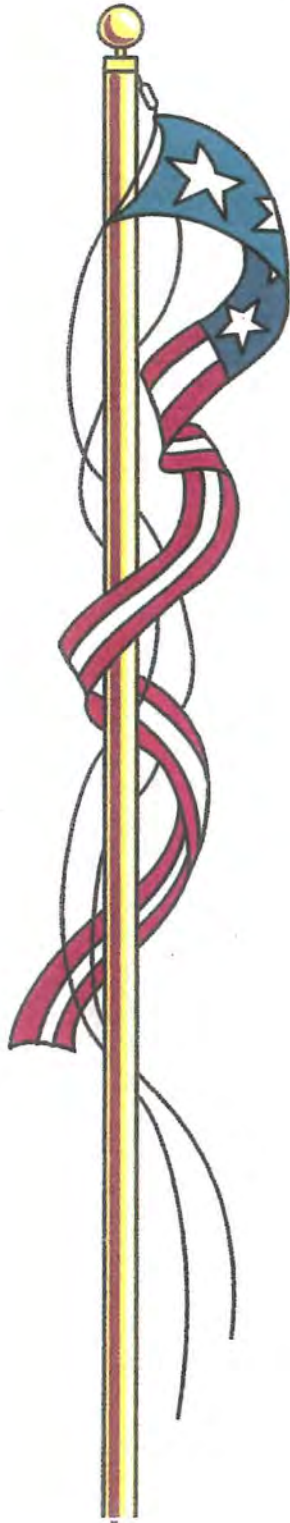


# COMMEMORATIVE BOOKLET

in HONOR of  
**WORLD WAR II VETERANS**  
of  
**Jefferson Township**  
***“The Greatest Generation”***



**Jefferson Township Historical Society**  
**Eldersville, Pennsylvania**  
**May, 2005**

# **THE PROGRAM**

## ***The Memorial Prayer***

***“God Bless America”***

**Krista Guzzo, soloist**

## ***Tributes***

**(to those taken prisoner or killed in the line of duty)**

### ***The Death of John Chilensky***

**Agnes Chilensky Morris – (Agnes is John’s sister. Original tribute written by John’s brother, Paul Chilensky, Sr.)**

### ***The Death of Peter J. McMahon, Jr.***

**Richard Irwin – (Richard is Peter’s nephew. Original tribute written by Peter’s sister, Helen McMahon Johnson.)**

### ***The Captivity of Matthew Puskarich***

**Diane Quader – (Diane is the wife of Matthew’s nephew. Original story for the tribute told by Matthew’s wife, Leona Fry Puskarich.)**

### ***The Death of Steve Kandray***

**Mary Kandray Gelenser – (Mary is Steve’s niece. She is also the author of the tribute.)**

### ***The Death of Orrin Guy Miller***

**William Donati – (Tribute written by John Townsend, as told by Orrin’s sister, Margaret Miller Townsend.)**

**The Captivity of Samuel Elich**

**Jackie Elich Bigler – (Jackie is Samuel’s niece. Original story told by John Spavelka, Samuel’s son-in-law.)**

**The Death of Nicholas Negra**

**Marcus Muzopappa – (Marcus is a Negra family friend. Original tribute written by Nick’s sister, Sonya Negra Jason.)**

***A Brief Tribute to the Remaining Seven Men  
Who Gave their Lives***

***“I’ll Be Seeing You”***

**Krista Guzzo, soloist**

***Report on Proposed Veterans’ Memorial***

**David Gould, chairman**

***Meditation: “No Greater Love”***

**Winfred Higgins – Chaplain and past Commander of Slovan-Burgettstown Honor Guard**

***“The White Cliffs of Dover”***

**Krista Guzzo, soloist**

***21 Gun Salute in memory of the fallen by the Honor Guard***

***TAPS***



**John Chilensky was born 24 November 1919, in the little village of Penowa near the southernmost point of Jefferson Township. He was the eldest son of Frank and Margaret Kocis Chilensky who had been married in the little church in the village known as St. Hermengulde. His birth was later followed by that of ten siblings.**

**John enlisted in the Army on 16 December 1941, was graduated from quartermaster motor transport school and then Officers' Training School where he was commissioned 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Company A, and went overseas in March of 1944.**

**It was there that he survived the devastation of the infamous Battle of Anzio and the equally treacherous journey to Rome. He was then reassigned to serve in the Invasion of Southern France. This invasion began on August 15<sup>th</sup>. On August 16<sup>th</sup> in that year 1944, John Chilensky was killed in the line of duty by an SS sniper at the age of 24. He was buried in the Rhone American Cemetery in Draruignan, France.**



**John Chilensky**



**Steve Kandray**

**Steve Kandray was born the 2<sup>nd</sup> day before Christmas in 1921, in the little mining camp of Shintown on the outskirts of Eldersville in Jefferson Township. He was the firstborn son of Andrew and Elizabeth Klucs Kandray, and eventually one of four sons and two daughters.**

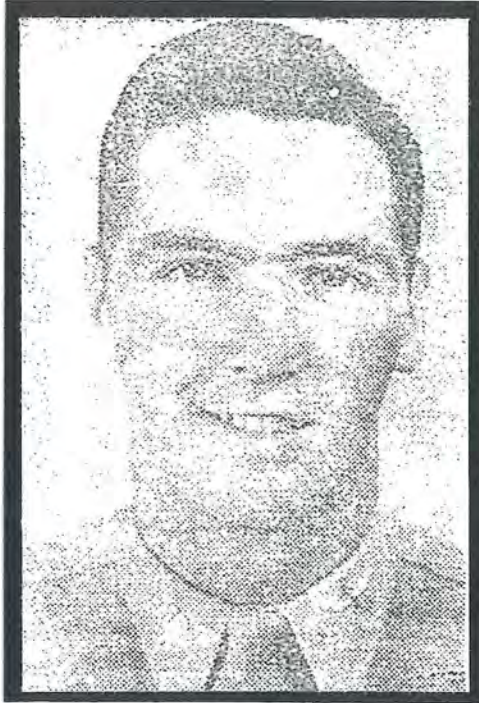
**Steve joined the Navy when the Great War came along, where he became a side gunner in the Navy Air Corps. He was ultimately assigned as a gunner on a navy night search patrol plane in the South Pacific.**

