

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to two men who served  
their country during the Korean Conflict.

**DONALD C. REEVES**

**EDWARD L. LAUCKERN, JR.**

**Donald C. Reeves** served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict from 15 April 1953 to 14 April 1955. Don was the Deputy Director of the Cayuga County Veterans Service from June 1962 to October 1973. He became Director in October 1973 and retired in December 1991.

**Edward L. Lauckern, Jr.** served in the U.S. Army from 13 July 1954 to 10 July 1957. Ed was Deputy Director of the Cayuga County Veterans Service from May 1974 to April 1982.



Cayuga County thanks you for the many hours of service  
and dedication to the veterans of our community.  
You changed lives.

## NOTE TO READERS

This book was produced by Georgianna Tracy, Deputy Director of the Cayuga County Veterans Services to recognize the 26 men who died from our County during the Korean Conflict period.

We would like to thank Allen Fonda for his help in writing up the veterans' profiles and typing into book content. To Sue Doan, NYS Veteran's Counselor for writing the historical background of the Korean War. Thanks to Bernie Corcoran for his assistance in editing the pictures and creating our cover.

The information is as accurate as possible from available records. Please contact the Cayuga County Veterans Office if you discover a mistake in our information.

**NICHOLAS VALENTI, DIRECTOR  
GEORGIANNA TRACY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
CAYUGA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE  
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## **Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955 Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

### **Historical Background and the Korean War**

**Background:** Korea was invaded and ruled by Japan from 1910 until the end of World War II in 1945. On 6 August 1945 the Soviet Union, in keeping with a commitment made to the United States government, declared war on the Japanese Empire and on 8 August 1945 liberated the northern part of the Korean peninsula, halting at the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. On 8 September 1945 U.S. troops landed in the south.

On 10 August 1945 the United States and the Soviet Union agreed to divide Korea along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. Without consulting the Korean people the two major powers had divided the Korean peninsula into two occupation zones and agreed to administer the country temporarily. Both countries established governments in their respective halves favorable to their political ideology.

**Korean War:** On 25 June 1950 North Korea's army crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel in an attempt to unify the Korean Peninsula. Within days the South Korean forces, outnumbered, and out-gunned were in full retreat. On 28 June 1950 the North Korean forces captured Seoul, South Korea, but had not accomplished their goal of a quick surrender of the South Korean government.

This attack on South Korea came as a surprise to the United States and the other western powers. President Harry S. Truman, with United Nations backing, ordered General MacArthur to transfer munitions to the South Korean Army and to use air cover to protect the evacuation of U.S. citizens. By August 1950 the South Korean forces and the U.S. Eighth Army, which arrived to aid the South Korean army, suffered a series of defeats and were driven into a small area in the southeastern corner of the Korean peninsula around the city of Pusan. With the aid of American supplies and air support, the Republic of Korea forces managed to stabilize a line along the Nakdong River. This became a desperate holding action called the Pusan Perimeter.

In order to alleviate pressure on the Pusan Perimeter, General MacArthur as UN commander in Korea ordered an amphibious invasion far behind the North Korean troops at Inchon. US troops landed at Inchon, faced only mild resistance and quickly recaptured Seoul. The North Korean forces, finding their supply line cut, began a rapid retreat.

The UN troops drove the North Koreans back past the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. The goal of saving South Korea had been achieved; because of this success and prospects of uniting all of Korea under a democratic style of government, the UN approved the continued advance into North Korea. On 19 October 1950 North Korea's capital fell to UN forces.

The People's Republic of China had issued warnings that they would intervene if any non-South Korean forces crossed the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, citing national security interests. On 25 October 1950 the People's Republic sent 270,000 troops over the border and into North Korea. The Chinese, after several initial engagements, withdrew into the

## **Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**

### **Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

mountains. UN forces ignored the stern warning of the Chinese government and continued their advance on Yalu.

In late November 1950 the Chinese struck again. In the west, along the Chongchon River, the Chinese army overran several South Korean divisions and landed an extremely heavy blow into the flank of the remaining UN forces. In the east, at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, a 3000-man unit from the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division inflicted heavy casualties on the Chinese brigades, but were soon surrounded. The U.S. forces fought their way out of the encirclement, but in so doing 2000 were either killed or captured. The U.S. Marines fared better, though surrounded and forced to retreat, inflicting heavy casualties on the Chinese forces, which had committed six divisions to try and destroy the Marines.

