1925* Prospect Veterans of Foreign Wars Prospect Post 1337 was chartered. To think that this post has survived and prospered for a century is truly a remarkable feat. Plans are already being made for our celebration on *Saturday 5 April 2025*.

The celebration will be held at the **Cotillion Banquets**, 360 S Creekside Dr, Palatine, IL, starting at 6pm (18:00hrs). We are limited to attendees but this event shall be open to the public starting in the fall.

Keynote speaker/s have been contacted. The band we have selected is called 'Out of Control' and is amazing. The menu and extras for the Cotillion are 5 different appetizers, a 5 hour open bar, Entrée Fillet, soup, salad potato, unlimited wine w/dinner, coffee/tea/soft drinks, ice cream dessert.

VFW Post 1337 shall be conducting fund raising up until the event so any support you can give us shall be greatly appreciated. To see updates visit our site [www.vfw1337.com](http://www.vfw1337.com)

# Our Committee

A special thanks to those who helped and supported this special thank you to those who perished while serving our country. We can never thank you enough.

<b>Mike Burke</b>	<i>Moose Lodge 660</i>
<b>Helen Buss</b>	<i>Humana</i>
<b>Michael Cassady</b>	<i>Village of Mount Prospect</i>
<b>Kylie Cerk</b>	<i>Village of Mount Prospect</i>
<b>Vince Dante</b>	<i>Mount Prospect Lions Club</i>
<b>Emily Dattilo</b>	<i>Mount Prospect Historical Society</i>
<b>Dutch DeGroot</b>	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
<b>Sean Dorsey</b>	<i>Mount Prospect Public Works</i>
<b>Timothy Delaney</b>	<i>Humana</i>
<b>Les Durov</b>	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
<b>Anthony Addante</b>	<i>Mount Prospect Police Department</i>
<b>Bill Grossi</b>	<i>Mount Prospect Lions Club</i>
<b>Paul Hoefert</b>	<i>Village of Mount Prospect</i>
<b>Howard Kleinstein</b>	<i>Village of Mount Prospect</i>
<b>Jim Miller</b>	<i>Mount Prospect Fire Department</i>
<b>Maddy Moon</b>	<i>Mt. Prospect Park District</i>
<b>Jean Murphy</b>	<i>Mount Prospect Historical Society</i>
<b>Carol Ohrn</b>	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
<b>Jim Parker</b>	<i>VFW Post 1337</i>
<b>Bill Starr</b>	<i>American Legion Post 525</i>
<b>Ruth Yueill</b>	<i>Mt. Prospect Park District</i>
<b>Mike Zarnek</b>	<i>Photography</i>

# Our Sponsors

A special thanks for those that gave their support to our Memorial Day ceremony



*Mt. Prospect Parks Foundation*

*Mount Prospect VFW Post 1337*



*Mount Prospect American Legion Post 525*

*Mount Prospect Lions Club*

*Prospect Moose Lodge 660*

*Humana*

*Village of Mount Prospect*

*Prospect Marching Knights*



**Humana**



Mount Prospect's residents have long and faithfully served the United States by becoming members of the nation's military, protecting its shores and interests. That type of service inevitably brings with it loss.

The veteran organizations of Mount Prospect, VFW Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525, have taken it upon themselves to permanently memorialize those from Mount Prospect who have made the ultimate sacrifice while in wartime and peacetime service to the United States.

## **World War II**

**Arthur W. Flesch**

**Captain, Army Air Corps**

**Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster**

**492nd Bomber Squadron**

**Died: 19 November 1944 in India**



Captain Arthur W. Flesch, son of Arthur Flesch and Emilie Schumn of Mount Prospect, was born October 15, 1920. He graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School and then from Arlington High School. He then spent one year in college before becoming a civilian machinist.

Approximately six weeks after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, on January 22, 1942, Arthur enlisted in the Army Air Corps. While training in the United States he purposely flew over his parents' Mount Prospect house during his cross-country flight.

The Cook County Herald reported: "When he made his cross-country flight, he told his mother to listen for him on a certain day. When she heard the motor, she ran out in the streets while he circled three times over her home. She told the man working on the streets, "That's my boy." Lt. Flesch told his mother he had only one motor going when he came down since the vibrations from all the motors would have broken the glass in her windows."

