

HOMETOWN

HEROES

2019



Westhampton Free Library

HOMETOWN HEROES 2019



Arthur Ellis Hamm American Legion Post 834
PO Box 53
Westhampton, New York 11977



Westhampton Free Library
7 Library Avenue
Westhampton Beach, New York 11978

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First paperback edition January 2020

Interviews by Erica Jackson of Syntax Communication
Photography by Michael Azzato of Selective Eye Photography
Book design by Susan Berdinka

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CAPTAIN ARTHUR ELLIS HAMM
326TH INFANTRY
UNITED STATES ARMY

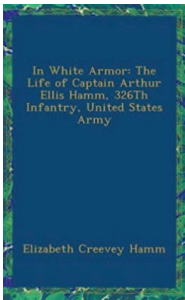
ARTHUR ELLIS HAMM

AMERICAN LEGION Post 834

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans' service organization. As such, it is committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans ("History", *The American Legion*. <https://www.legion.org/history>). Those who have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving, are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

Post 834 held its first meeting in 1920. Arthur Ellis Hamm's name was chosen to name the post "following the usual custom of honoring a comrade lost in battle" (Rogers, *Historical sketch of the incorporated village of Westhampton Beach, N.Y., 1640-1951*, 1953). Hamm, awarded both the Distinguished Service Cross and the French Croix de Guerre, is buried at St. Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt, France. The minutes of the first meeting state that a letter was to be written to his widow to inform her of the designation.

The building at 406 Mill Road in Westhampton was originally built around 1880. Following Post 834's formation, meetings were held there by the Post. In 1922, the building and grounds were secured by the Post's first commander, William T. Hulse. In 1987, the building was sold to Southampton Town to be used as a community center. A stipulation of the sale allowed the American Legion to continue using the building. In the mid 2010s, the building was condemned. As the Post awaits a replacement Southampton Town community center, meetings have been held in several locations, including most recently the Westhampton Beach Fire Department, and will move to the Westhampton Free Library in 2020.



AVAILABLE AT THE LIBRARY

In white armor : the life of Captain Arthur Ellis Hamm, 326th Infantry, United States Army / by Elizabeth Creevey Hamm.

Originally published in 1919.

WH-Adult non-fiction B HAMM
(Local Author)

FOREWORD

Since Westhampton and its surrounding areas were founded, many local men and women have stepped up to serve our country in times of need. Without hesitation, they answered the call of duty, often putting their own lives on hold and leaving loved ones behind. For this, we are grateful and extend a sincere thank you.



*John Berdinka with Post 834
Adjutant Paul Haines*

To show appreciation, in conjunction with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5350, the Westhampton Free Library kicked off a Hometown Heroes program in 2017. In continuation of this program, local veterans and active duty service members have been honored monthly throughout 2019 in conjunction with the Arthur Ellis Hamm Post 834 of the American Legion.

Here we tell their stories.

The following pages are a compilation of twelve of these narratives: a slice of our community and also our country's history. They are meant to be read and shared so that these stories will never be lost.

The Library would like to express its gratitude to the interviewer, Erica Jackson of Syntax Communication, as well as photographer Michael Azzato of Selective Eye Photography.



EMIL MOLLIK
HELICOPTER GUNNER

Emil Mollik, born in 1943, grew up in Flanders and attended Riverhead High School, from which he graduated in 1962 as senior class president. He spent his summers dancing – one of his favorite pastimes – on the beach.

Following graduation, he secured a job at Northrop Grumman as an engineering aide. Hearing that many of his friends were enlisting in the Army, he decided to follow suit, and in March 1964, signed up for a three-year stint. This was just prior to any troops being sent to Vietnam. He was 20 years old.

“I wanted an adventure,” said Mollik.

He was first sent to Fort Dix in New Jersey for eight weeks of basic training and a subsequent eight weeks of advanced infantry training before being transferred to Fort Benning in Georgia for three weeks at the U.S. Army Airborne School. He was then selected to serve in the 11th Air Assault Division, which was testing the concept of going to war with helicopters. After passing the requisite tests, he became a member of the 611 Aircraft Maintenance and Supply platoon. He was then sent to South Carolina, where he, along with 35,000 troops, participated in an operation that tested the concept of helicopter warfare.



Then in the summer of 1965, he received orders that he would be shipping out in August.

“I never thought we would go, but there we were loading up in Alabama and then shipping out from Georgia,” he said.

It took 32 days for them to sail to Vietnam.

“I remember at night, I would go up on deck and see the stars,” he said. “It was so clear and beautiful.”

He arrived at the Quinn Yan airfield in the Northern Highlands of Vietnam, serving in the First Air Cavalry as a helicopter gunner. He was then sent to An Khe, where an airfield was constructed. For the next 10 months, he flew numerous missions, dropping off and picking up ammunition and supplies.

What Mollik remembers most about that period of time was the beauty of the country.

“Our home base was 2,500 feet up. It was just beautiful country,” he said. He also was baptized in a French church while there, recalling it as an “amazing” experience.

Following his stint in Vietnam, Mollik was sent back to the U.S. to Fort Belvoir, home of the Army Engineers, in Virginia. There, he spent six months delivering supplies. During that time, he was also able to visit family back home and explore the community of Speonk, which he eventually decided to make his home.



From left to right: State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Library Trustee Maryanne Yutes, Southampton Town Councilman John Bouvier, Emil Mollik, Library Director Danielle Waskiewicz, Post Commander Tom Hadlock, Southampton Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer, Bill Matthews, Irene Donohue from Bridget Flemming's office, Post Finance Officer Mike Berdinka, Technical Services Librarian Susan Berdinka, Post Adjutant Paul Haines, and Post Sergeant-at-Arms Fred Bauer.

In March 1967, he officially received his discharge papers and headed home to once again work for Grumman, this time as an instrumentation engineer. “It was a beautiful job,” said Mollik, who spent the next 32 years working for the company.

Now, Mollik spends his days hiking or at the Library, enjoying the many classes it has to offer. He also spends much of his time at the senior center in Flanders, where he dances. He loves all kinds of dance, from the cha-cha to ballroom to country. Most recently, he joined the American Legion and VFW posts in Westhampton.

Mollik is also very close with his two daughters, residing with his daughter Lynn. His daughter Kristina lives nearby in Hampton Bays.



