



KANE
MY DEAREST HUSBAND
WILLIAM PATRICK
JULY 8, 1945
THEY WILL BE DONE

LAUKANT
MARY 1945
FRED 1955



**PURPLE
HEARTS**
REUNITED

EARNED THROUGH VALOR, LOST BY CIRCUMSTANCE, REUNITED WITH DIGNITY



Table of Contents

CONTACT:

Erin Faith Allen
Operations Director

713-291-5496

admin@purpleheartsreunited.org

WWW.PURPLEHEARTSREUNITED.ORG

02 TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 OUR MISSION

04 ABOUT US

05 2021 SUMMARY

06 429 ITEMS OF VALOR

07 ITEMS RETURNED

08 ARTIFACTS

09 RICHTER TWINS

10 SHORT DOCUMENTARY

11 SILENT HEROES

12 IT ISN'T JUST HEARTS

13 PARRISH BROTHERS

14 VETERANS DAY

15 A FEW STORIES

16 ROLL OF HONOR

17 ROLL OF HONOR

18 FUTURE IMPACT

19 STORIES TO BE TOLD

20 SUPPORT

21 SPONSORS

22 FOLLOW US

OUR MISSION.



As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, our mission is to return lost, stolen or misplaced military medals of valor to veterans or their families to honor their sacrifice to the nation.

In

2021.

In spite of the challenges brought on by the pandemic, and the overseas deployment of our founder, Major Zachariah Fike, we are proud to share that in 2021 we have completed 100 returns in 33 states, with 23,864 miles traveled to Return Valor.

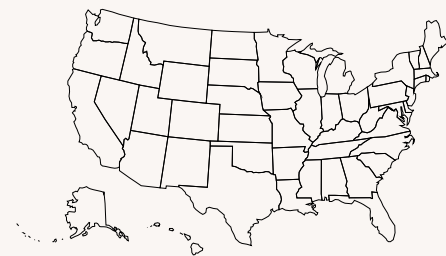


2021 Summary.



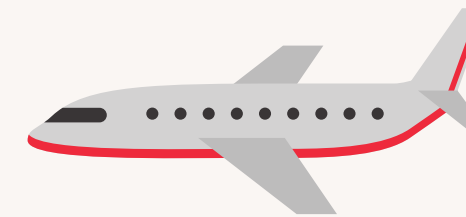
100 Returns

We returned 429 items to 100 families or presented them to Homes of Honor.



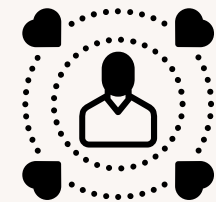
33 States

Valor was returned to 33 States. We also facilitated the return of a living Veteran's uniform to his current home in Costa Rica.



