

## We Honor Veterans Newsletter



April 2022 Edition

### Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration 2022

Gilchrist's annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration is a day to honor and thank the men and women in our community who served during the Vietnam War. This Welcome Home celebration honors the veterans in our care as well as all of the veterans and their loved ones in our community. This celebration is one of the many ways Gilchrist recognizes the unique needs of veterans and thanks them for their sacrifice and service to our state and our country.

For the first time since 2019, Vietnam veterans were able to attend the Welcome Home event in person. Held on March 20, 2022, the celebration included both in-person and online components. The online component allowed Vietnam veterans from around Maryland and the United States to virtually attend the event.

Highlights of the event included:

- Commander Porter A. Halyburton, USN (Ret.) was a pilot and prisoner of war. His talk was entitled: *Lessons from Hanoi Hilton*.
- Lieutenant Colonel George G. Forrest, USA (Ret.) shared his remembrances of decorated Vietnam war correspondent Joe Galloway.
- Matt Payne served in the USAF and is the founder of Inner Circle Solutions. Matt's father was killed in Vietnam the same year Matt was born. Matt shared reflections from a grateful son.
- Donovan Chapman is a USAF pararescue combat veteran and singer/songwriter. Based on Matt Payne's story about his father, Donovan performed a song he wrote entitled: *The Dad I Never Knew*.

You can watch the video of the 2022 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration on the Gilchrist website:

[Welcome Home Celebration for Vietnam Veterans | Gilchrist \(gilchristcares.org\)](https://www.gilchristcares.org/welcome-home-celebration-for-vietnam-veterans)

Plans are underway for the 2023 celebration. If you are a veteran living in the Baltimore, Maryland area and would like to join the Gilchrist veteran task force, contact Gilchrist at [wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org](mailto:wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org).



Vietnam War Veteran Colonel John Astle, USMC (Ret.) opens the celebration



Catherine Hamel, President of Gilchrist, welcoming participants to the 2022 celebration



Member of the Young Marines saluting a Vietnam Veteran



Major General Paul Aylward (Ret.) on the right after pinning Vietnam Veteran and Gilchrist Volunteer Bill Hill



Vietnam Veterans enjoying the Welcome Home celebration



Vietnam Veterans and Gilchrist volunteers Paul Sullivan (left) and Tim Price (right) talk with Colonel Michael Rendine, USAF (Ret.)



Wayne Miller, Marine Corps and Vietnam Veteran, closing the annual celebration by singing *God Bless the USA*

# The Lamantia Military Family

Joseph "Joe" Lamantia was one of eleven children. Joe's father, Sam Lamantia Sr., was born in Sicily and served in the Italian Army during WWI. Sam served from 1914-1918 and for a period of time was a prisoner of war. After the war, Sam immigrated to the United States and settled in Bishop, Virginia where he worked in the coal mines. Sam married Concetta Ferro and they had eleven children. Five of the Lamantia boys served in the Army:

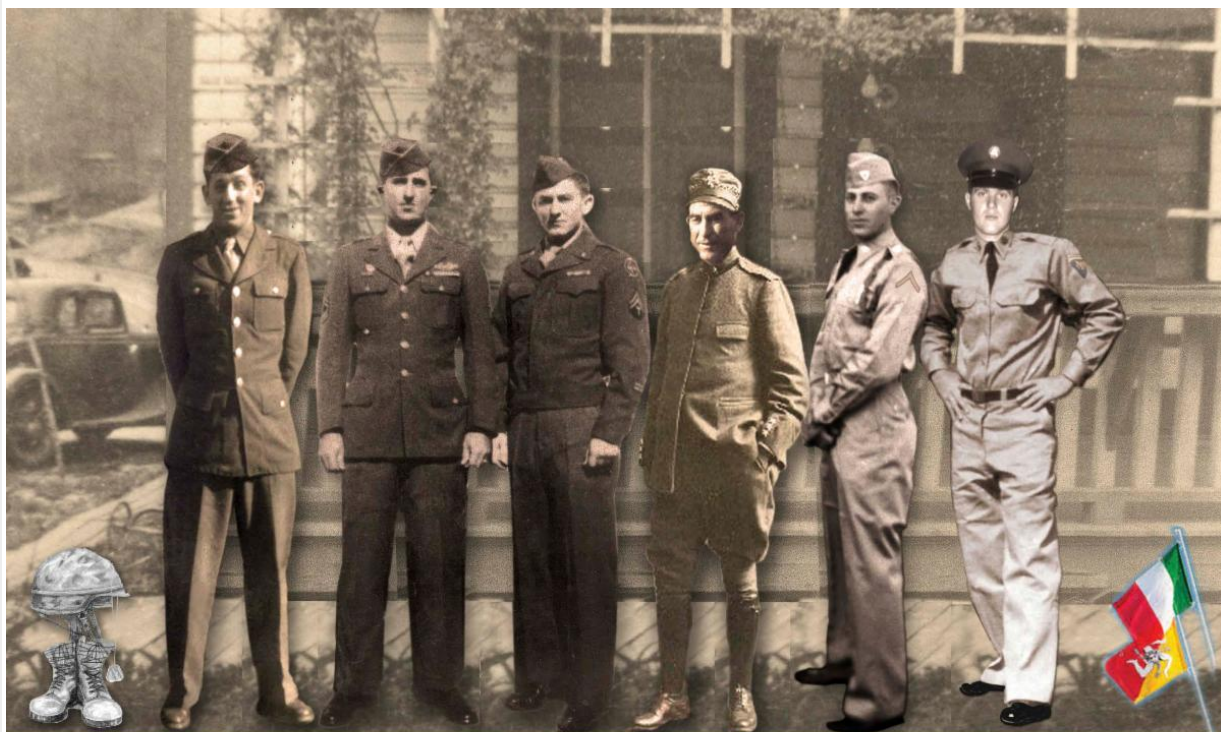
- Paul Lamantia, U.S. Army 1941-1945
- Nooney Lamantia, U.S. Army 1941-1945
- Joe Lamantia, U.S. Army 1943-1945
- John Lamantia, U.S. Army 1957-1961
- Sam Lamantia Jr., U.S. Army 1959-1962

