

Centennial Service Stories

U.S. Air Force

Name	Years	Rank	Notes
Adams, Susan	1964 - 1965	Chaplain	Vietnam Conflict
Ballard, Jack	1953 - 1980	Lt. Col.	
Blanchette, Ernest	1949 - 1952		
Bribiesca, Richard		E7-Master Sergeant	Click here for full bio
Bogner, Wendell J.	1951 - 1974	Second Lt./Major	Click here for full bio
Charter, Edward	1948 - 1973	Chief Master Sgt.	Click here for full bio
Charter, Jannette	1953 - 1955	Airman 2nd Class	Click here for full bio
Cooper, Michele	1974 -1978	E4 - Sergeant	Click here for full bio
Deeter, Dolores "Dee"	1961 - 1963	Captain	Click here for full bio
Deeter, Jack "John"	1956 - 1960	Sergeant	Click here for full bio
Dreher Jr., Carl Edward		A/1C	Click here for full bio
Fagen, Ben	1943 – 1966	Major	
Fletcher, Robert B.	1951 - 1953		Korean War
Greene, Bob	1942 - 1945	Royal Canadian Air Force	
Heyer, Marvin		Corporal	Click here for full bio
Isaacson, Darrold "Ike"	1943 - 1945	Sergeant	Click here for full bio
Moll, Antonio		Lt. Colonel	Click here for full bio
Moon, Vorry		Lt. Colonel	Click here for full bio
Moon, Candace		Technical Sergeant	Click here for full bio
Nauman, Dean		Sergeant	Click here for full bio
Neider, Tom	1952 - 1956	Sergeant	Click here for full bio

Page, Jerry	1952 – 1971	Sergeant	Click here for full bio
Pearcy, John	1942 - 1970	Lt. Colonel	Click here for full bio
Riccio, Charles "Ric"	1961 - 1989	Lt. Colonel	Judge Advocate; Lt. Col.
Rider, Ray			Thirty Years of Service
Scheider, Joe	1944 - 1954	Captain	Click here for full bio
Searcy, Sam		E-4	Click here for full bio
Schulz, Rose	1964 - 1966	Captain	
Williams, Billy F.	1952 - 1969		
Yost, Russ	1943 - 1946	Box Sergeant	Active Duty WWII

U.S. Army

Arther, Paul	1943 - 1945	Doctor	
Arthur, James H.	1943 - 1946	Doctor	
Baldwin, Dennis	1954 - 1956		
Barnes, Paul		1st Lt.	Click here for full bio
Bouffard, John J.	1942 - 1945		U.S. Army Air Corps
Bowman, Herb	1946 - 1947	Army Corps of Engineers, worked on Manhattan Project	
Burqhardt, James W.	1941 - 1975		Active & Reserve times
Cox, Nelson	1943 - 1946		Click here for full bio
Demore, Jim	1970 - 1972	Spec 4	
Donahue, Roy	1943 - 1946	1st Lt.	
Dunlap, Laurence "Larry"	1942 - 1944		Army Air Corps; WWII
Engelsman, Kenneth D.	1966 - 1968		
Erickson, Howard	1942 - 1977		
Fisher, Glenn	1943 - 1945		Active duty WWII

Gnadt, Wayne	1953 - 1955	Sgt.	Click here for full bio
Gehle, Henry	1943 - 1945		U.S. Army Air Corps; 8 th
Gilbert, Vivian	1944 - 1945		United Services Orgs
Gordon, Herman	1943 - 1945		
Hill, Glenn	1940 - 1945	B-25 Pilot	Army Air Corps
Hughett, Bryce	1944 - 1946		
Humphreys, John	U.S. Army: 1944 – 1946 U.S. Army Reserves: 1946 - 1953		Doctor
Juarez, Enrique	1986 - 1990	Squad Leader	
Keebler, William E.	1946 - 1948		
Kelly, Jack	1958 – 1965		
Klein, Joel R.			Click here for full bio
Lemon, David			Click here for full bio
Lilley Jr., Roy	1944 - 1946		
Mercer, Kathleen		Spc. IV	U.S. Army Clerk Typist
Peterson, Pete	1942 - 1946	Armament/Gunnery Officer	U.S. Army Air Corps
Plachy, Jon M.	1956 - 1959		
Riccio, Charles "Ric" A.	1951 - 1953	1st Lt.	24th Infantry Division Infantry Vietnam Bronze Star Medal
Scoville, Wilber E.	1952 - 1954		
Simpson, Bob	1950 - 1952	Private	Served in Army Medical Corps.
Stevens, Carla	1943 - 1945	U.S. Army Air Corps	
Talman Jr., James B.			Click here for full bio
Tarrant, Webb		Private First Class	Click here for full bio
Velzen, Frank	1945 - 1947		
Vente, Jack	1947 - 1950	Dutch Army	
Westwick, Ernie			Click here for full bio
Williams, Billy F.	1942 - 1946		