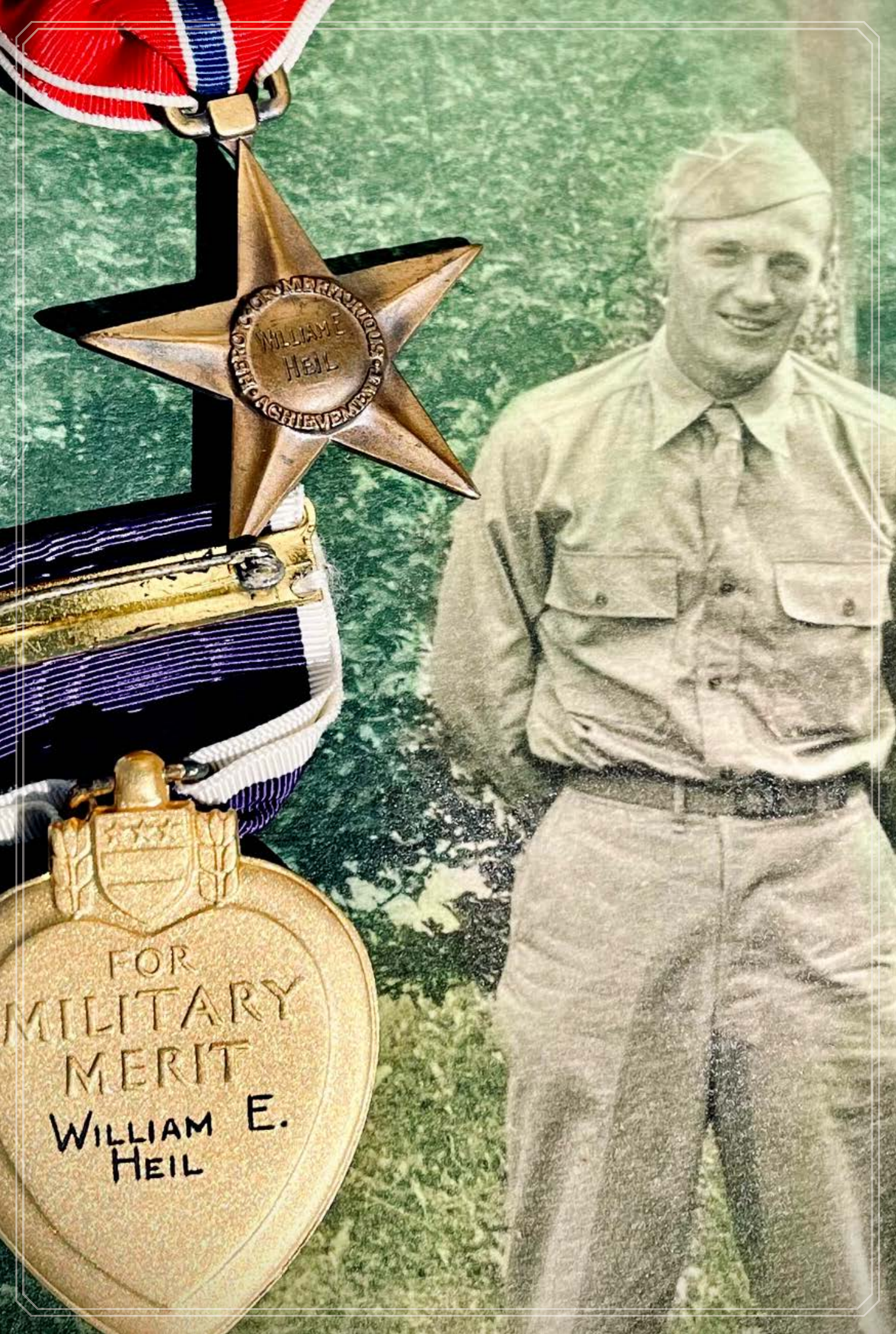
23,864 Miles

In 2021, we traveled to MD, VA, DC, OH, MI, WI, MN, TX, TN, KY, OK, CO, MT, NY, and NJ to return valor.



Impact

Our returns have impacted hundreds, if not thousands, of lives this year.



429 Items of Valor were returned from Veterans who served in World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Operation Enduring Freedom.



TSGT William Heil served with the 45th Division when he was killed in action in France. His Bronze Star for Valor and posthumous Purple Heart were returned to his nephew Paul, who was 'awestruck' that they were returned to the family after all this time.

Among the artifacts returned:

