

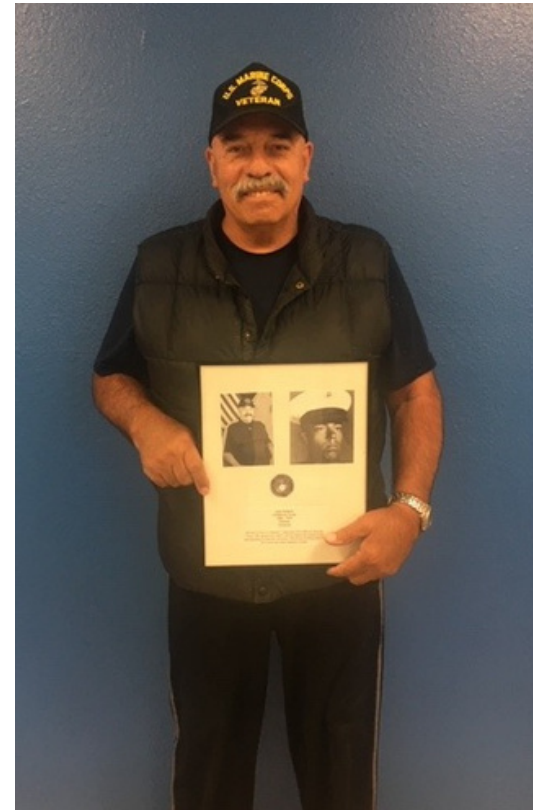
Raul Sanchez
United States Air Force
E4 Sergeant
1960 – 1970



Raul Sanchez spent 10 years in the United States Air Force. When asked what makes him proud to be a veteran Mr. Sanchez said he was glad that he did his part and he was glad to be home. He wrote a song about the Vietnam conflict, La Pared Negra (The Black Wall). In 1992, the United States Government flew him to Washington, DC, to sing that song at the Vietnam Memorial. For Mr. Sanchez, this was a great honor and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

When asked what his message to other veterans for Veterans Day was, he said that Veterans should have empathy for friends, family and spouses: Let people know what you are feeling; don't keep things bottled up.

John Holguin
Marine Corps
E-4 Corporal
1969-1970



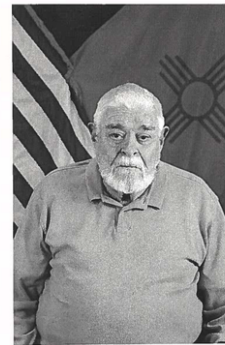
It makes me proud that I served my country! I was also a military police during USO shows. Later in my years I am being recognized for my service. When I first returned home there was nothing for us, no services available through the VA in Gallup. The message I have to Veterans on Veterans Day is, "be proud you served your country and be happy we came in."

Charles Lamb
US Air Force
Retired Major
1958-1980



Charles Lamb enlisted in 1958 with the US Air Force and served as a combat medic for three years. Then, in 1962, he was commissioned and spent two tours in Okinawa, Japan and then another tour in Vietnam. Charles takes great pride in that he served his country and had been in combat. A message that he would like all veterans to know is "The best is yet to come."

Lucien (Lu) L. Wight
United States Marine Corps
Sergeant
1950-1954



Lucien (Lu) Wight
US Marines
1951-1953
Sergeant
Korea

I joined the US Marine Corps in 1951 and was part of the Fleet Marine Force, Korea. I was with the First Amphibian Tractor Battalion, Transportation. I was Honorably Discharged in 1953.

The Marine Corps taught me many things, like how to never give up. How to be disciplined. How to work with others to achieve an objective. I was a young man then. I was proud to country and wear the uniform. In return, my country gives me benefits, like medical care, which I really appreciate. All I can say to other Veterans is for them to just hang in there.

**Thomas F Gallagher IV
United States Air Force
Tsgt /Technical Sargent
1985-2000**



Being a Military Veteran means the world to me. To have fought for the freedom of not only my fellow service members, but for my family and country as well. It was and still is an honor. Now my son Thomas F Gallagher V has followed in my footsteps and I'm even prouder now. To other Veterans, Thomas says "Thank you for your service and to stand tall and proud as we have done our country proud!"

James Berdine
United State Air Force
MSGT Retired
1964-1988



My first duty station was Walker AFB in Roswell NM where I met my wife Joyce in 1965. Being a veteran is a part of a "Brother Hood" and all of us understand what freedoms we enjoy in America. During my four years of overseas duty, one year in Korea and three years in Turkey, you get to see the small things we take for granted are the envy of other countries. Look around each and every day and you will see former and current Veterans displaying their branch of service.

A simple "Thank You for your Service" or "Welcome Home" are wonderful words. Every Veteran has given so to secure Freedom for all.

Gary Day
US Navy
FTG3
1965 to 1967



Growing up, I was drawn to the history of the United States of America. The dedication and brilliance of our forefathers that settled this land and wrote the Constitution have always amazed me with what they accomplished. I felt that I needed to serve my country because of the wonderful opportunities available to all its citizens.

To other Veterans: Thanks for your service and know that you have a place in our hearts and souls for your patriotism.

Karen Piccuta
US Navy
Tsgt Sgt
Navy 1975 -1979;
Naval Reserve 1980-2004;
Air National Guard 2004-2008



I enjoyed being a part of a team and fighting and preserving our freedom for the us citizens.

I would tell a young person they can learn a trade or career skill they can use even if they choose to leave the military. The benefits of joining are great. Includes education (college degree)—it's paid for in full—and medical care. One can have worldwide travel. If one decides to stay and retire, you get a retirement, life medical for you and your family, also have the GI bill to pay to further your education. You are on the priority list for a government job or government contractor job. You can say I am the few, the proud and a military member.