**On a night in September of 1944, Steve was serving in just such a capacity above the Celebes Sea near New Guinea. When he and the others in his crew left for that mission, it was the last time anyone ever heard from them. No one ever knew if they were shot down, lost at sea, or what hideous mishap may have occurred. Nothing was ever found of either the plane or the crew. A buddy of Steve' who was one of the last to be with him before he died, later visited his parents and reported that the mystery was never solved. They had simply disappeared.**

**Later, the family placed a marker for Steve on his parents' graves in the OLOL Catholic Cemetery near Burgettstown. A memorial was also placed in the National Cemetery at Arlington.**

**From the time of his entrance into the service, Steve never got home for a leave. He was 23 years old at the time of his death.**





**Peter J. McMahon, Jr.**

**Peter J. McMahon, Jr. was born 28 November 1924, at Yukon, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He attended grade school at Eldersville, in Jefferson Township, Washington County, and was graduated from Union High School, Burgettstown in 1941. He was the youngest child of Peter J. Sr. and Anna Quinn McMahon. He was preceded in birth by one brother and two sisters.**

**In November, 1942, Peter enlisted in the Army Air Corps, receiving his wings in October, 1943. He was sent to the European Theatre as a mustang fighter pilot in the 8<sup>th</sup> AAF, based in England. He was shot down on 11 July 1944, on a mission from England to Munich, Germany. He was 21 years of age. During training, he married Margaret Baker of Bethel Ridge Road. After Peter's death, a daughter, Margaret June McMahon, was born to them.**

**Lt. McMahon was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, The Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart. After being listed as "Missing in Action", Peter was pronounced dead in November of 1944. His body was returned home for burial with full military rites at Westmoreland County Memorial Cemetery, Greensburg.**

**Frank Sugick was born 27 December 1919 in Cherry Valley. He was the son of John and Mary Gawlas Sugick, and spent his boyhood with the family in Eldersville where he attended school.**

**Frank enlisted in the Marines in Pittsburgh on 29 May 1942, and served in the Asiatic-Pacific theater beginning 15 October 1942. Among the major places where he saw heavy action over a two year period were Guadalcanal, the Solomon Islands, Eastern New Guinea Operation Bismarck-Archipelago Operation, and Peieliu, Palau Islands, where he was killed on 17 September 1944. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the World War II Medal, and the Purple Heart. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in 1948. He never received a furlough, and as a result, his mother never saw him in uniform. He died at the age of 24.**



**Frank Sugick**



**Matthew Puskarich was born 10 January 1922, the son of Anton and Mary Bertovich Puskarich. He spent his growing-up years on the old Melvin Farm on Irish Ridge, State Line Road, Jefferson Township.**

**About the time of his induction into the Army on 8 January 1943, Matt married the love of his life, Leona Fry, with whom he shared over sixty years. Two sons and two daughters blessed this union.**

**Matt was eventually assigned to paratroop training in Fort Benning, Georgia and went overseas in February of 1944, where he served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division, 307 Airborne Engineering Battalion. He took part in both the Middle Eastern Campaign and the European-African Campaign, later receiving a number of medals for this treacherous involvement.**

**On D-Day, he was a part of the Allied servicemen who parachuted their way to a year of horror and deprivation. Along with hundreds of others, Matt was captured by the Germans shortly after landing and herded like cattle into a crowded box car. Here they rode, standing, for six days without food or drink, arriving at Statloc Prison 4-A, which became their home for nearly a year. Their only food for that period of time was**

**dandelions and potato peelings. They nearly froze to death, sleeping on concrete floors with no blankets or warm clothing, and worked crushing wood into paper pulp, everyday.**

**On 8 May 1945, they were once again herded into a covered truck and driven through a battle zone. No one ever knew why the driver stopped, but when he did, they determined to take their chances through the gunfire and run for their lives. With nothing to eat or drink, they eventually came upon some Americans, calling to them to make themselves known as POWs. Their rescuers immediately sized up the situation, their bodies being skin and bones with a protruding stomach to testify to their near starvation.**

**"Nobody will hurt you!"; the rescuers assured them, making them as comfortable as possible while sending others to bring food and transportation.**

**Matt arrived home in June of 1945, having lost over 100 pounds during his year of captivity. His wife never forgave the Red Cross that had promised her that her shipments of socks, sweaters and food would definitely be delivered to him. He never received one package. After his release, he was never reimbursed for his year in captivity. The VFW has recently assured his daughter that he had been entitled to \$2000 per month for the remainder of his life. It is not known if his widow will ever be compensated.**

**The years of fear and starvation took their toll. Matt seemed tired and worn out forever. On April 18, 2005, he left his beloved family for a better world. He was buried with full military honors at the Franklin Methodist Cemetery in Brooke County, West Virginia. His Purple Heart adorned his burial.**

**There is no way that Jefferson Township can ever replace the years of his life that Matthew Puskarich lost in his service to his country. But it is to be hoped that those who witness this account will make at least some little effort to help guarantee that this sort of inhumane treatment is removed from the face of the earth, forever.**



**Matthew Puskarich**





**John Charlier**

**John Charlier, according to a December, 1944, newspaper clipping, died in Italy on the first day of October from wounds received in battle. He was listed as the son of John and Della Charlier, and had been born in Slovan 13 March 1924. He was with the 351<sup>st</sup> Infantry of the 88<sup>th</sup> Division, and received the Purple Heart and the Infantryman's Combat Medal.**

**Before entering the service, he had worked for the Pennsylvania Railroad at Bertha Mine.**

**In addition to his parents, the twenty year old PFC was survived by a brother, Fred, and three sisters, Alice Orison, Matilda Adams, and Mary Castro.**

**The remains were brought to the Lee and Wilson Funeral Home in Burgettstown where services were conducted. Full military rites were performed at the Fairview Cemetery by the American Legion Post of Burgettstown. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.**

**Orrin Guy Miller was born on Bancroft Farm in southwestern Jefferson Township on 30 June 1918. When he was not quite five months old, his father died in the flu epidemic at the age of thirty. His parents were Earl and Amy Grannis Miller. He was preceded in birth by two brothers, Albert and Delvin, and one sister, Margaret.**