Be sure to check out Mollik's interview with the New York State Military Museum on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/INthYZeaTAU>





WILLIAM MATTHEWS
NAVY ENGINEER

William Matthews, born March 9, 1931, grew up in Lindenhurst and attended Lindenhurst High School, from which he graduated in 1949. Prior to graduation, Matthews was unsure of his next move in life, but a teacher urged him to explore free college options since his grades were superior at both Lindenhurst High School and the Catholic school in the Rockaways that he attended for a brief period.

"She told me I was capable of doing so much more and that I have to go to college," he said.

Matthews took her advice and applied for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. He was accepted and enrolled in the marine engineering program, on track to become a Chief Engineer.

"We had to know everything – pumps, boilers, shafts and all the machinery needed to make a ship function," he explained. "We had to know the ship inside-out and upside-down."

Upon graduating from the academy, Matthews entered the U.S. Navy as a Chief Engineer. He spent a short time in South Carolina before receiving orders to head to Boston, where his ship, a minesweeper called the Jacana, was being built.

He recalls walking up to the gate of the shipyard as a young man and the guard wisecracking that there were no minesweeper ships in the yard and that he was in the wrong place. Eventually, he was led to a basement, where he received his orders.



For several weeks, Matthews spent his time sorting, storing and loading equipment for the new ship before it launched for the first time. He also met the Captain.

"I didn't get along with the Captain at first," he said. "I was from the North and he was from the South, but we turned out to be great buddies after a while."



Matthews pictured with his wife, Carol.



Matthews with Westhampton Beach Village Mayor Maria Moore.

He recollected the last time he set foot on the ship that came to mean so much to him. During a training in North Carolina, his ship was charged with sweeping mines so that the landing crew ships could get through. He was standing at the control when the fire alarm went off. He quickly ran down to a smoke-filled engine room to find the starboard engine had seized. He worked diligently with the crew in an attempt to make repairs, but it was determined that the engine needed to be sent to a shipyard for repair.

“That was the last time I saw the ship,” said Matthews.

Without a ship, Matthews had the option of going back to school, so he decided to attend submarine school. The decision was one that surprised his Captain, but Matthews said he had long been fascinated with submarines. During one training, where his minesweeper played the target, he watched as a submarine launched torpedoes.

“I saw them flying right at us,” he said. “They were impressive.”

He shipped out to New London, Connecticut, where he was trained on a sub. The Captain taught Matthews how to use the sub’s scope to calculate the speed of target ships, as well as their direction, by constantly and consistently calculating the angle of their bows.

“I was training, training, training, then I got it all down and started to get bored,” he said.

It was about that time that his stint in the Navy concluded, and he was honorably discharged.

Upon discharge, Matthews headed back to Lindenhurst, where he worked as an insurance adjuster before starting his own business, Admiralty Marine Surveying. He married his wife, Carol, in 1962 and together they had four children: Tara, Sean, Mary and Carla. It was also during this time that he volunteered for the Lindenhurst Fire Department.

In the late 1980s, Matthews and his wife decided to move to Westhampton Beach, where they have lived for the past 30 years. It was then that Matthews joined the American Legion, for which he served as Commander for several years. In addition, he worked as a trail guide for the Westhampton Beach School District’s adult education department.

Now, he spends much of his time at the Westhampton Free Library, where he enjoys reading books and magazines.

Matthews has been credited with helping to keep Post 834 alive. After the building on Mill Road was sold to the Town of Southampton in the late 1980s, membership at the Post slowly began to dwindle. Mike Berdinka, Finance Officer of Post 834, said that when the Legion started meeting regularly again in 2014, the only members were himself, Matthews and the Post's current Commander Tom Hadlock. The three would often meet in Matthews' basement.

Hadlock said Matthews is one of the Legion's most dedicated members.

Matthews often juggles different duties with the Legion and takes part in its fundraising events, as well as other community activities such as the Knights of Columbus.

Berdinka noted that membership has grown significantly with Matthews' and Hadlock's help.

"If it wasn't for those two, we wouldn't be here today," Berdinka said.



Matthews with Southampton Town Councilman John Bouvier

*Newsday covered Matthews' ceremony and his part in saving the Post **"Vet honored for keeping Westhampton Beach American Legion branch alive"** (Newsday subscription required):*

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/vet-american-legion-hometown-hero-1.27368238>





MICHAEL BERDINKA
SUBMARINE VETERAN

Michael Berdinka, a Navy veteran, grew up in Westhampton and graduated from Westhampton Beach High School in 1968. Upon graduation, he attended SUNY Cobleskill, where he received an associate's degree in accounting. However, he soon realized that accounting wasn't for him.

As a child, Berdinka became interested in submarines, and after graduating college in 1970, he decided to enlist in the Navy. He followed in the footsteps of his family, who had served in World War II. His father, a Mattituck Junior/Senior High School graduate, joined the U.S. Army in 1941 and served as a radioman in Europe. His mother served in the British Army in London, and her brother was an electrician on a British submarine during the war. Michael's brother, Peter, would follow suit as well by serving in the Marines in the late 1970s.

"I knew I would receive good training and I could see some of the world," Berdinka said of his decision to enlist.



Berdinka with his wife, Susan.



He immediately volunteered for a detail on nuclear submarines and was admitted into the Navy's nuclear program. He trained first in electrical at the USO of Illinois Great Lakes training center, and then was stationed aboard the USS Howard W. Gilmore from 1971-72. The ship, a submarine tender, was home ported in Key West, Florida.

His training continued at Nuclear Power School in Bainbridge, Maryland, and ended in West Milton, New York, where he received extensive training as a nuclear reactor operator.

Following nuclear training, Berdinka served three and a half years in Hawaii aboard the USS Sargo (SSN-583), a nuclear fast attack submarine operating out of Pearl Harbor. During that time, he participated in weekly operations around Pearl Harbor and underwent training in individual submarine escape, controllers and circuit breakers, and submarine damage control, where he was trained to stop flooding inside a sub.

A few months after his arrival, the USS Sargo required a major overhaul, with all equipment replaced and the sub sent to the yard for work. The ship was reinstated in the fall of 1975 and Berdinka was then deployed for six months to the Western Pacific, where he toured Guam, the Philippines, Korea and Hong Kong. Like many fast attack nuclear submarines at the time, the crew of the USS Sargo participated in a number of secret missions while deployed.



