

On behalf of the Parkman Trustees and the Parkman Chamber of Commerce
Special Thanks for the continued support of the:



**Geauga County Sheriff Department
Middlefield VFW Post 9678**



Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team

Parkman / Middlefield Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops #76

Parkman / Middlefield Girl Scouts and Brownies

Cardinal Marching Band

Roger and Kathy Anderson - Parkman Veterans Memorial Park

Designers and Garden Landscapers

Dale Komandt - Parkman Historical Society &

Parkman Cemetery Sexton

Rev. William Coley - Parkman Congregational Church

Rev. Jacob Bearer - St Edwards Catholic Church

**and the many various participants who helped to make our
2022 Parkman Memorial Day Parade a success.**

**Best wishes to everyone for a fun and safe summer
and don't forget to give THANKS to a Veteran.**



Parkman Veterans Memorial Park Development

Special thanks from Roger and Kathy Anderson to Ted Wojtasik, Mike Komandt,
Russell Spencer, Eric Mathews, Joe Rager and Austin Peterson
for their help with the Veterans Memorial Park.

Also thanks to Joyce and Tom Peters for the donation of flowers.



Parkman Paragraphs Memorial Day 2022



PARKMAN MEMORIAL DAY 2022 TRIBUTES TO

Forrest Rollin Bidlack, WWII - Elwood (Elly) Leonard Evans, WWII

Glenwood Harold Ferry, WWII - John E. Larmi, WWII

Herbert Bruce Olmstead, WWII - James (Joe) Soltis, Korean War

Community Website: www.ParkmanOhio.com

Newsletter E-mail: ParkmanOhio@gmail.com

Special Thanks to all of our Active Duty and Veterans throughout all eras of our country's existence for all of the sacrifices that they have made to give us our freedoms and continue to make our country a safe place to live. May our future generations understand these sacrifices from our Veterans and appreciate the quality of life created for them. Cory Anderson



Past Parkman Veteran Honorees

2001	John R. Ferry	2014	Bill Snyder
2002	Robert F. Barnett	2015	Richard 'Dutch' Komandt
2003	Glenn A. Thompson	2016	Wayne Komandt
2004	Richard Stanchak (Stanley)	2017	Steve G. Soltis
2005	Richard Giles	2018	Leonard Hickox
2006	Richard O. Polari	2019	Oliver 'Big O' Graves Jr.
2007	Stanley Smith	2020	Jeannette Elizabeth Smith Loomis
2008	Dennis Testa	2021	Ralph C. Butt
2009	Gotham Brothers: John, Carlisle "Kelly", Glen, Neil, Leland	2022	Forrest R. Bidlack, WWII
2010	Albert Wilson		Elwood (Elly) L. Evans, WWII
2011	Harold Blackford		Glenwood H. Ferry, WWII
2012	Carl B. Wilson		John E. Larmi, WWII
2013	Carl 'Ed' Wilson		Herbert Bruce Olmstead, WWII
			James (Joe) Soltis, Korean War



James (Joe) Soltis Korean War Veteran

<https://www.beckerfuneralhomes.com/obituary/James-Soltis>

James Soltis
May 21, 1930 ~ September 9, 2016 (age 86)

James Soltis, 86, of Canfield passed away September 9, 2016 at Hospice of the Valley, Hospice House. He was born May 21, 1930. James Soltis, known to his close friends and family as "Joe" was born in Cleveland, the son of Steve and Katie (Marek) Soltis and was the youngest of four children. The family later moved to the rural areas of Portage and Geauga County to take up farming.

Jim attended schools in Hiram and Freedom, and then graduated from Parkman High School in 1948. He married his high school sweetheart, Mary Alice Pelmonter on April 1, 1951. Together they built their home in Parkman and raised three children: Jeffrey (Janet) Soltis of Alliance, Jerold Soltis of Pickerington, and Marijo (David) Shuntich of Canfield. They lived in Parkman until 2010 when age and poor health determined their move to Canfield to be closer to their children.

Growing up on a farm, Jim always had a great love for animals and gardening. He loved dogs especially the little Chihuahua, Belle and the Rottweiler, Molly. In his later years he was especially fond of his cat Festus who was usually close by. Always a sports fan, in his younger years he was an active participant in basketball, roller skating and bowling. Jim was an avid follower of the Cleveland pro teams and OSU. He was also involved with the Cub Scouts and coached local Little League baseball. Jim also loved music, especially southern gospel, big bands and polkas.

Jim was a veteran of the United States Army serving during the Korean Conflict. He worked 38 years for the Johnson Rubber Company, retiring in 1988.