On 4 January 1951 Chinese and North Korean forces recaptured Seoul. In March 1951, during Operation Ripper, a revitalized 8<sup>th</sup> Army expelled the North Korean and Chinese troops from Seoul. General MacArthur was removed from his command by President Truman on 11 April 1951 due to a disagreement over policy. General Ridgeway, who managed to regroup the UN forces for an effective counter-offensive, succeeded him. A series of attacks pushed the North Korean and Chinese troops back across the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

The rest of the war involved little territory change, large scale bombing of the Northern population and lengthy peace negotiations that started on 10 July 1951. With the UN's acceptance, a cease-fire was established on 27 July 1953; this was at a time the front line was back in the proximity of the 38th parallel and a demilitarized zone (DMZ) was established.

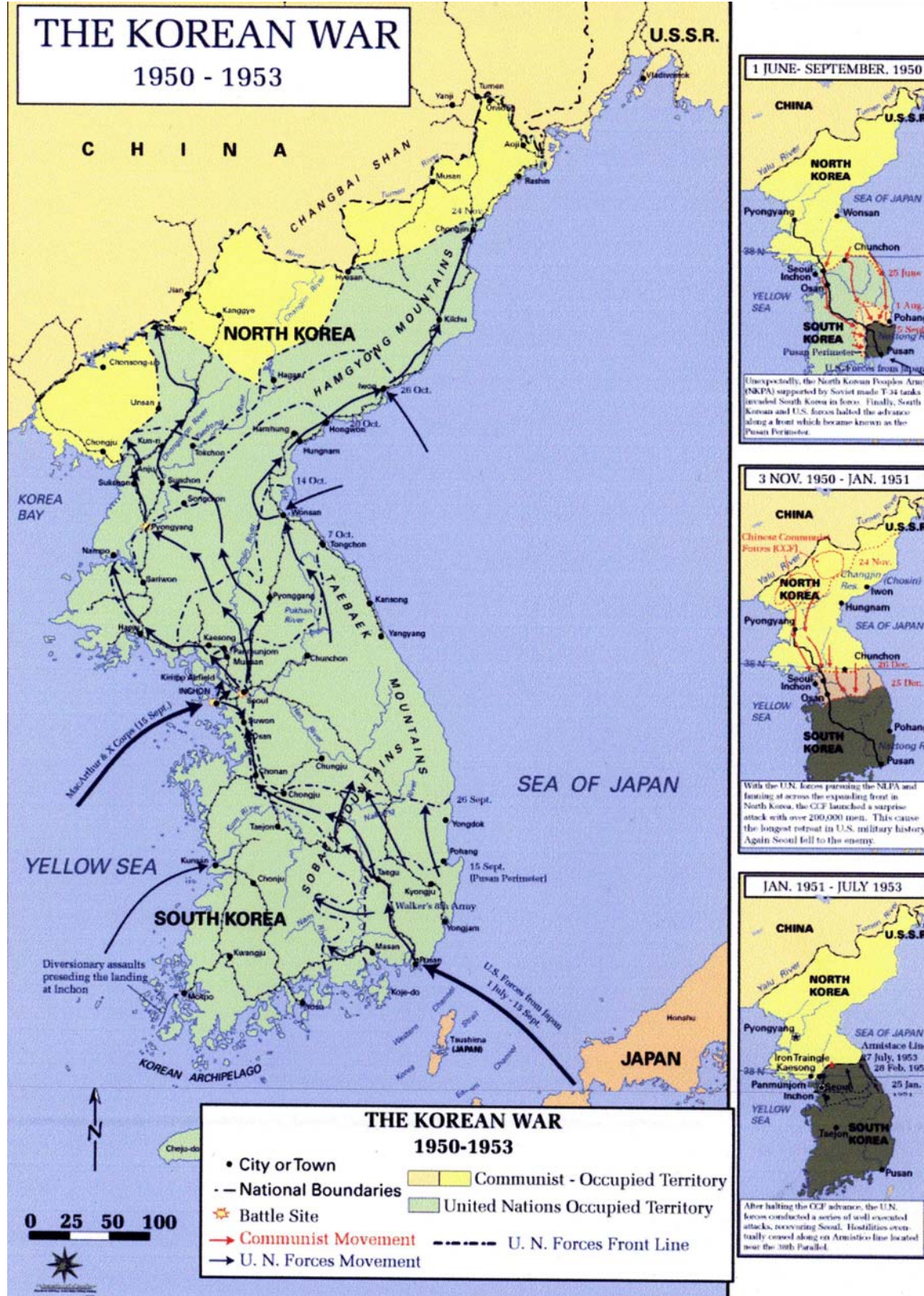
The Korean Conflict lasted from 25 June 1950 to the cease fire on 27 July 1953. On 1 January 1955 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed Presidential Proclamation 3080 for the purpose of veterans' benefits and services established for the Korean Conflict as extending from 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955.