U.S. Coast Guard

Hull, Jack	1943 - 1946
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U.S. Navy

Aleman, Ricardo Enrique			Click here for full bio
Bailey, Ted	1951 - 1954		
Bouffard, John J.	1942 - 1945		
Brennan, Elaine	1943 - 1945	Instrument Flight Instructor	U.S. Navy WAVES
Browning, W.L. "Dub"	1942 - 1945		
Burnham, Keith P.	1944 - 1946		
Casillas, Ben	1941 - 1945		
Christensen, Roy	1942 - 1945		
Chunn, Jim	1951 - 1955		Click here for full bio
Cohen, Steve			Click here for full bio
Glass II, Harry J.	1944 - 1973		
Guderian, Dorothy		Cadet Nurse Corps	
Hall, Harry	1944 - 1945	Decommissioned military ships	
Henderson, Sheldon W.	1974 - 1988		Vietnam; disabled vet
Kautsky, Norm	1944 - 1945		
Landhuis, Rem	1953 - 1959	Lt., served on USS Shangri-La as fighter pilot in Pacific	
Lindblom, Tom	1943 - 1945		
Lucas, Ken		Petty Officer 2nd Class	Click here for full bio

Marick, Steve	1969 - 1973		Vietnam
Osterag, Hal	1953 - 1956		
Raiter, Richard H.	1943 - 1946		
Margaret Rayl	1942 - 1946	Navy Chief	
Rolland, Robert	1966 - 1970	Machinist Mate	Gulf of Tonkin 1967 - 1968
Shelmire, Ray	1946 - 1948		
Shelton, Patrick	1979 - 1985		
Strickland, Eric			Click here for full bio
Stong, Robert "Bob" E.	1944 - 1946		
Taigen, Lou	1943 - 1944		
Wilson, James Rob	1945 - 1946		
Youngren, Paul	1943 - 1946		

U.S. Marine Corps

Bouffard, John J.	1942 - 1945		U.S. Merchant Marine
Claybourn, Bob	1942 - 1946		Click here for full bio
Gilliard, Troy	1988 - 1996	Gunnery Sgt.	
Ramsey, Craig C.	1946 - 1948		
Shelton, Patrick	1979 - 1985		
Tharp, Ed	1954 - 1956		

U.S. Air Force

Richard Bribiesca

Place of Birth: Whittier, California

Personal History: Schurr High School. Mother/Father deceased. Margie Henson-Sister. Robert Bribiesca-Brother

Place of Recruitment: Los Angeles, California

Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Class: E7-Master Sergeant

Military Occupation: Combat Arms Instructor-small arms maintainer/instructor

Service History:

Grissom AFB, Indiana 2001-2002

Beale AFB, California

Tyndall AFB, Florida

Kunsan AB, Korea

Saudi Arabia

Commendations & Honors: Pistol/rifle marksmanship, National Defense

Present Location: Parker, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Arapahoe Sheriff's Office-Deputy

Wendell J. Bogner

Place of Birth: Dayton, Ohio

Personal History: Osborn Bath High School grad (1947); Ohio Athens University grad (1951), married for 59 years to wife, Margie; eight grandchildren

Place of Recruitment: Athens, Ohio

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force

Class: Second lieutenant; advanced to major in Reserves after active duty



Military Occupation: Supply officer; contracting/production; shipped overseas in March 1952 on the USS General Gordon AP-117

Service History: 1951-1974 (active and reserve AF); served in Japan; managed supply for C46 Air Base for paratroopers

Commendations & Honors: United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, American Defense Medal

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Moved from Ohio to be near family in Colorado and Nebraska

Edward Charter

Place of Birth: Rockville, Connecticut

Personal History: Rockville High School graduate (1947); University of Northern Colorado B.S. in management (1975); Masters in management (1982); married to wife, Jan, for 61 years; one son and one daughter and five grandchildren

Place of Recruitment: Hartford, Connecticut

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force (1948-1973)

Class: Chief Master Sgt.

Military Occupation: Precision measurement equipment specialist

Service History: Basic training/radio school (Scott AFB in Bellevue, Illinois, 1948); Indian Mountain Air Force Station (Alaska, 1952); Scott AFB (1954); Lackland AFB (San Antonio, 1955); Neu Ulm Radar Station (Germany, 1956); Pforzheim AF Station (Germany, 1956); SAC Headquarters - Offutt (Omaha, Nebraska, 1959); Castle AFB (Atwater, California, 1964); Takhli RTAFB (Takhli, Thailand, 1967); Nellis AFB (Las Vegas, 1968); Lowry AFB (Aurora, Colorado, 1969); Retired (1973)

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Stationed at Lowry AFB, liked it here and stayed

