INTRODUCTION

Young Tommy Alston in World War II helped liberate a French town that he described as "the greatest day of his life". He was wounded and mailed home to his mother his "Purple Heart Medal" with a letter saying that he intended to wear the medal in the Denton parade at the end of the War.

Unfortunately, soon thereafter he was killed in action in the Battle of the Bulge. Today on a pole near the Courthouse entrance in Denton where the parade that Tommy anticipated would have passed, Tommy's sacrifice is commemorated on one of some 25 street banners.

Tommy's service is not unusual in Caroline County: Caroline is nationally significant in having someone in every major war in American history, plus every major battle save one, involving the U.S. military.

No county in America can exceed this record. Think your county can match Caroline? Start by finding local residents who fought at the Halls of Montezuma (Mexican War); the Battle of New Orleans (War of 1812) or the charge up San Juan Hill (Spanish American War). The latter was where five Caroline men from American Corner were killed in action (KIA).

To commemorate the sacrifice and dedication for Caroline residents in wartime and peace, the Caroline County Historical Society, with critical funding from the Mid-Shore Veterans Group and work by the Town of Denton, has designed and hung colorful banners along Market Street plus the Visitor Center in Denton.

Streetside banners are no longer unusual, but the Denton banners, based on years of careful research by the Society, are unique. In addition to names, photos, hometown, and artwork, they include Blacks and Whites, men and women, and most important, representatives from every section of the county.

Second, the banners cover over 350 years of Caroline's military sacrifice. They start with the combat death of a local cavalryman (who lived near present-day Preston) in an Indian-settler war in 1667; and cover every war to the present Middle East conflicts.

Third, the banners tell you where the people were, the battle they were in, what the people did and what happened to them. The latter ranges from KIA, WIA, MIA, POW, disease, accidental death, and homicide. Unless specified, some made a "safe" return home from their arduous and heroic service to Country.

Finally, Tommy's story exposes one naked truth about either wartime or peacetime military service to our nation: all service members dream of better times, but even short-term dreams of homecoming can be instantly and tragically extinguished. And that is why we honor all veterans.

The Veterans Banners are meant to be displayed around patriotic holidays like Veterans Day and Memorial Day. During these periods, a walk down Market Street in Denton to view these unusual banners is an educational, inspiring, and memorable experience.

J.O.K. Walsh

Vietnam Veteran, and
President, Caroline County Historical Society
12 N 2nd Street
Denton, MD 21629

410-310-1307

November 2, 2020

APPENDIX:

WALSH FAMILY HOUSE BANNERS

INTRODUCTION

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J.O.K. Walsh

Vietnam Veteran, and
President, Caroline County Historical Society
12 N 2nd Street
Denton, MD 21629

410-310-1307

November 2, 2020

Kathy Mackel
804-337-3379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: royce ball <royceball@me.com>
Date: March 11, 2020 at 8:41:30 AM EDT
To: Kathy Mackel <Kathymackl@aol.com>
Subject: Please share with JOK

Please see the attached letter postponing our Veterans parade. I can't thank you and JOK enough for the support over the past six months. When the banners go up please let me know, I want to see the finished product proudly displayed.

I'll be around town and hope to see you soon.

Save the Bay, Royce Ball
Mid Shore Veterans Group

Kathy Mackel
804-337-3379

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: royce ball <royceball@me.com>
Date: March 2, 2020 at 5:15:13 PM EST
To: Kathy Mackel <Kathymackl@aol.com>
Cc: Bruce Wakefield <cpr.bruce@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Surprise

My feeling is that you and JOK can have whatever you wish as far as this is concerned. I would rely on both of you to find this person. Larry Hansel of the Purple Heart is a Korean War Vet. He told me he would attend the honor ceremony but another "post" from the western Shore is going to be in the parade. Larry's phone is 410.533.9023 or 410.479.9168, and he is a Denton resident. His email is hanselmary7@gmail.com Tell him I sent you. I don't know who has a car to put him in.

Now, as you know, nothing is free. I'm am now asking JOK to be our keynote speaker at the Honor Ceremony. No more than 5-10 minutes. The speech should be what we owe our Veterans and what we have today thanks to them. I know JOK can do this. AND I still expect you to be in the parade. What say you?

Bruce - I know you're good with this.

