

# MACEDONIA MESSENGER

*E-Bulletin Update of the City of Macedonia*

*A bi-weekly publication of The City of Macedonia*

330.468.8300

*The Crossroads of Northeast Ohio*

[www.macedonia.oh.us](http://www.macedonia.oh.us)

**Mayor**

**Don Kuchta**

*Economic Development*

[dkuchta@macedonia.oh.us](mailto:dkuchta@macedonia.oh.us)

*Diana Augustine 330-468-8322*

*Administrative Executive*

[daugustine@macedonia.oh.us](mailto:daugustine@macedonia.oh.us)

**Mayor's Court 330-468-8379**

*Mary Ellen Foster, Clerk*

**City Council 330-468-8341**

*Shane Barker*

*Dave Engle, President*

*Ken Martin*

*Michael Miller*

*Nick Molnar*

*Jan Tulley*

*Josephine Arceci, Clerk*

## City Directory

**Building 330-468-8360**

*Mike Hlad, Commissioner*

**Finance 330-468-8350**

*Loren Sengstock,*

*Finance Director*

**Fire 330-468-8339**

*Tim Black, Chief*

**HR/Personnel 330-468-8353**

*Denise Mulhollen*

*Personnel Administrator*

**Police 330-468-1234**

*Jon Golden, Chief*

**Recreation 330-468-8370**

*Angela Gmerek, Director*

**Service 330-468-8324**

*Jim Crevar, Director*

*January 7, 2010*  
*Announcements*



## *A Message from our Mayor*

*Dear Readers:*

We have probably begun one of the toughest years Macedonia will ever see.

My New Years' resolution will be to provide more service than I did in 2009.

*Things happened in 2009 that some of you may not be aware of.*

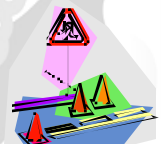
*For instance....* we have had staff reduction through attrition and we are not replacing those people. My entire staff has forgone any wage increases through 2010.

We had 6 police cars ordered and *received one*. This has put people at risk of a car failure in a critical time of need.



We have needed a new Fire Emergency vehicle that has been *scheduled for replacement for over 2 years*. We still cannot afford it and we are striving to save lives with equipment that is constantly being repaired.

*We did no street repairs last year.* The Route 82 Bridge does not count because it was done with over \$12 million dollars of federal funding. South Bedford Road does not count because part of the



funding is assessments. Since I took office, we have been doing about \$500,000 dollars a year worth of road repair on local streets. This year my road repair money was removed from the budget in an effort to offset anticipate losses. With the way things are, I may never be able to do another community road.



Ok. So in simpler terms, we *have* squeezed blood out of a turnip! That was then, this is now. *We are squeezing bones out of a turnip!*

Why? How could we go to “hell in a hand basket”? We were doing so well.

The answer lies in a revenue stream that was built on a house of cards. How sweet it was to not have had to increase our real estate tax since **1962**. The City implemented City income tax. Wow, this is great. The people who work here pay for our services!

What a deal!

All of the money earned in other Cities gets taxed by that City .....and we refund our Citizens 100% of what they paid!

Such a deal!

But what if almost a thousand people get laid off in our City (*as they did*)? In some cases the employer closes and those employees who supported us never come back.

City income tax is, and always can be, one big roller coaster ride. This little piggy (me) wants to build a house of stone. The only secure source of income, for sure, is real estate tax. We are presently operating on a \$450,000 real estate tax a year.



**TOTAL....TOTAL.** That doesn't even fuel our fleet. *What the heck....I pay more tax than that!* Yes, we all do, but your City's percentage is only about 8% of the total. A \$200,000 house sends us a whopping \$250 bucks a year to run the City.



*Is this what you want? As our ability to serve declines ...so will your property values.*

Help me keep my resolution. Ask Council to put a levy on the ballot so that *the people of Macedonia can make the choice*. Saying these things puts my head on the chopping block as a politician. Saying these things is asking you to have faith in an elected leader who has given you everything that was promised up to this point. But, the choice is yours. I have to find the methods. You control the results.