Dog tags

Binoculars

Burial flags

Silver Stars

Bronze Stars

Purple Hearts

Ceremonial sword

WW1 Victory Medals

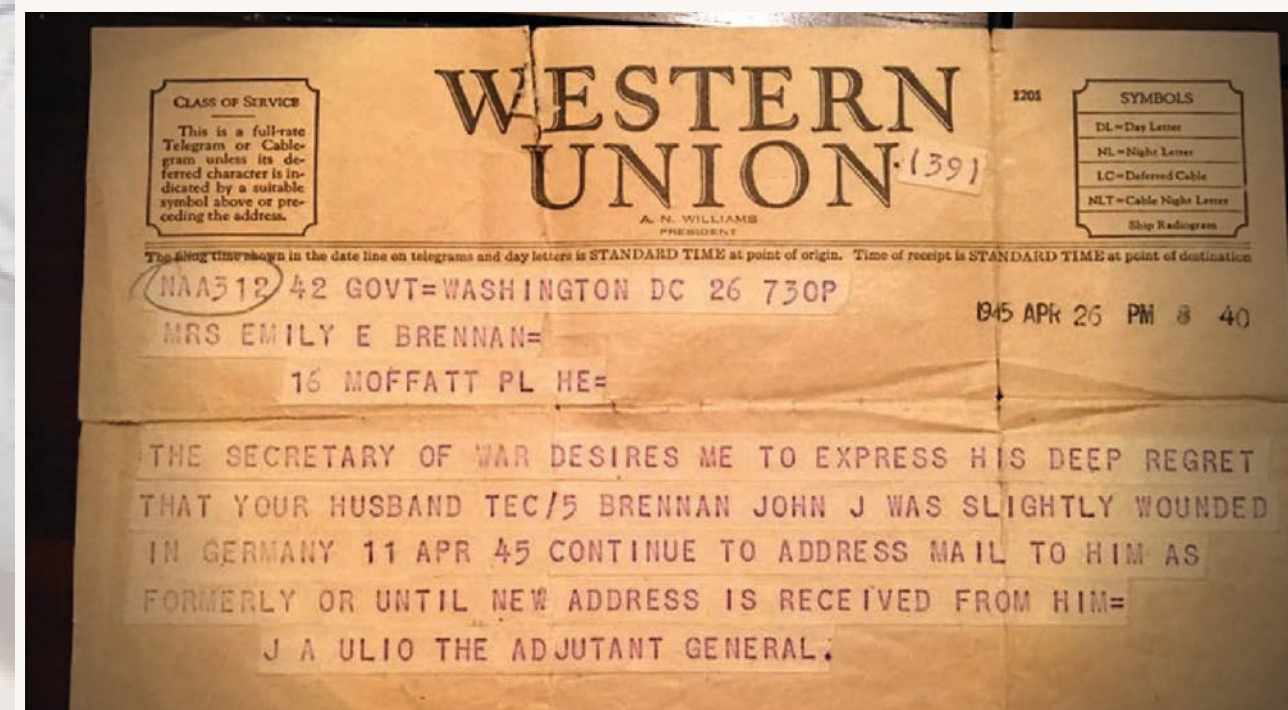
Wartime photographs and letters

Hand-drawn and silk combat maps

Trench art rings and other wartime souvenirs

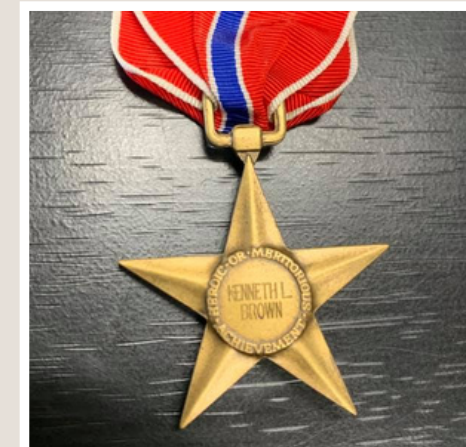
WW1 Wound and Death in Service Certificates

KIA / WIA telegrams and other documentation





*An artifact is not
just an artifact.*



A Veteran's artifact is a doorway into a very human story of valor, sacrifice, and blood shed; and in most cases, a story lost to history. We don't just bring the artifact home - we bring our own meticulous research into the Veteran's service, and we take pride in our dedication to educating our military families who are hungry for more information about their Veteran's legacy of service to the nation.

When the item is returned, it resurrects memories, and provides the opportunity for closure and deep healing. Families often tell us it is like their Veteran has walked through the door again.



*Bonded by blood,
separated by sacrifice.*

SSGT Dale and PFC Dean Richter.



The Richter twins both served in the Vietnam War - but only one of them came home. Dean buried his loss of Dale and the brothers' history; not even Dean's children knew their story.

When we brought the Heart home, the family came together to honor the twins ... and Dean shared their story.

It was an emotional and powerful day; one of many such days that inspire us to continue our mission.