On Mar 2, 2020, at 5:00 PM, Kathy Mackel <kathymackl@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Royce and Bruce,

JOK has managed to come up for air today... been incredibly busy... and here is what he states:

Kathy and I are honored for consideration as "Grand Marshals" for the parade. However, I think it would be more appropriate to use on a more deserving..., Korean War veterans. They have never received proper recognition for this service and sacrifice. Would that be acceptable to you? We would be happy to coordinate and find a few of these deserving veterans to be the Grand Marshal.

Please advise, and again, our heartfelt appreciation for this honor.
Sincerely,

JOK Walsh and Kathy Mackel

From: royce ball <royceball@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Kathy Mackel <kathymackl@aol.com>
Cc: Bruce Wakefield <cpr.bruce@gmail.com>
Subject: Surprise

Kathy and JOK - Bruce and I have finished reviewing a very short list of candidates to be Grand Marshall of the first annual "Denton Honors Our Veterans Parade". Two names were at the top, yours and JOK's. Congratulations - both of you will be representing Denton as Co-Grand Marshalls of this event. We're trying to find a convertible for you to ride in, and maybe you know someone who has one and would be willing to drive you. Again, Congratulations!

P.S. There was no list.

Save the Bay, Royce Ball
Mid Shore Veterans Group

Virus-free. www.avast.com

Save the Bay, Royce Ball
Mid Shore Veterans Group

Kathy Mackel

Subject: FW: Welcome back and...
Attachments: PARADE REGISTRATION X (002).pdf; Untitled attachment 06487.html

From: royce ball <royceball@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Kathy Mackel <kathymackl@aol.com>
Cc: Bruce Wakefield <cpr.bruce@gmail.com>
Subject: Welcome back and...

A couple of loose ends

1) Have you selected a Grand Marshall yet? If it's Larry Hansel have you contacted him?

2) Please fill out the attached application to be in the parade. You can email or snail mail back to me. Do you have access to a convertible? We may have one for you but we're not certain and won't know for a day or two.

3) I need to make arrangements to have chairs brought over from the museum on parade day at +/- 4:00 p.m. And then returned afterwards. There is an operations meeting on March 25th at 1:00 at Town Hall. If you and/or JOK would like to attend, all details are being discussed.

4) Is JOK committed to be keynote speaker? I need to write the program for the Honor Ceremony.

I can't think of anything else right now but let's keep talking. You and JOK have been a big part of this event.



MID- SHORE VETERANS GROUP

...helping needy Veterans in any way we can...

A Fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation

To All Entries of the First Annual
"Denton Honors Our Veterans Parade"

March 11, 2020

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the decision to postpone the Denton Honors Our Veterans parade.

In this time of uncertainty, when we are being asked by our State and National leaders to be prudent and exercise caution regarding the current health situation, the Mid Shore Veterans Group will not pursue an activity that may potentially cause serious illness to bystanders and participants.

This decision does not come lightly as many people were looking forward to the opportunity to say thank you and honor our local Veterans.

Please keep this event in mind, as we will announce another date as soon as this health issue has abated.

Many thanks for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Royce Ball Co- Founder

Royce Ball Co-Founder 443.995.5908 Marion Gannon CoFounder410.924.5323 www.msvg.org

Not affiliated with Wounded Warriors or any Government Agency

The Mid-Shore Community Foundation is a public foundation designated as a 501(c)(3) charity. Gifts to the Mid-Shore Veterans Group are fully tax-deductible as allowable by law. A copy of MSCF's financial statement is available on our web site www.mscf.org or by calling 410-820-8175. Information about MSCF requested under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act can be obtained from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401.

The Bullitt House 102 E. Dover Street Easton, MD 21601 Phone 410.820.8175 Fax 410.820.8729 www.mscf.org

CAROLINE HEROS

CHARLES
DEAN
(Ridgely)



KIA, 101st ABN. 1966
"A FRIENDLY MORTAR SHELL"
Vietnam War

CLAYTON
BLACKISTON
(Denton)



Aboard Battleship Indiana
BATTLE OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, 1898
Spanish American War

ALAN
SANDS
(Bethlehem)



KIA in hedgerows
BATTLE OF NORMANDY, 1944
World War Two

AARON
HARDCASTLE
(Denton)



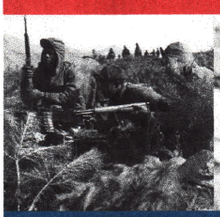
Opened the
BATTLE OF SHILOH, 1862
Civil War

DAVID
SINGER
(Denton)