**On 27 July 1944, at the age of 26, Orrin perished in a daytime Allied bombing mission over Hungary. The goal was the Mannfred Weiss Steel Works at Budapest. It was Orrin's ninth and last mission. As a ball turret gunner, the odds against his safe return were unbelievable. Later statistics showed that a man in this position was usually killed on his second mission. The very design of the plane made it generally impossible for the gunner to escape from the ball turret if the plane were hit. Orrin and the other three tail gunners were all lost on this fateful trip.**

**Listed as "Missing in Action" for a year and a day, Orrin was finally declared legally dead. After the close of the war, his remains were said to have been identified and he was buried at the beautiful Gettysburg National Cemetery with full military honors. The funeral eulogy was entitled, "The Price We Pay for Peace."**



**Orrin Miller**





**Samuel Elich**

**Samuel P. Elich was born in Colliers, West Virginia, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May in the year 1921. His parents were Samuel Elich, Senior, for whom he was named, and Zora Kuzmanovich Elich. Prior to his birth, a brother and sister for him had already become part of the Elich family. And as time went by, one other sister was added to the list.**

**At sometime before the year 1930, the Elich family moved from West Virginia to the little mining village of Shintown, on the outskirts of Eldersville. The children grew with the passing years and by 1941, both Sam and his brother, Stanley, were on the nation's agenda to be called to war.**

**Many of the war experiences of Sam have forever remained untold. But, the story of the tragic winter of 1944 needs to go down in the annals of the history of Jefferson Township's veterans. The story as told by Sam after his liberation in the summer of 1945 goes something like this.**

**It was probably considered to be a part of the infamous Battle of the Bulge. For eleven days, Sam and his buddies had been without food or any supplies. It had snowed for two weeks as the army, their feet soaked in the freezing water that filled the ditches in which they stood, waited in vain for supplies. The snow was as deep as their waists and the overcast skies offered little hope of a respite from the unbearable weather.**

**On the morning of Christmas Eve, the officers announced that they had concluded that there was no alternative to surrender. But Sam remembered that he and most of the other men begged to wait it out. "I have five bullets left," he remembered telling the commanding officer, "and I think we should hold out". But by noon, word had been sent to the Germans that they were ready to give themselves up.**

**Surrounded by the German Army, 6000 Allied men began the march to Poland that was to be the death of many of them. Those who could not walk, or did not have a buddy to carry them, were immediately shot by the Germans and left to lie by the side of the road.**

**The next six months were a living hell. Forced to peel potatoes all day, their only sustenance was the water used in the peeling process, plus one loaf of bread for every twelve men. Before the close of their captivity, when supplies apparently became even more scarce, the number of men per loaf was increased to twenty. At the time of release, Sam's body weight had decreased from a robust 220 pounds to a skin and bones version of himself which weighed in at 100 pounds.**

**It was the end of June of 1945 that the Allied forces finally located the prison that had held them for six months.**

**Sam returned to America after the V-E celebration of the world, and tried to take up life where he left off. At the young age of 63, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June in 1984, he passed to a land, we hope, is free forevermore of the threat of war. Sam Elich was one of the area's two known Prisoners of War in the Great Conflict. Jefferson Township acknowledges with deepest gratitude the tremendous debt he paid to contribute to the preservation of freedom.**



Nicholas Negra, son of Michael and Sophia Kovach Negra, had been raised in the area of Jefferson-Penobscot-Penowa mines in the southernmost part of Jefferson Township. The quaint little settlement near the banks of Cross Creek, known as Seldom Seen, was "home".

Nick, a handsome, personable, young man, was the eldest male of a large family, and as such, no doubt seemed invincible to his younger brothers.

When the War came, Nick answered the call. The two brothers closest in age to him, were not far behind – Charles to the Air Force in the thick of the War – and Daniel to the Navy as soon as he reached the age of 17.

But on a black day in December of 1944, the telegram came. Nicholas – strong, young, invincible Nicholas – had been killed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November in the Battle of the Bulge. For the entire Negra family, it was the end of the world.

Years later, Nick's sister, Sonya Negra Jason – by now an author and television lecturer in her own right – wrote a poignant account of her personal reaction to his death when the Victory in Europe was announced on May 8, 1945. This masterpiece of expression relates the depth of sorrow this family experienced at Nick's death.

Of the ten Negra children from the mining camps of the 30s, only three remain alive today, in 2005. But nothing in the roster of the total experiences of their lives equaled the death of Nicholas, snatched from life at the age of 21 in a senseless man-made hell known as WAR.



Nicholas Negra

## THE LAST SIX

The Memorial Committee has been unable to locate even a small school picture for six of the twelve young men from Jefferson who lost their lives in World War II. Not only is the committee unaware of what they looked like, but practically nothing is known about them. In order to attempt to guarantee that they are not forgotten completely, the meager knowledge of them that surfaced is provided herein.

FRANK ALAMOVICH lived on a farm in the Bertha Mine area as a small lad. His best pal was Mike Rollage. The boys were about the same size and seemed to grow about the same amount each year. They played together as little children, and one winter they engaged in a mutual project of setting traps. Mike remembers that one of Frank's personal projects was distributing the little "GRIT" magazine to subscribers in the area. Frank was an only son, but he had little twin sisters to make up for the lack of boys. Mr. Alamovich died when the children were small and their mother remarried. No one remembers the name of this stepfather. When the Bertha Mine became involved in a strike, many mining families were forced to leave the area. Mike Rollage later learned that his old pal had moved to McDonald where he entered the service and was later killed in the line of duty. The many attempts made by the committee to uncover any information on Frank's service record or death has proved fruitless.



**HARRY SASKA** lived in the back of the village store building near Bertha Mine with his parents, older brother, three sisters, and young brother. His parents operated the store for the mining families of the Jean and Bertha mines. Harry's older brother later became a pharmacist in Canonsburg.

Both Harry and his brother, Mike, entered the armed services during World War II. Searches for accurate accounts of exactly what became of Harry Saska have yielded small results. No one of real close relationship to him has come forth with data, but it is known that he was definitely a casualty of war. He has been listed as "Lost at Sea" for the past sixty odd years. Rumor has it that he was on a troop transport to the war zone when the ship was struck by an enemy torpedo and destroyed. The entire population of the vessel lost their lives.

**MICHAEL SASKA**, the brother of Harry listed above, became an airplane pilot. This interest developed from the boy's association with the closest neighbor of the Saskas, Warren Columbia. Mr. Columbia was a veteran pilot and apparently took the interested little lad under his wing.