Jannette Charter

Place of Birth: Coleman, Michigan

Personal History: Coleman High School graduate (1952); married 61 years to Ed Charter; they met in the Air Force and were married by a USAF chaplain

Place of Recruitment: Detroit, Michigan

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force (1953-1955)

Class: Airman 2nd Class

Military Occupation: OB/GYN and pediatric clinics - Scott AFB

Service History: Scott AFB, Bellevue, Illinois

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Husband was stationed here, they liked it and stayed

Michele Cooper

Place of Birth: Centennial, CO

Personal History: Four children who graduated from Arapahoe High School

Place of Recruitment: New Haven, CT

Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Class: E4 - Sergeant

Military Occupation: Aircraft Maintenance Specialist/Crew Chief C5A aircraft

Service History: September 3, 1974 - September 3, 1978

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Resident of Centennial since it became a City.

Dee (Delores) Deeter

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois

Personal History: I grew up during WWII. It always stuck in my mind that I wanted to serve in some way. I came to Denver in 1959 and worked at a VA hospital.

Place of Recruitment: Denver, Colorado

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force 1961-63

Class: Captain

Military Occupation: Surgical nurse; taught corpsmen surgical techniques and how to set up field hospitals

Service History: Tachikawa AFB in Japan for two years. I talked two of my roommates into joining me because I was a coward and they needed more nurses. Halfway through this, my husband and I decided to meet up in Hawaii to get married in 1962. I wish I had stayed in the Reserves and I wish I had kept my uniforms, too.

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? We've always lived in this part of town



John "Jack" Deeter

Place of Birth: Omaha, Nebraska

Personal History: I didn't get prepared at all. I got drafted! They were kind enough to let me finish college and two weeks later I was standing at attention!

Place of Recruitment: I was "inducted" in Denver, Colorado

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force 1956-60

Class: Sergeant

Military Occupation: Personnel specialist

Service History: Fort Bliss, Texas (basic training, Sept. 1956); Fort Eustis, Virginia (transportation corps, Jan. 1957). Active reserves for two more years, done in 1960.

They had a really good mess hall and I gained 20 pounds.

My best friend from college and I had a car together and I could get three-day passes to visit Washington, D.C.

Our commanding general's last name was Lincoln and he was a grand-nephew of President Lincoln.

Commendations & Honors: Good conduct medal. "I was too far down in the ranks to get anything else."

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? My dad was transferred to Denver in 1949 and we've been back and forth since then.



Carl Edward Dreher Jr.

Place of Birth: Mainsfield, Ohio

Personal History: St. Francis DeSales High School - 1949; U.S. Air Force 1950 to 1954; Purdue University Aeronautical Engineering - 1959 married 1954; Lockheed - 1949 to 1977; Martin Marieta - 1977 to 1993. Wife Joanne; six daughters and three sons.

Place of Recruitment: Canandaigua N.Y.

Branch of Service: United States Air Force Training Command

Class: A/1C

Military Occupation: Flight Line Mech on T6 Trainer and T28 advanced trainer Perrin AFB Tex; Sr. Hyd Mech T33 Jet trainer Laredo Tex; Mgr. Hyd Dept Sampson AFB Geneva N.Y.



Marvin Heyer

Place of Birth: Blairsburg, Iowa

Personal History: Six weeks of junior college, did not like it and quit. Played trumpet and saxophone.

Place of Recruitment: Webster, Iowa

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force

Class: Corporal

Military Occupation: Ordinance; also played in a band while in the service

Service History: Spent 21 months in Iceland

Commendations & Honors: Good Conduct Medal

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Moved to Colorado 20 years ago, used to live in Highlands Ranch

Darrold "Ike" Isaacson

Place of Birth: Mellette, South Dakota

Personal History: Two brothers, three sons and one daughter

Place of Recruitment: Fort Sam Houston in Texas

Branch of Service: Army Air Corps

Class: Staff sergeant

Military Occupation: Machine gunner on B-24

Service History: 1943-45 in Europe; Twenty-five missions in central Europe; 467 air group; based near Norwick, England

Commendations & Honors: Five Air Medals, two Battle Stars

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Taught and served as an administrator in Cherry Creek Schools for 26 years

Antonio Moll

Place of Birth: Golden, Colorado

Personal History: Grew up in the Phillipines

Place of Recruitment: Was in National Guard in the Phillipines, joined U.S. Air Force

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force

Class: Lieutenant Colonel

Military Occupation: Pilot

Service History: He was shot down in Korea, rescued by a local village and tended to by a nurse. He was picked up by helicopter after 9 days.

