

# **Pulaski Academy & Central School**

## **Alumni Wall of Distinction**



**May 27, 2024**

**“Alumni who gave their lives to defend our nation”**

## **Wall of Distinction Committee**

**Jack Jennings, '85, Chairman**

**Gina Petrocci Brandano, '02**

**Martha Leib Carnes, '87**

**Shawn Doyle, '84**

**Kenneth Isgar, '01**

**Jennifer Craig Monnat, '86**

Fellow PACS Alumni:

On behalf of the Pulaski Alumni Association and Wall of Distinction Committee, I am proud to announce that the inaugural honorees on the newly created PACS Wall of Distinction are the fifteen fallen heroes who left our school and village to defend freedom. The Committee felt that they should indeed be the first inducted. A special thanks to the Half-Shire Historical Society for gathering the important biographies of our fallen classmates and publishing them in this booklet.

Moving forward, the committee will begin the process of reviewing applications and announcing next year's class of inductees. Nomination forms and more information can be found on the Pulaski Alumni Association web page:

<https://ny50000416.schoolwires.net/domain/178>

The Wall of Distinction will be housed at Pulaski High School. Plaques honoring the inductees will be displayed outside the auditorium in the main lobby.

Jack Jennings

Wall of Distinction Committee Chair

PACS Class of 1985

# **Memorial Day Commemoration, Pulaski South Park**

**10 am, Monday May 27, 2024**

**Pulaski Veterans of Foreign Wars/Robert Edwards American Legion Program**

**Welcome and Introductions.....Timothy Gilliam  
Commander, Pulaski Veterans of Foreign Wars**

**Invocation.....Pastor Brett Charski**

**Welcome.....Jan Tighe, Mayor of Pulaski**

**Guest Speaker.....CW4 Mark Pfluger, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Combat Aviation Brigade**

**Pulaski School Wall of Distinction Unveiling..... Tom Jennings  
Superintendent, Pulaski Academy & Central School**

**Star Spangled Banner.....Pulaski High School Chorus  
Led by Amy Mumford**

**Benediction..... Pastor Brett Charski**

**Placing of the Wreaths in the Salmon River.....VFW Honor Guard**

**Placing of Wreaths at South Park Monuments.....VFW Honor Guard**

**Placing of Wreaths at North Park Monuments.....VFW Honor Guard**

**Dedication of new All Wars Memorial Monument, North Park.....VFW Honor Guard**

**Parade to the Pulaski Village Cemetery**

**Placing of Wreath at Flagpole and Ceremony in Cemetery**

**Honor Guard service at the Cemetery**

*Following the Parade and ceremonies at the cemetery the Pulaski VFW cordially invites everyone to stop by the hall on Salina Street for refreshments*

**Timothy Gilliam, Pulaski Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander  
David Walker, Robert Edwards American Legion Commander**

# **Letter From Pulaski Academy and Central School Superintendent**

**Thomas Jennings, '90**

Dear Pulaski Academy & Central School District Community,

On behalf of the Pulaski Academy & Central School District, it is with deep reverence and gratitude that I announce a special tribute to five of this year's fifteen Alumni Wall of Distinction Honorees who walked the halls of Pulaski schools, answered the call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, but never received a diploma.

In recognition of their selfless service and unwavering dedication, we will be awarding high school diplomas posthumously to the following heroes at this year's graduation ceremony:

Robert Edwards, Class of 1912

William P. Green, Class of 1938

Michael A. Potish, Class of 1939

Jack F. Davies, Class of 1941

Bradford R. Galbraith, Class of 1942

This inaugural class of the PACS Wall of Distinction is truly special. Each of these brave souls has a unique and poignant story, woven into the fabric of our community and the history of our nation. From their days as students in Pulaski schools to their voluntary commitment to defend our freedoms in times of conflict, their legacy of courage and sacrifice inspires us all.

With Respect,

Tom Jennings, Superintendent, Class of 1990

**The Honorees:**

**Daniel Joseph Burdick, class of 1966**

**Charles Eveard Clement, class of 1942**

**Mac Rockwell Corwin, class of 1935**

**Jack Francis Davies, member of the class of 1941**

**Robert Rollin Edwards member of the class of 1912**

**Bradford Ralph Galbraith, member of the class of 1942**

**Larry Herbert Gallagher, class of 1966**

**Francis Benton Gayne, class of 1939**

**William Porter Green, member of the class of 1938**

**Michael Albert Potish, member of the class of 1939**

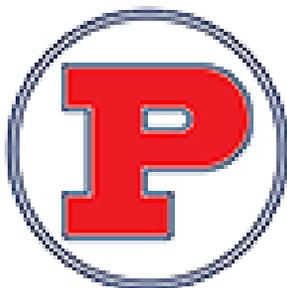
**Joseph Clifford Rule, class of 1935**

**Douglas Franklin Spath, class of 1941**

**Robert James Spencer, class of 1944**

**Wilbur Leon Valley, class of 1935**

**Robert Grant Wilson, class of 1964**



# Daniel Joseph Burdick

(November 23, 1948-December 3, 1968)

Daniel was born in Oswego on November 23, 1948, to the late Robert Burdick (January 7, 1917-January 22, 2001) and Dorothy (Vickery) Burdick (February 11, 1922-September 29, 2001). His siblings were: Roberta



Burdick (1941-March 27, 1952); James Burdick (January 17, 1944-October 2, 2021) who married Carol Rebensky; Betty Burdick who married Marvin Warren and Joseph Burdick who married Mary Doxtader. He attended the two-room school, District #10 in Scriba and later Oswego High School, moving with his family to Richland in 1963. He attended and graduated from Pulaski with the class of 1966, where he enjoyed the Drama Club and ran track.

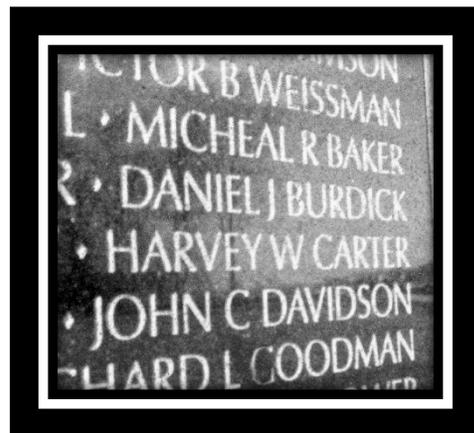
As a youth, Dan enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping and all things outdoors. He enlisted in the Army in November 1966. He graduated from Fort Sill, Oklahoma in 1967 as a second lieutenant. He was promoted to first lieutenant in September 1968 and was deployed to Vietnam on October 7, 1968.

On December 3, 1968, Dan was serving as the Forward Observer for Delta 2/7 Cavalry in Phouc Long Province, South Vietnam when he was killed in action from wounds received during hostile ground fire.

For his actions, he was awarded posthumously the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster for Heroism, Air Medal, and the Silver Star. He was



also awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. Prior to his death he had been awarded the Purple Heart, the Expert Badge with Rifle Bar and the Marksman Badge with Automatic rifle bar.



He was buried in St. Peter's Cemetery in Oswego, New York.