Eventually, he became a bombardier with the 492nd Bomber Squadron in India, earning a Distinguished Flying Cross with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

His three brothers also enlisted. Edward also joined the Army Air Corps; Frank joined the Army and manned anti-tank destroyers in Germany; and Kenneth joined the Navy and served as a Gunner's Mate Second Class in the Pacific.

Capt. Flesch was killed in India on November 19, 1944 and his body was returned stateside for internment at Arlington National Cemetery on June 9, 1948. His father, Arthur Flesch Sr., was State Adjutant for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of Mount Prospect's Post 1337. His mother, Emilie, was a charter member of the Mother's Flying Club.



**Herman J. Heide**

**Staff Sergeant, US Army**

**531st Engineer Shore Regiment**

**Died: 6 January 1943 in Tunisia**

Staff Sergeant Herman J. Heide, the son of Herman Heide and Lulu Scharringhausen, 22 S. Elm Street in Mount Prospect was the middle of three children. Born on February 21, 1920, he attended St. Paul Lutheran School before going on to Arlington High School and graduating in 1938.

After graduation he went to work at Framburg Electric Company in Chicago, assembling lamps and acting as a stock clerk.

Soon after Pearl Harbor, on February 11, 1942, Heide enlisted at Camp Grant in Rockford. He was then trained at Camp Robinson in Arkansas where he received a sharp shooter's medal and later became a corporal in supply while stationed at Camp Edwards in Massachusetts.

In October, 1942 Heide was sent to North Africa where he became a staff sergeant in a headquarters company. On January 6, 1943 he was killed by shrapnel from a hand grenade that exploded during practice and was buried at North Africa American Cemetery, Carthage, Tunisia.



**Robert W. Haake**  
**First Lieutenant, Army Air Corps**  
**Ferry Command, then Search and Rescue Squadron**  
**Died: 17 September 1944 in India**

First Lt. Robert W. Haake, son of Lydia Ella and Albert C. Haake of 407 S. I-Oka Avenue, was born April 1, 1922. He had two younger sisters and graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School & later from Arlington High School in 1940. He spent one year studying at the University of Illinois and then became a professional actor.

Haake enlisted in the Army Air Corps on January 26, 1942, also soon after Pearl Harbor, and was sent to Texas where he was commissioned as an officer at Randolph Field in San Antonio during November, 1942. Shortly thereafter, on April 20, 1943, he married Louise Williams of Trenton, TX and then was sent to India where he flew cargo planes "over the hump" to China. He later transferred to a B-25 Search and Rescue Squadron.

When his disappearance was reported in the Cook County Herald on September 29, 1944, excerpts from one of his recent letters were included. "Rescue work is the primary purpose of our outfit, but we also spend hours searching jungles and mountains for wrecked planes and men down. . . . One learns a real appreciation of comradeship and trust in a friend. I am probably getting wiser in the ways and vicissitudes of life daily. We take pleasure in simple things – the antics of our pet monkey amuse us, we learn and many times teach others in our bull sessions and many things, little things, like a cold shower or a bottle of beer (always warm) that we always took for granted are now big events and almost luxuries to us. I hope when this war is ended I will be a better and bigger man for it all. The ways of the Lord are indeed strange to man in his foolish pride and ambition."

Lt. Haake's plane disappeared on September 17, 1944. His body was eventually recovered and in July, 1948 was returned to the United States. He is buried in Bethania Cemetery in Justice, IL.

**Phillip Winston Kaiser**  
**Lieutenant, Army Air Corps**  
**Killed In Action: 25 March 1945 over Europe**

Phillip Winston Kaiser was born in Crown Point, IN on June 30, 1922. He was the son of C. Glenn Kaiser, a schoolteacher, and Lucile J. Watkins and had a younger brother, Kent.

The family moved to Batavia, IL in time to be listed on the 1930 census there and by 1940 was living at 302 S. George Street in Mount Prospect. He graduated from Arlington High School in 1940 and then went on to two years of college.

