

**STL Gateway Chapter - Veteran's Registry**  
**Dedicated in honor of our club members who served in the U.S. Armed Forces**  
**Thank You...!!!**

**Bill Bicknell**

U.S. Marine Corps from 1969 to 1971.

I had orders to go to Vietnam three times, but all three times they were canceled and I never left the States. After training, most of my time was spent at Camp Pendleton, California with the last few months at Mare Island Naval Shipyard. By luck, I was assigned to the Automotive School/Motor Pool. I was assigned a toolbox to work on the large trucks, but never picked up a wrench. They discovered I was a college graduate and pulled me into the office, so I spent most of my time behind a typewriter. Nothing heroic, but I was proud to serve.

**William (Bill) Cameron**

U. S. Air Force 3 ½ years

U.S. Army National Guard 6 years

Served in Vietnam

**Jim Conley**

U. S. Air Force, (1956 – 1962) three years active, three years reserve, Cold War – worked with radar and navigation for the B-52 Bomber.

**Steve Dodson**

U.S. Army 3 years, Rank: Spec 5,

Duty: Personal Management Specialist of enlisted member's personal files

Served in Augusta GA and Germany (serviced during the Vietnam conflict)

**William (Bill) Hall**

U.S. Army Reserves, 1971 – 1973

Administrative Staff, 329<sup>th</sup> Supply and Service Battalion

**Jim Hall** (*Deceased*)

U.S. Army served two years

Served in administration, and was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado.

**Gary Heim**

U. S. Naval Reserve

I joined the Naval Reserve in September of 1961. I was 17 years old and a senior in high school. I spent 2 years on active duty from June 1962-1964. I came off active duty as an engine man 3rd class (E4) and was discharged from reserves at the end of 6 years as en2 or engine man 2nd class (E5).

**Gene Jacobs**

**U.S. Navy**

Machinery Repairman, 2nd Class, served four years, Vietnam

**Dr. Jeff Johnson**

U.S. Public Health Service, Lieutenant

Served stateside in the aftermath of the Vietnam War providing medical care to Merchant Marines as well as processing Laotian and Cambodian refugees from war torn areas to a medically safe condition for dissemination into US communities.

**Edward Keil** (*Deceased*)

U.S. Army, corporal, served 2 years, 1953-1955,  
Instructor at Communications School for officers, Fort Benning, GA

**Bill Landers**

U.S. Army, January 1963 through June 1965

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, stationed in Heidelberg Germany with a communications security unit. We monitored all communications of our troops and provided feedback to commanders to improve their communications security.

**Dr. Walter Kopecky**

U.S. Public Health Service, Lieutenant Commander  
Radiology Services, VA, DOD

**Geoff Lockett**

**U.S. Navy**

- Active duty: August 1973 to August 1977 (Enlisted service)  
Rate attained: Sonar Technician Second Class (E5) Submarine Service. Duty was Sonar Technician (equipment maintenance and repair) and Sonar watch stander underway  
Duty station: USS Gudgeon, SS-567, a Tang-Class Diesel-electric submarine homeported in San Diego and assigned to the US Pacific Fleet. (Gudgeon was transferred to the Turkish Navy in October 1983 and is now a museum ship there)  
Honorable Discharge August 1979 (enlistments were officially 6 years at the time)
- Reserve duty: July 1983 to October 1999 (Commissioned Service, Active Reserve)  
Rank Attained: Lt. Commander, Naval Intelligence  
Duty: Satellite imagery interpretation, intelligence production, and Order Of Battle analysis in support of Amphibious Expeditionary Warfare (Marine landings and expeditions)  
Duty Stations: 1983-1999 four separate Commands hosted in Naval Air Station Glenview, IL, Joint Reserve Intelligence Center, Ft. Sheridan, IL, and RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, UK supporting US Atlantic Command, NAVAIR, and US European Command.
- 1989-1991 assigned to Patrol Squadron 90, NAS Glenview as Squadron Air Intelligence Officer. On active deployments to Naval Air Facility Kadena, Okinawa briefed air crews prior to the mission, debriefed following the mission, flew on missions to gather and interpret photographic evidence. Squadron aircraft was the Lockheed P3 Orion maritime patrol aircraft.
- Elected to retire July 1999 and transferred to Inactive Reserve for Retirement Purposes (IRR) October 1, 1999.
- Retired April 2012

**Paul Meyer** (*Deceased*)

U.S. Air Force, 1959, served 4 years

Worked in electronics on the B52 Bomber. Served stateside, but one of his most memorable Bomber missions took him to Hawaii where he stayed for a couple of weeks for RR.

*STL Gateway Tradition: When Paul was Director of the STL Gateway Chapter and again when he was President of the BCA, he started the tradition that all club meetings start with **The Pledge of Allegiance** of the United States. The tradition carries on today...*

**John Midkiff**

U.S. Navy /U.S. Navy Reserve, Chief Petty Officer, 27 years service, Cold War, Gulf War

Responsible for running medical and dental facilities anywhere the Navy and Marine Corps operate. Last position Battalion Medical Chief, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 15.

**Pete Nathan**

U. S. Air Force, 1964-1968, E-4  
Medic in emergency room/air evacuation-Vietnam

**Frank Paronish**

U.S. Army, 26.5 years  
Maj/Contracting Officer, Afghanistan December 2009 – December 2010

**Gary Roberts**

U.S. Navy, Officer/Proc.MBR, served 20 years, LCDR/Vietnam

**Dave Smith** (*Deceased*)

U.S. Army, Corporal, served four years  
Dave enlisted in the Army Reserves. After a year of service, he was called to active duty just as the Korea War was breaking out.

Initially, he was assigned to the Chemical Warfare Division at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah, in preparation for an overseas assignment. He took advantage of an opportunity to become a cook and remained stateside until his discharge 3 years later.

*STL Gateway Tradition: For years, Dave was the self-appointed greeter of the STL Gateway Chapter. Following **The Pledge of Allegiance** of the United States, Dave would always call out “Play Ball” to officially signal the start of each meeting. The tradition carries on today...*

**Jerry Wilson**

U. S. Air Force, 1971 – 1976, Captain  
Research and Development (Air Force Systems Command – Aeronautical Systems Division; Electronic Systems Division)  
No foreign war assignment