# Charles Eward Clement

(February 11, 1924-March 10, 1945)

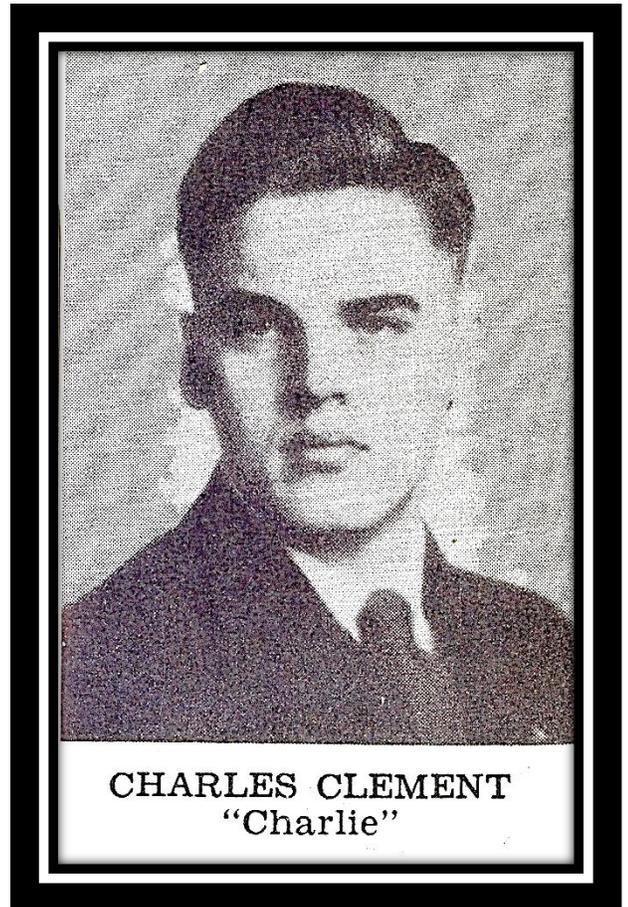
Born in Orwell, NY on February 11, 1924, the son of Herbert D. Clement (November 5, 1881-September 21, 1929) and Nellie O. (Woods) Clement (October 2, 1881-January 31, 1966). He had one brother, William D. Clement (October 1, 1914-November 26, 2002) who married Amelia Kellar. The family lived on County Rte. 2 between Orwell and Richland. Charles and his brother attended Pulaski School; Charles graduated in the class of 1942. His photo in the 1942 yearbook is captioned "Tall, dark and handsome" and his future plans were listed as "work".

During his school years Charlie was very active. He served as President of the Student Council in his senior year, was in the school play and drama club. He played football his last two years and was a member of the Varsity Club. He won several speaking contests and went on to Boys State in his junior year.

Following graduation Charles enlisted in the Navy on June 30, 1942. He was 6' tall and weighed 185 lbs. And had blue eyes and brown hair. Following his initial training Charles was sent to the Pacific and was assigned to a Naval medical unit attached to the Marine Corps. He saw action on many occasions and was killed in action on Iwo Jima on May 10, 1945. His rank at death was Pharmacist Mate Third Class.

Charles' remains were brought to Hawaii in 1949 and were interred in the National Memorial Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The baptismal font in the Orwell Union Church was donated and dedicated in his memory.



# Mac Rockwell Corwin

(February 8, 1918-November 29, 1950)

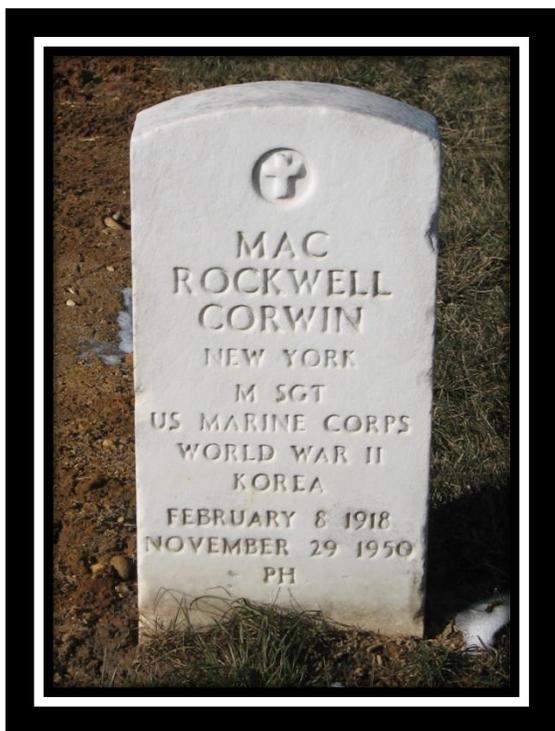
Born in St. Paul, Ramsey County, Minnesota the son of Willis James Corwin (November 5, 1885-June 3, 1965) and Lois A. (Lowrey) Corwin (May 7, 1885-October 15, 1983). He had one brother, James Freeman Corwin (November 29, 1916-January 28, 1963) who married Helen Jane Marsden (June 18, December 8, 2014). The Corwin family were natives of Altmar and had lived for a time in Minnesota where the children were born. His father was a farmer upon return to Altmar, and his mother taught in district schools.

Mac attended Altmar Schools where he was very active in sports playing baseball, basketball, and soccer. He was a member of the Altmar Prize Speaking team.

In 1934 he transferred to Pulaski Academy where he was elected class Treasurer. He was a member of the Glee Club and served as president. He played football, baseball, and was captain of the basketball team. A well-rounded student, Mac graduated in 1935.

Following graduation Mac moved to Washington, DC where he worked in the Library of Congress. While living there he was married on February 5, 1938, in Clarendon, Virginia to Jane Elizabeth Firor. Jane was born October 9, 1912, in Washington, DC the daughter of Norman R. Firor (1881-1969) and Ellen Bittenbender (1880-1969).

The couple's daughter, Marjory Corwin was born in Washington DC in 1941.



On October 16, 1940, Mac registered for the draft. He was called up during World War II, serving in in The Marines in the Pacific. During this time his family moved to California. He re-enlisted on March 13, 1946, in the Marines. When the Korean conflict began, he was sent there as a Master Sargeant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. While bringing supplies to the North on November 29, 1950, his unit was ambushed near Hagaru-ri and Mac was killed.

His remains were brought home and were interred in Arlington National Cemetery in December 1954 in section 33, site 4530. Mac was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Korean Service Medel, The United Nations Service Medal, The National Defense Service Medal, The Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Korea Service Medal, The American Defense Medal, the American Treater Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

His widow died October 22, 1990, in Santa Barbara, California. Their daughter Marjory died November 17, 2009.

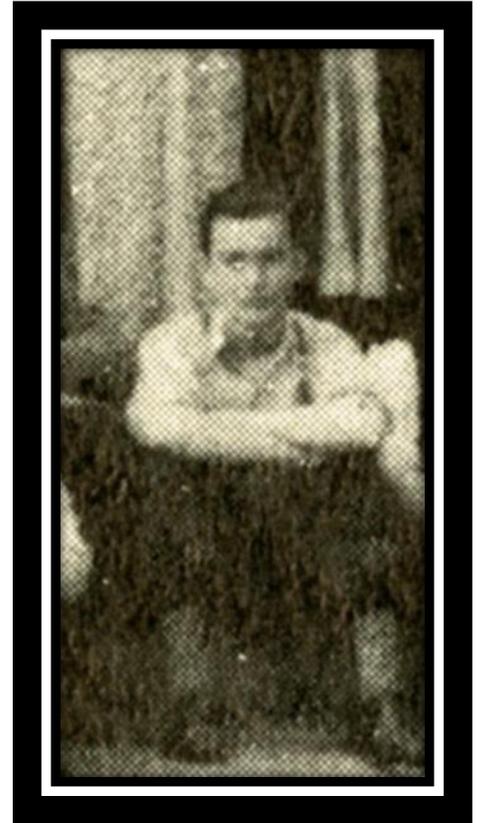
# Jack Francis Davies

(January 22, 1923-July 21, 1944)

Jack Francis Davies was born in Mexico, NY the son of Robert R. Davies (February 9, 1884-September 11, 1956) and Myrtle Martha Phelps (1889-February 1967) Jack had three siblings: Robert S. Davies (May 24, 1908-September 11, 1974) who married Doriane Johnson (August 30, 1910-November 1985), George Phillip Davies (July 29, 1910-2002) who married Margaret Taylor (February 2, 1913-February 24, 2011), and Helen Mosher (-after 2002). The family moved quite a bit in Jack's early years, Robert Sr. worked in a Cotton Mill in Whitestown and New York Mills, was a farmer in Albion and did odd jobs while he lived in Pulaski. His mother was sickly and spent her later years in hospitals away. The family last rented a house on Salina St. in Pulaski in the 1940s and 1950s.

At the outbreak of War Jack left school to enlist. He was inducted in the Marines at Utica on July 1, 1942, and following basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina he was assigned to duty in the Pacific Ocean. He served honorably and was promoted to Corporal. His death occurred while advancing with the post command on a beachhead on the Island of Guam.

Jack was initially buried on the Island of Guam, and following the end of the war his remains were moved to the National Cemetery in Honolulu, Hawaii.



