

# Remember the names of our fallen warriors, from 1899 to 2013: Patrick M. McLaughlin

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Some of the names of the 5,552 local service members killed during the nation's wars memorialized on the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial in downtown Cleveland, photographed on Thursday, May 29, 2014. *(Marvin Fong / The Plain Dealer)*

CLEVELAND -- The 5,552 names begin with Burt G. Bark, a hospital steward who died at San Juan, Puerto Rico on Feb. 4, 1899, a casualty of the Spanish American War. The last name is Army Spc. Angel L. Lopez, a graduate of John Marshall High School, who died in Afghanistan on Oct. 5, 2013. One hundred and fourteen years of names representative of the melting pot that is America.

The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. On the day of the armistice, Nov. 11, 1918, six men from Greater Cleveland were killed in action. There are 808 names on the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial representing World War I war dead. Among those names are Becker, Campbell, De Capito, Donnelly, Gallagher, Granoukos, Hensel, Kennedy, Kowalski, Marcus, Mussehl, Orlando, Sandrowitz, Schmitt, Smith, Vargo, Weinberger, and Wurmbeck.

On Dec. 7, 1941, three Clevelanders were on the USS Arizona. The ranking American casualty of Pearl Harbor was Rear Adm. Isaac Kidd, a native Clevelander, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. These deaths would be followed by thousands more, a total of 3,956 Greater Clevelanders, out of some 160,000 called to military service.

Six of the casualties were women. One of those, Capt. Juel Mramor, an Army nurse serving in New Guinea, died on July 14, 1945. Among the World War II names are Adams, Bumgard, Calabrese, Dudas, Fisher, Gibbons, Halloran, Horvath, Johnson, Kelly, Lanzendorfer, Makarek, McFarland, Nagy, Opalich, Petras, Porter, Reinker, Schaffer, Stakich, Taylor, Van Tilberg, Weber, Wong, and Zychowski.

On Aug. 15, 1945, a victory parade lasting more than three hours marched down Superior Avenue to a celebratory gathering of Greater Clevelanders. But peace would be short-lived.

About 44,000 residents of Cuyahoga County saw military service during the Korean War, some for the second time. The cease-fire was signed on July 27, 1953, but not before 330 of our men died in military service. There was little public rejoicing when the final cease-fire was signed -- creating the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ, which continues to this day. The Korean War is often referred to as the “forgotten war.” Not forgotten, though, to the families with names like Briggs, Dowling, Green, Hudak, Johns, McCall, Peska, Schmidt, Walker, and Wisniewski.



Patrick M. McLaughlin, a Vietnam veteran and president of the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial, walks past the memorial site in downtown Cleveland in a May 29, 2014 file photo. *(Marvin Fong / The Plain Dealer)*

A decade later, a so-called “undeclared war,” the Vietnam War, began formally on Aug. 5, 1964, and a peace agreement was signed in January 1973, pulling combat forces out by March 29. The official end of the Vietnam War is April 30, 1975, when South Vietnam fell to the North Vietnamese Army.

About 15,000 Cuyahoga County men and women served in uniform in Vietnam. Of those, 424 did not come home. Lt. Gen. Harold Moore and Joseph Galloway said it best in the prologue to their book, “We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young”: “Many of our Countrymen came to hate the war we fought. Those who hated it the most — the professionally sensitive — were not, in the end, sensitive enough to differentiate between the war and the soldiers who had been ordered to fight it. They hated us as well ....”

When our guys returned from Vietnam, America had changed, and so had they. But men with names like Adkins, Basalla, Carter, Duchnowski, Farlow, Garcia, Hamilton, Kilbane, Matuska, Perko, Rieck, Santora, Thomas, Wilson, and Zonar did not return.

Beginning in 1990, wars in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq placed enormous pressure on our all-volunteer force. And from 1990 to 2013, 33 Greater Clevelanders died in action. A recent Hollywood movie, "A Journal for Jordan," depicts the extraordinary life of Army 1st Sgt. Charles M. King, who was killed in action in Iraq on Oct. 14, 2006. King grew up in the Lee-Miles neighborhood of Cleveland and attended Cuyahoga Community College before joining the Army. Some of the other names immortalized are Andres, Barnes, Benjamin, Boskovitch, Christian, Davis, Evarts, Good, Kancler, Keeling, McKinney, Nowacki, Ruiz, Squires, and Wiggins.

The 5,552 names of Greater Cleveland war dead from 1899 to the present rest on bronze name plaques on the Memorial wall framing the Fountain of Eternal Life, dedicated in 1964, Marshall Fredericks' majestic sculpture representing mankind rising from the ashes of war.

The names also appear on the searchable Honor Roll of the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial website: [www.clevelandvetmemorial.org](http://www.clevelandvetmemorial.org).

Remember the names: They gave all for duty, honor, country.



*A Vietnam veteran, former U.S. Attorney Patrick M. McLaughlin is the president of the Greater Cleveland Veterans Memorial Inc. (GCVM), a 501(c)(3) organization. The GCVM rededicated the Memorial in 2004 and in 2014 by adding 1,397 names.*