He enlisted on February 26, 1942, once again soon after Pearl Harbor, in Miami Beach, FL. Lt. Kaiser became a pilot, stationed in England. He flew a B-24 Liberator Bomber. In January, 1945 he sustained a broken leg while parachuting near Amiens, France. He returned to active duty on March 19 and was killed six days later.

Originally buried in England's Cambridge Cemetery, his body was sent home in 1948 and is now buried in Mount Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst.



**Frank F. Schott Jr.**  
**Private First Class, U.S. Army**  
**Communications Wire Chief**  
**Died: 24 February 1945 in Leyte, Philippines**

Frank F. Schott Jr., son of Frank and Johanna Schott, was born in Germany on November 14, 1921. He and his parents immigrated to the United States and settled in Mount Prospect the following year. They lived at 105 S. Main Street and later at 123 S. Emerson Street and Frank Jr. graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School followed by Arlington High School in 1940. In his spare time he engaged in

competitive cycling.

Schott enlisted in the Army in November, 1942 and was sent to Signal Corps School in Lexington, KY and to Basic Training at Camp Kohler, CA.

Private Schott was a communications wire chief by the time he left the United States for the Philippines in December, 1944. He drowned off of Leyte in the Philippines on February 24, 1945.

His body was returned home in 1948 and he is buried in Ridgewood Cemetery, Des Plaines.

## **Welcome**

William J. Starr *Lieutenant Colonel, USA Retired*

## **Invocation**

*Pastor Russ Bechtold*

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

*Commander Les Durov, VFW Post 1337*

## **Medley of Patriotic Songs**

*Prospect Knights Marching Band & Honor Guard, Chris Barnum, Director*

## **America the Beautiful**

*MS Debbie Schreiner & Mt. Prospect Community Band, Monty Adams Director*

## **Keynote Speaker Director Terry Prince**

*Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs – Master Chief, USN Retired*

## **Armed Forces Salute**

*Mt Prospect Community Band, Monty Adams Director*

## **Departed American Legion Post 525**

### **Members during 2022-2023**

*Ron Vlcek USAF — American Legion Post 525*

**CHARLES C. CIRRINCIONE   HERMAN J. GARTNER   RONALD L JUMP  
NICK HONCHARUK   GERALD L FARLEY   FRED SCHUTZ   JOE SCOTELLO**

## **Departed VFW Post 1337**

### **Members & Honored Veterans during 2022-2023**

*Commander Les Durov USN—VFW Post 1337*

**OLIN N APGAR**

**VINCENT P. MIKULSKI   LAWRENCE R. NIEVES**

## **Essay Contest**

**“What Memorial Day Means to Me.”**

*Finalist announced*

## **Divine Blessings of Departed Comrades**

*Chaplain Ron Willer USA —VFW Post 1337*





### **Presentation of Flag**

*Commander Les Durov USN—VFW Post 1337*

### **Placement of Wreath**

*John "Dutch" DeGroot Master Sergeant, USAF Retired*

### **Blue Flower**

*Senior Vice Commander Jack Vrett USA — American Legion Post 525*

### **White Flower**

*Senior Vice Commander Larry Maurer USAF —VFW Post 1337*

### **Red Flower**

*Chaplain Joe Schmidt USN— American Legion Post 525*

### **3 Roses on Grave**

*Robert Mckillop Colonel, USAF Retired*

### **Special Bouquet**

*Village Mayor Paul Hoefert & Park District Executive Director, Jim Jarog*

### **Placement of Flowers**

*Local Organizations show remembrance and respect*

### **National Anthem**

*Prospect Knights Marching Band & Honor Guard*

### **Rifle Salute**

*VFW Post 1337 American Legion Post 525 Firing Detail*

### **Amazing Grace Medley**

*Kevin Chapman, Bagpiper*

### **Taps**

*The Prospect Marching Knights & Honor Guard*

### **God Bless America**

*MS Debbie Schreiner & Mt. Prospect Community Band*

### **Benediction**

*Officer Matt Bechtold, Chaplain, Mount Prospect Police & Fire Departments*

### **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Our thanks to the Village of Mount Prospect, Mount Prospect Lions Club, Mount Prospect American Legion Post 525, Prospect Moose Lodge 660, Busse Flowers for their donation of flowers, Wooden Shoe Graphics for program design, and to the Mt. Prospect Park District for their patience and concentrated efforts toward making this program successful. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525 extend a **"Thank You"** to Joe Scanlon for the crosses with the names and to Loren Helwink and Joe Schmidt for serving as Keepers of the Grounds.