*Above: the only known school photo of Jack from his freshman year, 1939*



# Robert Rollin Edwards

(May 16, 1894-October 24, 1918)

Born in Pulaski, the son of Charles David Edwards (January 3, 1864-April 17, 1937) and Kate Shepperd Maltby (November 17, 1861-September 9, 1939). His father was born in Shropshire, England while his mother was from an old Pulaski family. Robert's siblings were: Mary Isabel Edwards (February 10, 1890-December 23, 1967) who married William J. Ellis (January 18, 1893-May 5, 1969); Jennie E. Edwards (May 24, 1891-December 9, 1963) who married Lawson Marshall Lighthall (June 25, 1889-December 1, 1980); Charles M. Edwards (September 13, 1892-January 5, 1894); Frank E. Edwards (October 11, 1895-March 13, 1942) who married Harriet Van Voast (July 11, 1901-March 1974); and Thomas Jay Edwards



(September 16, 1897-January 29, 1974) who married Ina M. Cutler (September 27, 1903-

June 15, 1993). The family lived on Lake Street in Pulaski. The children attended Pulaski Schools, Robert left school in his junior year and went to work in a furniture factory. ***Above Right:***

***Robert Edwards at the time he entered service; (left, far right) with his siblings and cousins about 1900***

Robert enlisted in the New York National Guard on May 1, 1917. He was assigned to the Ogdensburg Guard Unit, Company D., reporting for duty on May 4, 1917.

On June 10, 1917, Robert married Mildred L. LaCelle of Altmar in Pulaski. Mildred was born January 26, 1898, in Altmar, the daughter of Charles LaCelle (August 2, 1870-October 8, 1934) and Flora Reynolds (January 25, 1875-November 3, 1945). Mildred was a schoolteacher.

When the Great War broke out, the New York National Guard was federalized, and Robert was transferred to the Army 107<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division. Following basic training at Camp Wadsworth, South Carolina. Robert went to France with the American Expeditionary Force. He saw action at St. Quentin from September 29,-October 3, 1918, and later came down with pneumonia. He died on October 24, 1918, in a British Field Hospital in Rouen, France. He was initially buried in St. Sever's Cemetery in Rouen. In 1921 his body was brought home for burial in the Pulaski Village Cemetery. A large community delegation welcomed his body home, and the new American Legion of Pulaski, named in his honor played a central part in the ceremony.

It is worth note to print the account of the funeral here, as Robert Edwards was our town's only World War casualty, and was so beloved by the community that the new American Legion Post was named in his honor.

*Wednesday, July 27, 1921, Pulaski Democrat - Pulaski, New York - Fallen Heroes Honored in Pulaski - Robert R. Edwards and Delbert W. Russell Victims of War Ravages, Brought to America for Burial - Pulaski and Altmar received bodies of young men who went out from their borders in the days of the World War and did honor to them by assembling for military services and accorded them the honors of military burial.*

*It has been expected for some time that the body of Robert Rollen Edwards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edwards, would arrive from France, where he was laid in military grave, at the time of his death, by pneumonia, in October 1918 and the body arrived, Sunday morning, from Hoboken, where many bodies were received through the government's transportation lines, in the past month. There was a delegation of Robert Edwards Post, American Legion, and friends at the station.*

*The body was taken in charge by Undertaker Paul Foster and escorted by the Legion men to the courthouse, where it was placed in the corridor of the courthouse. Later in the day Undertaker E. A. Feld, of Altmar, brought the body of Delbert Russell, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Russell, formerly of Altmar, now of Lacona, who was killed in the French line, while in service, July 15, 1918. Both caskets were enclosed in boxes covered with the stars and stripes. A guard was placed over the caskets until yesterday when they were removed to the Baptist church where services were held at 10 o'clock. Commander W. Taylor Barr, of Robert Edwards Post, had charge of the arrangements and to him is due credit for doing the service well.*

*There were all the people in the church that could get in and many outside. The gathering included the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of American Legion and Legion Auxiliary, D.A.R. Veterans, Relief Corps. Rev. William MacLeod read a scripture lesson and offered prayer, Rev. W. S. Warren, pastor of the Baptist church gave a very excellent address and Mr. B. G. Seamans spoke for a brief space, as a response to the request of the family of Delbert Russell. A quartet consisting of W. Taylor Barr, Jacob Youngs, Ernest Dillenbeck and Henry Martinett, sang "Nearer My God to Thee."*

*The line of military order was formed at the church, with a long line of military men, ahead and decide the two hearses, in which were carried the caskets of the two dead comrades. The various organizations were also largely represented. The line moved to Pulaski cemetery where the body of Robert Edwards was lowered in the grave with the honors of the Legion, including the salute fired by a firing squad from Ontario Military Post, at Oswego and a buglers' part was given.*

*After the ceremony was finished at Pulaski cemetery the Legion and firing squad accompanied the body of Delbert Russell to Bethel cemetery, two miles east of Lacona, where military honors were accorded with the ceremony given at the grave of Edwards in Pulaski.*

*Robert Edwards was born in Pulaski, May 16, 1894. He enlisted May 1, 1917, and went to France in April 1918, serving to the time of his illness and death, October 24, 1918. June 10, 1917, he married Mildred L. LaCelle. Delbert Russell was born in Sandy Creek and was twenty-two years of age when he was killed, on July 15, 1918, on the French line, doing service. He went into the service in November 1917, and went to France and March 1918.*

*The people who helped to fitting honor to the memory of these two American boys, from this locality, will feel that they have only done a small thing compared to the great sacrifice the fallen made. Friends and organizations gave liberally of floral tributes which were resting upon the caskets.*

*We are sure Pulaski represented the solemn occasion for flags were thrown to the breeze in many sections and business places were closed during the ceremonies at the church and while the line was passing through the street. - Appreciation - Commander Barr wishes the Democrat to say to the people that the kind Legion is thankful for the kind assistance given in the way of automobiles and other favors which were needed to make the day successful in the details planned for the honor service.*

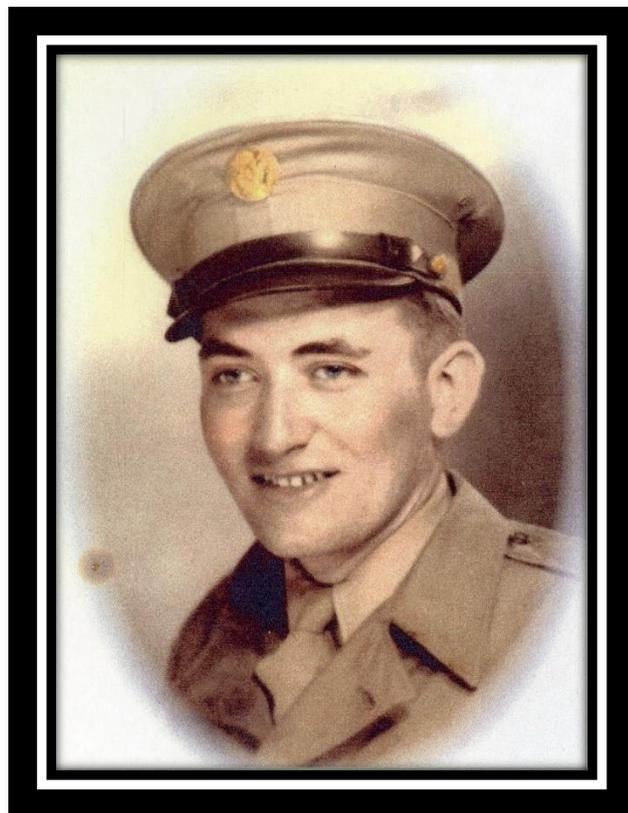


Robert Edwards' widow Mildred never remarried, and she died on December 1, 1968, in Pulaski.