Commendations & Honors: Shot down four planes

Present Location: Centennial

What's Your Centennial Connection? Born in Golden

Candace Moon

Place of Birth: Van Buren, Arkansas

Personal History: Graduate of Northside High School (Fort Smith, AR, Class of 1973). Graduated from Westark Community College in Fort Smith, AR; Park University in Parkville, MO (magna cum laude), Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration; and University of Denver, Master of Applied Communications. Married to Lt. Colonel Vorry Moon, (Ret. USAF). Sister to 12 siblings, mother to 7 children and grandmother to 13 grandchildren.



Place of Recruitment: Fort Smith, Arkansas

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force

Rank: Technical Sergeant

Military Occupation: Clerk Typist and Recruiter

Service History: Enlisted on active duty June 1976. Stationed at Lackland AFB, Texas; Good Fellow Air Base, Texas in 1976; Little Rock Air Base 1976-1979. Guard Reserve and Active Duty Arkansas Air National Guard, 1980-1983; Active Duty Kansas Air National Guard 1983-1985; Texas Air National Guard 1985-1986.

Commendations & Honors: Awarded Air Force Commendation Medal, Marksmanship Medal, and Good Conduct Medal.

What's Your Centennial Connection? Living in Centennial, Colorado, since September 1992 and am proud to represent the residents of District 1 in Centennial since January 2016 on the Centennial City Council. Employed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Denver Field Office in Centennial, CO.

Vorry Chandler Moon

Vorry Chandler Moon was born in Miami, Florida, on May 21, 1944. He graduated from Northwestern High School and Tennessee State University and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force in December 1966.

After receiving his pilot wings at Craig AFB, Selma, Alabama in February 1968, Lieutenant Moon was assigned to the 3rd Special Operations Wing, Bien Thuy AB, Republic of Viet Nam, flying the AC-47 Gunships call sign "Spookie." In 1969, Lt. Moon departed Viet Nam for Moody AFB, Valdosta, Georgia as a T-37 Instructor Pilot. While assigned to Moody, he also served as an academic instructor teaching principles of flight, T-37 systems and navigation to student pilots. He further served as the first Chief of Social Actions at Moody. In 1973, Captain Moon was reassigned to US Military Assistance Command Thailand/Joint US Military Assistance Group in Bangkok, Thailand, as a Drug Education Field Team Commander. After thirteen months, Captain Moon moved to Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base as a DOD Training Officer for the Royal Laotian Air Force.



Upon his return to the Continental US, Captain Moon was assigned to Grand Forks AFB, Grand Forks, North Dakota, where he served as a KC-135A Aircraft Commander, Flight Commander, Command Post Officer Controller, Headquarters Squadron Commander, and was promoted to the rank of Major. In 1979, he moved to Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska as an Emergency Actions Controller in the Strategic Air Command Underground Command Post. Additionally, he was the Command Control Unit Operations and Training Branch Chief while assigned to Offutt. In 1983, Lieutenant Colonel Moon was reassigned to Carswell AFB, Fort Worth, Texas as a KC-135A Flight Commander and then to a position as Chief, Operations Support Training Branch, 436 Strategic Training Squadron. In January 1990, he was assigned as the Squadron Operations Officer of the 436 STS.

From this position in July 1991, Lieutenant Colonel Moon retired from active service and began a successful business career as a training and organization development consultant. He founded his company, MBJ, Inc., in 1994 and served as owner, CEO and lead curriculum designer for his corporation providing training consultant services to four Fortune 500 companies, AF Material Command, AF Test Pilot School and Lockheed "Skunk Works." Lt. Col. Vorry Moon

Since moving to Colorado in 1991, Mr. Moon has been very active in local politics and community functions and activities in the South Metro Denver area, City of Centennial and Arapahoe County. In 2003, Mr. Moon was elected to serve a four year term as Centennial City Councilman, District I. As Councilman, Mr. Moon spearheaded Centennial's economic development efforts bringing over 3000 new high tech jobs from three new companies. He participated in the initiation of the Centennial Home Rule Charter effort and fostered the rebuilding of SouthGlenn Mall into The Streets at SouthGlenn. Mr. Moon was appointed in May 2010, to fill a vacated term on the Centennial City Council through January

2012. In February 2011, Council Member Moon was elected by Council to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Centennial, Colorado. Mr. Moon was reelected to another four year term in November 2011.

Mr. Moon's education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautics Education from Tennessee State University. He is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and a veteran of both the Viet Nam Conflict and the first Gulf War. A command pilot with more than 900 combat flying hours, his decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with eleven Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal and the RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm. Recipient of the Outstanding Young Men of America 1981 Award, 1983 8th District Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Man of the Year, 1990 Father of the Year Award from Zion Baptist Church, 1999 Outstanding Scouter Award, 2008 recipient of Chi Phi Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Founder's Award.

Mr. Moon is a member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, the Aurora Branch NAACP, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Past President and current Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

He is married to the former Candace Millicent Davis of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and they have seven adult children and eleven grandchildren.

Dean Nauman

Place of Birth: Gettysburg, South Dakota

Personal History: Taught at a small college in South Dakota when drafted.