KIA, Artilleryman
INVASION OF GERMANY, 1944
World War Two

KENNETH
FLAMER
(Union Corner)



KIA fighting near
HEARTBREAK RIDGE, 1952
Korean War

WILLIAM HANDSOME
HOUSE
(Ridgely)



Helo Pilot KIA
VIETNAM, 1964

ROBERTS
BURROWS
(Denton)



KIA, 5th Tour "Blue Team"
RECON & RESCUE AIR CAVALRY, 1970
Vietnam War

MANNIE
RUIZ
(Federalsburg)



KIA as a
HELO PARAMEDIC DOING RESCUE, 2007
Iraq War

WAYNE
CAWLEY
(Denton)



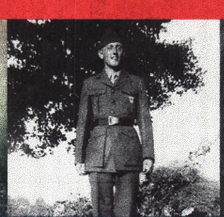
Parachuted into
NORMANDY D-DAY, 1944
World War Two

JOHN
CAMPBELL
(Denton)



at the
BATTLE OF FALLUJAH, 2004
Iraq War

CARL
CLAUSLER
(Federalsburg)



KIA, Saved Comrades
BATTLE OF IWO JIMA, 1944
World War Two

GORDON LEE
LAWRENCE
(Federalsburg)



KIA in the
TET OFFENSIVE 1968
Vietnam War

IRWIN
JOPP
(Denton)



KIA at
BATTLE OF ST. MICHIEL, 1918
World War One

LOUISE
HOLLISTER
(Hillsboro)

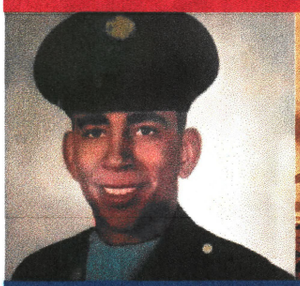


Died in Fiji Islands, 1943
NURSED WOUNDED OF GUADALCANAL
World War Two

Salute to our Veterans

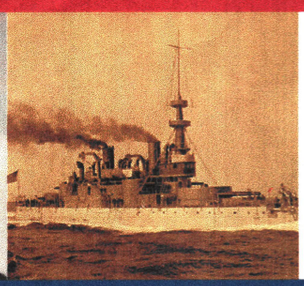
CAROLINE HEROS

CHARLES
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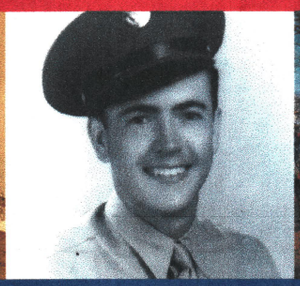
KIA, 101st ABN. 1966
"A FRIENDLY MORTAR SHELL"
Vietnam War

CLAYTON
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Aboard Battleship Indiana
BATTLE OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, 1898
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SANDS
(Bethlehem)



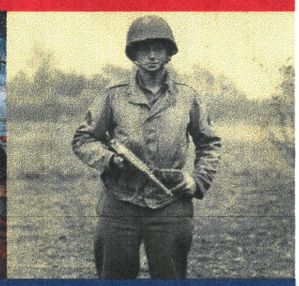
KIA in hedgerows
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World War Two

AARON
HARDCASTLE
(Denton)



Opened the
BATTLE OF SHILOH, 1862
Civil War

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KIA, Artilleryman
INVASION OF GERMANY, 1944
World War Two

KENNETH
FLAMER
(Union Corner)



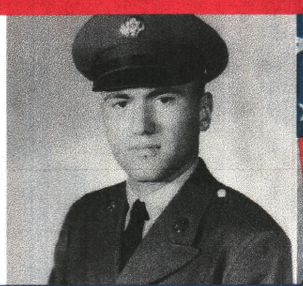
KIA fighting near
HEARTBREAK RIDGE, 1952
Korean War

WILLIAM HANDSOME
HOUSE
(Ridgely)



Helo Pilot KIA
VIETNAM, 1964

ROBERTS
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(Denton)



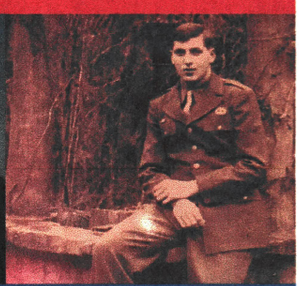
KIA, 5th Tour "Blue Team"
RECON & RESCUE AIR CAVALRY, 1970
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Iraq War

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CAWLEY
(Denton)