# Bradford Ralph Galbraith

(April 11, 1924-November 1, 1944)

Bradford Ralph Galbraith was born April 11, 1924, in the town of Richland, the son of Ralph Sidney Galbraith (July 18, 1893-June 9, 1976) and Olive Adele Gayler (September 13, 1894-December 30, 1974). He had nine siblings: Ethel Mae Galbraith (August 15, 1917-April 11, 1918); Howard Lyle Galbraith (May 2, 1920-September 15, 1973); Verda Adele Galbraith (April 2, 1922-August 28, 1992) who married William B. Costello (July 21, 1921-August 6, 1993); Robert Francis Galbraith (August 18, 1925-January 21, 2006) who married 1<sup>st</sup>-Isabelle Van Tassel (September 2, 1925-July 29, 2019) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Joan D. Schenck (April 1934) ; Helen Jean Galbraith (April 29, 1928-May 19, 1998) who married George Thomas Toth (November 7, 1923-August 8, 2010); Erma Lucille Galbraith (August 31, 1929-April 17, 2004) who married Victor H. Koenig (May 12, 1930-November 4, 2020); Lawrence James Galbraith (January 27, 1931-June 3, 2001) who married 1<sup>st</sup>-Clara Killian (May 2, 1933-November 7, 2019) and 2<sup>nd</sup>-Sherlyn Brown Lunman (November 13, 1942-March 7, 2020); Dorothy Ann Galbraith (January 3, 1933-November 7, 1933) and Barbara Jane Galbraith (June 3, 1935-November 14, 2002) who married Gordon James McCullagh (June 5, 1935-September 16, 2003). The family lived in the Springbrook District between Pulaski and Richland.



Brad was a member of the class of 1942. Following the outbreak of war, he enrolled in vocational training and went to work for Savage Arms in Utica. In February 1943 Galbraith enlisted in the Army Air Force, and completed basic training in Miami, Florida, and later Glendale, Murac, and San Diego, California. He went on to earn his wings as an aerial gunner at Harlingen, Texas Airfield. He was deployed in May 1943 and assigned to the 13<sup>th</sup> A.A.F. Galbraith was sent to the South Pacific where he rose to the rank of Corporal, and later Staff Sergeant as second engineer in the crew of the 13<sup>th</sup> A.A.F. B-24 Liberator bomber "Star Flinger". The crew were in many forward operations bombing Japanese targets in Truk, Palau, Nauru, Rabual, Gasmata, and other islands as the Allied forces moved towards the Japanese mainland.

Galbraith and his crew were reported missing on November 1, 1944, after operations over Los Negros, Philippines. It was later learned that the bomber was acting in support of the Invasion of Leyte when it was shot down. Four comrade airmen were also killed in this crash: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Martin Roth (Pilot); 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harry N. Elgee; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Albert Klein; and T/Sgt. Donald Kabisch.

On Friday September 3, 1948, his family and friends gathered in Pulaski as the remains of Staff Sergeant Bradford Galbraith were brought home and laid to rest in Pulaski Cemetery in a private family funeral. An honor guard of

men from the Robert Edwards American Legion greeted the arrival at the Pulaski Train Station.



# Larry Herbert Gallagher

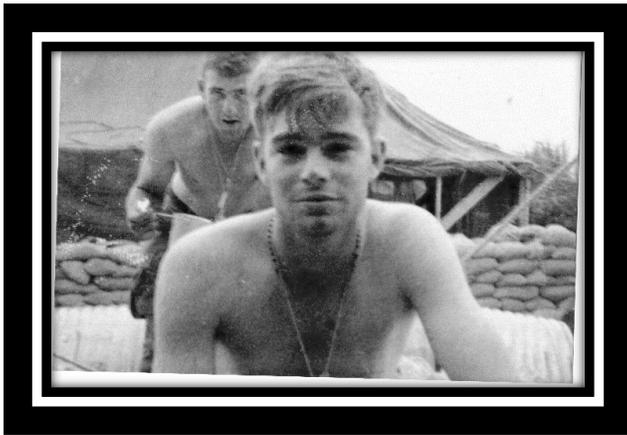
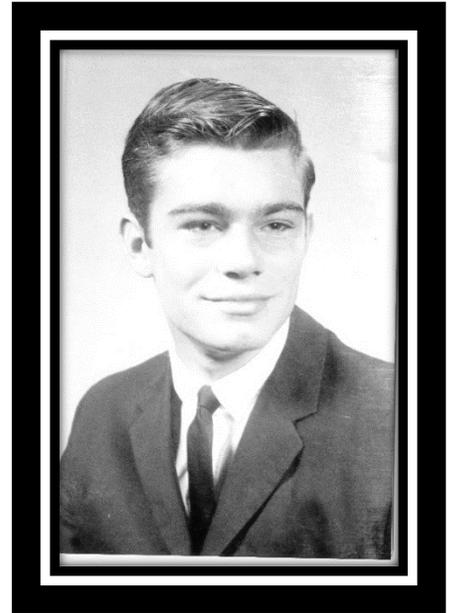
(September 16, 1948-July 25, 1968)

Larry H. Gallagher was born on September 16, 1948, in Syracuse, NY to Edward Gerald Gallagher (February 26, 1927-November 24, 2000) and Jacqueline Spath (February 5, 1926-November 6, 2013). Larry had a brother, Ed Gallagher, who graduated from Pulaski School in 1968, and a sister, Shonnie Gallagher Bontomase, who graduated in 1970.

Larry had special memories of growing up in Pulaski. Many cardboard villages were constructed in his backyard, neighborhood baseball and football games were held on the vacant lot at the top of the hill, go cart racing down Church Street and sledding on Forest Drive are just a few.

While attending Pulaski School, Larry was very active in sports. He especially enjoyed football and track and field. Larry broke the novice mile records at the Oswego County track meet in 1964 and the Pulaski High School two-mile record in 1966 which remained unbroken for 9 years.

Larry held several jobs while in high school including delivering newspapers, and in his Junior and Senior years frying donuts at Petrie's Bakery, starting work every morning at 5 am. During the summers of 1966 and 1967 Larry was employed by Schoeller Technical papers, Inc. in the technical department.

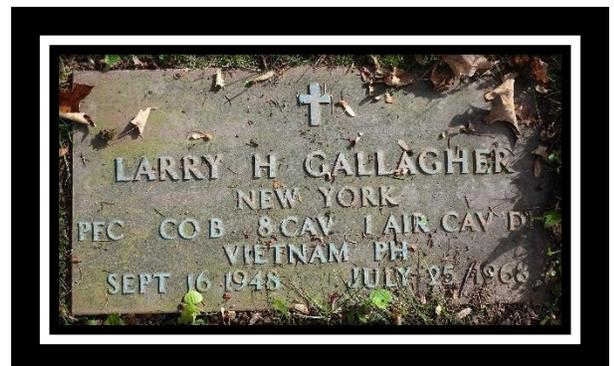


After graduating from Pulaski Academy and Central School, Larry attended Jefferson Community College in Watertown. He entered the Army on November 15, 1967, and was sent to Viet Nam on May 3, 1968. On July 25, 1968, at the age of 19, while on a search and destroy mission near Quang Tri, Larry was mortally wounded. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal and Combat Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge and Sharpshooter Badge. Larry was also awarded posthumously, two Bronze Stars, "For heroism in military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Viet Nam."

The Pulaski community formed and generously contributed to the Larry Gallagher Memorial Fund to be presented to a senior boy and girl participating in Track and Field. The Larry Gallagher Am-Vet unit in Pulaski is named in his honor.

Larry was laid to rest with full military honors in the Pulaski Cemetery. Larry's family presented the American flag from his burial to the Pulaski School. The flag is displayed in the gymnasium at the Pulaski Junior-Senior High School. Larry would be proud to have the American flag honored at each sporting event.