## Elmer Henry Piepenbrink

Private First Class

414th Infantry

**Killed In Action: 6 March 1945 in Germany**



Elmer Piepenbrink, the eldest of Fred and Frieda Piepenbrink's four children, lived on their Rand Road farm (in Wheeling Township) in part of Mount Prospect which was not yet annexed. Born on November 3, 1920, he attended and graduated from St. Paul Lutheran School and then went to work as a laborer on the family farm.

Piepenbrink enlisted in the Army on May 5, 1944 and became part of the 414th Infantry. He was sent to Germany later that year and received a Purple Heart for non-life threatening wounds received on November 24, 1944. He recovered in a British hospital and then was sent back to the front on January 11, 1945. Less than two months later, on March 6, 1945 Private First Class Piepenbrink was killed in battle. He is buried at the St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Mount Prospect.



## Victor William Sander

Staff Sergeant, 6th Service Command and 4th Armored Division

Silver Star Recipient

**Killed In Action: 31 March 1945 in Germany**



Victor William Sander, the son of Lorenz and Frieda Sander of Northfield, became a resident of what is today Mount Prospect when he married Luella Tegtmeier on November 14, 1942.

Born on May 15, 1919, Sander had two brothers and four sisters and attended school through eighth grade. After that, he worked as a school janitor at the Farm School in Glenview. That is where he met his soon-to-be wife who was a kindergarten teacher at the school. Miss Tegtmeier had been raised on farm at 401 E. Foundry Rd. (which is now part of Mount Prospect) and she graduated from Feehanville School, the first school in today's River Trails School District 26.

Sander and his new wife lived with her parents before he enlisted in January, 1943. Luella remained with her parents when he departed, becoming a member of the Second Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

His commander, Captain Robert Langley of the 4th Armored Division, wrote to Sander's wife following his death. "The passing of your husband, S-Sgt. Victor W. Sander, who was killed in action in Germany on March 31, 1945, is such a sorrow to all of us that I find it difficult to write to you, knowing that any word of mine must be poor consolation for such a loss."

"But I believe it will mean much to you to know in what esteem he was held by his comrades – both officers and enlisted men. Victor Sander was a man whose chief concern was to see that his comrades received good leadership. They would truly have 'gone through hell' for him and with him, because they knew that he would be leading them. I have never known a man who had more completely the respect of his comrades than your husband, and I never heard him accept a responsibility for a difficult task with any other attitude than one of cheerfulness," Capt. Langley continued.

"He gave his life at a moment when superior odds and a determined enemy threatened the existence of his entire unit. Your husband was leading his platoon against a group of fanatical enemy. He bravely exposed himself to enemy fire to destroy a machine gun position that was preventing the advance of supporting elements. He succeeded in eliminating the threat to our forces, but was killed by another machine gun's fire. With this complete disregard for his own safety, he so led his men so that the enemy was overcome. In so doing, he gave up his life – the everlasting admiration and inspiration of all who worked with him. The day of victory for all of us is closer because of him and we are better men for having known him," he concluded.

Staff Sergeant Sander was buried in Stromburg, Germany and then, in 1949, moved to Memory Gardens Cemetery in Arlington Heights. Luella later married Frederick Biermann.



# Vietnam

## William Daley

**Lance Corporal, 3rd Marine Division, U.S. Marine Corps  
Killed In Action: 29 Jan. 1969 Quang Nam, South Vietnam**

William Daley, the son of Francis Daley and Mabelle Brewer of 473 Bob-O-Link Road, was born on March 6, 1949. He had one brother and two sisters and was a 1967 graduate of Evanston Township High School.

Slightly more than a year later, on August 27, 1968, Daley enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was quickly promoted to Lance Corporal with the 3rd Marine Division and was sent to fight in South Vietnam where he was a machine gunner.

Lance Cpl. Daley was killed on January 29, 1969 in Quang Nam, South Vietnam. He is buried at All Saints Catholic Cemetery in Des Plaines.