When the war came, Mike, too, lost his life in the line of duty. He was attempting to swoop into a landing on an Allied carrier when he missed the deck. Thus Mike, also, was "Lost at Sea". This story of missing the deck was a familiar one during the war. Sailors stationed on navy craft often told stories of rescuing from the sea many pilots who missed their target. It was often reported, by those seeking to perform this nearly impossible task, that from a point 5,000 feet in the air, it must be remembered that the ship, whose deck was the destination, looked very much the size of a match box.

The father of the boys reputedly died sometime in middle age. After the loss of both of the younger boys, the eldest son picked up stakes and moved to California. He soon sent for his mother and at least some of his sisters, perhaps to give the family new surroundings after the tragedies they had just experienced. No one today seems to have any remembrance of these young men. But their fellow veterans, who survived the war, at least made an effort to provide a memorial to them. The Kucher-Saska VFW Post of Burgettstown was named in their honor.

**GEORGE YANEK** was apparently a resident of Jefferson Township in 1940. The exact location of where he lived remains a mystery. The records of Marion Butler, who kept accurate accounts of young men from the township who were being drafted or were enlisting, named George Yanek among them. In his records, he explicitly stated, "These persons were living in Jefferson Township at the time of their induction into the Service." A faded newspaper clipping, undated, states that George enlisted in the Navy in 1940. His name also appeared on the original township Honor Roll that was constructed in 1943.

The only other information available also comes from this faded clipping, mentioned above. In it, it gives no information about his father, but refers to his mother as Mrs. Annie Misch of Jefferson Township who received word of the death of her son, George. Neither the date nor cause of death was given.

George is referred to in the writeup as Seaman 3/C Yanek, age 19. He was a radio technician on the carrier Wasp. Besides his mother, his survivors were two brothers: Mike, with the U. S. Navy, and Samuel at home.

**EDWARD HARSHEY**, son of Oliver and Minniebell Cook Harshey, lived in Bertha Mine. He served in the Army during World War II, where he gave his life in the line of duty.

**ROBERT ALVIN PATTERSON**, son of Robert and Frances Thorley Patterson, lived in Eldersville. He served in World War II and was declared "Missing in Action".



# WORLD WAR II VETERANS

The Memorial Committee has made an extensive search in its attempt to compile an accurate list of World War II veterans who have lived at sometime in their lives in Jefferson Township. It apologizes for any omissions, inaccuracies or misspellings.

There may be additions or corrections that you, personally, would like to make. If so, please write your recommendation on the index card provided, and return it in the pre-addressed envelope. Be sure to include your name and phone number.

<p style="text-align: center;">- A -</p> <p>ABBOTT, James ALAMOVICH, Frank ALLEN, William Earl ANDERSON, James W. ANDERSON, Robert G.</p>	<p>BRITTON, Carl C. BROWN, Alfred BROWN, Donald Ray BROWN, Floyd BROWN, James BROWN, Robert BROWN, Ronald F. BRUCE, Francis BRUCE, Joseph BUTLER, George W. BUTLER, John BUTLER, Marion Oliver</p>	<p>DANNA, Joseph DAVIDSON, Homer DAVIS, Harry Eugene DELLENBAUGH, Maurice DeFELICE, Robert DiBACCO, Antonio DiBACCO, John DILLON, Dennis DILLON, George DILLON, Robert DIMIT, Donald DIMIT, Warren Lee DIVJAK, George DOAK, William DOBINSKY, Walter DONATI, James DONATI, John A. DONATI, William DORISIO, Ralph DRAKE, John DROSS, John DROSS, Michael DUCOIT, Joseph DUPAIN, George DUSSERE, Adrien M.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">- B -</p> <p>BAILEYS, Donald BAILISH, James BAKER, Alfred Garland BAKER, Algie Edward BAKER, Charles Joseph BAKER, Gale Eugene BAKER, George L. BAKER, Jacob BAKER, Warren BANE, Donald Edward BARNEY, George BARR, Charles BAUDUIN, Earl BENNETT, Alfred D. BENNETT, Charles W. BENNETT, Joseph BENNETT, Russell BENNETT, Russell H. BERTOVICH, Charles, Jr. BERTOVICH, John, Sr. BERTOVICH, Nicholas BERTOVICH, Thomas BIANCHI, John BIANCHI, Justin BITTNER, John BITTNER, Joseph BLACK, Nelson BOLOGNA, Vincent BONAZZA, Julius BONDY, Earl BOYCE, Dallas M.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- C -</p> <p>CADLE, Cornelius S. CASSIDY, Kay CHARLIER, John CHERRY, George CHICOVIC, Andrew CHILENSKY, David CHILENSKY, Frank CHILENSKY, John CHILENSKY, Paul CHILLINSKY, John CHUBERKO, Steve CHUPA, George CHUPA, Michael CHUTES, Harold E. CIMAROLLI, Joseph COBBS, Marion CORPUS, John COWDEN, William COX, Seymer COX, William Donald CRAIG, William Lester CUNNINGHAM, William CUNNINGHAM, Willis Clare</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- E -</p> <p>ELICH, Mary ELICH, Mildred ELICH, Samuel ELICH, Stanley EZARIK, Albert</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">- D -</p> <p>DANNA, John</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- F -</p> <p>FERGUSEN, James FIAZZA, Clara FIAZZA, Dominick FIAZZA, Frankie Stackpole</p>



**FIAZZA, James**  
**FINDLING, John**  
**FINDLING, Raymond**  
**FIGURELLI, Ralph**  
**FISH, Keith**  
**FISHER, Edward L., Jr.**  
**FISHER, Harry Paul**  
**FODOR, Thomas**  
**FODOR, William**  
**FOLTZ, Arthur**  
**FOSTER, Eugene**  
**FOTOVICH, George**  
**FROATS, Robert**  
**FRY, Daniel W.**  
**FUSARELLI, John**

**- G -**

**GALLO, Ardivin**  
**GARDNER, Ernest**  
**GENTILE, Phillip**  
**GILLESPIE, Charles William**  
**GLOVER, William Edward**  
**GOFFOLI, Christopher**  
**GOFFOLI, Joseph**  
**GRAF, Thomas**  
**GREGORSKI, Alexander**  
**GRIGAS, Charles**