*(The above was written by Shonnie Gallagher Bontomase, Larry's sister)*

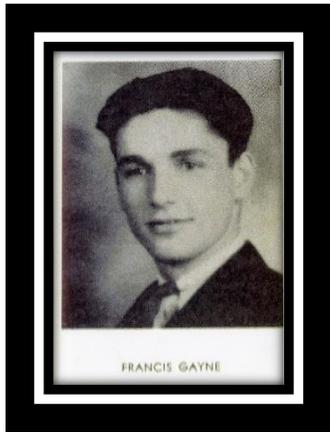


# Francis Benton Gayne

(May 25, 1920-May 9, 1943)

Francis was born May 25, 1920, in Wilna, Jefferson County, New York the son of Floyd Gayne (May 29, 1882-May 25, 1963) and Louise (Staic) Gayne (November 11, 1883-January 22, 1946), his siblings were: Albert Gayne (March 9, 1903-September 21, 1993); who married 1<sup>st</sup> Mildred G. Coon (February 22, 1910-August 15, 1996); and 2<sup>nd</sup>-Christine Schneider (November 1, 1914-May 30, 1957); Albert Gayne (April 21, 1904-December 6, 1997) who married 1<sup>st</sup>-Margaret Wesendunk (March 13, 1904-November 7, 1973) and 2<sup>nd</sup>-Patricia Lambert (March 28, 1916-May 1, 2000); Leslie Franklin Gayne (July 28, 1905-July 20, 1974) who married Harriet Murphy (September 2, 1912-March 1983); Floyd Justus Gayne (February 1, 1907-March 11, 1996) who married Dorothy E. Coon (October 4, 1911-August 9, 1997); Benjamin Stanley Gayne (March 30,

1908-April 23, 1988) who married Eileen Clare Young (November 24, 1914-July 28, 1987); Ralph William Gayne (March 1, 1911-June 9, 1969) who married Hazel Geraldine Clark (April 1, 1912-April 7, 1981); Edna Marie Gayne (May 20, 1914-April 16, 1991) who married Charles J. Symonds (January 8, 1913-December 23, 1963); Ruth Catherine Gayne (November 23, 1916-October 1, 1917); Vernon Bernard Gayne (May 11, 1919-March 30 2011) who married Dorothy A. Snyder (January 23, 1918-March 19, 2001); Margaret Louise Gayne (February 14, 1927-July 31, 2005) who married Evans Dixon VanAlstyne (June 12, 1921-December 16, 1998).



Francis was a well-known athlete in his youth, he was a noted pitcher on the Pulaski Panthers town baseball team and played basketball for Pulaski High. Francis graduated from Pulaski Schools in 1939, and after school he worked two years, lastly for W. H. Loomis Talc Company. In October 1941 Francis enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He trained at Fort Dix, New Jersey; Jefferson Barracks, Missouri; Scott Field, Illinois and Boca Raton, Florida. At his enlistment he was described as 5'11" 166 lbs. with brown hair, brown eyes.

Gayne trained as a radio technician and advanced to the rank of Corporal while stationed with the 40<sup>th</sup> bomber group in South America after the US entered World War II. His B-24 Liberator bomber squadron flew mercy flights to allied ships in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to support their combat and reconnaissance activities.

In April 1943 Gayne and his bomber crew were cited for "remarkable emergency delivery of medicines to an allied ship" in combat activities off the coast of Ecuador, in South America. A detailed description of the method the supplies were dropped in a raft amidst stormy seas, and the B-24 continued to circle the raft until the intended ship arrived to pick up the emergency supplies on the raft. Gaynes parents received notification of this commendation from the military, and a week later word was received that Corporal Gayne, and his fellow crew members perished following a crash into the Ocean near the Galapagos Islands, on May 9, 1943.

The Gayne family were devastated, especially as they had set up a phone call with Francis to take place on May 20<sup>th</sup> at his sister's home in Watertown. ***Right-the Gayne Family 1938.***



The war memorial in Old St. James Cemetery in Carthage, New York has Francis' name on it. Remains of Gayne and his fellow crew members were never found.

# William Porter Green, Jr.

(January 4, 1920-July 11, 1944)

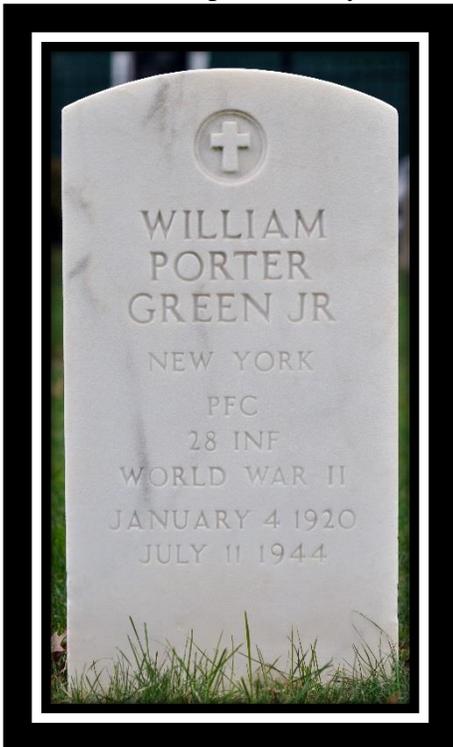
William was born in Pulaski on January 4, 1920, the son in William Porter Green (March 8, 1894-March 4, 1971) and Sylvia Belle Stowell (June 12, 1897-August 15, 1983), William's siblings were Robert Lawrence Green (December 18, 1921-December 4, 1981) who married Mary Helen McDermott (February 8, 1926-July 28, 1974), Phyllis M. Green (April 24, 1929-2016) who married Milton Malks (February 28, 1923-September 14, 2010), Marjorie L. Green (January 17, 1931-October 31, 2013) who married Harold Arthur Rossman (March 6, 1924-November 6, 1991) and Patricia B. Greene (April 4, 1933-January 25, 2017) who married 1<sup>st</sup>- Joseph Harrison Mallory (April 15, 1927-September 22, 1975) and later Robert Joseph Pealo (December 30, 1928-2019).

Bill was a member of the class of 1938, and left school to go to work for the William P. Curtiss Mill in Richland. He worked just over two years before leaving to enter the Army on September 13, 1940. He trained at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and later was stationed at Camp Forest, near Nashville, Tennessee, and Key West, Florida as well as Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.

In March 1943 Green was sent to for duty in the Arizona desert where he remained until July 1943 before returning to Fort Leonard Wood. He was home for a fourteen-day furlough in October 1943, before his unit set sail from New York for Belfast, Northern Ireland where his unit trained for the anticipated invasion of Europe. On July 4, 1944, he in the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, who arrived in Normandy,

France as part of the post D-Day landings. He was wounded in action in France on July 10, and died in a Field Hospital at Carentan, Manche-Basse, Normandy on July 11, 1944.

Initially Green was buried in a Military cemetery in France. On Tuesday July 27, 1948, his family and friends gathered at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, New York to welcome his remains home, and inter them in the Military cemetery with fitting honors. Old friends from his youth, Cameron Cox, Rex Green, Charles Traphagen, Rex Rossman, Raymond Filkins and Edward Orton of Pulaski and Richland served as honorary bearers for their good friend, Private First Class, William Porter Green.



# Michael Albert Potish

(December 2, 1921-March 12, 1943)

Michael Potish was born on December 2, 1921, in Binghamton, NY the son of Rudolph J. Potish (February 14, 1879-September 30, 1935) and Pauline Charnetsky (July 15, 1892-October 20, 1965), both Polish immigrants. Michael's siblings were: Amelia Potish (May 1, 1918-December 27, 1996); Nicholas Potish (December 15, 1919-February 5, 1979); Victor Potish (July 20, 1923-June 10, 2016) who married Margaret Ridgeway (April 20, 1926-April 28, 2019); Sofia Rose Potish (October 16, 1924-September 29, 2009) who married Terrance Mullen (June 26, 1920-October 26, 1996); Anna P. Potish (September 6, 1925-October 9, 2014) who married LeRoy Schryver (January 27, 1925-August 15, 1990); Margaret Jane Potish (August 21, 1926-October 9, 1999) who married Leon Crandall (March 22, 1922-January 27, 2011) and Carl John Potish (May 14, 1929-October 14, 1930).

The family moved from Broome County, New York to Port Ontario in the town of Richland in 1925. There, the family had a popular farm stand, providing fruit and vegetables to the lakeside communities in the summer.

Michael began school at Pulaski and was a member of the class of 1939. He left school to begin work for the New York Central Railroad. After war broke out, he enlisted in the army on November 23, 1942, and was assigned to the Army Air Corps. Following initial training in Atlantic City, New Jersey he was sent to Colorado for further training. There, he became seriously ill and died at camp on March 13, 1943.

Michael's brother Victor also served in the Army, attaining the rank of T/5. He served in the 61<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion as a Technician.

Michael's body was returned home and a funeral with full military honors was held at the Bethel Community Church in Port Ontario. Color bearers for the Robert Edwards American Legion were George Dracos, Kenzie Petrie, R. J. Murray, and Charles Balcom. The bearers were Frank Hilliker, Roy Galbraith, Walter Griffin, Harold L. Franklin, James Gaffney, and A. Maurice Gates. His remains were buried in Brookside Cemetery in the Hamlet of Richland.