## Frank F. Gagliano

**Corporal, 4th Infantry Division, U.S. Army  
Killed In Action: 16 February 1967 Darlac, South Vietnam**



Frank F. Gagliano, son of Steve and Rose Gagliano of 1722 Rusty Drive, Mount Prospect was Mount Prospect's first casualty in Vietnam.

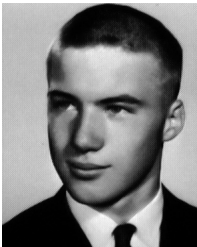
Born on November 4, 1945, Gagliano was inducted into the U.S. Army in November, 1965 and was sent to Vietnam as a corporal with the 4th Infantry Division in September, 1966. A machine gunner, he died in Darlac, South Vietnam on February 16, 1967, leaving behind a wife, Sheryl Philbin, and an infant son, Steven. Cpl. Gagliano is buried in Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, Hillside.



## David William Skibbe

**Second Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps Infantry  
Navy Cross**

**Killed In Action: 2 March 1970 Quang Nam, South Vietnam**



David William Skibbe, the son of Janet and William Skibbe, 113 N. Prospect Manor, was born on October 22, 1946. He had two sisters and one brother and his father was Mount Prospect's assistant postmaster in the mid-1960s. The family later moved to Des Plaines.

Skibbe was a 1964 graduate of Prospect High School and then went on to graduate from the University of Illinois where he was part of the Naval ROTC program. He was engaged to Georgine Tortorella.

2nd Lt. Skibbe earned the prestigious Navy Cross in Quang Nam, South Vietnam when he saved a fellow Marine by covering him with intense fire so he could be evacuated. While doing so, Skibbe was severely wounded by gunfire in the ankle. While being lifted to a helicopter to be evacuated, the helicopter hoist apparatus malfunctioned and Lt. Skibbe fell more than 80 feet -- through the jungle canopy -- to his death on March 2, 1970. Afterward, St. Mark Lutheran Church named its gymnasium after him.

After long being listed as "Missing in Action," Lt. Skibbe is now buried in the Honolulu Memorial Cemetery.



# Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) Added to Memorial 2019

## Chris J. Scherkenbach

Chief Warrant Officer 4, U.S. Army

3rd Bn, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)

Killed in Action: June 28, 2005 in Eastern Afghanistan



CW4 Chris Scherkenbach, the son of Elmer and Marjorie Scherkenbach, 800 S. Maple St., was born Nov. 3, 1964, the youngest of eight children. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1982.



When Scherkenbach's mother and father (a decorated B17 pilot in the Army Air Forces during World War II) retired and moved from Mount Prospect to Florida, they took their son with them. There he enlisted in the Army in April, 1987 as a communication specialist, and was initially stationed in Germany.

He graduated from the Warrant Officer Program at Fort Rucker, AL in 1990 and then attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course and Initial Entry Rotary Wing training.

After completing his CH-47D aircraft qualifications, CW4 Scherkenbach was assigned to the 159th Aviation Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, GA. In 1994 he was assigned to Camp Humphreys, Korea as a CH-47D Chinook pilot. After completing his tour in Korea, he returned to the 159th Aviation Regiment. His final assignment was the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, also known as the Night Stalkers.

His awards and decorations included the Air Medal 4, Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal w/Bronze Service Star, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal w/ Bronze Service Star, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (w/numeral 2), and the Senior Army Aviator Badge.

CW4 Scherkenbach was also posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Valor device, the Combat Action Badge and the Master Army Aviator Badge.

He had also graduated magna cum laude from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University at Daytona Beach, Fla. with a B.S. in Professional Aeronautics in 2003.

Scherkenbach, 40, died as part of "Operation Red Wings," an elite rescue mission consisting of eight soldiers and eight U.S. Navy SEALs deployed to save four SEALs captured or killed by Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Members of the 16-member rescue team were killed after an enemy's rocket-propelled grenade downed the Chinook helicopter carrying them over the mountains in eastern Afghanistan. One of the four Navy SEALs they were attempting to rescue did survive.