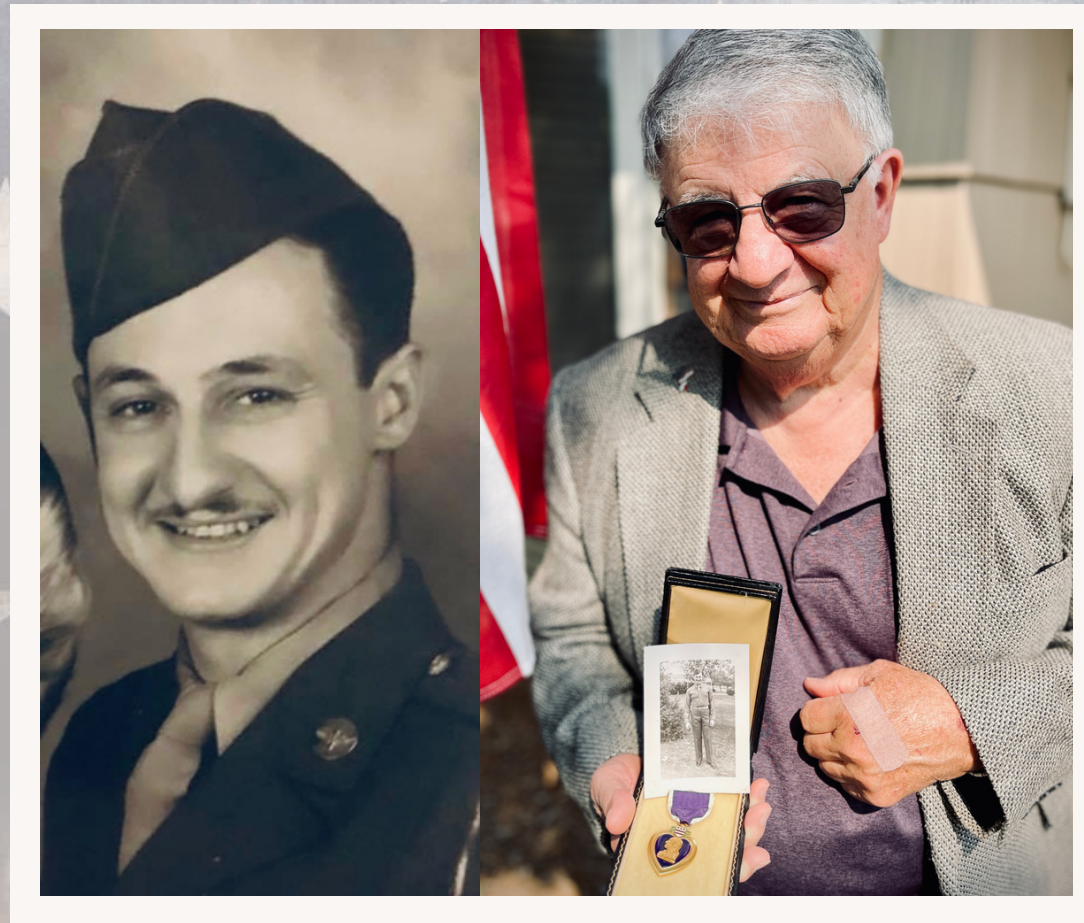


We created a short documentary about the return of Dale's Purple Heart, Dean's loss, and the twins' service. [**WATCH HERE.**](#)

The film features footage from a Super 8 camera that Dean carried in Vietnam.

Silent Heroes.

We brought home posthumous Purple Hearts to several children, now grown, who did not have the opportunity to know their father. Through their loss, they have carried a very specific burden for our nation. **It is an honor to introduce you to two of them: Jack and Carmen.**



Jack, the son of SSG Jack Bush Fee, was nine years old when his father's bomber was shot down over Germany in 1944.

We asked Jack if he remembers his father:

[**CLICK HERE FOR HIS STORY**](#)



Carmen was six months old when her father, PFC Vincent Chavez, was killed on Porkchop Hill in Korea.

His Purple Heart was missing for years.