Michael's mother submitted a quote for the War Bond campaign a month after his death: "I know what it means to give dearly. Buy now with money to save the cost in lives."

*Left: Michael's marker in Brookside Cemetery, note his birthdate is stamped December 22, while all his records indicate 2nd*



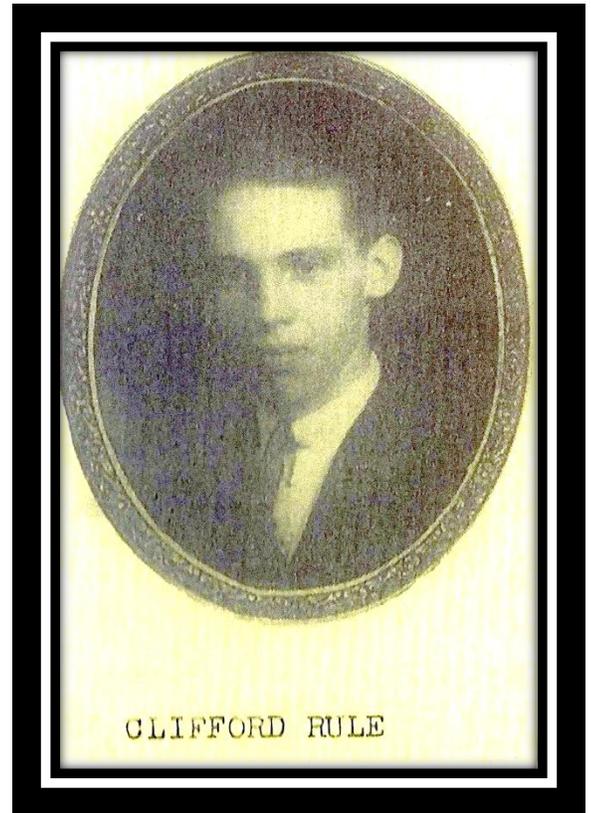
# Joseph Clifford Rule

(September 18, 1917-December 14, 1944)

Born September 18, 1917, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada the son of Elvin Emery Rule (March 19, 1888-November 28, 1962) and Mary Ida Florence Sloan (September 19, 1891-February 20, 1978). Her father was from Belmont, NY and his mother was born Canadian. His siblings were: Charles Bernard Rule (June 23, 1914-April 21, 1999); Isabel Mary Rule (December 27, 1915-November 1991) and Gregory John Rule (December 31, 1924-August 29, 2003). By 1920 the family moved to Malone, New York and later to the town of Richland in the early 1920s.

The family settled in the Hamlet of Richland where Joe's father became the Postmaster in 1930. Joe attended elementary school in there, and he later went on to Pulaski Academy where he graduated in 1935. He played baseball and basketball and was a member of the French club as well as Agricultural Club.

Following School, Joe moved to Oneida, New York where he lived on Phelps St. and worked in Oneida Castle. On March 6, 1939, Joe joined the New York National Guard. The next year, on October 16, 1940, Joe registered for the draft at a recruiting office in Oneida, NY. He was 5' 8" and 145 lbs. with blue eyes and brown hair.



In October 1941, Joseph was united in marriage to his neighbor Thana "Fannie" Panzica. Fannie was born February 7, 1916, in Oneida. Fannie was the daughter of David M. Panzica (September 15, 1886-April 23, 1941) and Mary T. Curro (March 26, 1892-1980).

When war began, he was drafted into the army, he was assigned to the 331<sup>st</sup> Infantry in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Division. He was wounded in action in North Africa and received a Purple Heart. Following the D-Day invasion of Europe, Joe's unit followed and went through France, and into Belgium. It was there on December 14, 1944, that Joe was killed. He was buried in the American Cemetery at Henri-Chapelle near Leige, Belgium.

Joseph was additionally awarded the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

On July 5, 1955, Fannie remarried Robert Thurston (December 11, 1915-December 20, 2000). She continued to live in Oneida, where she died on July 27, 1978. The couple had no children. She is buried with Robert Thurston in St. Patrick's Cemetery there.



# Douglas Franklin Spath

(December 18, 1922-April 7, 1945)

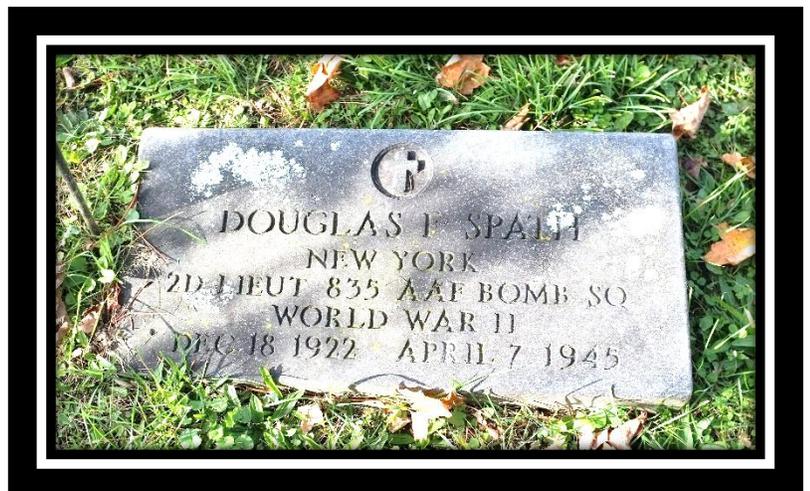
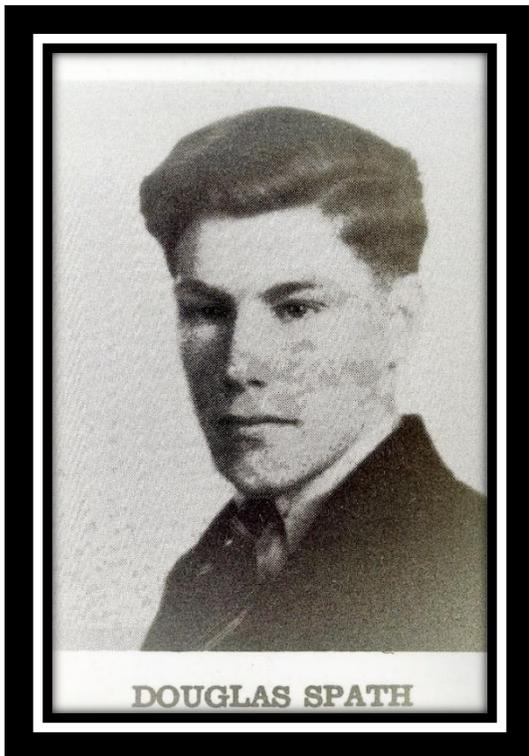
Douglas was born in the town of Richland on December 18, 1922, the son of Herbert Ellis Spath (April 3, 1900-January 22, 1964) and Hazel F. DeGraw (January 7, 1900-October 1, 1987). His siblings were: Harold Edwin Spath, Sr. (July 14, 1920-November 21, 2001) who married Elizabeth Rowell (May 22, 1920-January 10, 1987); Richard David Spath (May 26, 1924-May 1, 1993) who married Patricia Trotman (April 22, 1929-October 29, 1988); Jacqueline Spath (February 5, 1926-November 6, 2013) who married Edward Gallagher (February 26, 1927-November 24, 2000); Beverly Spath (March 23, 1932-December 18, 2004) who married Frederick Bornemann (July 22, 1920-June 16, 1957); and Joyce Spath (January 16, 1934-April 22, 2018) who married Sanford Jack Barclay (March 7, (1922-May 21, 1991).

Doug attended Pulaski Schools and was a member of the class of 1941. He played intermural basketball and was a member of the model airplane club.



On September 7, 1942, Doug enlisted in the Army Air Force. Following his training he was assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 835<sup>th</sup> Bomber squadron, 486<sup>th</sup> bomber group. Doug advanced to the rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, a testament to his skills and accomplishments. He spent most of his war years in the European theater and was killed in action over Germany on April 7, 1945.

Initially his remains were buried in Europe, and in May 1949 were disinterred and returned to the United States. A full funeral with military honors was held on May 26, 1949, at the Pulaski Park United Methodist Church, followed by burial with full honors at the Pulaski Village Cemetery.