**- H -**

**HANLIN, Floyd**  
**HARMATH, Richard**  
**HARRIS, Phillips**  
**HARSHEY, Edward**  
**HARSHEY, James**  
**HASPEL, John**  
**HASPEL, William L.**  
**HAYES, Edward M.**  
**HOBBS, James**  
**HOLLOWAY, Andrew T.**  
**HOLLOWAY, Henry**  
**HOLLOWAY, Homer C.**  
**HOLLOWAY, Moynelle**  
**HOLLOWAY, William L.**

**- I -**

**IRWIN, Raymond L.**  
**IVANAC, Charles**

**- J -**

**JACKSON, Edward W.**  
**JACKSON, Willard Stanley**

**JACKSON, William Lee**  
**JACKSON, William S.**  
**JONES, Russell**

**- K -**

**KANDRAY, Steve**  
**KANDRAY, William**  
**KARCH, Eugene, Sr.**  
**KENNEDY, Alexander**  
**KENNEDY, Callie Ann**  
**KENNEDY, James**  
**KENNEDY, Joseph**  
**KENNEDY, Lawden**  
**KERN, Leroy**  
**KERNS, Arthur**  
**KIDD, Robert R.**  
**KING, Kermit C.**  
**KLEM, Joseph**  
**KLEM, Michael**  
**KLOVANISH, Michael**  
**KOLTICK, John**  
**KOPA, Andrew**  
**KOPA, Charles**  
**KOPA, George**  
**KOPA, John**  
**KORODY, John**  
**KOTOUCH, Adolf, Jr.**  
**KOTOUCH, Vincent**  
**KOTOUCH, Virginia**  
**KOWALSKI, Chester**  
**KRAEER, George S.**  
**KRAMER, Nicholas**  
**KRANAK, Frank, Jr.**  
**KRANAK, John**  
**KRANAK, Michael**  
**KUCHER, Paul**

**- L -**

**LaPOSTA, Arthur**  
**LaPOSTA, Robert**  
**LEE, Ann M.**  
**LEE, Harry L.**  
**LEE, James C.**  
**LEMIE,**  
**LILLARD, Frank**  
**LINK, Robert W., Jr.**  
**LINK, William**  
**LIS, Bernard**  
**LIS, Michael**  
**LUTZ, Ralph**

**- M -**

**MACUGOSKI, Edward George**  
**MACUGOSKI, Joseph, Jr.**  
**MAGGS, William J.**  
**MANN, Horace**  
**MARTIN, John**  
**MATRAS, William**  
**McCAFFERY, William**  
**McCORMICK, Edward**  
**McCORMICK, William**  
**McDONALD, Harry L.**  
**McFARLAND, John**  
**McFEELY, William**  
**McGINNIS, Carl**  
**McGINNIS, Charles**  
**McMAHON, Peter J., Jr.**  
**MEADE, William**  
**MEHOLIC, Eli**  
**MEHOLIC, Michael**  
**MERRYMAN, George R.**  
**MERRYMAN, Harry W.**  
**MILLER, Arthur**  
**MILLER, Delvin**  
**MILLER, Orrin**  
**MILLER, Rita McVay**  
**MILLER, Robert**  
**MILTON, Jack**  
**MIRICH, Downie**  
**MORGAN, Larry**  
**MOSSOR, Raymond Wesley**  
**MRAZ, John**  
**MUSKOVICH, Edward**  
**MUSKOVICH, Felix**  
**MUZOPAPPA, Anthony**

**- N -**

**NATION, William E.**  
**NAYOCK, Joseph**  
**NEGRA, Charles**  
**NEGRA, Daniel**  
**NEGRA, Nicholas**  
**NEIL, Donald**  
**NEMETH, Louis**  
**NOAH, Franklin**  
**NOAH, Samuel**  
**NOGA, Frank**  
**NOGA, Joseph, Jr.**

**- O -**

**OLA, Frank**  
**OLENICK, Joseph**



**ORENCHUK, John, Jr.**  
**ORENCHUK, Russell**  
**ORENCHUK, Steve**  
**ORISON, John**  
**ORISON, Robert**

**- P -**

**PANJUSCSEK, Charles**  
**PANJUSCSEK, Peter**  
**PARFENICK, John**  
**PARKO, John F.**  
**PATRINO, Donald**  
**PATRINO, Niko**  
**PATTERSON, Mark**  
**PATTERSON, Robert A.**  
**PETREL, Edward**  
**PETREL, James, Jr.**  
**PIATT, James**  
**PLESKA, Michael**  
**PLESKA, Nicholas**  
**POLLACK, Frank J., Jr.**  
**PORFELI, John**  
**PRICE, Albert**  
**PRICE, Clarence**  
**PUSKARICH, Charles**  
**PUSKARICH, John**  
**PUSKARICH, Joseph**  
**PUSKARICH, Matthew**  
**PUSKARICH, Steve**

**- R -**

**RATKOVITCH, Frank**  
**RATKOVITCH, George**  
**REARDON, John**  
**REED, Dale**  
**REED, John Lee, Jr.**  
**REED, Wilbur**  
**REESE, Fred**  
**RENCHECK, John**  
**RESNIK, Frank**  
**REVAY, Edward**  
**REVAY, George**  
**REVAY, John**  
**REVAY, Martin**  
**REVAY, Michael**  
**RHINEHART, William**  
**RIDDILE, John**  
**RIDDILE, William**  
**RISER, Victor**  
**RODGERS, Wilfred**

**ROLLAGE, John**  
**ROLLAGE, Michael**  
**ROTELLINI, Joseph**  
**ROTH, Andrew**  
**ROTH, John**  
**ROTH, Michael**  
**ROTUNDA, Jenina J.**  
**ROTUNDA, Joseph**  
**ROTUNDA, Peter A.**  
**ROTUNDA, Robert**  
**RUTICH, John R., Jr.**

**- S -**

**SABOT, John**  
**SASKA, George**  
**SASKA, Harry**  
**SASKA, John**  
**SASKA, Michael**  
**SAVER, Elmer**  
**SAVER, John, Jr.**  
**SAYRE, Russell**  
**SCOUVART, Frank (Mank)**  
**SEBESTYEN, Joseph**  
**SICHERI, Andrew**  
**SICHERI, Paul**  
**SIMON, Julius**  
**SINAN, Edward**  
**SLASOR, Russell Elston**  
**SOCHA, Clarence**  
**STAR, William, Jr.**  
**STEWART, James**  
**STEWART, W. Robert**  
**STOLLAR, Floyd**  
**STONE, Leonard**  
**STONE, Vernon**  
**STRAUSS, Henry**  
**STRHO, Peter**  
**STROPE, Woodrow**  
**SUGICK, Charles**  
**SUGICK, Frank**  
**SUGICK, George**  
**SUTHERLAND, James**  
**SULTIE, Ignace G.**  
**SURICH, Allen**