After leaving the Army, Joe married Lorraine and they had three daughters: Janice, Michelle and Renee.

Joe became a barber and worked in several local barber shops, eventually opening the Circle Barber Shop on Joppa Road with his brother Nooney. Their brother, Sam Jr., joined them and together they opened the Gentlemens Gentlemen at 1904 1/2 East Joppa Road. Back in the day, many of the Baltimore Colts could be seen having the Lamantia barbers cutting their hair. Sam Jr. is still there cutting hair with his son Paul and invites all veterans to stop by.

Joe was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute. Conducted by Gilchrist staff and military veteran volunteers, this tribute included opening and closing prayers, singing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance with Joe's great granddaughter holding the American Flag, presentation of the We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, and presentation of a certificate from Gilchrist recognizing Joe's service to our country. Joe was also presented with a handmade patriotic lap blanket, a door plaque, and a thank you card made by a Cub Scout. The Gilchrist music therapist played several patriotic songs, including the Army song. The tribute concluded with a formal salute by the veteran volunteers and the singing of God Bless America.

While it is always an honor to salute our veterans, this salute was special as we were saluting members of a family who dedicated so much to the service of their countries.



*U.S. Army  
Veterans*

Paul Lamantia  
U.S. Army (WW2)  
Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
1941-1945  
Medical Discharge

Nooney Lamantia  
U.S. Army (WW2)  
Sergeant 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
1941-1945  
8148 Inf. Battalion  
Honorable Discharge

Joe Lamantia  
U.S. Army (WW2)  
Technical Corporal  
1943-1945  
44<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. Europe  
Honorable Discharge

Sam Lamantia Sr.  
Italian Army  
Sicily (WW1)  
1914-1918  
Prisoner of War

John Lamantia  
U.S. Army  
Private E-2  
1957-1961  
1<sup>st</sup> Missile Bntr.  
20th Artillery  
Honorable Discharge

Sam Lamantia, Jr.  
U.S. Army  
Spec 6  
Nat. Guard 1959-62  
29th Infantry  
136th Spec. Hqpt. 1963-65  
Honorable Discharge

*First Generation  
Americans*

This collage shows the Lamantia men in their Army uniforms in front of their home in Bishop, Virginia. They are (L-R) Paul, Nooney, Joe, Sam Sr., Joe and Sam Jr.

Gilchrist veteran volunteers with (seated L-R) Sam Jr., John and Joe Lamantia



## Korean War Army Veteran Roosevelt Harris

Roosevelt Harris was born in Baltimore, Maryland on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1930. After high school, Roosevelt joined the Army and served for over five years, including in Korea during the Korean War. On December 31, 1949 Roosevelt married Lula Fowkles. Over the years Roosevelt and Lula had five children. After being discharged from the Army, Roosevelt worked at Bethlehem Steel for 42 years.

On Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, a team of military veteran volunteers and Gilchrist staff honored Roosevelt Harris with a Salute to Service Tribute. The purpose of the tribute was to thank Roosevelt for his military service to our country. The tribute was conducted using Zoom and included opening and closing prayers, the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, patriotic music, presentation of a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a certificate from Gilchrist, and a handmade patriotic blanket from a Gilchrist volunteer. Mr. Harris seemed moved by the tribute and saluted the veterans who were honoring him for his service.