# Robert James Spencer

(October 3, 1921-June 6, 1944)

Robert was born in Flint, Michigan on October 3, 1921, the only child of Claude G. Spencer (January 12, 1896-April 15, 1960) and Edith M. Anson Spencer (December 11, 1902-May 15, 1987). The family lived in Centerville, just over the line in the town of Albion. Robert attended Pulaski Schools and was a member of the class of 1939, although he left school his sophomore year to go to work and help support his family.

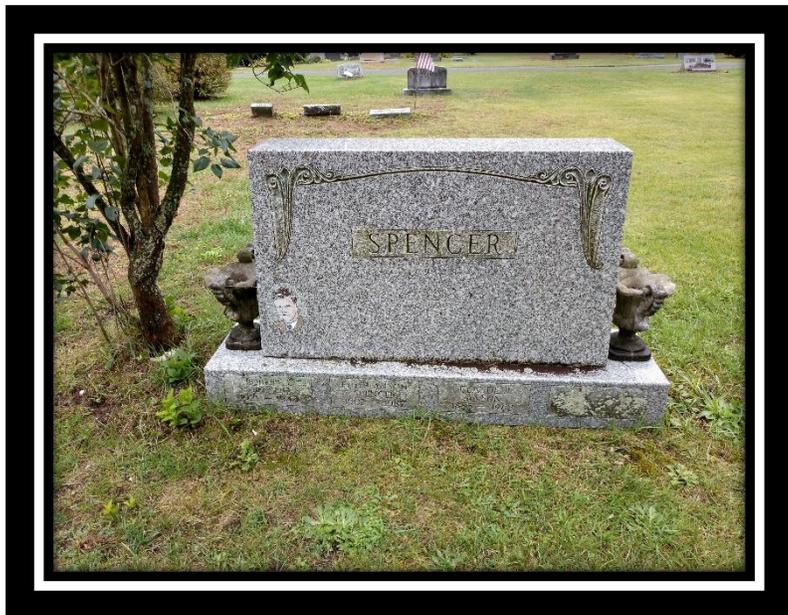
Robert enlisted in the army in October 1939. When war broke out two years later, he was assigned to Company E of the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry of the First Division. He was initially deployed to England, and then sent with his unit to North Africa in November 1942. Spencer was active with the American forces which pushed the Axis forces out of the continent by the end of 1943. Robert was promoted to Sergeant during this time.

In July 1943 the Allied forces invaded Sicily, and Robert's tank unit was among the first to arrive. An Associated Press report in the Syracuse Post-Standard reported on July 18, 1943, how on July 14<sup>th</sup> Spencer and his comrade Pfc Robert Stengle of Milwaukee, Wisconsin knocked out four German Mark V. Tiger tanks with their guns concealed in adjacent hills.

Following the surrender of Italy later that summer, Spencer and his regiment were later sent to England to prepare for an eventual invasion of France. Robert was killed during the D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6, 1944. He

was initially buried in a military cemetery in France, and later after the war his mother requested his body to be brought home.

Robert's remains were returned to his hometown on December 5, 1947, escorted to his mother's home by eight members of the Robert Edwards American Legion. His funeral was held at St. John's Catholic Church, Pulaski and he was laid to rest in Brookside Cemetery in the Hamlet of Richland. His pall bearers were close friends, Edward Orton, Robert Green, Leo Cavalier, Harlan Weed and John Filkins, all ex-service men.



# Wilbur Leon Valley

(February 4, 1920-May 19, 1944)

Wilbur was born in Mexico, NY on February 4, 1920, the son of Leon Lewis Valley (September 8, 1886-February 12, 1965) and Jessie Diane Kissel (December 5, 1889-January 6, 1970). His siblings were: Jerry Richard Valley (May 11, 1916-December 16, 1992) who married Leota E. Spencer (March 1, 1916-July 8, 1993); James K. Valley (December 15, 1917-March 27, 2015) who married Mable L. Rude (March 24, 1919-February 20, 2008); Geraldine Nettle Valley (June 18, 1925-January 19, 2007) who married Floyd H. Schaefer (December 21, 1919-August 30, 1966). The family lived just north of Maple View and attended the Fernwood Methodist Church.

Wilbur attended Fernwood elementary and later Pulaski Academy & Central School where he graduated in 1935. While in school Wilbur was the Manager of the baseball team, was on yearbook staff, and in the Senior Play.

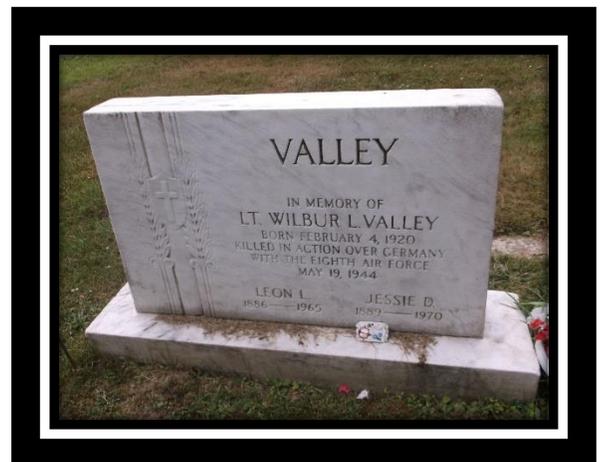
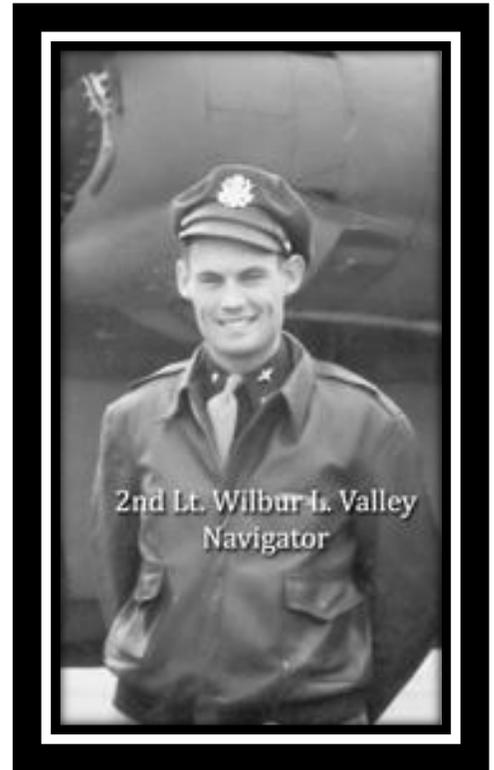
Wilbur went on to the University of Albany, graduating in 1940 majoring in science and mathematics. He was a member of Kappa Phi Kappa, national educational honorary education fraternity. He went on to Cornell University for graduate work in 1941. He began his teaching career at Ludlowville High School where he soon was head of the science department and 10<sup>th</sup> grade class advisor. He took leave of absence in February 1942 when he enlisted in the army air corps following the outbreak of war.

Wilbur was called to active duty on October 27, 1942. He was initially sent to Maxwell Field in Alabama for training and later Jackson Tennessee, with special training at Fort Meyers, Florida. He earned his wings as a gunner and navigator, and advanced to 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant on December 4, 1943, at Selman Field, Louisiana. After a brief visit home to see his parents he reported to Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas for advanced training. He was next sent to Topeka army air base for a time before going overseas.

Wilbur was stationed in England and served as navigator of a B-24 going on bombing raids over Germany.

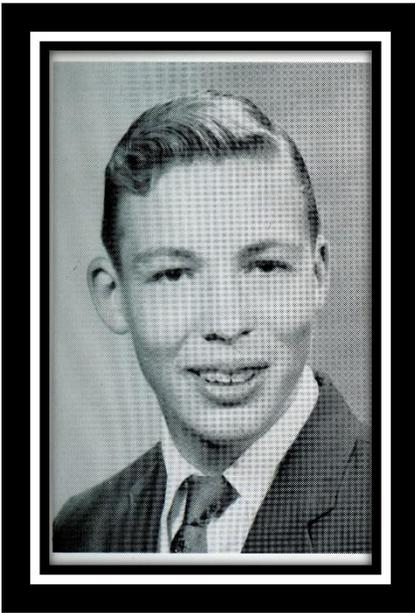
His plane was shot down over Germany on May 19, 1944, three of the crew, including Valley were killed in the crash, with others taken prisoner.