**- T -**

**TAYLOR, Edwin**  
**TAYLOR, Harold**  
**TELESKO, George, Jr.**  
**TELESKO, John**

**THOMPSON, William R.**  
**TRUAX, Clyde**  
**TUNA,**

**- V -**

**VIZYAK, Mary Ann**  
**VOLPE, Benjamin**

**- W -**

**WAGNER, John**  
**WALKER, Gaylord**  
**WALTER, Albert Michael**  
**WARGO, Andrew**  
**WARGO, Paul**  
**WELLS, Carl D.**  
**WELLS, Otho**  
**WELLS, Ralph**  
**WELCH, William Stanley, Jr.**  
**WELSH, Charles**  
**WELSH, Edward**  
**WHEELER, Raymond**  
**WIEGMANN, Vernon A.**  
**WILKINS, Bush**  
**WILKINS, Coe**  
**WILKINS, Ralph**  
**WILKINS, Robert**  
**WILKINS, Tate**  
**WILLIAMS, Howard**  
**WILLIAMS, Richard O.**  
**WILLIAMSON, Stanley**  
**WINLAND, Lester**  
**WRIGHT, Ralph Robert**  
**WYLIE, Clark**

**- Y -**

**YANEK, George**  
**YANEK, Michael**  
**YANICK, Samuel**  
**YANICK, Steve**  
**YANICK, Glenn**  
**YORK, Rufus**  
**YOST, Russell**  
**YUKEVICH, Vincent William**  
**YUROSKO, John**  
**YUROSKO, Michael**

**- Z -**

**ZAHRANSKY, Andrew J.**  
**ZDYBICKI, Joseph**  
**ZDYBICKI, Stanley**  
**ZICK, Anthony, Jr.**



## **Eye Opening Statistics of World War II**

**The Second World War consumed the best of a generation.  
Around the entire globe, over 75 million men, women, and children died.**

**The following two figures are for World War I, which was supposed to end all wars.**

**8,000,000 civilians were killed as a result of the war.**

**7,000,000 persons who fought in the war were maimed for life.**

**But World War I did not end all wars. Along came World War II.**

**The United States had 413,000 deaths as a result of World War II.**

**But the greatest death toll was in the Soviet Union where 29,000,000 people died.**

**Of these 29,000,000 persons, 17,000,000 were civilians.**

**In the Air Raids of the war, Britain lost 60,400 persons and Germany lost 543,000.**

**By D-Day, 35% of all German soldiers had been wounded at least once.**

**Germany lost 136 Generals which averages to one dead General every two weeks.**

**84 German Generals were executed by Hitler.**

**In Russia, which had the greatest losses of the war, 80% of Soviet males born  
in 1923 did not survive World War II.**

**Canada's contributions to the war are often overlooked.**

**Yet the Canadians had the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Air Force and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest Navy.**

**These helped protect Allied convoys in the Atlantic. They also gave six Army  
divisions, of whom 45,000 gave their lives for the Allies.**

**In World War II, 1060 German Warships were sunk. The United States lost 157.**

**12,000 heavy bombers were shot down in the war.**

**Over 100,000 Allied bomber crewmen were killed over Europe.**

**Between 1939 and 1945 the Allies dropped 3.4 million tons of bombs.**

**In a single day, namely, in the Battle of D-Day, 6 June 1944,  
the United States had nearly 1,500 killed, over 3,000 wounded,  
nearly 2,000 missing in action, and 29 taken prisoners.**

**From April through June in 1945, in the Battle of Okinawa,  
the United States Navy lost 5,000 men and the Marine Corps/Army lost 8,000.**

**During that time, 142,058 civilians were known to have been killed.**

**In less than a month, between February 19 and March 16 in 1945,  
6,891 United States Marines were killed at Iwo Jima.**

**The total cost of World War II was three hundred sixty billion dollars.**

**NOTE: No statistics were given for the length of time this  
\$360,000,000,000 could have fed the hungry children of the world.**



In World War II, some families gave more than a single child for military duty in the armed forces of the nation. Following is an accounting of Jefferson parents who gave, beginning in World War II and sometimes extending to later conflicts, four or more children to the cause of freedom. Given names, in order of birth, follow parental identification. Those marked with a + served in World War II.

9

**WASIK**

**NINE sons of John and  
Katie Brunsick Wasik**

*Stanley, + Joseph, +  
Adam, + Walter, + John, +  
Edward, + Marion, +  
Paul, August*

6

**BENNETT**

**SIX sons of Frank M. and  
Snover Novelli Bennett**

*Russell H., + Alfred D., +  
Charles W., + Robert H.,  
Leroy H., Joseph L.*

6

**CHILENSKY**

**SIX sons of Frank and  
Margaret Kocis Chilensky**

*John, + Frank, +  
Paul, + David, +  
Edward, August*

6

**REVAY**

**SIX sons of Martin and  
Anna Hallotta Revay**

*Martin, + John, +  
Michael, + Joseph, +  
George, + Edward +*

5

**BAKER**

**FIVE sons of Ward and  
Lena Davis Baker**

*Algia, + Gale Eugene, +  
Warren, + Garland, +  
Charles Joseph*

5

**HOLLOWAY**

**FOUR sons and ONE daughter  
of William and Moynelle**

*Fehl Holloway  
Andrew J., + Moynelle V., +  
William L., + Homer C., +  
Henry D. +*