Branch of Service: Army Air Corps

Class: Sergeant

Service History: Started in glider training, then intelligence.

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Got married after service and owned an advertising business in South Dakota. Now retired in Centennial, Colorado where two of his three children live and visit him.

Tom Neider

Place of Birth: Wheeling, West Virginia

Personal History: Duquesne University grad (1960); one brother, one sister, two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren

Place of Recruitment: Wheeling, West Virginia

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force

Class: Staff sergeant

Military Occupation: Supply sergeant; served in El Paso, Texas

Service History: 1952-1956 (El Paso, Texas)

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Worked in PPG Industries in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; came to Colorado in 1982

Jerry Page

Place of Birth: Greeley, Colorado

Personal History: Two daughters, four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild

Place of Recruitment: Denver, Colorado

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force

Class: Tech sergeant

Military Occupation: Nuclear weapons specialist

Service History: Korea 1952-53, California 1953-54, Lowry AFB 1954-58, Spain 1958-61, Minot, N.D. 1961-63; Europe 1963-65, Montana 1965-67, Vietnam 1967-68, Massachusetts 1968-69, Spokane, Washington 1969-71

Commendations & Honors: Good Conduct, National Defense, Korea, Vietnam, multiple unit citations

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Retired from CDOT in 1992; moved to Centennial in 2001

John Percy

Place of Birth: Kokomo, Indiana

Personal History: One brother, one sister, one son, one daughter, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren

Place of Recruitment: Galveston, Indiana

Branch of Service: U.S. Air Force

Class: Lieutenant colonel



Military Occupation: Bomber crew, on B-17 out of Foggia, Italy

Service History: 1942-1970. Served in WWII; flew 39 missions; shot down over the Adriatic Sea, crash landed. Reserves 1945-1970.

Commendations & Honors: Five air medals, Purple Heart, WWII Victory Medal - D.F.C.

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Moved here in 2004

Ron Phelps

Place of Birth: Colorado Springs, CO

Personal History: After graduating high school in 1977, Ron attended college at the University of New Mexico, worked odd jobs, and then joined the USAF in 1982.

Place of Recruitment: Colorado Springs, CO

Branch of Service: USAF

Rank: E6

Military Occupation: F-16 Avionics Technician

Service History: Honorably discharged after serving for over 9 years and stationed at Hill AFB, Utah, and Hahn Air Base in West Germany. Multiple deployments to various locations stateside and overseas, including the Middle East and Southern Europe.

Commendations & Honors: Multiple, including National Defense Service Medal and Outstanding Unit

Present Location: Centennial, CO

What's Your Centennial Connection? A Colorado native and arriving in Centennial in 2003. Ron has served on many county and city boards and committees, and continues to volunteer his time and talents in the community.

Joe Scheider

Place of Birth: Minnesota

Personal History: Born in 1918 and attended grade school in St Bonafis, MN. Attended high school in De Lasalle, MN from 1932-1936.

Place of Recruitment: Minnesota

Branch of Service: Air Force

Class: Captain

Military Occupation: Pilot

Service History: Served stateside from 1944 to 1954.

Commendations & Honors: Good conduct medal

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Lived in Centennial since 1975.

Sam Searcy

Place of Birth: Dothan, Alabama

Personal History: Sam and his wife (Joan) moved to Colorado (Aurora and Centennial) in November, 1966 after discharge from the Air Force. They raised two children in Aurora and Centennial - Deborah graduated from Smoky Hill High School (and Regis University) and Matthew graduated from Central High School (and Colorado State University). Sam graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a Master's in Business. Joan is a graduate of Community College of Denver. The Searcy's love Colorado and Centennial.



Place of Recruitment: Dothan, Alabama

Branch of Service: United States Air Force

Class: E-4

Military Occupation: Computer analyst in the supply division of the USAF. Tracked & controlled aircraft parts.

Service History:

Lackland AFB - Nov., 1962 - Jan., 1963.

Amarillo AFB - Jan., 1963 - Apr., 1963.

England AFB - Apr., 1963 - Nov., 1966,

Commendations & Honors: Good Conduct Ribbon, Sharp Shooter Award, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation (Vietnam)

What's Your Centennial Connection? Sam and his wife, Joan have lived in Centennial since it became a city.

U.S. Army

Paul Barnes

Place of Birth: Timpas, Colorado

Personal History: Two brothers, three children, 2 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren. Graduated high school in Worth, MO then moved to Denver, CO. Spent a period of time in the Civilian Conservation Corps, then enrolled in classes at Colorado University (Boulder). Was recruited into military service before completing a degree. After the military I flew with Continental Air Lines for 32 years, retiring in 1983.