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Sources: Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia at <http://en.wikipedia.org>  
The American Presidency Program at <http://www.presidency>

# Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1953

## Cayuga County, New York Fatalities

### Maps of the Korean War



<http://www.dean.usma.edu/HISTORY/web03/atlas/korean%20war/korean%20pages/korean%20war%20overview%20map.htm>

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Anthony Edward Arezzo, Jr.**

Auburn, New York  
Born 22 October 1932

**Private, U.S. Army**

Service Number 51195778  
Killed in Action  
15 June 1953 in Korea



Private Arezzo was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Psychological Warfare Company (Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company). On 15 June 1953, while returning to Seoul, South Korea, his jeep was ambushed. For his leadership and valor, Private Arezzo was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

His mother Concetta Arezzo of Auburn, a brother and five sisters survived Private Arezzo. He is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

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**Allen Frisbie Baker**

Aurora, New York  
Born 20 March 1920

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force**

Service Number AO731726  
Died in Non-hostile Air Crash  
7 February 1952 in Korea



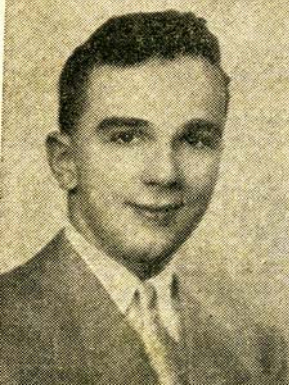
Lieutenant Baker was a crewmember of a B-29A Superfortress Bomber with the 345<sup>th</sup> Bomber Squadron, 98<sup>th</sup> Bomber Wing. On 7 February 1952, while departing on a combat mission, his aircraft crashed three miles northwest of Yokota Air Base, Japan. First Lieutenant Baker was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Lieutenant Baker served in the U.S. Army until 25 June 1945 prior to serving in the U.S. Air Force from 7 February 1951. His mother Mrs. Arthur Baker, wife Ruth, son Lynn and daughter Ellen Margaret survived him. He is buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Scipioville, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955  
Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**John H. Burdick**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 1932

**Private, U.S. Army**  
Service Number ?  
Gunshot wound while on guard duty  
2 January 1953 in Arlington, VA



Private Burdick entered service in May of 1952 and was a member of a service guard company.

His parents M/M Francis M. Burdick of Auburn survived Private Burdick. He is buried at Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

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**Stanley F. Bykowski**  
Cayuga, New York  
Born 18 December 1926

**Private, U.S. Army**  
Service Number 42169377  
Killed in action  
10 March 1951 in Korea



Private Bykowski was a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. He was killed in action while fighting the enemy in South Korea on 10 March 1951. Private Bykowski was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Lieutenant Bykowski served in the U.S. Army in World War II and for the second time when he enlisted in the Korean Conflict. His parents M/M. Stanislaus Bykowski, one sister Harriet and one brother Mathew survived him. He is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Edward J. Coalson**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 25 January 1924

**Hospital Corpsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class, U.S. Navy**  
Service Number 2387987  
Missing in Action, Presumed Dead  
2 December 1950 in Korea



Hospital Corpsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Coalson served with Headquarters and Service Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Marines, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. He was listed as Missing in Action while attending his wounded comrades in Korea on 2 December 1950. He was officially presumed dead on 16 April 1954. Hospital Corpsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Coalson was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

In addition to service in Korea, Hospital Corpsman Coalson participated in several naval engagements during World War II. One sister survived him.

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**Charles J. Curtiss**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 1929

**Corporal, U.S. Air Force**  
Service Number 12349722  
Died While on Furlough  
5 February 1952, Syracuse, NY



Corporal Curtiss served with Detachment "B" 1<sup>st</sup> AACS I & M Squadron at Mitchell Air Force Base at time of death.