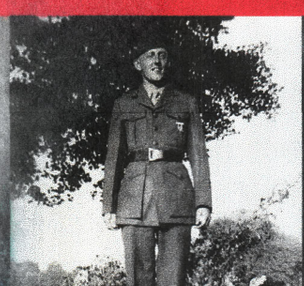
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CLAUSLER
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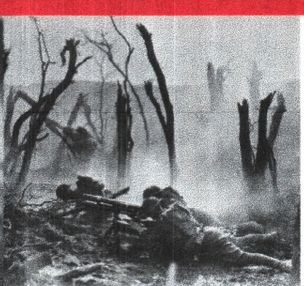
KIA, Saved Comrades
BATTLE OF IWO JIMA, 1944
World War Two

GORDON LEE
LAWRENCE
(Federalsburg)



KIA in the
TET OFFENSIVE 1968
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IRWIN
JOPP
(Denton)



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World War One

LOUISE
HOLLISTER
(Hillsboro)



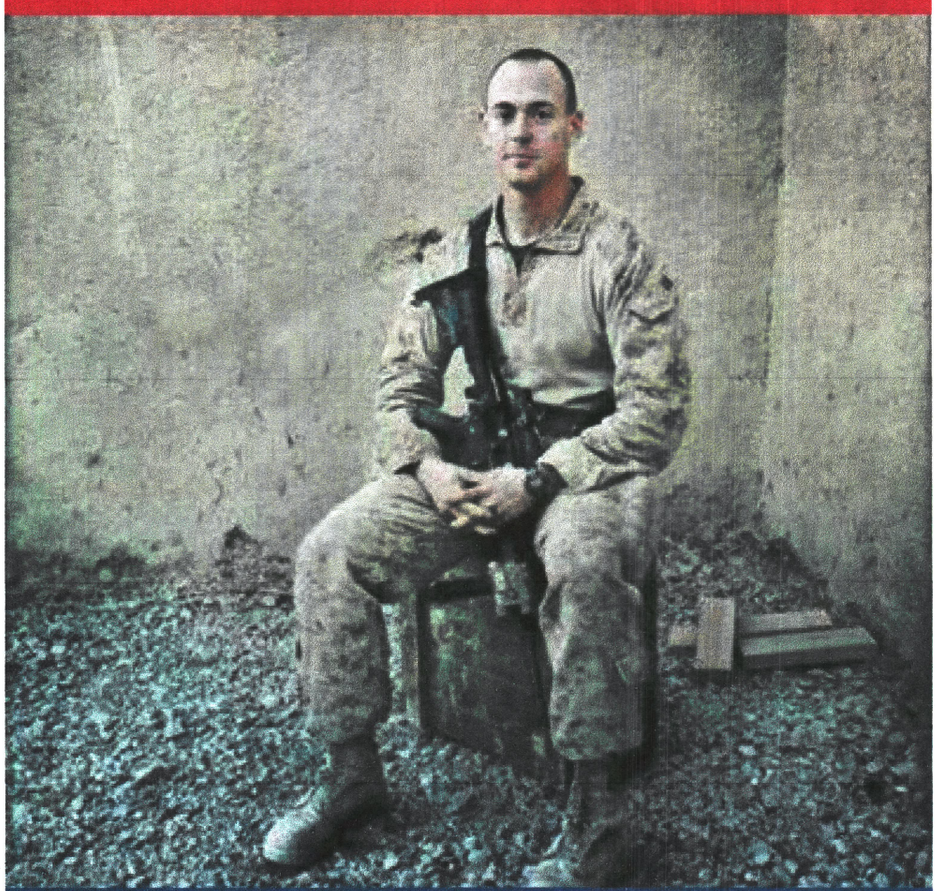
Died in Fiji Islands, 1943
NURSED WOUNDED OF GUADALCANAL
World War Two

Salute to our Veterans

Extra Copy

CAROLINE HERO

JOHN CAMPBELL (Denton)



at the

BATTLE OF FALLUJAH, 2004

Iraq War

CAROLINE HERO

NORMAN
BAYNARD
(Denton)



"Buffalo Soldier" wounded

MEUSE-ARGONNE CAMPAIGN, 1918

World War One

CAROLINE HERO

LOUISE HOLLISTER
(Hillsboro)



Died in Fiji Islands, 1943

NURSED WOUNDED OF GUADALCANAL

World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

GEORGE CARMINE (Preston)