Berdinka's time of service had quieter moments, too. Some of his fondest memories during his time on the subs include surfacing and watching the sun set over the ocean, as well as swim calls, where anyone could jump off the ship for a few laps in the ocean.

He was honorably discharged on November 17, 1976. At that time, he was an Electrician's Mate First Class.

Berdinka used the skills he acquired in the Navy to obtain employment. He worked at two nuclear power plants, the first being the LaSalle County Nuclear Generating Station in Illinois, from 1977-78. The second was the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant, where he held a management position until its closing. He went on to work as a Field Supervisor for overhead electric lines for the Long Island Lighting Company (which became KeySpan Energy) until his retirement in 2004.



Berdinka has always been dedicated to the community in which he grew up. He has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 2008, serving as Treasurer, and currently serves as Finance Officer of the American Legion Post 834. He is also involved with the Immaculate Conception Church and the homeless ministry John's Place. He

is blessed with his wife, Susan, to whom he has been married for 15 years. He has three children and four stepchildren, and between him and Susan, five grandchildren.

Be sure to check out Berdinka sharing his thoughts as he was being honored:

<https://youtu.be/LmOz6C5dS4Q>



The U.S. Navy nuclear-powered submarines USS Seadragon (SSN-584), USS Sargo (SSN-583), and USS Swordfish (SSN-579) from the U.S. Navy All Hands magazine.



FREDERICK BAUER
MARINE CORPS

Born September 4, 1959, Frederick W. Bauer grew up in Westhampton and graduated from Westhampton Beach High School in 1977.

Following graduation, he attended the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida, where he earned a bachelor's degree in air commerce/transportation technology. While there, he participated in the school's Army ROTC program and completed the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course, which entailed two six-week stints at Officer Candidates School at Quantico, Virginia. Upon graduating in 1981, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps.



Bauer pictured with his wife, Terrie.

"I always wanted to go into the Marine Corps," he said. "I can't tell you why. I just did."

Then it was back to Quantico to complete further training at the Basic School. Bauer noted that the Marine Corps is the only branch of the military requiring all of its officers to undergo such training prior to attending the school of their military occupational specialty.



Bauer with Library Director Danielle Waskiewicz.

"We joked that this is where the Corps taught you to be an officer and a gentleman," he said of TBS, "but more importantly, it gave everyone a working knowledge of how the Marine Corps works and firsthand experience in the field with infantry tactics, calling for supporting arms and an understanding of all the specialties in the Corps. When they say, 'Every Marine is a rifleman,' it includes everyone — male, female, officer, enlisted and every specialty."

Bauer intended to attend flight school after training, but he failed the eye test and returned to Quantico to attend the Infantry Officer Basic Course. Along with learning infantry tactics, patrolling, weapons training that included machine guns, grenade launchers and mortars, and how to call for artillery, Naval gunfire and air support, Bauer recalls exhilarating experiences such as rappelling from a tower and helicopters, fast roping, SPIE (Special Patrol Insertion/Extraction) rig insertions and extractions, and amphibious operations.

After completing IOBC, he was assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in Camp Pendleton, California, where he commanded the 1st Platoon.

While in California, the battalion deployed for mountain warfare training at Bridgeport, desert warfare training at 29 Palms and amphibious warfare training at Coronado. They were then deployed to Okinawa, Japan for six months, during which they trained for one month in the Philippines.

Once he had finished his time with the rifle platoon, Bauer served as the battalion's Legal Officer before joining the 17th and 11th Military Expedition Units, where he was in charge of the aggressor company for large exercises. During this period, he had the privilege of working with an exchange unit from Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Bauer then decided to obtain a second specialty and joined the Joint Public Affairs Office serving Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the 1st Marine Division. He served as a Press Officer for six months before completing active duty in 1985.

His time as Press Officer led him to the Marine Corps Reserve, where he was assigned to the public affairs unit. In this position, he participated in a number of active-duty tours with U.S. Central Command and the Pentagon and was part of Exercise Team Spirit in South Korea.



From left to right: Southampton Town Councilman John Bouvier, Library Trustees Robert Santucci and Maryanne Yutes, Fred Bauer, Library Director Danielle Waskiewicz, Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, and Southampton Town Clerk Sundy Schermeyer.

Bauer also worked in his family's businesses, which included a garden center, landscaping and excavating, among other areas of work, and joined the Westhampton Beach Fire Department.

He married his wife, G. Terrie Hentschel, in 1987, and with her and her brother-in-law, purchased the William G. Hentschel Insurance Agency from her parents. The couple still owns the agency, where Bauer worked for 20 years before becoming self-employed.

During this time, he joined the 106th Rescue Wing in Westhampton Beach as the Public Affairs Officer, attending the Defense Information School at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. It was a very busy and exciting time to be with the unit; during it, the H-3 Jolly Green Giant helicopters that had served in Vietnam were replaced with the H-60s that the unit still flies.

The unit also became the lead rescue unit for every shuttle launch, and they grieved the loss of members during the 1991 Perfect Storm that hit the East Coast. Bauer, along with another member of the unit, was also deployed to Jamaica to help document the U.S. military's efforts to help rebuild schools that had been destroyed in 1988's Hurricane Gilbert.

Like most guard units, the members of Bauer's unit came from many backgrounds and all branches of the active military. His number-one person in the Public Affairs Office was Joe Ricker, a former Navy Seabee and Korean War veteran. There were also many former Marines, and the unit would celebrate the Marine Corps birthday every November.

With work and family consuming much of his time, Bauer left the Guard in 1992.

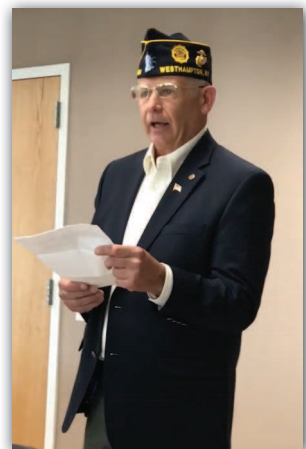


Bauer is a member of the Kiwanis Club and serves as Sergeant-at-Arms for the American Legion Post 834. He is also a 30-year member of the Westhampton Beach Fire Department, for which he has served as a Public Affairs Officer, interior firefighter, driver and member of the dive team, as well as a Commissioner with the Westhampton Beach Fire District.