*Accomplishing anything seems to be a rarity in government at every level today. It takes accountability. It may be better to use it when you have it.*



**Mayor Don Kuchta**

*Message from Diana Augustine  
Mayor's Administrative Executive  
330.468.8322*

**January 2010**

**Business of the Month**

### **Reinecker's Bakery**

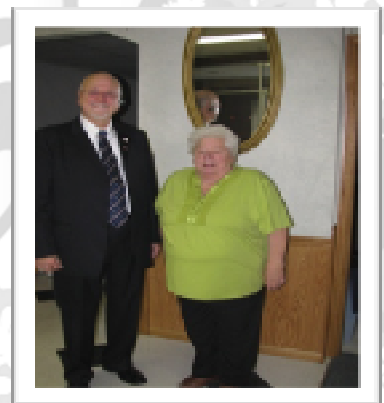
As many of our Macedonia residents know, **Reinecker's Bakery** is associated with the smell of your grandmother's kitchen. Perhaps their delectable pastries or breads were part of your Christmas celebration this year!



**Reinecker's Bakery** was founded in 1959, originally as Sowinski Bakery, when Richard J. Reinecker bought out his business partner. In 1973 the bakery was moved to its current location at **8575 S. Freeway Drive**. Many of the recipes used today are over 300 years old and were brought to the U.S. with Richard, a Master-Baker (Baeckermeister) from Germany who immigrated to the United States with his mother. In 1961 Richard met his wife Magdalena and after a long courtship they married and had five children. Today, three of the children currently own and operate the business with help from other family members, including mom.

Reinecker's mission is to provide customers with great food, great atmosphere and great customer service. They want to make your Reception, Anniversary, Reunion, Luncheon or Shower the best it can be and their pricing makes it affordable too. Their facility can accommodate up to 175 guests, or they can come to you!

Their philosophy is "if you make a quality product, people will buy it". Their breads are not made by many bakeries, as they are very time consuming and labor intensive. It takes them an average of twenty four hours to make a loaf of bread from start to finish. They use only natural sponge and sour fermentation which can only be accomplished over time, as well as using scratch ingredients, and no preservatives. Currently they sell to over 200 retail outlets in Northern Ohio and ship their bread via UPS to well over 1500 customers across the USA!



**Caroline Reinecker with  
Mayor Don Kuchta**

# City of Macedonia

**EMPLOYEE of the MONTH**



**January 2010  
Employee of the Month  
Diana Augustine**



*Diana serves as the Executive Assistant to Mayor Don Kuchta.*

*Some of her background includes 15 years of municipal government involvement with the business and residential constituency of Independence, where she also served as the mayor's executive assistant. Diana's primary function is the discreet handling of significant meetings and issues facing our city, as well as serving as a personal confidante to the mayor. She is as thankful for the opportunity to serve our city as we are grateful to have her as part of the City Hall team!*

*She recently welcomed a new addition to her family...her first Grandson, Anthony Giovanni Togliatti. Diana also celebrates her birthday this month on January 18<sup>th</sup>!*

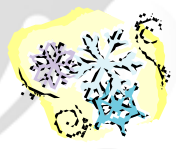


**City Council**  
**330.468.8341**



**January – 2010**  
**City of Macedonia Public Notice of Meetings**  
**Calendar of Events & Dates of Interest**

<i>Adm &amp; Council Offices Closed</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Jan 1</i>	<i>In Observance of New Year's Day</i>
Finance Meeting/ Special Meeting	Monday	Jan 4	7pm-9pm (Special to follow Finance Mtg)
Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Jan 6	9:30am
Planning Commission	Monday	Jan 11	5:30pm
Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Jan 13	9:30am
Regular Council Meeting	Thursday	Jan 14	7:30m –(Work Session at 6:30pm, unless otherwise posted)
<i>Adm &amp; Council Offices Closed</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Jan 18</i>	<i>In Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>
Parks & Recreation Commission	Tuesday	Jan 19	7pm at Macedonia Family Recreation Center
Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Jan 20	9:30am
Planning Commission	Monday	Jan 25	5:30pm
Mayor's Court	Wednesday	Jan 27	9:30am
Regular Council Meeting	Thursday	Jan 28	7:30m –(Work Session at 6:30pm, unless otherwise posted)