Navy Cross for

ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE

World War One

CAROLINE HERO

JAMES OLIVER CARROLL (Hillsboro)



Died as POW

BATTLE OF CORREGIDOR, 1942

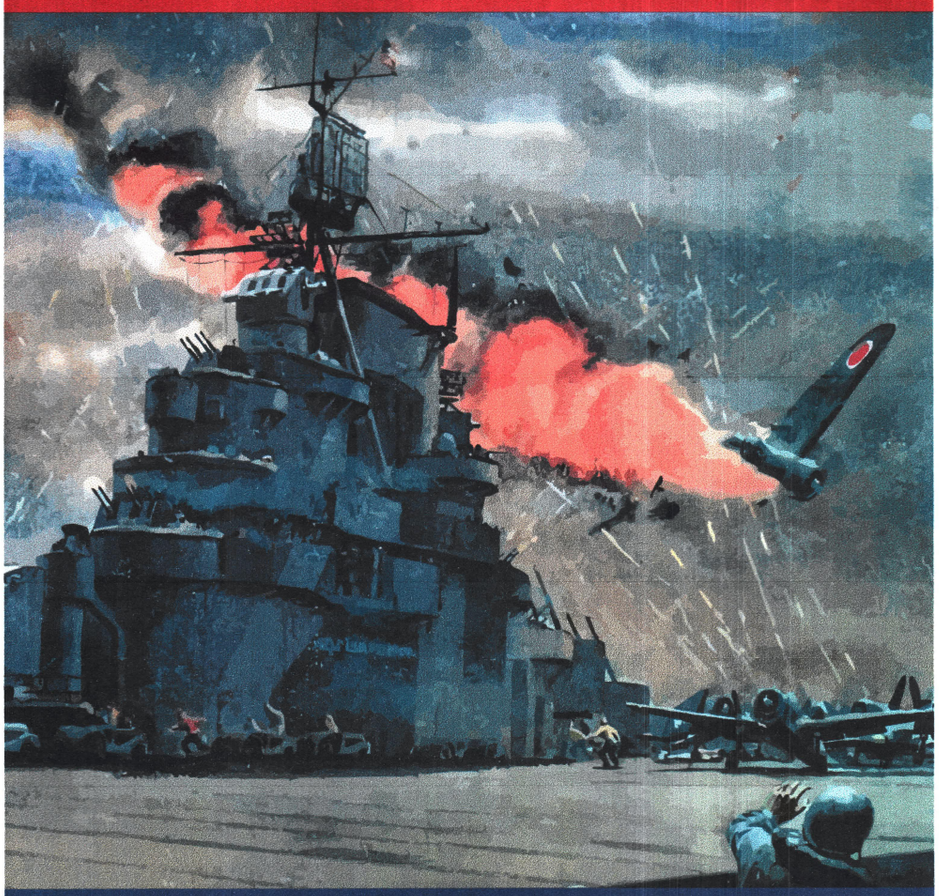
World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

HARVEY

PORTER

(Ridgely)



KIA, USS New Mexico

KAMIKAZE HIT BATTLESHIP, 1945

World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

WAYNE
CAWLEY
(Denton)



Parachuted into

NORMANDY
D-DAY, 1944

World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

MARY
TODD
(Preston)



Died nursing in

INFLUENZA
PANDEMIC, 1918

World War One

CAROLINE HERO

HOWARD HOPKINS (Preston)



KIA in Italy

BATTLE OF MONTE CASSINO, 1944

World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

IRWIN
JOPP
(Denton)



KIA at

BATTLE OF ST. MICHIEL, 1918

World War One

CAROLINE HERO

TOMMY

ALSTON

(Denton)



KIA

BATTLE OF THE BULGE, 1945

World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

JOSEPH TOULSON
(Federalsburg)