He is the very proud father of two daughters and two grandchildren. His daughter Brittany is a teacher and married to Sam Howerton, who is active duty with the U.S. Navy in the submarine service. They have two children, Carter and Delaney. His younger daughter, Lauren, will soon be graduating summa cum laude from the College of William and Mary after attending the school for just three years. She has been invited to join Phi Beta Kappa and plans to do volunteer work before entering law school.

Be sure to check out Bauer sharing his thoughts as he was being honored:

<https://youtu.be/Chti1nJy5hE>





JOHN BERDINKA
NAVY SEABEE

Born October 18, 1946, John A. Berdinka grew up in Westhampton and attended Westhampton Beach High School, from which he graduated in 1964. He went on to study automotive mechanics at Voorhees Technical Institute, part of the modern-day New York City College of Technology. After graduating, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

"I didn't want to go into the Army and thought that if I joined the Navy, I wouldn't have to go to Vietnam," Berdinka said of his decision. "I was wrong about that."



Berdinka with his wife, Dot



Berdinka completed boot camp at Naval Station Great Lakes in Illinois and was sent to his first duty station in Adak, Alaska, where he spent eight months. While there, he applied for automotive mechanic school, but was instead sent to heavy mechanic school, a change he didn't mind.

He was sent to Naval Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme, California, where he was assigned to

Naval Schools Construction and received heavy mechanic training. He then applied to be sent to Rhode Island, but instead was transferred to the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Mississippi. From there, he was deployed to Vietnam with Mobile Construction Battalion 128.

"I had an idea that we were going to be sent," he said of his initial deployment. "At the base, I saw all the guys coming back."

In Vietnam, Berdinka was assigned to a night field crew, which worked overnights to repair equipment in the field. They fixed everything from mud pumps and cranes to bulldozers and water wagons.

He recalled his first night of the 1968 Tet Offensive. "We weren't supposed to leave the base, and they forgot to tell the gate guards not to let us out," he said. "We were on the air field and they started mortaring the hell out of the place. We hid under a bulldozer that we were servicing until the mortars stopped."





Berdinka with Library Trustees Maryanne Yutes and Mitchell Schechter.

In July 1968, Berdinka was sent back to the U.S., where he received additional military and mechanical training until he received orders that December to return to Vietnam for another eight-month tour. This time, Berdinka requested to work in the shop, a request that was fulfilled. He spent his tour working the lube rack and heavy shop servicing vehicles, including rebuilding engines and transmissions.

“Everyone thought we had the worst job, but we had a lot of fun, and soon everyone was requesting to work on the lube rack,” he said.

Berdinka was separated from active duty in August 1969 and headed back home to Westhampton, where he went to work for George Eckart pumping gas and repairing cars, followed by a 10-year stint with Chesterfield Associates. He then worked for the Southampton Town Highway Department as a shop foreman, a position he held for 25 years before retiring.

He and his wife of 47 years, Dot, have four children – William, Matthew, Erik and Kristen – and reside in a home built by Berdinka’s father in the 1950s.



Berdinka is an active member of VFW Post 5350, the Arthur Ellis Hamm American Legion Post 834 and the Westhampton Beach Historical Society, for which he restored the Spanish cannon that sits in front of the Society’s building. He also restores and shows classic cars, which have included a 1938 Willys Coupe, a 1936 Ford Sedan, a 1974 Cobra and a 1968 Corvette.

D. S. C. POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED TO CAPTAIN ARTHUR ELLIS HAMM

Mrs. Hamm Receives Acknowledgment of Her Husband's Heroism. Present Commander of His Company Tells of Thrilling Battle.

News has just been received that the Distinguished Service Cross has been bestowed posthumously upon Captain Arthur Ellis Hamm, Florida's dead hero who fell a victim to a Hun air raid on September 14, 1918.

Mrs. John K. Creevey, mother of Mrs. Hamm, sent the news in the following letter to President A. A. Murphree:

"Dear President Murphree:

"At my daughter, Mrs. Hamm's, request, I am sending you the account of the bestowal of the D. S. C. upon her husband, and the story, as told by Captain Ruge, of the Fiery Raid. (It was in this battle that Captain Hamm displayed the heroism for which he was posthumously decorated.) Mrs. Hamm thinks that this would be of interest to Captain Hamm's fraternity.

"Mrs. Hamm is working as Directress of the 'Comite American for the devastated regions of France, in Blenrancourt (Aisne), as she says, finishing her husband's mission. The headquarters of the unit, and her address is C. A. R. D., 15 Boulevard Lawnes, Paris, France."

Mrs. Hamm thus describes the simple ceremony of the bestowal of the D. S. C. upon herself, his widow, in Paris, April 29th, 1919.

"I have just returned from General Headquarters, and over my heart is pinned the ribbon of the D. S. C. and the beautiful bronze cross is resting against my husband's picture. It was a very quiet and simple ceremony. I was taken into General Harts' office, and Major General Lewis came forward with the Cross in his hand.

"In the absence of General Harts from Paris, I present to you as next of kin to Captain Arthur Ellis Hamm the Distinguished Service Cross awarded him for valor. I want to congratulate you upon your husband's glorious record as a soldier, and to say that his comrades will never forget his heroic deeds and his inspiring example."

"I said, 'My husband would be very proud, General Lewis, and I thank you for him'.

"Outside it happened that a band was playing, and the sun was shining. And so my Arthur received his D. S. C."

ACCOUNT OF THE FLIREY RAID

Written by Captain Edwin Ruge, Commanding Company M, 326th

Infantry

On August 2nd Company M returned to Noviant all primed for the raid. On the night of August 3rd the raiding party went forward to the position where they were to jump off into the old abandoned series of trenches between our line of outposts and the German front line. Every man was in his appointed position and all was in readiness half an hour before the time appointed for going over. The barrage was perfectly timed and beautifully placed. At the sound of the first gun the company swarmed out leading forward in a mad scramble up the hill. The going was rough. The hill was steep and its side was covered with barbed wire, shell craters, and remains of old trenches which had been blown to pieces. In two minutes, the time allowed, the men were up the hill, and as they neared the crest the barrage jumped to the second line farther back. The raiding party penetrated to a point behind the German third line trench, climbing over or blowing their way through five separate and distinct barricades of wire. All of the enemy were promptly despatched.