He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. His mother Ruth Curtiss and sister Margaret survived him. He is buried at Fort Hill Cemetery, Auburn, NY.



**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955  
Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**James W. Debo**

Auburn, New York  
Born 2 June 1928

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, U.S. Air Force**

Service Number 070085

Died in a Helicopter Crash

31 January 1955 off Japanese Coast



In addition to serving in the U.S. Air Force in Korea, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Debo also served during World War II as a regular army officer with Headquarters Company, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He received the National Defense Service Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

His mother Mrs. James Marks, wife Gertrude and a sister Mrs. James Lillie of Barbourville, WV survived him. He is buried in Soule Cemetery, Sennett, NY.

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**Donald A. Fabrize**

Cayuga, New York  
Born 30 August 1930

**Private, U.S. Army**

Service Number 12119037

Killed in Action

16 July 1950 in Korea



Private Fabrize was a member of Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in South Korea on 16 July 1950 and was the first Auburnian killed in the Korean Conflict. His remains were not recovered. Private Fabrize was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

His mother and stepfather, M/M John Leone, and brother Robert survived Private Fabrize. He is memorialized at Lakeview Cemetery, Cayuga, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**John Fallat**

Auburn, New York  
Born 23 October 1918

**Sergeant, U.S. Army**

Service Number 12022989  
Killed in Action  
28 July 1950 in Korea



Sergeant Fallat was a member of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in South Korea on 28 July 1950.

Sergeant Fallat was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Sergeant Fallat was also a veteran of World War II and was awarded the Silver Star for bravery. His parents, M/M Panko Fallat, a brother Michael and four sisters Mary, Margaret, Anna and Susan survived him. He is buried at St Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

---

**Donald Neal Hayes**

Meridian, New York  
Born 8 October 1931

**Airman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, U.S. Air Force**

Service Number 12383098  
Killed in Aircraft Accident  
19 July 1952 Eighty Miles West of Tokyo



Airman Hayes served as a carpenter's mate in the U.S. Air Force. He was a passenger aboard a T-7 type aircraft on a return flight from the gunnery range in Japan to Johnson Air Force Base, Japan when the plane crashed. He received the Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Star and the United Nation Service Medal.

His parents M/M Garland Hayes, and two brothers Richard and Paul survived him. He is buried at the Meridian Cemetery.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Merle Alan Hess**

Auburn, New York  
Born 23 April 1922

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, U.S. Army**

Service Number 2048334  
Killed in Action  
30 November 1950 in Korea



1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Hess was a doctor with the Medical Company, 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while tending his wounded comrades near Kunu-ri, North Korea on 30 November 1950. His remains were not recovered. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Hess was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Medical Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Hess served in World War II, reenlisting to serve in the Korean Conflict. As Administrative Officer he handled the complete administration of a Medical Processing Center, which took care of 500 patients a day. His mother Grace of Trumansburg, wife Angie, children Carol and Merle, Jr., and four brothers survived him.

---

**Albert Leonard Johnson**

Kings Ferry, New York  
Born 20 July 1929

**Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps**

Service Number 595316  
Non-hostile Death  
20 June 1951 In United States



Corporal Johnson was a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division stationed at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. On 20 June 1951 he was at a command post on maneuvers at Hickory Point when two “short rounds” of mortar shells struck the command post killing him. Corporal Johnson was awarded the National Defense Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Corporal Johnson also served in World War II and received the World War II Victory Medal. His father Edgar, a sister and two brothers Thomas and James survived him. He was buried at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Unadilla, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Edmond P. La Breck, Jr.**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 1932

**Corporal, U.S. Army**  
Service Number 12348450  
Missing in Action, Presumed Dead  
2 December 1950 in Korea



Corporal La Breck was a member of Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was listed as Missing in Action while fighting the enemy in South Korea on 2 December 1950. He was officially presumed dead on 5 March 1954. Corporal La Breck was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal.. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Corporal La Breck was known to have been in the thick of fighting in the Korean campaign. He was awarded citations for heroism and bravery. One citation was for helping capture a machinegun nest and eight prisoners; he also risked his life to rescue some wounded companions. His mother Arlene survived him.

---

**John Michael Lemko**  
Auburn, NY  
Born 1919

**Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force**  
Service Number AF 36724690  
Died of a Gunshot Wound  
5 Feb. 1953 at Biggs Air Force Base, TX



Master Sergeant Lemko was a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> A and E Squadron at Biggs Air Force Base, El Paso, TX.. He served his country during World War II in England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany and was awarded the American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, World War II Service Lapel Button and a Good Conduct Medal; shortly after this service he reenlisted for the Korean Conflict.