**2010**  
***City Council Members***



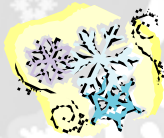
**David Engle, President**



**Shane Barker**



**Ken Martin**



**Michael Miller**



**Nick Molnar**



**Jan Tulley**

**Building Department**  
**330.468.8360**  
**Mike Hlad, Commissioner**



*Happy New Year from the Building Department!*

***Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP):***

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The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program administered by the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Community Service (OCS). It is designed to help eligible low-income Ohioans meet the high costs of home heating. If you are eligible for assistance, the amount of your one-time HEAP benefit will depend on federal funding levels, how many people live with you, total household income and the primary fuel you use to heat your home. In most cases, the one-time benefit will be a credit applied to your energy bill by your utility company (or fuel vendor). <http://www.development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/heap.htm>

***Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP):***

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Ohio's Home Weatherization Assistance Program is a federally funded low-income residential energy efficiency program. The program reduces low-income households' energy use, thus creating more affordable housing for those in most need. Services include attic, wall and basement insulation; blower-door-guided air leakage reduction; heating system repairs or replacements; and health and safety testing and inspections. All measures are provided based on an on-site energy audit and on cost-effective guidelines developed using the NEAT computerized energy audit.

Individualized client education is an important component of the program.

<http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/ocs/hwap.htm>



## ***Engineer's Project Report – December 16, 2009***

***Rt. 82 (Aurora Rd) Railroad Bridge Project*** – The Route 82 widening project is wrapping up. ODOT anticipates some cleanup, landscape work and the application of the final striping in the spring. The project is on budget and has been relatively smooth considering the challenges and the need to keep traffic flowing. The benefits of this project are self evident to anyone who travels Aurora Road through the project area.

***Rt. 82 (Aurora Rd) Repaving and Signal Project*** – The City is submitting a “Letter of Intent” with the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to apply for funding for the repaving of Rt 82 from the terminus of the Bridge Project to the eastern Corporation Limit. The funding is scheduled for release in 2014 and 2015. The project will also include storm sewer upgrades, new signals and left turn lanes at the intersection of Aurora Road and Shepard Road.

***Highland Road Railroad Grade Separation Project*** – The City has been working with ODOT to complete the plans for the grade separation project on Highland Road. The roadway at the railroad crossing near Patio Enclosures and Fun-N-Stuff will be elevated to allow vehicles to pass **over** the railroad. During 2010 and 2011 the plans will be completed, property acquired and utilities relocated. Significant construction may start in the fall of 2011, but possibly not until 2012. This construction of this project has been budgeted for several years and is projected to have a total cost of \$8.5 - \$10 million. Macedonia's share will be less than 10% of the total project cost. When the project is complete, the crossing will be much safer, safety forces will have reduced response times, traffic flow will improve and the use of train horns will be reduced. Highland Road will be closed during construction. Future updates will narrow down the expected closure period.

***South Bedford Sidewalks*** - The City is submitting a “Letter of Intent” with the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to apply for funding for the installation of sidewalks along the west side of South Bedford. The project will provide continuous sidewalks from Highland Road to Aurora Road. The funding is scheduled for release in 2014 and 2015. If application to AMATS is unsuccessful, the City will apply to ODOT's Safe Routes Program.

***Valley View Road Repaving*** - The City is submitting a “Letter of Intent” with the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) to apply for funding for repaving Valley View Road from Aurora Road to Highland Road. The project will consist of milling off 3” of the surface course, repairing base failures and repaving. The funding is scheduled for release in 2014 and 2015. This would allow repaving of this stretch of road after the Highland Road Railroad project is complete.