Company M captured all of the identifications that were captured that morning, captured two of the three machine guns that were brought in—the first machine guns taken by the National Army. Company M brought back to the American lines every man who went over, including four severely wounded men, and did not lose a single man. Probably the coolest man in the raiding party was Captain Hamm. In an old raincoat which had been torn to pieces by German barbed wire, with a walking stick in one hand, and a lighted cigar in the other, Captain Hamm as he walked around the German lines that morning was a picture of utter content. To look at him you would never know that there was a war going on. The last man to leave the German lines that morning was Captain Hamm. He remained inside the enemy wire until long after the last of his men returned to our lines, making certain that none of his men was left behind.

While at Lesmenils on the 14th of September Captain Arthur E. Hamm was killed near his P. C. in Hemenville by a bomb dropped from a German plane. The loss of Captain Hamm is one which the men of his Company will never forget. Cool and collected in time of danger, ever considerate of the welfare of his men, a finer officer would be difficult to find in the American army.



FRED OVERTON
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Born January 29, 1931, Fred Overton grew up in Westhampton and graduated from Westhampton Beach High School in 1949. Following graduation, he worked as a carpenter's helper until he was drafted into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1952.

"I was happy working as a carpenter," he said, "but being drafted was the way it was at that time. It was very common."

With his draft notice, Overton was sent to basic training at Fort Belvoir in Virginia. Immediately following training, he was shipped off to South Korea. It was a 16-day journey of being seasick, he grimly recalled.

He arrived in Chuncheon, where he worked with the 538th Engineer Field Maintenance Company. He spent his days and nights repairing and servicing heavy equipment and pulling guard duty. After six months, he was sent to Pocheon, where he continued similar work. Then, on December 26, 1953, he received orders that he was to return home. In January, he arrived at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey.

"The experience was a good experience," Overton said of his time in the Army. "I got to see a lot of things I would not have otherwise seen — I saw how good we have it here in America."



Overton with his girlfriend, Marilyn.



Overton with Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming.

Back home, Overton returned to his carpentry job before becoming the manager of the La Coquille apartment complex on Dune Road, a position he held for 31 years until his retirement.

Overton has been a member of the Westhampton Beach Fire Department since 1955 and served as chief and then as chairman of the commissioners for 15 years, stepping down in 2017. "Ninety percent of the members were veterans and had been in the service," he said. "The chain of command was automatic for us."

He was president of the former Westhampton Veterans Athletic Association, as well as a member of the American Legion Post 834 and VFW Post 5350.

Overton has two sons, Ray and Rick, with his late wife, Joyce, and three grandchildren. He has been with his girlfriend, Marilyn Aldrich, for the past eight years.

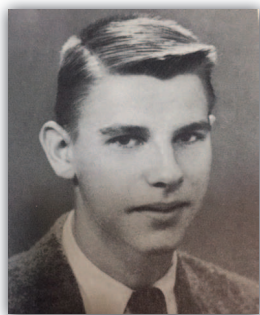


THOMAS HADLOCK
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

In 1966, as the Vietnam War was raging, Tom Hadlock made the decision to serve his country and enlist in the United States National Guard. He wanted to contribute, he explained, and liked the training and discipline of the Army. He also very much believed in the Army's mission. He signed up in Philadelphia in July, immediately after completing graduate school, and was assigned to be stationed at Fort Knox, home of the Armor Center. Private Hadlock (ultimately promoted to Sergeant) underwent basic training and took coursework in his military occupational specialty, company clerk, which he was assigned based on his educational background. He was first assigned to his home Pennsylvania National Guard unit, then moved to New York City for business reasons and was ultimately reassigned to two separate state units, located in Ossining and Yonkers.



Hadlock with his wife, Yolande.



Accompanying his New York assignment were annual two-week summer training sessions held at Camp Drum (now Fort Drum) in Watertown, New York. While Hadlock served only stateside, his six-year commitment through 1972 was part of a larger support mission to the Army's multiple armored divisions and also served the state's critical needs as they developed, such as a New York postal workers strike.

Hadlock's commitment to the military became in many ways even more significant following his active duty days. He has always been a committed resident of Westhampton. A few years ago, the late Arma "Ham" Andon asked Hadlock to take a leadership role in Westhampton Beach's American Legion branch, Arthur Ellis Hamm Post 834, which was barely surviving at the time. He agreed and accepted the position as Post Commander in 2010. With his determination and energy, the Post began to grow in numbers and importance. Key members who shared Hadlock's goals were added, including Fred Bauer, Mike Berdinka, Peter Cuthbert, Paul Haines and Emil Mollik, to name a few, as well as long-time dedicated member and Korean War veteran William Matthews.



Hadlock with Emil Mollik.



*Hadlock with Southampton
Town Clerk Sundry
Schermeyer*

Today, the Post is proud to have played a major role in delivering the recently dedicated Arma “Ham” Andon Memorial Military Park, located at the village marina. It also signs up veterans to be memorialized in stone at the Westhampton Cemetery, has developed a Sons of the Legion program, provides monthly donations to bona fide local charities, is working with Southampton Town to finalize plans for the new Western Township Community Center and meeting place for the Post, and implements specialized programs like the Military Widows Luncheon. The Post is planning to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020.

“We are gaining strength every day,” said Hadlock.

Hadlock was born in Chicago and moved east at a young age. The military has always been a part of the Hadlock life. He attended college in upstate New York and received his master’s degree at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is married and has a daughter and two young grandchildren. In addition to his involvement with the American Legion, he is a trustee on the executive board of the Westhampton Beach Historical Society, active with St. Mark’s Church, and serves on the fundraising committees of both the Peconic Bay Medical Center and East End Hospice. In his spare time, he enjoys playing tennis and poker.



Coin presented by the Town
of Southampton.



Listen to Hadlock's thoughts at the ceremony where he was honored:
https://youtu.be/WAZ2uA_GSzM

*Additionally check out the Newsday article **"Re-enlisting Enthusiasm"** covering how Post 834 saw its membership rise from three in 2014 to 51 in 2019 (Newsday subscription required):*
<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/towns/veterans-american-legion-enrollment-recruiting-membership-1.39195067>



LISHA JONES TERRY
TECHNICAL SERGEANT

Growing up across the street from the 106th Rescue Wing, Lisha Jones Terry said it was only natural that she'd one day wind up dedicating her life to the military.