[**CLICK HERE FOR HER STORY**](#)



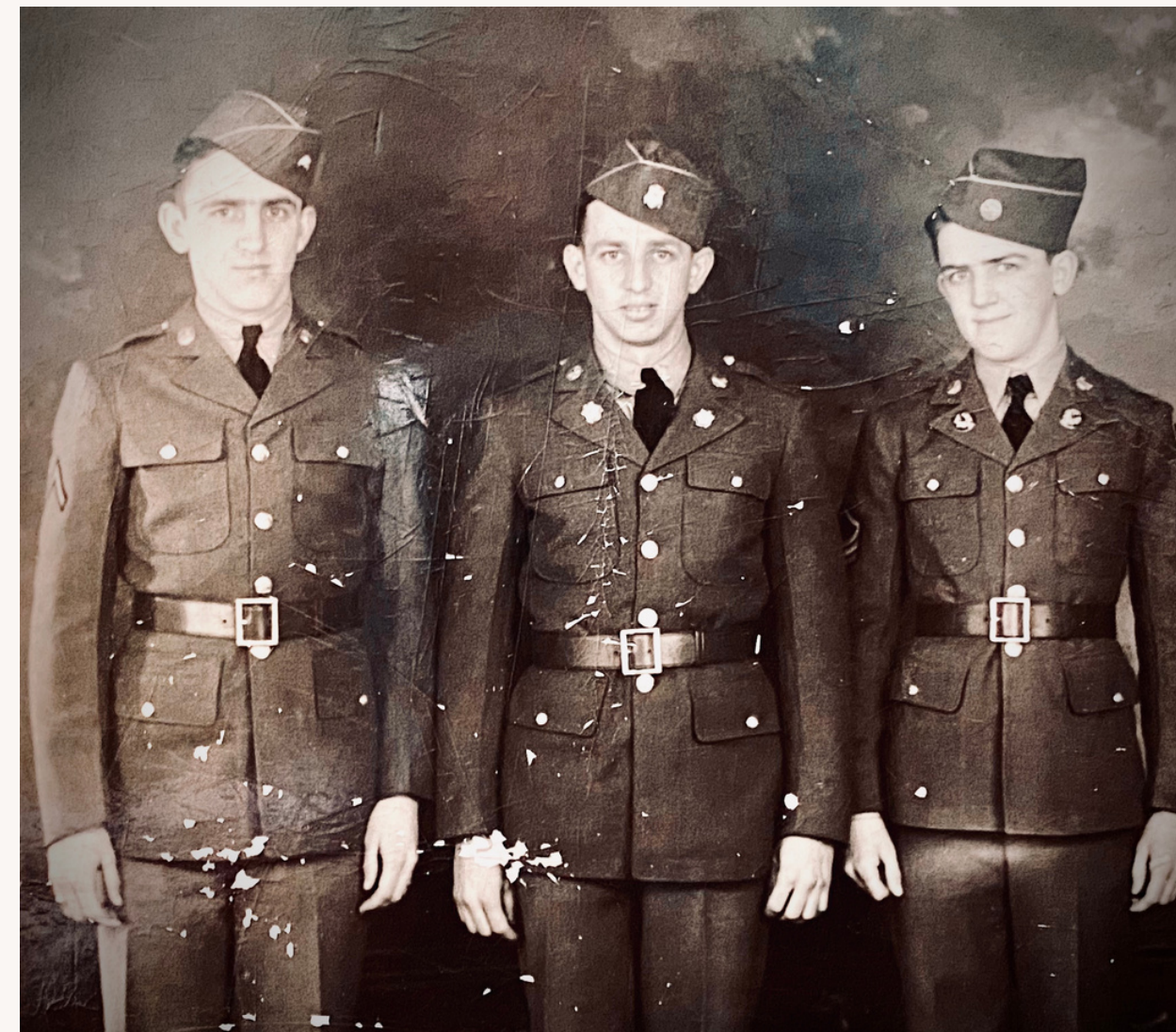
***It isn't just Purple Hearts
that make an impact.***

***Lanny was born thirty nine days after her father,
PFC Barney Parrish, was killed in France in WWII.***

Due to life's circumstances she had not seen a photograph of him in decades.

We brought Lanny twenty-two photographs of her father, and several wartime letters - one written the day before his death.

The joy that shined on Lanny's face as she connected with the father she never knew through these items is something we will never forget.