His mother Julia and a sister were his only survivors. He was buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Jacob Paul Leonello**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 1930

**Private, U.S. Army**  
Service Number 51053189  
Killed in Action  
24 September 1951 in Korea



Private Leonello was a member of Company A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on 24 September 1951. Private Leonello was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

His parents M/M Angelo Leonello, four brothers Samuel, Carmen, Charles and Andrew, and two sisters Angela and Grace Galaub survived him. He is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

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**John Isom Moody**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 23 September 1916

**Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class, U.S. Army**  
Service Number 06389860  
Killed in Action  
13 February 1951 in Korea



Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Moody was a member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy near Hoengsong, South Korea on 13 February 1951. Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class Moody was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Sergeant Moody served in Panama, Hawaii, the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam and Saipan during World War II. After two years as a civilian he reenlisted for the Korean Conflict. His parents M/M Burr C. Moody, two brothers Clyde and Legrande, two sisters Lucile and Irene, and his wife Yolanda survived him. Place of burial unknown.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Kenneth C. Pierce**

Moravia, New York  
Born 25 May 1931

**Private, U.S. Army**

Service Number 12371019  
Killed in Highway Accident  
23 June 1951, Rte. 38 North of Groton, NY



Private Pierce enlisted in the U.S. Army to participate in the Korean Conflict to “serve his country.” He was stationed at Fort Dix, NJ with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division for basic training. He was instantly killed in the early hours of Saturday as he was bending over the engine of his car trying to repair a broken fan belt. The left front fender and door of his car were damaged in the collision that carried Private Pierce some distance along the road until the offending car landed in the ditch.

His parents M/M Clifford Pierce and two sisters Arlene Rogers and Christine survived him. He is buried at Indian Mound Cemetery, Moravia, NY.

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**John Joseph Ragucci**

Auburn, New York  
20 August 1926

**1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, U.S. Army**

Service Number O-59352  
Killed in Action  
1 January 1951 in Korea



A United States Military Academy (West Point) graduate Class of 1949, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ragucci was a member of the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in South Korea on 1 January 1951. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ragucci was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ragucci did a tour of duty at Fort Riley, Kansas before receiving his Korean assignment. Shortly after his death he was advanced in grade from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. His last letter was written the day after Christmas. “As you already know our situation isn’t good since the Chinese intervened, but our spirits are high and we have already accepted the price we shall pay in the coming days. I pray otherwise, but if this should be my last letter to you all, then accept it as the price our generation must pay for ours and our ancestors’ sins.” His father Natale survived him. He is buried at St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**John Arthur Reynolds, Jr.**

Aurelius, New York  
Born 1928

**Sergeant, U.S. Army**

Service Number 12357457  
Killed in Action  
22 September 1951 in Korea



Sergeant Reynolds was a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on 22 September 1951. Sergeant Reynolds was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Sergeant Reynolds was a Marine Corps veteran, having enlisted in July 1946. He was discharged in 1948 after service in China. He enlisted August 1950 in the U.S. Army to participate in the Korean Conflict. His parents M/M John A. Reynolds and three sisters survived him. His place of burial is unknown.

---

**Ernest Eugene Rooker**

Port Byron, New York  
Born 1930

**Private, U.S. Army**

Serial Number 51053196  
Killed In Action  
9 October 1951 in Korea



Private Rooker was a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on 9 October 1951. Private Rooker was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

Private Rooker was drafted on 5 February 1950. Following his training he was sent to Japan and a week later to Korea. He was killed one week after arrival in Korea. His parents M/M Madison Rooker, three brothers John, Charles and Gerald, and three sisters (Della Jetty among them) survived him. He is buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Port Byron, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Earl J. Saunders**

Cato, New York  
Born 14 March 1921

**Corporal, U.S. Army**

Service Number 42180230  
Accidental Drowning  
5 November 1950 at Tsuiki Air Base, Japan



Corporal Saunders served 11 years in the U.S. Army, serving five years in Germany, during World War II. He received the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters for wounds received on 16 April 1945. He also received a Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army of Occupation Medal w/ Germany Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal and a Service Lapel Button. He was erroneously reported missing during that war. Early in the spring of 1950 he reported to Fort Benning, GA for training and in September he was transferred to Korea. He died in Japan as a result of drowning allegedly sustained when he fell into an abandoned well.