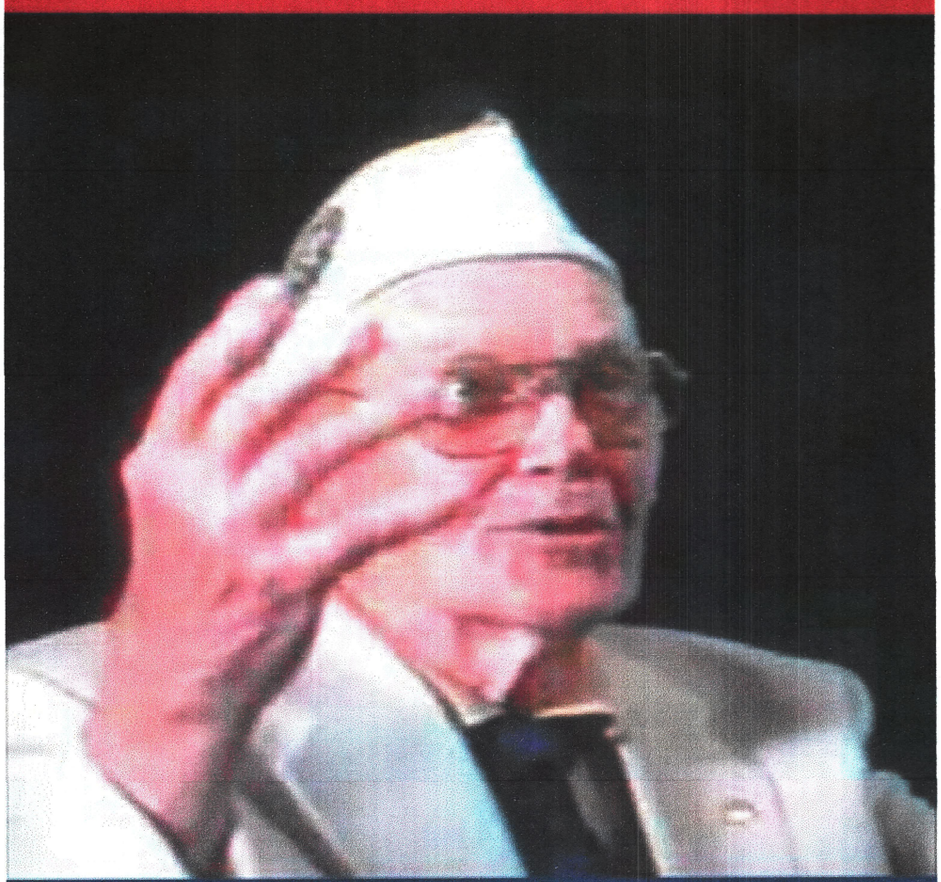
KIA Saving Town

BELLEAU WOOD, 1918

World War One

CAROLINE HERO

TOMMY
MORRIS
(Greensboro)



WIA on battleship

ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, 1941

World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

AARON
HARDCASTLE
(Denton)



Opened the

BATTLE OF
SHILOH, 1862

Civil War

CAROLINE HERO

KENNETH
FLAMER
(Union Corner)



KIA fighting near

HEARTBREAK RIDGE, 1952

Korean War

CAROLINE HERO

THOMAS HAWKINS (Hillsboro)



MEN OF COLOR

TO ARMS! TO ARMS!

NOW OR NEVER

This is our golden moment! The Government of the United States calls for every Able-bodied Colored Man to enter the Army for the

Three Years' Service!

And join in Fighting the Battles of Liberty and the Union. A new era is open to us. For generations we have suffered under the horrors of slavery, outrage and wrong; our manhood has been denied, our citizenship blasted, our sons murdered and burned, our spirits cowed and crushed, and the hopes of the future of our race involved in doubt and darkness. But now our relations to the white race are changed. Now, therefore, is our most precious moment. Let us rush to arms!

FAIL NOW, & OUR RACE IS DOOMED

ARE FREEMEN LESS BRAVE THAN SLAVES

KIA, Colored Troops, Ft. Gilmor

ATTACK ON RICHMOND, 1864

Civil War

CAROLINE HERO

JAMES R.
HOPKINS
(Henderson)