"It (the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment) is one of the most physically and mentally demanding assignments for Army aviators," said 160th SOAR (A) Cmdr. Col. Kevin Mangum after the incident. "We have tough, realistic training and routinely conduct hazardous missions under challenging conditions, both day and night and in all weather. We all know the risks."

He left behind a wife, Michelle, and daughter, Sarah, living in Jacksonville, FL.

CW4 Scherkenbach was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

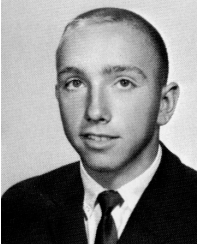
# Peacetime Casualties

## Alan Koehler

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

**VA-128 Attack Squadron, "The Golden Intruders"**

**Died: Sept. 19, 1973 near Christmas Valley, OR**



Lieutenant Alan Koehler, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Koehler, 113 N. Maple St., was born August 15, 1946. He graduated from Prospect High School in 1964 and attended Luther College in Decorah, IA.

He enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 24, 1968, at the height of the Vietnam conflict.

In September, 1973, as a 27-year-old pilot. Lt. Koehler and his navigator, Lt. Commander Philip D. duHamel, 33, were forced to eject from their Navy Grumman A-6A Intruder plane over the Oregon desert, approximately 25 miles southeast of Christmas Valley, during a low level night training mission out of Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Washington. Both men were killed.

The cause of the accident remains unknown as no one witnessed it, but the plane broke apart with scattered debris spanning an area over three-quarters of a mile in length.

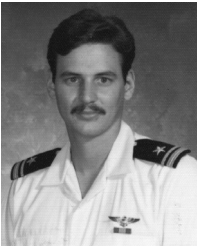
In June, 2007, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officially declared the crash scene an historic Federal Government site at a Flag Day ceremony. An interpretive plaque was unveiled during this event reflecting this designation and depicting the historical significance of the location.

## Michael Stanley Tolf

Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

**VA-176 Attack Squadron, "Thunderbolts"**

**Died: May 17, 1979 in plane crash over Caribbean Sea**



Lieutenant Michael Tolf was born February, 27, 1953. He was the son of Stanley and Lois (Ayasse) Tolf, 810 Deborah Lane. The family moved to Mount Prospect in 1967.

The Tolf family belonged to St. Mark Lutheran Church and Michael graduated from Forest View High School in 1970. He then went on to the Illinois Institute of Technology where he earned a Bachelors degree in mechanical engineering in 1974. While there, he became involved in the Naval ROTC program.

Michael enlisted in the Navy shortly after graduation, on July 8, 1974, and trained as a pilot at NAS Meridian in Mississippi. Five years later, on May 17, 1979, he and his navigator, Lt. Earl C. Grabus Jr., were lost when their A6-E Intruder fueling jet disappeared from radar while on a training mission from the USS Independence aircraft carrier off of Puerto Rico. Michael was 26.

He left behind a wife, Sandra Nadine Bach, also of Mount Prospect, and two children, Michael and Heather.

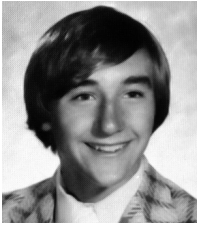
## Barry Richard Chumbley

Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force

**Died: 26 February 1981 over South China Sea**

Barry Richard Chumbley, son of Zuda Foster, was born on December 25, 1947 in Pulaski, Kentucky.

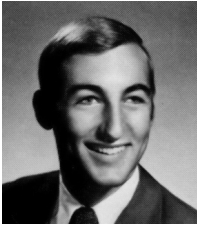
His home of record when he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on May 22, 1966 and again on May 23, 1978 was Mount Prospect. Technical Master Sergeant Chumbley was one of 16 service members lost on February 26, 1981 when his plane went down over the South China Sea. The incident only had one survivor.



**Glen Edward Miller**  
**Lieutenant, U.S. Navy**  
**6152 Test Squadron**  
**Died: 18 August 1984—lost over Indian Ocean**

Glen Edward Miller of Mount Prospect was born on August 5, 1958 and graduated from Prospect High School in 1976.

As a lieutenant with the United States Navy, Miller was affiliated with the 6152 Test Squadron, stationed at Coronado Island, San Diego, CA. He was lost over the Indian Ocean on August 18, 1984.