Never one to be idle, after his retirement he worked various part-time jobs. He worked endlessly in his garden and mowing his 5 acres of lawn. He and his family were always active in church and most recently attended Greenford Christian Church. Jim always had time being a father, grandfather and great grandfather.

**Thank you Mr. James Soltis for your service
to both our country and our Parkman community!**

**James (Joe) Soltis, as well as the other
2022 Parkman Veteran Honorees, will be added to the
Parkman Veterans Honoree Plaque
found in our Parkman Community House.**



KOREA

VETERAN



John E. Larmi WWII Veteran

<https://www.news-herald.com/2004/12/27/john-e-larmi/>

John E. Larmi was born March 31, 1918, in Weirton, West Virginia and he was the son of Kustaa and Aune Ellen (Raitanen) Larmi. His family—brothers, Allan and Robert and sister, Miriam Steiniger live in Parkman. John was a graduate of our Parkman High School in 1936 and attended Ohio State University for two and a half years. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, where he survived D-Day and Battle of the Bulge and was wounded in Germany.

He married his wife, Roberta (Boatright) on May 7, 1942, in York, S.C. Together they had a son, Raymond and daughters, Joyce, Sandra and Carol. John and Roberta enjoyed seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren at the time of his passing in 2004.

Mr. Larmi worked as a quality control inspector in the Marine Division of Duramax in Middlefield.

He also enjoyed golfing, fishing, working outdoors and loved music. He was still singing in the choir at Congregational Church in Florida and was choir director for the Parkman Congregational Church in Parkman for many years. Mr. Larmi was a Boy Scout Leader, member of Parkman Congregational Church in Parkman, member of Union Congregational Church in Florida, member of the Disabled American Veterans, and 50 year member of the Masonic Western Phoenix Lodge 42, in Parkman. He was an honorable and respected man and was loved by his family and friends. At 86, Mr Larmi died December 22, 2004, at a Florida Hospital.

**Thank you Mr John Larmi for your service
to both our country and Parkman community!**



Herbert Bruce Olmstead WWII Veteran

<https://www.carlsonfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Herbert-Olmstead/#!/Obituary>

HERBERT BRUCE OLMSTEAD

Herbert Bruce Olmstead, 89 of Parkman, passed away on February 4, 2015. He was born April 29, 1925 in Parkman, Ohio to Herbert I. and Fannie Olmstead. Herbert graduated from Parkman High School in 1944 and served our in the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. After his service, in 1951 he was married to Theresa Fortuna.



He worked and retired from Johnson Rubber where he was a tool and die maker. Herbert enjoyed traveling, reading, jigsaw puzzles, model airplanes and mowing the yard on his tractor.

**Thank you Mr Herbert Olmstead for your service
to both our country and Parkman community!**



2022 Parkman Veteran Honorees

Once again our Parkman community is honoring local Veterans during the traditional Parkman Memorial Day Parade. This years honorees have graduated from the Parkman High School, they performed their tour of duty to the US Military, and they have been active members in their communities.

They have all been added to the digital Parkman Veteran Honor Roll found on our website. Other Veterans also have their salutes on this digital Honor Roll. This Parkman Honor Roll is always evolving, so if you see a name missing and would like to give a salute, please send your info and photos to our community e-mail:

ParkmanOhio@gmail.com

Many Thanks to everyone who helps support this tribute to our local Veterans and all those who volunteer to support our community!

Cory Anderson



Forrest Rollin Bidlack WWII Veteran

<https://www.tribtoday.com/obituaries/2021/10/vernelle-bidlack-russell-1924-2021/>

Forrest was born in 1921 to his parents Forrest and Edith Bidlack. Forrest had two younger sisters, Vernelle and Lucille. In Vernelle's Obit, it was noted that her family lived through the Great Depression but never went hungry thanks to her hard-working parents. She had many wonderful childhood memories of her family on the farm.

Forrest graduated from Parkman High School in 1939 and continued his education at Ohio State University. In 1943, Forrest graduated from OSU with an engineering degree and he was inducted into the Ohio State Engineering Society - Tau Beta Pi.

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/159608965.pdf>

During the call of WWII, Forrest served in the US Navy as a LTJG until his term of duty was completed. He was among many of the Bidlack family who served our country.

After his term of duty, Forrest was married to Margaret Geri York in 1945 and enjoyed living together till 1987. After she passed, Forrest met and married Sally - Sarah Estella Tufaro Gibson - (a fellow recent widower) in 1988 and they married in 1989. They lived happily together until he passed in 1997.