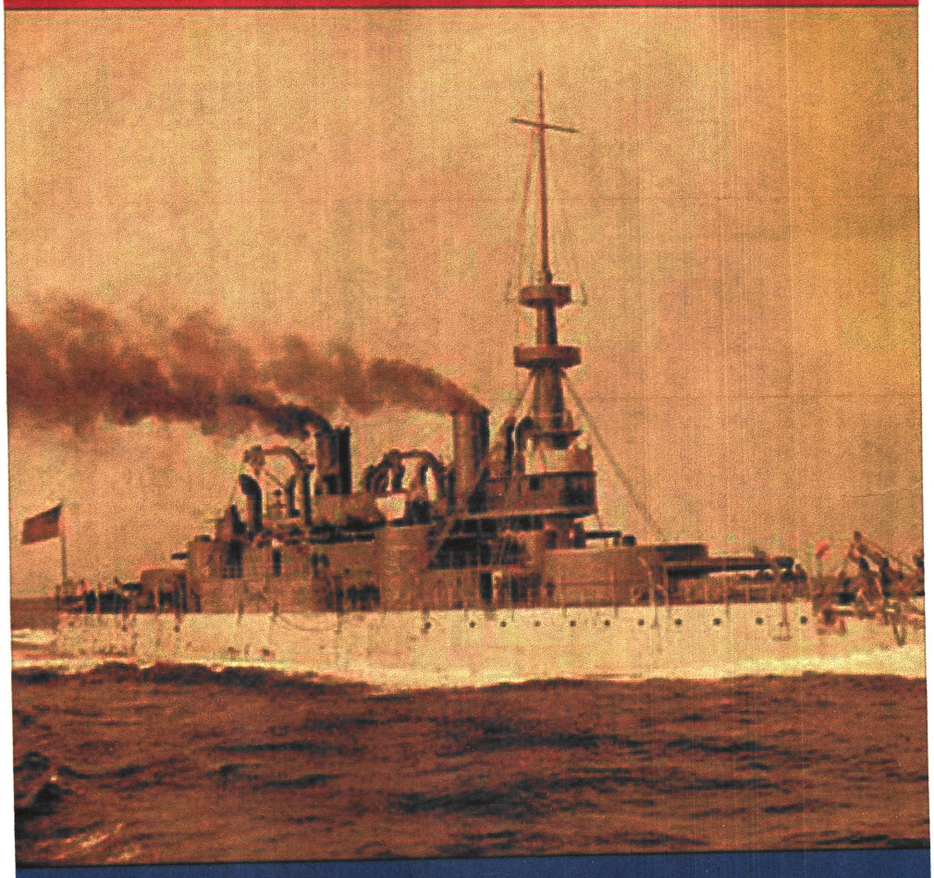
KIA

CHINESE SPRING OFFENSIVE, 1951

Korean War

CAROLINE HERO

CLAYTON BLACKISTON (Denton)



Aboard Battleship Indiana

BATTLE OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, 1898

Spanish American War

CAROLINE HERO

CARL
CLAUSLER
(Federalsburg)



KIA, Saved Comrades

BATTLE OF IWO JIMA, 1944

World War Two

CAROLINE HERO

E.L.F.

HARDCASTLE

(Denton)



at the

HALLS OF MONTEZUMA, 1847

Mexican War

CAROLINE HERO

Q.R. WALSH (Denton)



U.S. Marine

INVASION OF SANTO DOMINGO, 1965

Dominican Civil War

CAROLINE HERO

GEORGE
WAGGAMAN
(Preston Area)



at the

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

War of 1812

CAROLINE HERO

ALBERT
POTTER
(Goldsboro)