**4**

**FINDLING**

**FOUR** sons of Earl and  
Helen Powelson Findling

*Raymond E., † John L., †  
Samuel W., Ralph*

**4**

**KANDRAY**

**FOUR** sons of Andrew and  
Elizabeth Klucs Kandray

*Steve, † John, †  
William, † Joseph †*

**4**

**KENNEDY**

**FOUR** sons of William and  
Anna Curry Kennedy

*Joseph, † Alexander, †  
Louden, † James †*

**4**

**KOPA**

**FOUR** sons of George and  
Mary Luczanich Kopa

*Andrew, † Charles, †  
George, † John †*

**4**

**McGINNIS**

**FOUR** sons of Charles and  
Margaret Schultz McGinnis

*Charles, † Carl, †  
James, Willard*

**4**

**ORENCHUK**

**FOUR** sons of John and  
Mary Kasurak Orenchuk

*Russell, † John Jr., †  
Harry, Daniel*

**4**

**PLESKA**

**FOUR** sons of Miklos and  
Annie Koval Pleska

*Mike, † Nick, †  
Alex, Charles*

**4**

**RATKOVITCH**

**FOUR** sons of Samuel and  
Annie Miscovich Ratkovitch

*George, † Frank, †  
John, Paul*

**4**

**ROTUNDA**

**THREE** sons and **ONE** daughter  
of Frank and

Clara Paletta Rotunda  
*Joseph, † Peter, †  
Robert, † Jenina †*



**The following brief meditation was written by the Reverend Thomas Johnson, former pastor of the Eldersville United Methodist Church, and delivered by him at the memorial service held at the Eldersville Honor Roll on May 30, 1988.**

***We are gathered together today to honor those men and women who have selflessly, and courageously, stepped forward in time of war and in time of peace to protect and defend those things which they cherish – their families, their friends, their country, and their right to live their lives as they chose.***

***Unfortunately, “freedom is not free!” In defending life, in defending liberty, and in defending the right to pursue their happiness in their own way – some men and women had to sacrifice their own lives, so that others might be born free and live free in this great “land of the free and home of the brave.”***

***Great God of the Universe, be with our disabled veterans – those surviving heroes who have served in the military, either at home or on some foreign shore, and who have lost a limb, or their sight, or their sanity, or their inner peace because of what they witnessed, or were forced to do, or even because of what they did not do.***

***Lastly, we pray for those hurting individuals who live with the memory of a husband, a brother, a father, a lover, a buddy – who died for the sake of the red, white, and blue.***

***Surely all warfare would end if those who died in war could return and impress upon us the utter futility – the sheer stupidity – of killing our brothers and sisters in the name of “God and country.”***

***As we remember those who have made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, give us the grace to “beat our swords into plow shares and our spears into pruning hooks.” Teach us to love, that we might live in peace with our fellow humanity. And as Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians once said back in the 1800s, show us how to “fight no more, forever.”***



## **A PARADE**

**I watched the flag pass by one day.  
It fluttered in the breeze.  
A young Marine saluted it,  
and then he stood at ease.**

**I looked at him in uniform  
so young, so tall, so proud,  
with hair cut square and eyes alert  
he'd stand out in any crowd.**

**I thought how many men like him  
had fallen through the years.  
How many died on foreign soil?  
How many mothers' tears?**

**How many pilots' planes shot down?  
How many died at sea?  
How many foxholes were soldier's graves?  
No, freedom isn't free.**

**I heard the sound of Taps one night,  
when everything was still.  
I listened to the bugler play  
and felt a sudden chill.**

**I wonder just how many times  
that Taps had meant "Amen"  
when a flag draped a coffin  
of a brother or a friend.**

**I thought of all the children,  
of the mothers and the wives,  
of fathers, sons and husbands  
with interrupted lives.**

**I thought about a graveyard  
at the bottom of the sea,  
of unmarked graves in Arlington.  
NO, FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.**

**Author Unknown**



## **DEAR ONES**

**An old man stood at attention  
on the sidewalk  
watching the parade go by.  
On his uniform hat it said  
he was a veteran of World War II.  
He was missing his right arm.  
He stood proudly at attention  
when the flag went by  
and saluted with his left hand.  
The tears streamed down his face.  
He knew the high price  
some of his friends had paid.  
When a young man laughed at him,  
he turned and said,  
I used to take things for granted, too,  
when I had both my arms.  
I used to salute with my right arm  
just like in the training manual.  
I lost my right arm on D-Day  
on Omaha Beach.  
I lost my childhood friend  
on Omaha Beach.  
I lost a cousin  
on Guadalcanal.  
I lost my brother  
at Pearl Harbor.  
The little fellow down the street  
from where we lived  
was lost at the Battle of the Bulge.  
We took the worst  
so you would be free to laugh,  
free to live out your life in peace.  
Just remember us  
when the flag goes by.  
We're Veterans.**



## **THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER WALKS AGAIN**

**A flash of lightning through the midnight sky  
A crash of thunder echoes among the hills;  
Sentinels stand dazed and trembling before an empty tomb;  
The Unknown Soldier walks again!**

**A bowed and restless figure against the sky;  
A voice that's heard around the whole wide world;**

**I am the Unknown Soldier;  
I died choking from poison gas, in no-man's land;  
I was blown to bits by a screaming shrapnel shell;  
I fell to earth in a plane of flaming death;  
I was pierced through the heart with a bayonet;  
I was riddled with machine gun bullets as we charged a burning town;  
I died ten million deaths, for I am the spirit of all those who died.**

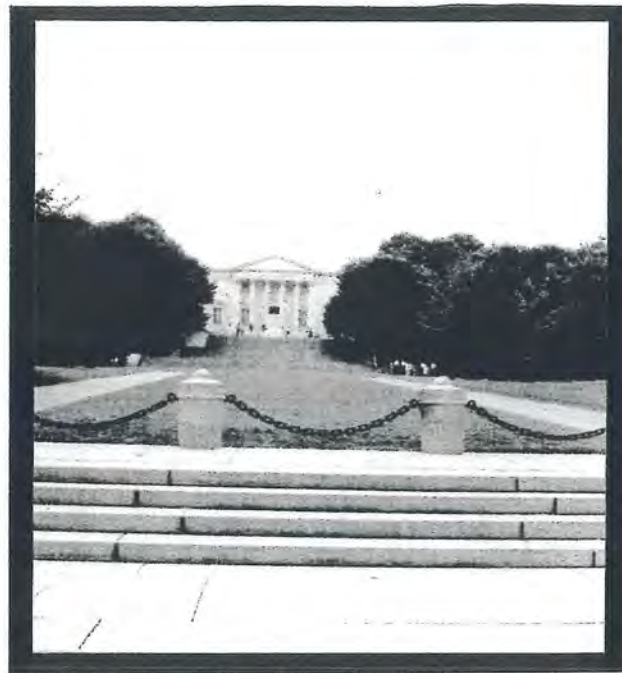
**I am the Unknown Soldier;  
I am the poet who left his finest songs unsung;  
I am an artist who left his masterpieces unpainted;  
I am a scientist who would have discovered a cure for cancer;  
I am a minister who would have inspired a new reformation;  
I am a statesman who would have led my people out of the wilderness;  
I am an inventor who would have created a new era of miracles;  
I am an educator who would have developed a new philosophy of  
education;  
I am all the dead who have climbed the heights;  
I am all the dead who would have served mankind;  
I was crucified upon the Cross of War.**