Barney, Taylor, and Watson Parrish

Tragically, the Parrish family lost another son, Watson, to the Korean War.



The legacy of the Parrish Brothers lives on in Burkesville

"They get to bring home that piece that symbolic representation of their father. It's pretty remarkable. There are dozens and dozens and hundreds of stories of families who've received like a really priceless, unspeakable joy and sense of closure from that as well."

WBKO / Ana Medina / Apr 25, 2021

With the Parrish family we honored Barney, Watson, and their brother Taylor at a ceremony in their hometown in Kentucky. Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) to learn more.

VETERAN'S DAY.



Over Veteran's Day in NYC we honored 11 of our nation's heroes through ceremonies with their families or presenting their medals to Homes of Honor.

Four of their stories.



SSG Morris Samuelson
was killed in action six days
after DDay in Normandy.

His Purple Heart and Air Medal
were returned to his nephew
Stanley on Long Island, who
still calls his Uncle Morry his hero.

[WATCH HIS STORY
HERE](#)



PFC William Kane
was mortally wounded on his
first day in combat, 1945.

We surprised his nephew
with his Silver Star awarded
for sacrificing his life while
trying to save his comrade.

[WATCH HIS STORY
HERE](#)



PFC Edward Bland
was killed in action in March
1945 in Germany.

His Purple Heart was returned to
his granddaughter and her family in
Manhattan.

PFC Bland paved the way for the
integration of black troops. We are
releasing a short video about him
and this return in the near future.



TEC5 Harry Deener
was wounded by a strafing
German aircraft in April 1945.

His Purple Heart and dog tags,
stamped with 'H' for Hebrew,
were returned to his sons. Attached
was a mezuzah, a
Jewish symbol of prayer.

[WATCH HIS STORY
HERE](#)

2021 Roll of Honor.

PFC Joseph Vincent Culotta . Baltimore, MD
SGT Joseph Patrick Ireland . Verona, VA
PVT William Bernard Linthicum . Baltimore, MD
SP5 Howard Arthur Hinkley . Ashland, TN
MSGT Norman Jaquith Guynn . Parker, CO
Gregory A. Martinez . Parker, CO
AB RN Harold Raymond Holden . Valencia, PA
PVT John Skrovan . Parma, OH
Edward F. Tell . Elkton, MD
SGT William Eric Heil . Kapaa, HI
CPL Paul A. Heil . Kapaa, HI
PFC Stanley Hart Osborn Jr . Duxbury, MA
PVT Martin Hill . N Yarmouth, ME
PVT Chester B. Jozefski . Rochester, New York
PFC Thomas B. Dowda . Broken Arrow, OK
1LT Stanley Slishansky . Macomb, MI
PFC Barney Howard Parrish . Burkesville, KY
PFC Taylor Clayton Parrish . Burkesville, KY
SGT Watson Flowers Parrish . Burkesville, KY
PVT Alfred F. Ebert . Andrews, IN
PFC John E. Thomas . Columbus, OH
1LT Richard Kenneth McKay . Kent, OH
SGT Pio John Vanni . Albuquerque, NM

PFC Vincent Joseph Chavez . Toledo, OH
PVT Glendon L. Place . Saginaw, MI
PFC John Maruscok . Strongsville, OH
TSGT Buford T. Johnson . Smackover, AR
PFC Joseph Marmell . Houston, TX
SSG Joseph A. Staab . Appleton, WI
SGT Kenneth Lloyd Brown . Sheridan, WY
SGT John Michael Haugh . Chicago, IL
SGT Earl Abbott Wiedman . Atlanta, GA
SSG Dale Ray Richter . Frisco, TX
PVT Phillip F. Schaefer . Dallas, TX
PFC Donald Gerald McDonel . New Richmond, WI
PVT Thebo Marcoe . Puyallup, WA
2LT George H. Wood . Apex, NC
TSGT David Lawing . Costa Rica
Ray A. Milks . Rathdrum, ID
PVT Adolf Gustov Wehmeyer . Sherman, TX
MAJ Fred J. Black . Sachse, TX
SSG Harry Bennett . Conneaut, OH
SGT William Theodore Decker . Baton Rouge, LA
PVT Albert Adolph Van Bergen . Rosemount, MN
MM1C David Jefferson Hopper . Big Spring, TX
TSGT Albert John Dibella . Prosper, TX