***General Road Maintenance*** – Due to the current economy the City has limited plans for major road rehabilitation projects in the City for 2010. While the City reduces costs and continues to address past project commitments, the City Service Crews will do their best to address problem areas as they develop

Finance Department  
330.468.8350  
*Loren Sengstock, Director*



**Free!**

## ***R.I.T.A.***

### **CITY INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE**

### ***FREE TO MACEDONIA RESIDENTS***

*Regional Income Tax Agency will have two representatives available to assist **Macedonia Residents** with their City Income Tax.*

**Place: City of Macedonia Community Room**

**Date: March 10, and 11, 2010**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.**

*Questions can be directed to R.I.T.A at (440)526-0900.*

**Fire Department**  
**330.468.8339**  
**Tim Black Chief**



## **State Fire Marshal Reminds Ohioans** **“Heat Homes Safely”**

*State Fire Marshal Michael P. Bell is reminding Ohioans to focus on fire safety when heating their homes this winter and to use extra care if utilizing secondary heating sources. See below...*

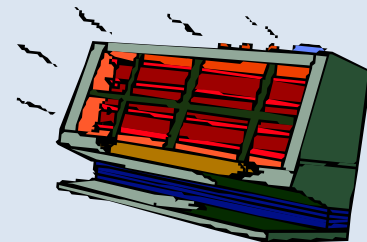
### **Fireplaces and Wood** **Burning Stoves**



- + Allow enough clearance between a wood burning stove and combustible materials such as walls, floors and ceiling.
- + A wood stove should be placed on an approved stove board to protect your floor from heat and hot coals.
- + Make sure the flue is open before lighting a fire, and never close the flue while a fire is still smoldering.
- + Use a fireplace screen to prevent any sparks from reaching out and igniting nearby objects.
- + Never use gasoline or lighter fluid to start a fire.
- + The immediate area in front of a fireplace (approximately 3 feet) should not have a rug, carpet or exposed wood flooring.
- + When lighting a gas fireplace, strike your match first, then turn on the gas.
- + Burn only dry, seasoned wood, and dispose of the cooled ashes in a closed metal container outside and away from your home.
- + Never leave a fire burning unattended in the fireplace.

### **Portable Space Heaters**

- + When buying a space heater, look for a control feature that automatically shuts off the power if the heater falls over.
- + Never leave a heater on when you are not in the room or when you go to sleep, and do not leave children or pets unattended around any heating source. Unplug the heater when you are not using it.
- + Don't use an extension cord with an electric portable heater. The current to the heater could melt the cord and cause a fire.
- + Don't plug more than one heating device into an outlet.
- + Never use electric heaters near water – as in your bathroom or near a water heater.



## **Propane and Natural Gas**

- ✚ Like many other efficient fuels, propane is highly flammable. That means it can be dangerous if not handled properly.
- ✚ If using a propane fueled heater, make sure it is designed for indoor use and properly vented. Read all of the manufacturer's instructions and make sure it is properly vented.
- ✚ Do not use propane barbecues (or any other type of barbecue) indoors.
- ✚ If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances or thermostats. A spark from one of these could ignite the gas. Get everyone outside and away from the building. Shut off the gas supply. Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone.
- ✚ Do not attempt to heat your home by opening the door to your natural gas or electric oven.



## **Kerosene Heaters**

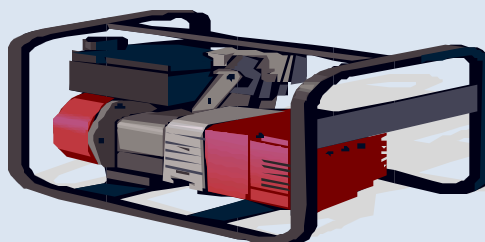
- ✚ Make sure the room has proper ventilation.
- ✚ Fill your heater with only crystal clear, K-1 kerosene. Do not use any fluid that is not recommended for your heater. Refuel outside, and *only after the heater has cooled down*.
- ✚ Check the wick every couple of weeks during the heating season. If the wick is dirty, clean it according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✚ Because a kerosene heater has a constant open flame, it should not be used in a room where there are flammable solvents, aerosol sprays, gasoline or any type of oil.



## **Generators**

- ✚ If you have a portable generator, make sure you place it in a well-ventilated area. Read the manufacturer's instructions before using it.
- ✚ Be sure generator fuel is properly and safely stored according to fire regulations. Never store fuel or flammable liquids in a basement or near an open flame. Always refuel the generator outdoors and away from any ignition sources.
- ✚ If you choose to have a generator permanently connected to your home's electrical system, make sure a licensed electrician installs it and be sure to notify your electric company. Improperly installed generators can cause multiple types of hazards not only for you but for power company workers.