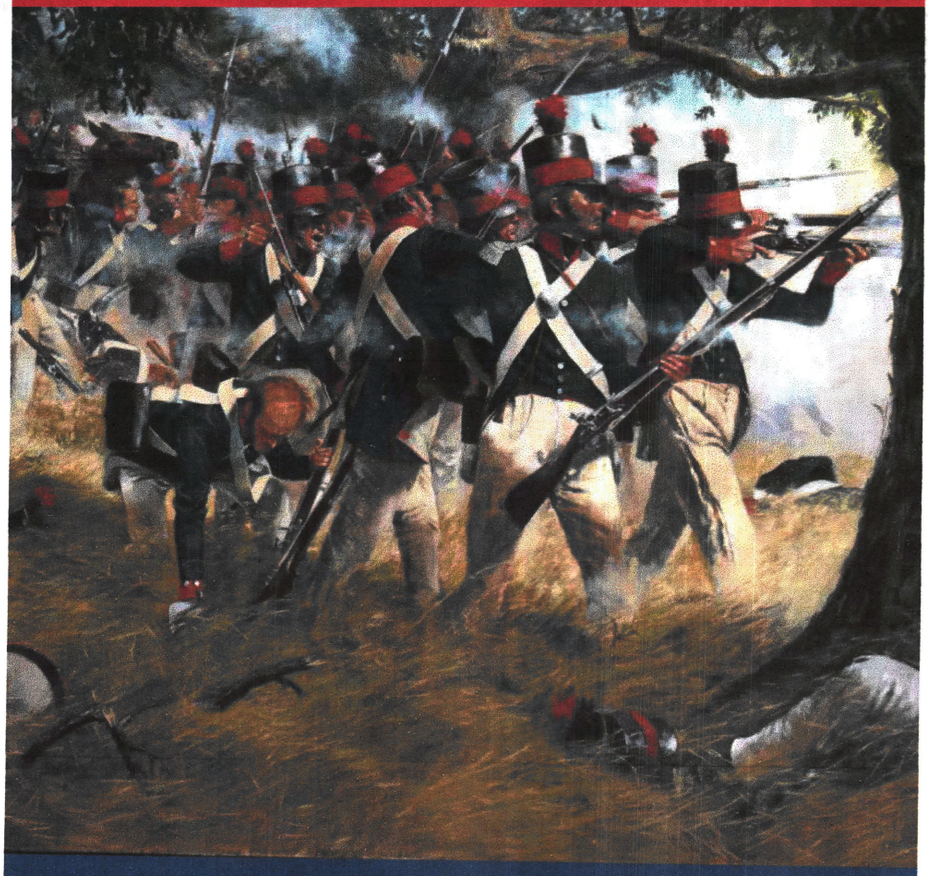
KIA, 173 BDE, 1966

AIRBORNE
"SKY SOLDIER"

Vietnam War

CAROLINE HERO

JOHN
YOUNG
(Denton)



Led Battalion

BATTLE OF
BALTIMORE, 1814

War of 1812

CAROLINE HERO

CHARLES DEAN (Ridgely)



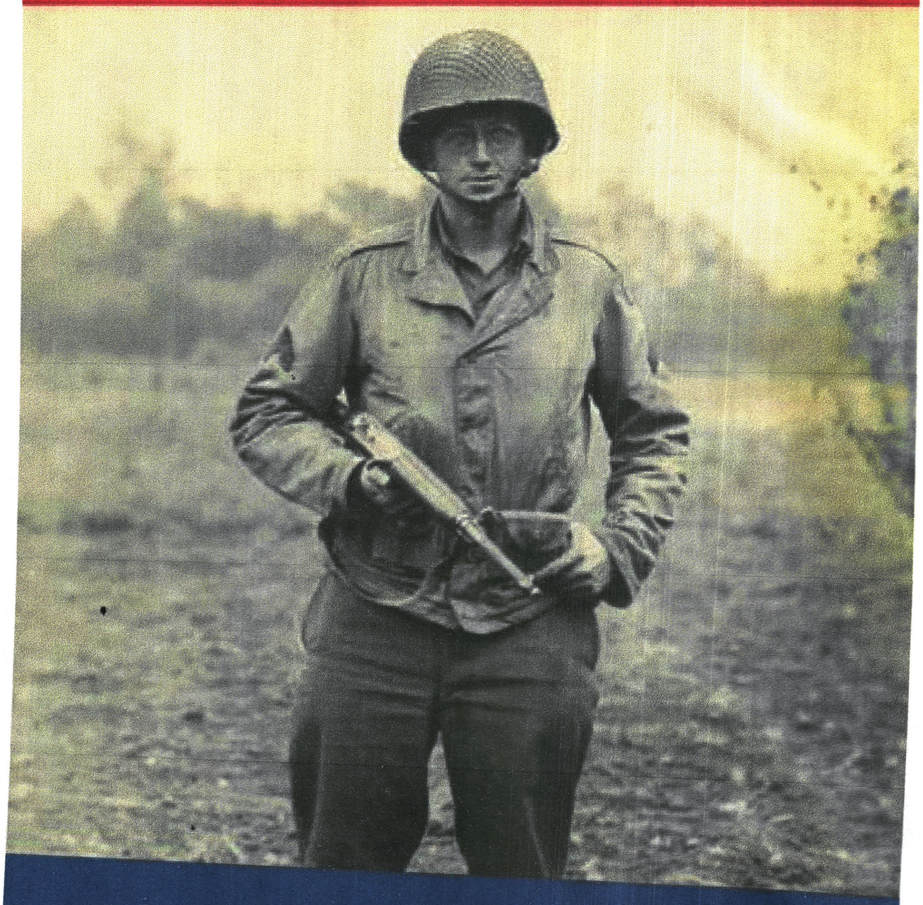
KIA, 101st ABN. 1966

"A FRIENDLY MORTOR SHELL"

Vietnam War

CAROLINE HERO

DAVID
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KIA, Artilleryman

INVASION OF GERMANY, 1944

World War Two