LT COL Henry Paul Brauner . Grizzly Flats, CA
Byron G. Hegenderfer . Amanda, OH
SGT Jessica Paige Garrard . Tucson, AZ
PVT Titus E. Sloyer . Ackworth, GA
PVT Frank M. McCurdy . Fayetteville, NY
PVT Edward H. Kranz . Albion, PA
MSG Forrest Bell Montgomery . Gilbert, AZ
SGT James C. Walters . Harvest, AL
RD2 Gerald H. Walters . Harvest, AL
PFC Joseph Frank Miculinic . Burr Ridge, IL
PVT Onke Ihnen . Rising City, NE
SGT Charles Richard Shipley . New Straitsville, OH
TEC4 Alfred Lee Shipley . New Straitsville, OH
2LT John M. Brady II . Gilbert, AZ
CPT Kyle E. Sherman . Newnan, GA
TSGT Julius Leonard Nordholm Jr . Lemont, IL
PFC Eugene M. Heeftle . Laurel, MT
TSGT Mathew D. Meese . New Philadelphia, OH
CPL Edward James Ryan . Houston, TX
PVT Robert Russell Sage . Hyde Park NY
SFC Leslie Hamilton Solomon . Benton, TN
BM1 William Augustus Solomon II . Benton, TN
SGT Andrew Shope . Tucson, AZ
SSG Jack Bush Fee . Minneapolis, MN
CPL Joseph J. Drenttel . Minneapolis, MN
PVT Theodore L. Peterson . Minneapolis, MN
CPL Roger P. Kavanaugh . Washington, DC

2LT Robert L. Green . Virginia Beach, VA
CPL William V. Archer . Chesterfield, VA
CPT Albert Richardson Montague . Richmond, VA
PVT Theodore J. Podles . Baltimore, MD
SSG Herbert Thomas Schilling . Monkton, MD
PFC Frederick H. Gates . Norfolk, VA
James C. Diggs Jr . Baltimore, MD
James C. Diggs Sr . Baltimore, MD
CPL Charles I. White . Baltimore, MD
SFC Joseph C. Gilbert . Baltimore, MD
PVT Herman Reiser Martin . Baltimore, MD
George Unglesbee . Baltimore, MD
PFC John F. Hansel . Lena, WI
PFC Paul E. Johnson . Bristol, TN
SGT Theodore C. Anderson . Muncy, PA
Robert L. Brown Sr . Naples, FL
PVT Jerry S. Papa . Iselin, NJ
SGT Joseph P. OBrien . Somerset, CA
TEC5 John J. Brennan . Levittown, NY
1LT James R. Laurie . Belleville, NJ
PVT Nick J. Gergulas . Belleville, NJ
CPL William Frank Hahn . Belleville, NJ
PFC Edward Bland . Manhattan, NY
TEC5 Harry Simon Deener . Maplewood, NJ
CPL Edmund Vance . Morristown, NJ
PFC William Patrick Kane . Queens, NY
SSG Morris Lincoln Samuelson . Levittown, NY

Every month, we receive dozens of medals and other artifacts that are sent to us from people around the country.

We have over 500 items awarded to, or belonging to, a Veteran and his family that need to find their way home.

This number continues to grow each week.



**That's over 500 Veterans waiting
for their stories to be told ...**

And for their families to be impacted, receive closure, and have the opportunity to proudly and profoundly honor their Veteran.

We need your support.

DONATE

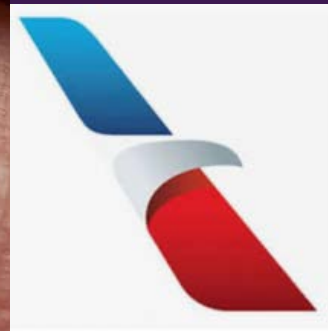
100% of your tax deductible donation goes directly into Returning Valor.