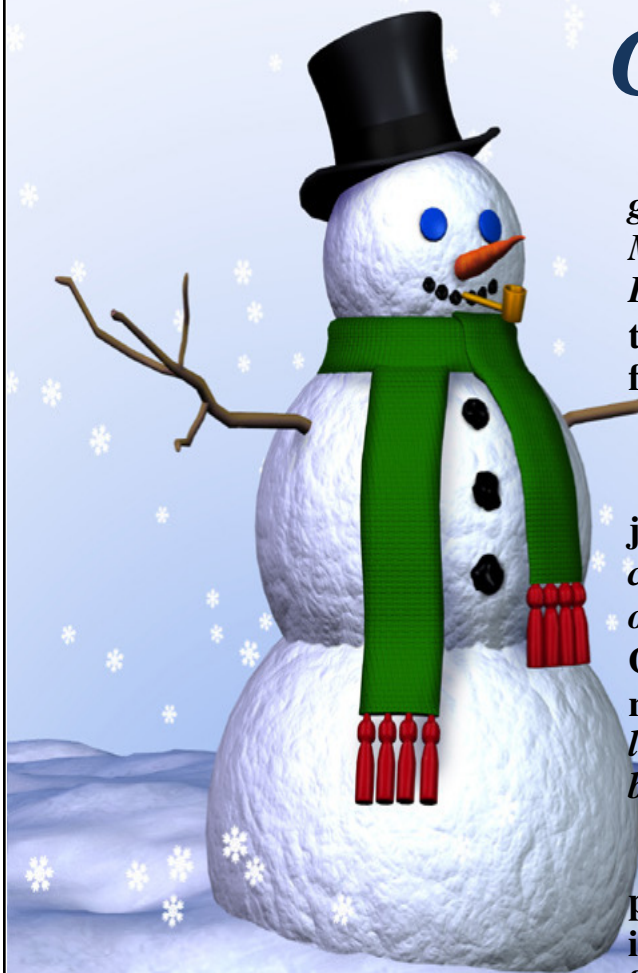
Also, make sure to have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and inside each sleeping area to alert you in the event of a fire. Test the batteries on a weekly basis.



# *“The Silverdonian*



## *Connection”*



*The Silverdonians of Macedonia are a group of senior citizens that meet the first Monday of each month at Macedonia City Hall. They gather in the Community Room to share an afternoon of good friends, good food and hopefully some good speakers or a movie!!*

*Macedonia Seniors that would like to join us are welcome, but we do ask that you call us for reservations the Wednesday before our luncheon. The Village Restaurant in Oakwood is our wonderful caterer, and we need to give Sharon a total count. The luncheon starts at 12 noon and the speaker begins at 1:00 pm.*

*The cost is only \$3.00 and worth every penny! If you are interested in more information about our luncheon, please feel free to call Dianne at 330-468-8339 or Denise at 330-468-8300.*

*Events coming up include...*

*Monday – February 1, 2010*

*“Home Instead Senior Care” Speaker – Greg Kubala*

*Monday – March 1, 2010*

*“Native Americans” Speaker – Bobbie Toth*

*Hope you can join us!!*

*For more information, check our web site:*

*[www.macedonia.oh.us](http://www.macedonia.oh.us)*

Police Department  
330.468.1234  
Jon Golden, Chief



**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

### Winter Driving – Inclement Weather

Let me take this opportunity to remind everyone to **slow down when driving in snow and ice**. It is better to arrive at your destination a few minutes later rather than not at all. The safety of you and your family is what is important. **Please be patient when driving during inclement weather**. Also, adverse driving conditions require more of the driver's attention.

If you must talk on a cell phone, pull off the road and into a parking lot before using your phone. **And remember, texting while driving is illegal in Summit County**.