Born in 1976, Terry attended Westhampton Beach High School, where she was captain of the track and cheerleading teams, medaling in state competitions. She also thrived in the arts and sciences. It was around the time of her high school graduation in 1995 that she was visited by a Coast Guard recruiter. She quickly made the decision to enlist, although she gave herself a little time for traveling and skiing with her grandfather first.

On October 8, 1996, Terry officially joined the United States Coast Guard Department of Transportation. Upon graduating from training at Cape May in November 1996, she was sent to St. Petersburg, Florida, where she worked circles around maintenance and was soon transferred to a faster-paced boat station. She advanced to the rank of Seaman First Class in 1998 and soon after became a Boarding Team member at the Coast Guard's small boat station in St. Petersburg after completing training in California. She loved her new post, where she performed law enforcement and search and rescue duties in the high-paced tempo of year-round boating. She also participated in trainings such as man overboard drills and marine firefighting, among others.



Terry with her mother, Vanessa, and children, Reed and Race.



That same year, Terry received a letter of commendation from the Coast Guard for responding to an aircraft accident in which a single-engine plane with a pilot and passenger crashed short of a runway. With prior lifeguard experience, Terry was given the OK to swim out in rough waters to the plane. She successfully rescued the two victims.

In 1998, she was presented with the opportunity to fill a crew member opening back at home at the Shinnecock Station. She jumped at the chance to go back home. Aside from her other duties at Shinnecock, she often took over food service duties, cooking every meal to the approval of the entire station. Cooking for all is a theme she has carried throughout her military career. Also, while at Shinnecock, she volunteered for the Westhampton Beach Ambulance Company.

In September 1999, after a long waiting list, Terry left the Shinnecock station to enter the Health Dental Technical School, where she became a dental technician. She was stationed at the Petaluma Medical Clinic Training Center, where she remained until shortly after 9/11.



Terry's active duty with the Coast Guard came to an end in 2002. Not wanting to leave the service, she headed back home and joined the Coast Guard Reserve at Shinnecock. However, she missed working among medical professionals and serving patients, so she sought and found an opening at the 106th Air National Guard Medical Clinic as a dental assistant.

"I still preferred boats over planes, but the planes started growing on me," she said.

During her time in the Air National Guard, Terry completed Airman Leadership School, trained and served in the 106th Honor Guard, was promoted to non-commissioned officer Staff Sergeant and then to Technical Sergeant, and took part in numerous trainings, including medical training in Spangdahlem, Germany. She was also part of the base's enlistment council.

When nearing her 19th year and becoming eligible for military retirement, she decided to make a change from medical to security forces for a better chance at deployment and other opportunities.

Often asked why anybody would change from medical to security forces, she always replies, "I did not want to retire before serving my country overseas."

Terry trained and, on July 3, 2015, got her wish — she was deployed with other members to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing, Ali Al Salem, Kuwait.

Before landing on the "rock," Terry trained at Ramstein Air Base in Germany for a month. While deployed, she conducted hundreds of battle drills and served as an area supervisor. For her service, she earned the Global War on Terrorism Medal in 2016.

Also, while serving overseas, she had the opportunity to share her love of jiu jitsu and teach a few classes. And, of course, she cooked for many people in the chapel kitchen in the little spare time she had.

Following her deployment, Terry earned her associates degree in criminal justice through the U.S. Air Force.

Terry is still with the 106th and continues to train. She recently attended 7-Level School at the Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. She is scheduled to be promoted to master sergeant in the near future and hopes to serve the unit as a first sergeant.

As a civilian, Terry volunteers with the VFW Post 5350 and serves on its golf committee. She is a member of the American Legion Post 834, and volunteers on the Westhampton St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and for the nonprofit HUGS (Human Understanding and Growth Services), among other organizations.

"I'm always interested in helping in the community," she said. "I love to share my time and talents wherever I can."

In addition to her volunteerism, Terry is a licensed massage therapist with an urban farming business. She is also a beekeeper, a mermaid and an environmentalist. She is the mother of two children: Reed, 12, and Race, 10.



Be sure to check out Terry sharing her thoughts as she was being honored:

https://youtu.be/eyp9V_eEr_4



DON NOBLE
SPECIAL FORCES

Donald Hill Noble grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where his father was an off-and-on military officer and Wyoming rancher. His father served in the military during World War II and as a West Pointer, helped establish the 10th Mountain Division that went on to fight the Germans in the Alps.

Coming from a long line of veterans from before the Civil War and on both sides of his family through the Confederate and Union armies, it was only natural for Noble to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Sadly, in his third year at the academy, his father died of a heart attack, and in the same month, his mother suffered a major stroke. Noble was forced to leave the academy to help his ailing mother. Six months later, having been forced to give up his West Point appointment, he put his mother into a total care nursing home and enrolled at the University of Vermont, where he completed his degree in math and science.

Being a member of the ROTC and a Distinguished Military Graduate, Noble was then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the regular Army.



Noble with his wife, Jean.



With the Vietnam War raging, and knowing he was heading into the conflict, Noble decided to get as much solid training under his belt as he possibly could. From his Basic Infantry Officers course at Fort Benning, Noble became a paratrooper (Airborne) and a U.S. Army ranger, graduating from the rigorous and demanding U.S. Army Ranger School. His next stop was for courses at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

"If I was going to Vietnam, I wanted to be as prepared as possible," he explained.

Noble was deployed to Vietnam as a member of the 5th Special Forces Group, heading a 12-member Special Forces "A" Detachment. It was heavy combat from day one of his arrival, first in Nha Trang on the South China Sea and then in his TAOR (tactical area of responsibility) along the Cambodian border.

During his first tour, Noble's team was involved in most of the major engagements within III Corps, a designated combat area jointly held by the U.S. and ARVN (Army of Republic of Vietnam) forces. Two months after entering the country, Noble was wounded by grenade and mortar fragments to his legs, side and back. Refusing to be evacuated from the battlefield, he was finally taken to a combat hospital by the Vietnamese Airborne Ranger Commander.



Noble pictured with Library Trustee Maryanne Yutes and Technical Services Librarian Susan Berdinka.

While in the hospital, he was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, a Bronze Star for Valor and the first of his two Purple Hearts.