Place of Recruitment: Boulder, CO

Branch of Service: Army Air Corps

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

Military Occupation: Pilot, Curtiss C-46 transport airplane

Service History: Enlisted Sept. 1942; called to duty Jan. 1943; flight training Jan. 1943 to July 1944; shipped overseas July 1944 to CBI; Theatre, Cairo, Egypt; transferred to India Jan. 8, 1945

After war ended, shipped to Dallas, TX in Oct. 1945; separated from service Dec. 1945

Commendations & Honors: The Air Medal

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? I have lived in Centennial since June 2004.

Nelson Cox

Place of Birth: Baltimore, Maryland

Personal History: University of Maryland (1940-43); general degree; took ROTC; one daughter, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren

Place of Recruitment: Baltimore

Branch of Service: U.S. Army 1943-46

Class: Captain, platoon leader (pictured at left)

Service History: Italy, France, Germany. I met my wife, an Army nurse, in France. We were married in Paris and stayed a year after the war ended.

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Came to Denver in 1961 in what's now Centennial (Orchard and Holly)



Wayne Gnad

Place of Birth: Missouri

Personal History: Wayne attended school at Pittsburg State in Pittsburg, Kansas. He has one brother and has been married for 55 years. He was a school teacher at East and Thomas Jefferson high schools in Denver Public Schools. He was one of the first educators to teach via television in Denver.

Place of Recruitment: Pittsburg, Kansas

Branch of Service: 11th Armored Cavalry/Army

Class: Sergeant

Military Occupation: Company clerk and tank gun tester.

Service History: Served stateside from 1953-1955.

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Wayne has lived in the Denver area for over 60 years.

Joel R. Klein

Place of Birth: New York City, NY

Personal History: Viet Nam Era Veteran 1966-1968

Place of Recruitment: Yonkers, New York

Branch of Service: Army

Class: 1966-1968



Military Occupation: Avionic Navigation Equipment Repair; TV Production Specialist; Entertainment Specialist

Service History: Fort Jackson, South Carolina - 11/1966 - 2/1967; Fort Gordon, Georgia 2/1967 - 6/1967; Fort Rucker, Alabama 6/1967 - 3/1968; Baumholder, Germany 3/1968 - 8/1968

Commendations & Honors: National Defense Ribbon

Present Location: Centennial, CO

What's Your Centennial Connection? I have lived in Centennial and what once was Unincorporated Arapahoe County since 1997.

David Lemon

Place of Birth: Logan, Utah

Personal History: Graduated from University of Utah, BA Political Science (Emphasis in International Relations). Married with three children. Expecting first grandchild in December 2020. Worked for ten years as an Executive with the Boy Scouts of America in Salt Lake City, Utah and in Denver Colorado. Currently works with Cherry Creek Schools, Transportation Department as Operations Supervisor.



Place of Recruitment: Salt Lake City, Utah

Branch of Service: U.S. Army, Sergeant E-5.

Class:

Military Occupation: 97 E - Interrogator, 97 L - Russian Linguist, 71 M – Chaplain Assistant

Service History: Basic Training – Ft. Knox KY – 1992, Chaplain Assistant School – Ft. Monmouth, NJ 1992, Two-year break in service to live in St. Petersburg, Russia, to learn Russian language. Interrogator School – Draper, UT 1995. Served on Salt Lake City, 2002 Winter Olympics Security Team. Deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, and Qatar for 16 months 2003-2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terror with the Iraq Survey Group.

Commendations & Honors: Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense service Medal (2nd Award), Global War on Terrorism

Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas service Bar (2nd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device.

Present Location: Centennial, CO

What's Your Centennial Connection? I have lived in Centennial with my family since 2008.

Stan Suhaka

Place of Birth: Middlesex, NJ

Personal History: Stan grew up in Manville, NJ, attended Catholic school for 8 years, graduated from Manville High School in 1966. He attended Rutgers Univ. where he met his future wife, Andrea Paterson. He graduated from Rutgers with a chemical engineering degree and, from ROTC, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Infantry. He did Basic Training and Officers' Training in 1970 and began his service in Ft. Jackson, Columbia, SC. Three months later, he got his orders for Vietnam. He moved his wife and young daughter back to NJ and left for Vietnam in Feb. 1971. He served nine months in Vietnam and began working for Johns-Manville who eventually transferred him to their new offices in Denver, CO. From his contact with Agent Orange in Vietnam, he eventually developed cancer (verified by the VA hospital), and died at age 51 in July 2000, on the eve of the formation of Centennial.



Place of Recruitment: Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Class: 2nd Lieutenant

Service History: See above

Present Location: Deceased

What's Your Centennial Connection? Worked on the Centennial incorporation until he became too ill. Husband to Andrea Suhaka who was on the founding City Council.