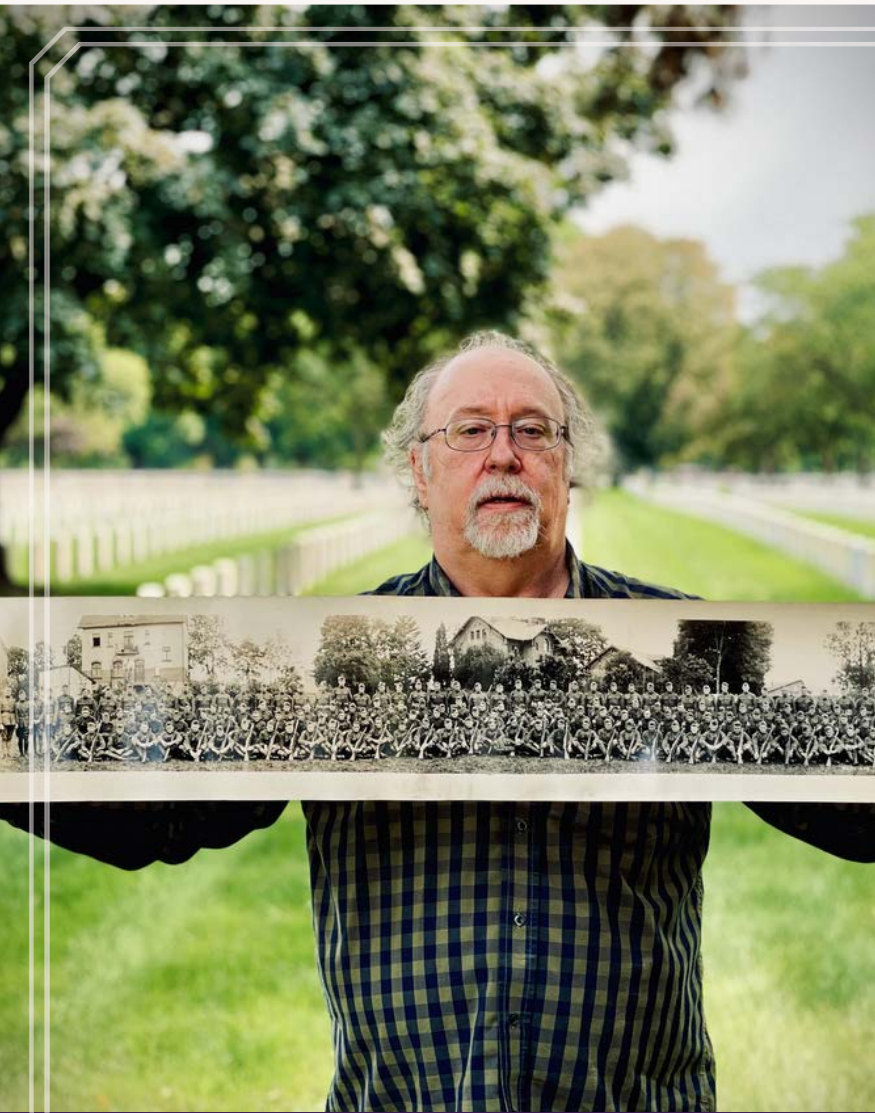
TSGT Julius Leonard Nordholm was killed in action when his bomber was hit by flak. His Purple Heart, Air Medal, and documents were returned to his nephew and namesake, Leonard, in Illinois.



Our Sponsors.



Our heartfelt gratitude to our friends at American Airlines who help us Return Valor across the country - and to LION Management Services and LION Eye Group for their generous support of our Veteran's Day ceremonies in New York City.



Please follow our Facebook page

HERE

to read our tributes to
our Veterans
and their families.



Thank You

for helping us locate, research, and return valor, and profoundly impact the lives and legacy of our military families in 2021.

WWW.PURPLEHEARTSREUNITED.ORG



Zachariah Fike
FOUNDER



Erin Faith Allen
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



Marsha Peterson-Maass
VALOR RESEARCH DIRECTOR



Mike Brennan
VALOR GUARD DIRECTOR