Noble was moved to the 93rd Evacuation Hospital in Bien Hoa, but after 30 days, he was deemed by hospital personnel as too much trouble to deal with. The 5th Special Forces Commander let Noble return to his team, though a bit worse for wear.

It came time for Noble to rotate back to the States, but he refused and extended his time for a second tour, feeling his men needed him. He felt that to leave would

be to put everyone's life in greater danger. He was a seasoned Captain now, battle-tested and trusted, and he knew the ropes.

During Noble's second tour, the Tet Offensive had begun, and Noble and his team were in the thick of it. At the very end of this tour, he and his team were involved in a joint operation with the ARVN; Noble's team was the lead element in engaging the North Vietnamese Army. The combat was intense, and after two days, Noble and all of his team members had been wounded, several seriously. Nightfall was coming quickly. Noble was able to get all of his wounded team on evacuation helicopters, but unfortunately, there was no room for him. Badly wounded with bullets in both legs, a bullet in the arm and a serious head wound, Noble elected to stay behind by himself that night, keeping both legs in tourniquets and administering shots of morphine to himself.



"I knew I could hopefully get out the next day and I had an M-60 machine gun, my AR-15, and both frag and smoke grenades," he recalled. "If I could just make it until daylight, I would be good."

Amazingly, two helicopters were there to get Noble in the morning.

Noble was awarded his second Purple Heart, a second Bronze Star for Valor and the Silver Star by General William Westmoreland for this action. This time, however, his wounds were so severe that he began a years-long journey of healing through the international medical evacuation process, ending up at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

After leaving the military, Noble enrolled in graduate school at the University of Florida. He earned his master's degree in business, but it wasn't easy; because of his wounds, he required several surgeries while attending school.

"I would go a semester, then take a semester off for surgery and then go back again," he recalled. "It was a struggle."

With his degree in hand, Noble was hired by Exxon in Houston, Texas, along with other military veterans, as an oil fuel auditor. From there, he was hired by the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency in New York City alongside 15 other Vietnam veterans. "It was an interesting class of guys," he said.

After working at several other advertising agencies and running his own business for a while, Noble settled down at the Stony Lonesome Group, an equity group with whom he has been for the past 10 years. The company partners with military veterans who are entrepreneurs.

A resident of New York City, Noble spends his weekends in his Remsenburg home, which he has owned for 20 years, and is involved in local veteran organizations, including the American Legion Post 834 and VFW Post 5350. He has been married to his wife, Jean, for four years.



Be sure to check out Noble sharing his thoughts as he was being honored:

<https://youtu.be/p3RxxPJR6gY>



MATTHEW ATKINS
IRAQ VETERAN

According to Matthew Atkins, he wasn't quite a model student when growing up in Riverhead, admitting, "I was a ruthless teenager." However, he graduated high school in 1999 and stayed local while deciding what he wanted to do in life.

His first inclination was to join the U.S. Air Force, but because he wore glasses, the job he really wanted — fixing planes mid-flight — was not going to pan out. Instead, he opted for the Army.

In May 2001, Atkins entered basic training at Fort Knox in Kentucky. From there, he was sent to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland for heating, ventilation and air conditioning school. He graduated in November that year and enjoyed two weeks' leave before being sent to a duty station in Heidelberg, Germany.

While in Germany, Atkins served with a United States/European Command Unit in the motor pool that included civilians. There, he gained additional skills while cross-training with the mechanics.

"I learned a lot during that time, and I became a generator mechanic," he said. "It all prepared me for what I have been doing for the last 15 years."

His time in Germany was cut short when, in March 2003, he received orders to go to Iraq and serve in a command unit.

"I knew that I would be sent to Iraq," he said. "I just didn't know I would be taken from my unit."

While awaiting orders to head to Iraq, Atkins spent a month in Kuwait.

"We were told we couldn't make phone calls, even though we were allowed," he said of that time. "My mom was worried and called the Red Cross, [who] got a hold of me."

Two weeks later, and after two chemical attacks, Atkins received orders to head into Iraq. He made the 28-hour drive into Baghdad without wearing his full Kevlar gear; just before leaving for Iraq, he had hit his head and needed stitches and bandages, which prevented his helmet from fitting properly.

"I wasn't even in Iraq yet and was already injured," he said, "but I drove with one eye open and one closed."

In Baghdad, Atkins found himself stationed at one of Saddam Hussein's palaces that the U.S. Marines had previously cleared out. What started as a small camp when he arrived turned into a full enterprise by the time he left.



Atkins with his wife, Becky, and daughter, Alora.



*Atkins with Library
Director Danielle
Waskiewicz.*

During his first days in Baghdad, Atkins recalled, air support hadn't come for about a week, leaving them with no water.

"Being in the motor pool, we were able to go out for supplies," he said. "By luck, we came across a water cooler and reconnected it."

Soon enough, trailers with food and cooks arrived, and they were fed pretty well. While many in the field around him had miserable quarters, Atkins recalled that he was lucky to have an apartment that had a stove and running water.

He remained in Iraq for six months, making numerous runs for supplies and parts before coming to the end of his tour. He arrived back on European soil in November 2003 for debriefing and was back home in the U.S. on March 11, 2004.

Atkins holds several accommodations from his service, including three Army Achievement Medals, a National Service Defense Medal, an Army Service Ribbon and an Overseas Service Ribbon. He was also selected in 2002 to serve on funeral detail in Belgium for World War II soldiers, an experience he said he will never forget.

Back home, Atkins landed a job at Mendenhall Fuel continuing the same work he had been doing in the Army. "I am grateful for the experience," he said of his service. "It taught me a trade that I really do love."

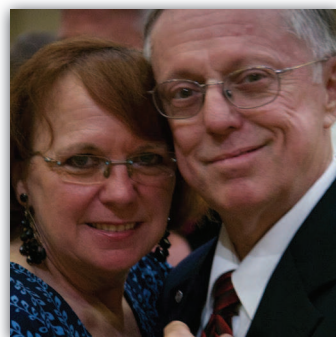
Atkins and his wife, Becky, reside in East Quogue with their adopted daughter, Alora, whom they fostered along with a number of other children over the years. He is also a volunteer firefighter with the East Quogue Fire Department.