Kathleen Mercer

Place of Birth: Ogden, Utah

Personal History: Layton High School, Arapahoe Community College

Place of Recruitment: Salt Lake City, Utah

Branch of Service: United States Army

Class: Specialist Four

Military Occupation: Clerk Typist

Service History: Basic Training at Ft. McLellan, Alabama Occupational training - Ft. Jackson, South Carolina Permanent Party, Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia

Commendations & Honors: Honorable Discharge

What's Your Centennial Connection? I have lived in Centennial for 37 years



Bob Simpson

Place of Birth: Los Angeles, CA

Personal History: Attended Eagle Rock High School in Los Angeles and has a half-brother and half-sister. Bob has been married for 63 years and has four children and seven grandchildren.

Place of Recruitment: Los Angeles, CA

Branch of Service: Army

Class: Private

Military Occupation: Medical Corp

Service History: Served stateside mostly in Texas from 1950-1952.

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Bob moved to Centennial to be close to his children.

James B. Talman Jr.

Place of Birth: Inglewood, California

Personal History: Graduated from The Cate School, Carpinteria, CA, 1960. Attended and Graduated from Colorado College 1965 with degree in Economics and ROTC Commission in the US Army.

Place of Recruitment: Commissioned Colorado Springs, CO 1965

Branch of Service: US Army Ordnance Corps

Class: 1965

Military Occupation: Bomb Disposal

Service History:

Commanding Officer 143 Ordnance Detachment (EOD) Seneca Army Depot, Romulus, NY 1966 to 1969

Honorable Discharge from US Army Reserve June 30, 1971

Commendations & Honors:

Army Service Medal

Bomb Disposal Insignia

Rifle and Pistol Ribbons

Present Location: Centennial, CO

What's Your Centennial Connection? I have lived in Willow Creek II for 22 years, served on the Homeowners Association board for six years. Before moving to Centennial I was elected to the City Council of Greenwood Village for six years, including two years as Mayor Pro Tem.

Webb Tarrant

Place of Birth: Montgomery, Alabama

Personal History: Attended Alabama State University, majored in chemistry

Place of Recruitment: Montgomery, Alabama

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Class: Private First Class

Military Occupation: Chemist, war in service 1968-1969

Service History: Served mainly in Montgomery

Commendations & Honors: Honorable discharge

Present Location: Orchard Park (Centennial)

What's Your Centennial Connection? Came to Colorado as part of the Air National Guard

Ernie Westwick

Place of Birth: Rock Springs, Wyoming

Personal History: Two children and two grandchildren

Place of Recruitment: Rock Springs, Wyoming

Branch of Service: U.S. Army

Class: Corporal

Military Occupation: Soil and wastewater service; soil analysis

Service History: Korea for two years

Commendations & Honors: Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? World class senior softball player, world champion two years



U.S. Navy

Ricardo Enrique Alemany

Place of Birth: Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

Personal History: Married to my high school sweetheart Jennifer for 25 years. We have three children: Tori 25, Katie 24, and RJ 14. Both my daughters are married to wonderful young men Thomas and Agustin respectively and live in Aurora. My son is in 9th grade and going to Elevation High School. We also have three dogs: Abby 7, Buddy 5, and Luna 2. I have been working for Cherry Creek School District as the District Roofer for the past 7 years.

Place of Recruitment: Kissimmee, Florida

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Class: Petty officer, 2nd Class

Military Occupation: Aviation Electrician

Service History: Spent 7 years in the Navy, from 1995 to 2002. I did 4 years of sea duty and 3 years of shore duty, all in Naval Air Station North Island in California. I worked on Aerial Refueling for the S3B Viking and the F18 Super Hornet. I went on 2 Western Pacific cruises, one on the USS Constellation and the other on the USS Carl Vinson.

Commendations & Honors: I was a recipient of the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. I also received the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist insignia.



Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Moved to Centennial in 2013 with my family for a new position that my wife had received. We live in the Greenfield neighborhood. Honestly couldn't have chosen a better city to live in.

Jim Chunn

Place of Birth: Bronx, New York

Personal History: Spent his childhood in Oregon; father was in the Navy; graduated from University of Oregon and still follows the Ducks.

Place of Recruitment: Portland, Oregon

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy 1951-55

Class: Petty officer, 1st Class

Military Occupation: USS Buck starting in 1952. He patrolled the coast of Korea and China for three years. The USS Buck was a lightweight destroyer that guarded aircraft carriers and rescued pilots. They also destroyed enemy trestles and bridges north of the 38th Parallel and conducted other special assignments. The ship had a firing range of 10 miles.

Service History: One year stateside, three years on a ship. Phone-talker for captain on the bridge for "watch station."

Commendations & Honors: Captain's Meritorious Mast

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Moved to Centennial to be near his daughter.

Steve Cohen

Place of Birth: Denver, CO

Personal History: Colorado native. Attended elementary school in Denver. Junior high 6th- 7th, Hill Jr. High. 9th South Jr. High, Aurora. Hinkley H.S. - first sophomore class. B.S. Accounting from Cal State Long Beach. Wife and 3 children.