His remains were later returned after the war, and he is buried in Zachary Taylor National Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky, with a memorial stone in Mexico Village Cemetery.



## Robert Grant Wilson

(October 24, 1946-November 6, 1966)



Bob was born October 24, 1946, in Gouverneur, NY the son of Grant Wilson (January 24, 1922-July 21, 1989) and Norma Tilkins Wilson (May 8, 1928-August 14, 1995). His siblings were: Gail Wilson, who married John Vance May 17, 1948-July 12, 2004); Linda Wilson, who married Thomas Jones, Stephen Wilson, who married Dianne Sanderson; Terry Wilson, who married Jeanette Sottung; Paul Wilson, who married Karen Moot; and Scott Wilson (June 6, 1967-October 13, 2017). Grant's family originally lived in Heuvelton, NY and after their marriage the couple lived in Philadelphia and Antwerp in Jefferson County for the first few years where the eldest children were born. Robert began school at Pleasant Lake on September 4, 1951. The family moved to his mother's hometown of Richland in March 1952, and he commenced school at Richland Elementary.

During his high school years Robert was active in the bowling league and art club. After his death Miss Helen Ostrynski presented many of his drawings to the Wilsons that are still treasured by the family.

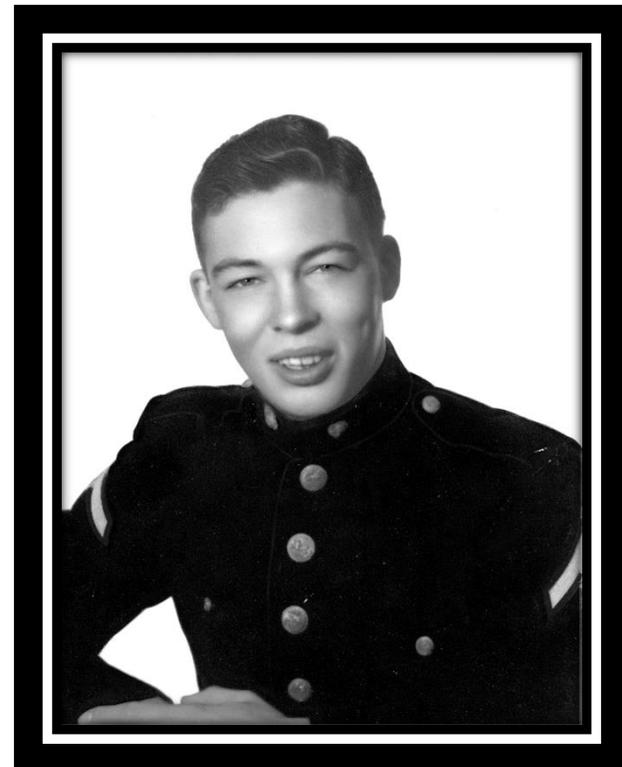
From the time he was twelve Robert delivered the Watertown Daily Times, after his graduation in 1964, his brothers Steve and Terry took over the route. Following graduation Bob worked as a carpenter with his father until he enlisted in the US Marines November 2, 1964.

He took his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina graduating January 20, 1965. He was then sent to supply training at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina graduating May 25, 1965, as a Lance Corporal. He later was assigned to Camp Pendleton, California where he stayed a year and a half. At Camp Pendleton Bob was trained specifically for overseas supply duties.

While at Camp Pendleton Bob met Judy Silk and the couple were soon engaged. In early 1966 Bob received word he was going to be shipped out. Upon leaving Camp Pendleton he earned the rank of Corporal.

Bob was sent to Vietnam June 6, 1966, and served in supply support near Da Nang, attached to Fleet Stock Account in Force Logistic Support Group. In this capacity Bob worked in an office in charge of supplies for the Marines.

During recreational break at the Navy Supply site on November 6, 1966, Robert and two companions were swimming at Red Beach just north of Da Nang. The three were caught up in a strong undertow, the two other men made it to shore, while Robert was swept away. His body was recovered the following day and was returned to his family and buried in Richland Cemetery with full Military honors.



# **Letter From Pulaski/Richland Town Historian**

## **Shawn Patrick Doyle, '84**

This annual Memorial Day event in our community has always been special. When I was a child and lived up on North Jefferson Street the five of us kids in our neighborhood would set the lawn chairs out front of the Craig home and gather our parents for the parade. As the parade passed by often the five of us kids would ride our bikes up to the cemetery to watch the final portion of the service by the flagpole. In recent years I have retraced that route on my bike, and standing by our family stone watched the color guard service.

This Memorial Day has special significance for us all as we also single out fifteen servicemen from this community that attended or graduated from Pulaski Schools, and gave their lives during World War I, World War II, Korea, or Vietnam. Five of these men left school before graduating and have been issued honorary diplomas by the New York State Education Department under the guidelines of NYS Education Law. These five men will be recognized at graduation in June. This is a long overdue special recognition for these five in honor of their service and sacrifice.

The Wall of Distinction plaques that will grace the foyer of Pulaski Jr.-Sr. High School are here today on a display in front of the pavilion. These will all soon be mounted on the brick wall outside of the auditorium at the High School.

In researching the biographies of these men in preparation for today I have learned a great deal. I was familiar with a few of these veterans and their stories, but not all. I was amazed by the stories once all traced out and by the support they had in the community as evidenced by newspaper accounts and letters home that sometimes were run in the papers. I hope in reading the tributes to their lives you too will appreciate the sacrifices of these heroes and remember those loved ones they left behind.

Thank you to Superintendent Tom Jennings, and his brother Jack for the leadership and commitment in seeing this project through. Also thank you to Margaret Weigel, President of the Pulaski Alumni Association for leading the original effort and identifying the honorees.

Special thanks to the leaders and members of the VFW and Legion for their generosity in offering us a portion of time in their annual program. This day is always one of reflection on our forefathers military sacrifices, as well as a day of remembrance for their lives lived.

Freedom is not free, and from the American Revolution to the challenges we face today, our young men and women who serve in all our nation's service branches must always have our respect and support.

Speaking as Pulaski Alumni Association secretary, we look forward to continuing the Wall of Distinction process in the next years, and encourage nominations for the next round!

Shawn Doyle

Our Alma Mater  
Pulaski Academy and Central School

The Crimson and the Blue

by Arthur Fremont Rider, class of 1901

There are those who long have favored  
The violet's blue shade,  
And others who will ever  
To the crimson rose be staid;  
We will place them both<sup>1</sup> together,  
And never shall we rue  
Those years we stood defenders  
Of the crimson and the blue.

Through the time we spend in study,  
Midst the scenes we know so well,  
As the mystic charm to knowledge  
We vainly seek to spell;  
Or we win athletic victories  
And the friendships made renew,  
Still we work for old Pulaski,  
And the crimson and the blue.

When the cares of life o'ertake us,  
Mingling fast our locks with gray,  
Should our dearest hopes betray us,  
False fortunes fall away;  
Still we'll banish care and sadness  
For the mem'ries that we knew,  
And recall those days of gladness  
'Neath the crimson and the blue.

We have studied 'neath thy ensign,  
We have strove<sup>2</sup> beneath thy flag,  
And our hearts will e'er be with thee,  
Though the years may fleet or lag,  
We will ever be thy guardian,  
Ever keep thy memory true.  
And we'll ever fly the banner  
With the crimson and the blue.

All the pleasures that we cherish,  
Soon will pass fore'er away,  
And the mem'ries of our school days  
Sink beneath the shadows gray,  
Yet there's one thing we'll remember  
All the years we yet pass through,  
'Tis the thought of old Pulaski  
And the crimson and the blue.

## Our National Anthem

### Complete version of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

showing spelling and punctuation from Francis Scott Key's manuscript  
in the Maryland Historical Society collection.

*O say can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming? And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there, O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

*On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes, What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep, As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses? Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam, In full glory reflected now shines in the stream, 'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!*

*And where is that band who so vauntingly swore, That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion A home and a Country should leave us no more? Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution. No refuge could save the hireling and slave From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave, And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

*O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation! Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto - "In God is our trust," And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*