THOMAS MENDENHALL
VIETNAM VETERAN

Thomas Mendenhall, born April 12, 1945 to Carleton and Alice Mendenhall, has lived on the East End his entire life. He attended East Quogue Elementary School through the fifth grade and then attended sixth grade at the "Six Corners" school in Westhampton Beach. He graduated Westhampton Beach High School in 1963 and headed to SUNY Farmingdale to study heating, ventilation and air conditioning.



Mendenhall with his wife, Peggy

Following college, Mendenhall received his draft papers and reported for basic training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, in 1966. After basic, he was sent to Fort Sam in Texas for combat medic training. He rounded off his training at Fort Carson, Colorado, in the winter of 1966-67 in the HVAC program.



In March 1967, after receiving orders for Vietnam, Mendenhall was sent to Camp Radcliff in the central highlands near An Khe. He served with the 86th Engineer Detachment, attached to the 1st Cavalry unit. While in Vietnam, Mendenhall assisted in building barracks and then was assigned as the motor pool parts coordinator, where he ordered and inventoried all parts. He recalls long nights pulling guard duty when the Viet Cong would relentlessly attack the main camp gates with mortars. Americans, he said, fired big guns known as Howitzers back out of the camp.

Following the end of his tour in February 1968, Mendenhall was released from active duty and headed back home to East Quogue. He went to work for the family business that was started by his grandfather. At that time, the company was called Columbia Garage and sold gasoline and kerosene. Subsequently his father took over the business and started C.L. Mendenhall Fuel, offering home heating oil delivery service with a 1929 Chevy pickup on which he mounted a 300-gallon tank. In 1965, the business name was changed to Mendenhall Fuel, Inc., and in 1980, the business was passed on to Thomas.



Mendenhall with Irene Donohue from Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming's office.

While working, Mendenhall volunteered for the East Quogue Fire Department. He is a 54-year member and past chief. He is also a 58-year member of the East Quogue United Methodist Church and has 51 years with the Westhampton VFW. For the past three years, he has been a member of the American Legion. He has four daughters — Rebecca, Sarah, Tracee and Jessica — from a previous marriage, and a daughter and son — PJ and Frank — through his wife, Peggy. Together, they have five grandchildren: Zack, Noelle, Max, Jakob and Alora.

Be sure to check out Mendenhall sharing his thoughts as he was being honored:

<https://youtu.be/qttph1PdRPnY>



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your future**



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MICHAEL POPE
MERCHANT MARINE

At 95 years young, Michael Pope has lived a lifetime filled with the joy of learning new things. Whether attending school, taking classes and earning advanced degrees after retirement, or reading daily newspapers, accumulating knowledge always has been and remains important to him.

Born in Manhattan in 1924, Pope grew up in Brooklyn, graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1940. Even before he finished high school, he knew exactly what he wanted to do — study electrical engineering at the City College of New York. He remembers when electricity was still new. At the age of 6 or 7, he was intrigued with electricity after discovering it using a hand-crank telephone mechanism.

World War II started two years after he entered college, and his three older brothers were drafted shortly after Pearl Harbor. Pope wanted to finish college and made a deal with his draft board that if permitted to complete college, he would enlist on the last day of classes.

Because he enlisted, Pope had the option of selecting his branch of service, and he chose the U.S. Merchant Marines. After his last college class on a Friday in early May 1944, he was aboard a ship on the following Sunday on the way to the Normandy beachhead. After a second round trip, he became an officer, and the engine room was where he stayed for seven round trips across the North Atlantic. He was in the Pacific, en route to Okinawa, when the war ended.

He enjoyed being in the engine room. He had a great variety of tasks and met interesting people throughout the world. His desire to get news from the outside world led him to hook up a speaker in his cabin on a wire to the radio room, and on most of his ships he heard the BBC news.



Pope pictured with his wife, Sally, and son, Ian.



Pope, 2016 graduate of St. Joseph's College.

Although the Merchant Marine had the highest casualty rate of the World War II services, he was lucky to have only a few close calls. One was when his convoy was attacked off the coast of Newfoundland, and another in the Port of Antwerp during the Battle of the Bulge when a V2 rocket bomb caused some damage to his ship. What he remembers most about his service was the weather on the ocean. "The North Atlantic is not a great place to be in cold weather and storms," he said.



*Pope with Technical
Services Librarian Susan
Berdinka*

Pope was officially discharged, Lieutenant Senior Grade, in 1946, and headed back to New York, where he began work with a consulting engineering company. There, he worked on power plant designs and became a junior partner in five years. When he turned 30, he started his own consulting company, Pope Evans and Robbins, Inc.

After selling his company, retirement was not an option, so he went back to school, first obtaining a law degree, and then, at the age of 92, a Bachelor of Arts in humanities from St. Joseph's College on Long Island. He was recently

recognized by the City College of New York with an honorary Doctorate of Science.

The Remsenberg resident says he is now studying how to stay healthy and involved in life and what courses to take next. He is the proud father of four children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, with family connections in Norway, France and China.

He claims he is not a hero — he says his wife, Sally, is the hero, for putting up with him for almost 45 years!



*Be sure to check out Pope sharing his thoughts
as he was being honored:*

<https://youtu.be/uWsZU8LvmDo>

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or inquire your Maritime Union or U. S. Employment Service



Photos courtesy of Paul Haines

ARMA “HAM” ANDON MEMORIAL MILITARY PARK

The Memorial Military Park at the Westhampton Beach Village Marina was built to honor veterans and active duty military personnel, but especially the late Arma “Ham” Andon, to whom the park is dedicated.

The memorial features six flags, one for each branch of the military: the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Army and Coast Guard, as well as the Merchant Marines, an auxiliary to the Navy during World War II.

The flagpoles form a circle, and plaques accompanying each flag display the emblem of that branch. The center of the circle has a larger plaque and an American flag honoring Ham Andon. Surrounding the flagpoles is a gravel walkway and six benches.

A dedication ceremony took place on Memorial Day, May 27, 2019 at the site, located on the corner of Library Avenue and Stevens Lane.

Andon held many leadership roles within the community that made him a friend and mentor to many. He was the village mayor from 1986-1994, longtime commander of both the VFW Post 5350 and the American Legion Post 834, Westhampton Beach School Board president, and commissioner of the village fire department.



Featuring twelve veterans from



**Arthur Ellis Hamm American Legion Post 834
Westhampton, New York**