*Chief Jon Golden*

Recreation Department  
330.468.8370  
Angela Gmerek, Director



***Get fit, have fun, make friends!***

***Join the nation's leading fitness program for older adults for free!***

SilverSneakers offers an innovative blend of physical activity, healthy lifestyle and socially oriented programming that allows older adults to take greater control of their health. SilverSneakers members receive:

- ***A free fitness center membership*** at the Macedonia Family Recreation Center with access to conditioning classes, exercise equipment, pool, sauna and other available amenities
- ***Customized SilverSneakers classes*** designed exclusively for older adults who want to improve their strength, flexibility, balance and endurance
- ***Health education seminars*** and other events that promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- ***A specially trained Senior Advisor*** at the fitness center to introduce you to SilverSneakers and acquaint you with their site

The award-winning\* SilverSneakers Fitness Program is a proven, results-oriented program that enables older adults, often burdened with chronic conditions, to take charge of their health and maintain an active, independent lifestyle.

\*The SilverSneakers Fitness Program is a winner of the 2004 HAN Award from the Healthcare and Aging Network of the American Society on Aging.

® SilverSneakers is a registered mark of Healthways, Inc.

***SilverSneaker Orientation Every Tuesday 11:00 a.m.***

***Social Events for SilverSneaker Members:***

All events begin at 9:00 a.m. and take place at the Macedonia Family Recreation Center.

Coffee and Pastries served at all functions.

- **January 22: Wii Bowling**
- **February 26: Speaker from the Cleveland Clinic**
- **March 26: Presentation by Personal Trainer**
- **April 23: Presentation on Spring Gardening**



**Service Department**  
**330.468.8330**  
**Jim Crevar, Director**



***Thank you to all residents for cooperation during the 2009 leaf collection program!*** We were able to recycle and divert over 6,000 cubic yards of debris from going to the landfill! If you have leaves, brush or other yard waste you may bag it for rubbish collection or drop off (brush only) at the Service Garage. Call 330-468-8324 for hours of operation.



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!!**

*The first round of collection started on October 26, 2009.*

*The second round of collection started on November 19th.*

*ALL Streets were double checked and cleaned-up during a final sweep on December 15-16.*

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**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY JAN. 18, 2010: RUBBISH COLLECTION WILL REMAIN ON SCHEDULE DURING THE ENTIRE WEEK :)**

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PLEASE BE KIND AND DO NOT LEAVE RECYCLEABLES LITTERED AROUND THE FORMER RECYCLING DROP-OFF AREA AT THE RECREATION CENTER.

**THE COMMINGLED (glass, plastic, aluminum) RECYCLE BIN HAS BEEN PERMANENTLY REMOVED FROM THE RECREATION CENTER DUE TO THE START OF THE CURBSIDE PROGRAM.**

WE WILL STILL ACCEPT PAPER AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING AT THE REC CENTER LOCATION!! WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT RECYCLEABLES LEFT IN THE PAPER/CARDBOARD BINS WILL CONTAMINATE THE LOAD WHICH WILL AFFECT THE ACTUAL RECYCLING OF THE PAPER AND THE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE COLLECTION OF THE MATERIALS. **PLEASE CALL 330-468-8324 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS! THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!!**

## *In Honor of Those Who Serve....*



### *Support Our Troops* *Remember our Veterans*

*Many of our Macedonia residents are currently serving in the Armed Forces.*

*On behalf of the City of Macedonia, the Macedonia Messenger would like to pay special tribute in our upcoming publications.*

*Please forward information including name, where they currently serve and photos if available, to Denise Slovan at [dslovan@macedonia.oh.us](mailto:dslovan@macedonia.oh.us) or call 330-468-8300.*

*Residents who are veterans are also asked to please share their names and information as well.*



## *In Honor of Those Who Serve....*



Sergeant Matthew Foust  
U.S. Marine Corps  
**Active Duty** - Afghanistan



Frank Posar  
Staff Sergeant  
U.S. Army Security Agency  
1964-1968  
Served in 13 countries  
Home base Asmara, Ethiopia



Ken Turley  
Infantry Soldier  
U.S. Army  
101<sup>st</sup> Airborne  
1979-1983



Jim Bennett  
Staff Sergeant  
U.S. Air Force  
1968-1972