<https://www.jagersfuneralhome.com/obituary/sally-bidlack>

**Thank you Mr Forrest Bidlack for your service
to both our country and Parkman community!**





Elwood (Elly) Leonard Evans WWII Veteran

<https://www.hodgesfuneralhome.com/obituary/2301026>
Elwood Leonard Evans
March 29, 1925 - October 27, 2013

Elwood (Elly) L. Evans, 88 of Zephyrhills and formerly of Ohio, passed away 10/27/2013. He was born March 29, 1925 to Bert and Metta Dixon Evans in Parkman, OH. He Graduated from Parkman High School in 1943 and served in the United States Army (occupation of Japan) from 1945-1946. He served during WWII as a cook.

After the military service, he was united in marriage to Marie Kathryn Gordon on August 24, 1947. He was a custodian of schools in Mesopotamia and Farmington Oh and retired in 1984 from Grand Valley, Orwell, OH. He enjoyed hunting, and fishing with his father and 2 brothers. Family vacations were spent traveling to different states. He was an all county player in high school. He played softball with Johnny's Tavern in Geauga County League.

He was a resident of Mesopotamia, OH for 61 years and 29 years as a snowbird going to Zephyrhills, FL where he resided permanently in 2008. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills.

He was a very loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Services will take place in OH at a later date.

Marie Kathryn Evans, 93, died May 19, 2019, at home. She was born April 1, 1926, in Franklin Township, a daughter of Bruce and Marguerite Moore Gordon. She was also a member of the First United Methodist Church in both the Bristolville and Zephyrhills churches.



Elwood Leonard Evans is honored at the National WWII Memorial registry.

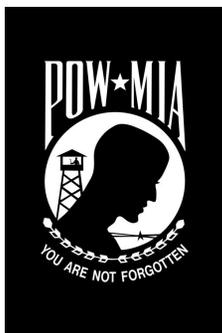
Thank you Mr Evans for your service to our country and our community!

<https://www.wiimemorial.com/Registry/plaque.asp?honoreeID=1783462>

BRANCH OF SERVICE - U.S. Army - WWII

**Thank you Mr Elwood Evans
for your service to both our country and Parkman community!**

No matter which branch - Many Thanks to all of our Parkman Veterans for their service to both country and community!



Glenwood Harold Ferry WWII Veteran 1923 - 2001



Glenwood Harold Ferry was born on April 9, 1923 in Hiram , Ohio. He was the youngest of three boys. Jim, John, and Glenwood. When he was a freshman in high school, he moved to a farm on 422 in Parkman and became a lifelong resident of Parkman. He attended and graduated from Parkman School. A few of his closest friends were the Hosmer brothers, Perry and Roland , and Bud Quinn. Bud was killed in the war.



After high school, Glenwood started at Fenn College in Cleveland. It is now called Cleveland State. He attended for one year before going into the United States Army. He was sent to Raleigh , N.C where he signed up for the Specialized Training Program. After being tested, he was sent to Michigan State for schooling in engineering. When he went to college in Michigan, he had to give up his corporal stripes and he never got them back. He returned to Raleigh and then had to redo basic training.

Upon completing basic training, he signed up to become a Paratrooper. He was transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia in parachute maintenance. After a month and a few jumps later, he went overseas as part of the 13th airborne division. As they were traveling in a ship the morning, the boat tipped to it's side and nearly rolled the soldiers out of their bunks. A panicked Lieutenant came running into the bunk area and yelled, " We are going overboard!" He was petrified like the others, but had the presence of mind to untie his boots just in case he had to jump in water. He filled his pockets with chocolate bars and grabbed his pack over his shoulder and headed up. They didn't go overboard, but 68 men died in the damaged bow area. Eight men on the French Carrier died.



The ship spent two weeks limping into the Azores. He missed a scheduled point jump, which is where they drop Paratroopers into war zones. This was fortunate, because the outcomes were usually not very good. They ended up in Liverpool and eventually the soldiers were shipped to France where they trained novice Paratroopers in Jump School for next 5 and 1/2 months. During this time , VE Day was declared. Sometime after this Momentous Day, his squad received orders to go to the South Pacific. If those orders had not been rescinded, they would've been the first Paratroopers to enter Japan. He escaped what could've been a bad situation with that change of orders. Instead his new orders sent him back to Fort Bragg, N.C. for the remainder of his service time.

Shortly before he was discharged, he married Priscilla Jean Langston on December 26, 1946. They had 6 kids, Tim, Tom, Scott, Susan, Judy, and Jill. They built a home on the farm in Parkman and lived there until he passed on Oct. 9, 2001. The kids all attended Parkman School and graduated from Cardinal High School. He finished his engineering degree and then worked in the family carpentry business (Lee Ferry and Sons).



**Thank you Mr. Glenwood Ferry
for your service to both
our country and Parkman community!**