His mother, Loretta, wife Elizabeth, daughter Sonya, brother Herbert, and two sisters Mildred and Florence survived him. His place of burial is in Columbus, Georgia where his wife and daughter resided.

---

**Robert James Smith**

Auburn, New York  
Born 1932

**Private First Class, U.S. Army**

Service Number 51195816  
Killed in Action  
30 June 1953 in Korea



Private First Class (Pfc) Smith was a member of the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was wounded by the enemy in North Korea on 17 May 1953 and returned to duty on 19 May 1953. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in North Korea on 30 June 1953. Private First Class Smith was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

His parents M/M James W. Smith, wife Marie, two brothers Richard and James, and three sisters Mrs. Robert Considine, Katherine and Mary Lou survived him. Pfc Smith is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.



**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Leo Szaszkewycz**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 1930

**Sergeant, U.S. Army**  
Service Number 12284626  
Killed in Auto Accident  
4 August 1951 in Nolanville, TX



Sergeant Szaszkewycz, a displaced person, came to the United States from the Ukraine in 1948. He formerly lived at Drohobycz, near Lemburg, in what was the Austrian-Galicia section before World War II. He sought refuge in this country as soon as arrangements could be made for his entry through government channels.

Sergeant Szaszkewycz made his home in Auburn before he enlisted in the U.S. Army. After arriving here he took up photography in the U.S. Signal Corps after enlisting and professed a keen interest in this in letters he had written to his host family. As far as is known, no relatives survived him. Military rites were conducted prior to burial at St Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

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**Anthony J. Tyrala**  
Cayuga, New York  
Born 1919

**Sergeant, U.S. Army**  
Service Number 32234432  
Killed in Action  
29 July 1950 in Korea



Sergeant Tyrala was a member of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He was Killed in Action while fighting the enemy in South Korea on 29 July 1950. Sergeant Tyrala was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal. [Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

His parents M/M Anthony J. Tyrala, one brother Stanley and five sisters survived him. The sisters were identified as Mrs. Thomas Kenyon and Mrs. James Cabot both of Cleveland, OH, Mrs. Harold Stoddard, Mrs. Donald Tabor and Mrs. Howard Clancey, all of Auburn, NY. Sergeant Tyrala is buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn, NY.

**Korean Conflict 27 June 1950 to 31 January 1955**  
**Cayuga County, New York Fatalities**

**Elwyn M. Underwood**  
Locke, New York  
Born 14 April 1923

**Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force**  
Service Number 12201317  
Killed in Air Transport Crash  
22 October 1951 at Kelly Field, TX



Master Sergeant Underwood enlisted in the Air Force nearly ten years prior to his death. He was with the Air Transport Command in Germany at the time of the Berlin lift and was a veteran of several trans-Atlantic flights. Sergeant Underwood was one of five crewmen killed in the crash of a C-97 four-engined transport training plane at Kelly Field, TX. During takeoff of this routine training flight the plane tipped until a wing hit the ground and crashed. He was a flight engineer instructor throughout his service.

His parents M/M Melville M. Underwood of Genoa, a brother Arthur and a sister Mrs. Marilyn Basl survived Master Sergeant Underwood. Military rites were performed at Genoa Rural Cemetery where he was buried.

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**Thomas Louis Van Riper**  
Auburn, New York  
Born 22 October 1919

**Captain, U.S. Air Force**  
Service Number A0886120  
Missing in Action, Presumed Dead  
23 March 1951 in Korea



Captain Van Riper was the pilot of a F-80C Shooting Star Fighter interceptor with the 8<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Squadron, 49<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Group. On 23 March 1951, while on a combat mission, his aircraft received a direct hit by anti-aircraft fire, crashed and burst into flames near Sunan, Korea. He was listed as Missing in Action and was officially presumed dead on 31 December 1953. He was awarded the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

[Source: American Battle Monuments Commission]

During World War II Captain Van Riper saw active service with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the European Theatre of War and later with the English Air Army and Turkish Air Force. When the United States entered the war he was transferred to the U.S. Air Force. At the conclusion of the war he remained in the service. In September 1950 he went to Korea. His father E. Warren Van Riper, wife Gladys, and two children Catherine 2 ½ and Nikky 6-months survived him.