**Michael John Keane**  
**Major, U.S. Air Force**  
**Died: 22 May 1987**  
**near Edwards Air Force Base, CA**

The son of Donald and Carol Keane, 104 N. Waverly Place, Michael John Keane was born in Indiana on October 11, 1954. He had one brother, Paul, and graduated from Prospect High School in 1972. He went on to graduate second in his class at

the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976 and then earned a Master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Princeton University.

After completing his education, Keane went on to become a test pilot. In 1985 he was selected as the only American that year to attend the exclusive "Empire Test Pilots School" in England and even became the first American in 20 years to win the school's McKenna Trophy for the top graduate. Major Keane hoped to eventually pilot the Space Shuttle but the Challenger crash derailed those hopes.

On May 22, 1987 Major Keane and his co-pilot were killed when their T-38 Talon training jet collided in mid-air with a private plane taking aerial photographs of the surrounding terrain. Two civilians were also killed.



**Ronald Dean Odom**  
**Private First Class, U.S. Army**  
**Died: 28 May 1984**

Private First Class Ronald Dean Odom, son of Michael and Diane Odom of 1318 Columbine Drive, Mount Prospect, was born June 21, 1963. He had two sisters.

A Fire Support Specialist in the Army, PFC Odom was killed in a car accident on May 28, 1984 while home on leave. He is buried in Wheeling Township Cemetery in Arlington Heights.



**Przemyslaw Mazur**  
**Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army**  
**Died: 09 MAY 2011**

Staff Sergeant Przemyslaw Mazur was born 12 April 1978 in Poland. Son, Brother and Father. spending much of his early years in Mount Prospect. Enlisting in the Army 29 August 2000 an airborne combat medic with deployments to Iraq. He died shortly after he came home from deployment near Fort Bragg, NC.

# Military Decorations

Some of the military members on our memorial received decorations for defending our country. At the time of the dedication these are the decorations of which we are aware.

## Navy Cross



The Navy Cross is the second highest military decoration that may be awarded to a member of the United States Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, (and to members of the Coast Guard when operating under the authority of the Department of the Navy). It is awarded for extraordinary heroism:

While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;

While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Navy Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor. The Navy Cross is equivalent to the Distinguished Service Cross (Army) and the Air Force Cross (Air Force).

## Silver Star



The Silver Star is the third-highest military combat decoration that can be awarded to a member of the United States Armed Forces. It is awarded for gallantry in action:

While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;

While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Actions that merit the Silver Star must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not merit award of the Medal of Honor or a Service Cross (Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross).

## Distinguished Flying Cross



The Distinguished Flying Cross is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Military of the United States, distinguished himself or herself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight. The performance of the act of heroism must be evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty. The extraordinary achievement must have resulted in an accomplishment so exceptional and outstanding as to clearly set the individual apart from his or her comrades or from other persons in similar circumstances. Awards will be made only to recognize single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement and will not be made in recognition of sustained operational activities against an armed enemy.

## Purple Heart



The PH is awarded in the name of the President of the United States and, in accordance with 10 USC 1131, effective 19 May 1998, is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, have been wounded, were killed, or who have died or may hereafter die of wounds received under various circumstances.

**Honor Your Military Member  
at the  
The Mount Prospect Veterans Memorial**

Please take a moment to visit the beautiful Veterans Memorial located adjacent to the Veterans Memorial Band Shell.

The memorial has 25 columns with a limited number of bricks *available for purchase* to be engraved with a personal message. A star-shaped water fountain is at the center. The entire site is surrounded by landscaping to provide a serene and peaceful backdrop for this important monument.

The completion of this memorial is the culmination of work that began in the 1990s with a grassroots fundraising effort to build the Veterans Memorial Band Shell. The band shell, dedicated in 1999, was presented by Mt. Prospect Parks Foundation in partnership with the Mt. Prospect Park District. To purchase a brick contact the park district.



**The VFW and American Legion Posts of Mount Prospect**

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1337 and American Legion Post 525 are dedicated to our country and our community. The service of these members did not end with the military. They continue to serve by helping other veterans, active duty service members and educating our younger generation on the pride of being an American. Former military members are encouraged to join our fine organizations.