Place of Recruitment: Aurora, CO

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Class: E-5

Military Occupation: Storekeeper

Service History:

Enlisted 11/1967 - Honorable Discharge 9/1971

3/68 arrive in Vietnam - Tet offensive

3/70 3 tours of duty in Vietnam on 3 different ships. Brown water Navy for 2 tours.

1/71 - 9/71 - Adak, AK



Commendations & Honors: Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Republic of Vietnam Unit Citation, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Campaign Service, Vietnam Service Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation

What's Your Centennial Connection? Current resident and former employee of Cherry Creek Schools

Dorothy Guderian

Place of Birth: Grand Junction, CO

Personal History: Nursing school in Pueblo

Branch of Service: Cadet Nurse Corps - Was going to Navy but WWII ended. Worked many places, including Porter Hospital for 18 years.

Service History: Graduate nurses went to war, so cadet nurses were in training to go to war. In the program, nursing training was paid for the government. Disappointed that she could not officially go into service.

Present Location: Orchard Park

What's Your Centennial Connection? Lived in Littleton and Englewood before moving to Orchard Park

Rem Landhuis

Place of Birth: Leote, MN

Personal History: Rem attended two years of college and has one daughter, one son and eight grandkids. He has five brothers and one sister.

Place of Recruitment: Unknown

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Class: Lieutenant

Military Occupation: Pilot

Service History: Rem served on the USS Shangri-La as a fighter pilot in the Pacific from 1953 to 1959.

Commendations & Honors: Pilot Wings

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Moved to Centennial in 2007

Ken Lucas

Place of Birth: Des Moines, Iowa

Personal History: MPA & BA from Drake University & MBA Finance & Accounting from Regis University. Married 45 years; two sons Mikael and Ken II

Place of Recruitment: Des Moines, Iowa

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Class: Petty Officer 2nd Class

Military Occupation: Ships Office - Personnel



Service History: Served from June 1966 - May 1971. Served three tours of duty in Vietnam aboard the Saint Paul (CA 73). She made five Western Pacific deployments for Vietnam, April 1971. Her 8-inch and 5-inch guns were kept busy supporting U.S. and allied troops in South Vietnam and bombarding coastal targets in the North. USS Saint Paul decommissioned in 1971, following 26 years of continuous active service including combat in three wars.

Commendations & Honors: U.S. Navy Combat Veteran; Combat Action Ribbon; Vietnam Service Medal with three stars; Presidential Unit Commendation Ribbon; Gallantry Cross Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal; and Good Conduct Medal

What's Your Centennial Connection? City Council & Mayor Pro Tem; Budget Committee, Broadband Technical Committee, Urban Drainage and Flood Control BOD, Next Century Cities Board Member , Civic Center Park Amphitheater Committee 2013.

Robert Rolland

Place of Birth: Butte, Montana

Personal History: Montana Mineral Science

Place of Recruitment: Butte, Montana

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Class: Ensign

Military Occupation: Machinist Mate

Service History: Charleston, S.C.; North Atlantic; Pacific; Gulf of Tonkin 1967-1968

Commendations & Honors: Good conduct medal

Present Location: Orchard Park

What's Your Centennial Connection? Moved to Colorado in 1975 to mine, did that for most of post-service life

Eric Strickland

Place of Birth: Lubbock, Texas

Personal History: Graduated from Texas Tech. After I graduated, that's when the service got me. I went on active duty in August 1953

Place of Recruitment: Lubbock, Texas

Branch of Service: U.S. Navy

Class: Third class seaman

Military Occupation: Fuel clerk

Service History: Dispatch clerk, 1953-55. Aboard a fleet tanker in the Atlantic Ocean fueling battleships during the Korean War

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Worked for an insurance company in Lubbock where they transferred him in 1957 to what is today Centennial, Colorado, where he met and married his wife

U.S. Marine Corps

Bob Claybourne

Place of Birth: Kell, Illinois

Personal History: Older brother was in the Marines. Twin brother was in the Navy. Volunteered for the Marines in December 1941.

Place of Recruitment: Kell, Illinois

Branch of Service: U.S. Marines 1942-46

Class: Tank division

Military Occupation: Iwo Jima, Mariana Islands, Saipan, Marshall Islands. He was scheduled to go into Japan when Truman dropped the atomic bomb.

Service History: 4th Marine Division, Mariana Islands. All three brothers came through WWII. Bob was in active battle on Iwo Jima. On other islands, I was rear echelon support. Later became a barber on the GI Bill.

Commendations & Honors: Presidential Citation for Iwo Jima, Asiatic Pacific Medal

Present Location: Centennial, Colorado

What's Your Centennial Connection? Daughter lives in Centennial. Moved to Centennial one year ago.