**I am the Unknown Soldier;  
I speak for all the millions of the dead;  
I point out the folly and futility of war;  
War leaves fields unplowed and fills them with wooden crosses;  
War leaves homes in ruins and widows and orphans starving;  
War piles up a mountain of debt on the backs of the people;  
War breaks human hearts and leaves them empty and forlorn;  
War makes the Prince of Peace look down and weep!**



**I am the Unknown Soldier;  
I speak for all the sons of those who died;  
We gave our lives, we ask that they be spared.  
Teach them that war is mud and blood, stark horror, living hell;  
Teach them that drums and bands and cheers are but the bait  
that war has set for youth;  
Destroy toy soldiers, wooden guns and uniforms;  
Destroy the great illusion that war is Glory, Heroism, Fame;  
Teach them to build, not to destroy;  
Teach them to save and serve, and not to kill;  
Erase from off the earth the scourge of war!**

**by Wilferd Peterson**



**Tomb of the Unknown Soldier  
Washington, D.C.**



## **THE STORY BEHIND TAPS**

**We, in the United States, have heard the haunting song, "Taps". It is the song that gives us that lump in our throats and tears in our eyes. Do you know the story behind "Taps"?**

**Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.**

**During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back to camp for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.**

**When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.**

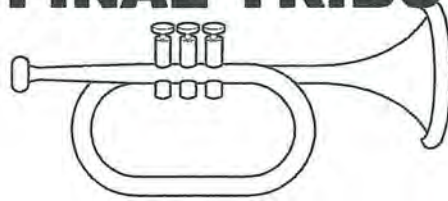
**The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.**

**But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals, was born.**



# **TAPS**

## **A FINAL TRIBUTE**



**Day is done  
Gone the sun  
From the lakes  
From the hills  
From the sky,  
All is well,  
Safely rest.  
God is nigh.**

**Fading light  
Dims the sight  
And a star  
Gleams the sky,  
Gleaming bright  
From afar,  
Drawing nigh,  
Falls the night.**

**Thanks and praise  
For our days,  
Neath the sun,  
Neath the stars  
Neath the sky  
As we go,  
This we know  
God is nigh.**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

No project, such as this Jefferson Township Veterans' Memorial, whose scope involves the collection of hundreds of names, is ever the work of just a few persons. It is impossible to acknowledge all of those whose input has made it come to fruition. There are, however, a few outstanding contributors who must be named for the selfless time and effort they have provided in making this endeavor a reality. If there are any omissions of names of persons whose work should have been mentioned, it is purely unintentional, and the Memorial Committee wishes to express its sincere apologies.

### **Historians Providing Documentation**

The following four individuals, all now deceased, had the foresight in their lifetimes, to record the names of persons who interrupted their lives and left their homes to serve their country. These records were used by the Memorial Committee as documentation for the Memorial Roster.

**Marion Oliver Butler**

**Eddie Clark Jones**

**Alvin Dinsmore White**

**Anthony James Muzopappa**

Marion Butler kept accounts of these veterans as they left for induction into the service, obtaining much information from their siblings who sat in his classroom. When he, himself, returned from service in World War II, he continued his recording, later adding names of those who left for other wars. In his later years, he documented through cemetery listings, etc. veterans of the area who served in the early days of the nation.

Eddie Jones, herself a veteran of World War II, kept a card file on persons living anywhere in the Fort Vance Historical Society area who served in the armed forces at any time. Included in her data was the location of the veteran's residence. This invaluable information, in many instances, made it possible to establish exactly who lived in Jefferson Township and who did not.

A.D. White, in his records of the vaccination of children attending school in Jefferson Township, added such information as the maiden name of the mother, exact birth date of all children in the family, and exact location of residence. In later years, he penciled onto these records, the dates and involvements of these "now grown-up children" in the Armed Forces of the nation.



**Tony Muzopappa, shortly before his death, spent hundreds of hours creating maps of the township mining camps. All families living in these now-nonexistent home sites were recorded. After the demise of the mining industry, most of these families moved elsewhere, seeking employment. Nearly all of the boys of these families who were mere children during the heyday of the mines in the twenties and thirties, later became the members of "The Greatest Generation". These boys, and a number of girls, gave the best years of their youth, and in many instances, their very lives, for their country in World War II. Since most of them left the Jefferson Township area with their parents when they were still children, and contact with them became nil, without these Muzopappa records it would have been impossible to find many, many names of veterans who deserve to be included on this new memorial monument.**

### **Living Contributors**

**Although it would be impossible to name all persons who provided input into the compilation of the Veterans' Roster, there are some whose outstanding help warrants a special thanks. This list of persons whose assistance was invaluable, with their areas of expertise follows:**

**Dorothy McFarland Muzopappa – State Line Road, Turney School.**

**A powerhouse of information. Provided names, phone numbers, addresses, and persons to contact.**

**Frank Lillard – Bertha Mine Area. Extended family info for veterans who would not have been found otherwise.**

**Patricia Tomblin – Made many personal contacts and collected data from persons inaccessible to the committee.**

**Mike Rollage – Lee School, Plum Run, Bertha. Gave good contact persons and property boundary info.**

**Joseph L. Bennett – Bertha and surrounding area. Knowledgeable on many veterans and families. Extreme cooperative.**

**Vincent Kotouch – Shintown, Windy Hill, Eldersville. Info on many who have moved and would have been missed.**

**Frank Muzopappa – Jefferson Mining Camp, Penowa, Penobscot. Info on at least 30 veterans of these areas.**

**Helen Wiegmann Martin – Entire township. Remarkable recall from her memory bank of 97 years. Invaluable.**



***Commemorative Booklet***

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