Roosevelt and Lula Harris



Gilchrist Veteran Volunteers Saluting Roosevelt Harris

## Marine Norman Hovermale

Norman Hovermale was born in Baltimore, Maryland on 12 October 1929. At the age of 19, Norman enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Norman completed boot camp at Paris Island and was trained as a clerk-typist. During his time in the Marine Corps, Norman was also assigned to work as a prison guard. Norman served just over two years and was honorably discharged in 1954 at the rank of Corporal.

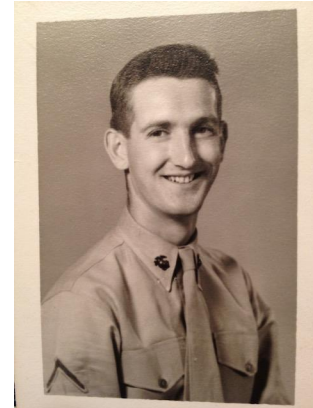
Norman married Joanne Edwards in Baltimore in September of 1954. They had 2 children: Norma Jean – 1956, and Kelly Ann – 1960.

In civilian life, Norman worked in the banking industry. He retired as a vice president of First National Bank – Commercial Loans. He bowled, played softball and golf for many years with the banking leagues as well as with neighborhood leagues. Always proud of his Marine fitness, he remained active in and around the Catonsville area, serving on many civic association boards as well as coaching girls' softball.

Norman Hovermale was honored for his military service on January 7, 2022. The Salute to Service Tribute was conducted using Zoom and involved seven Gilchrist military veteran volunteers as well as a music therapist and nurse. The Gilchrist veterans were honored to present the “We Honor Veterans” Commemorative Pin, Certificate of Appreciation, patriotic blanket made by a Gilchrist volunteer, and other items to Norman for his service to our nation. Marine Norman Hovermale snapped off a sharp salute at the conclusion of the tribute.



Marine Norman Hovermale (center-left) saluting Gilchrist Veteran Volunteers



Marine Norman Hovermale

## MDVA Service & Benefits Program helps Maryland Veterans

The MDVA Benefits Specialists work each day to assist Veterans in filing claims for the benefits the Veteran is entitled to and deserves. It is rewarding work, and the MDVA staff appreciate the opportunity they have to help Maryland Veterans. In recent weeks, there has been an outpouring of gratitude directed to the Benefits Specialists, and here are just a few quotes from the notes written to MDVA:

For Joseph Thornton: “I left your office feeling incredibly pleased. You were patient, knowledgeable, and eager to help. It is fulfilling having someone in the Department of Veteran Affairs listen attentively and offer workable solutions to our needs.”

For Mike Cantrell after a Korean War Veteran he assisted received a retroactive payment of \$16,000 and an ongoing monthly payment of \$1,900: “Thank you for your assistance!”

For Aaron Awkward assisting a 101 year old Veteran who filed his first claim and was rated at 100%: “My wife and I are overjoyed.”

For Andrew Rutherford: “I have a sense that my issues are essentially his issues with the level of engagement he has represented with regards to solving my claim issues. I could not ask for a better representative, a true consummate professional that puts my mind at ease knowing that he will do everything in his power to ensure I am put on the right course.”

And another thank you for Andrew: “I especially wish to recognize one of your benefits

specialists, Andrew Rutherford, who guided me from start to finish through a claims process which was daunting and stressful."

MDVA Secretary George Owings sincerely thanks all of the MDVA Benefits Specialists who work diligently to assist Maryland Veterans, their spouses and dependents.

If you need help filing for Compensation or Pension from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, please do not go it alone. The MDVA team of Benefits Specialists stand ready to help you.

For more information follow this link: [MDVA Service & Benefits Program](#) or call 1-800-446-4926 ext. 6450

## Uniform Smiles

During KP duty, my sergeant ordered me to prepare 100 gallons of soup for that night's dinner. When I told him I had no clue how to make soup, he handed me a cookbook and instructed, "Follow the directions carefully." Not long after, I had a large kettle of soup simmering. The sergeant came in, grabbed a spoon, and took a taste. "This is really good," he said. "Are you sure you followed the recipe?"

## Please Share

If you enjoyed reading this edition, please forward a copy to other veterans that you know so that they can also enjoy the newsletter. If you are reading a shared copy and would like to receive your own copy of future editions, please send an email with your request to [wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org](mailto:wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org).

## Looking For a Few Good Volunteers

**Would you like to be a Gilchrist volunteer?** We are always looking for volunteers – especially those who have military experience. Our military veteran volunteers are involved in Salute to Service Tributes for veterans under hospice care, visiting public schools to talk about military service, meeting with veterans to talk about their military service, supporting our annual Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans, and many other activities.

**If you would like to learn how to become a volunteer,** contact Gilchrist at [wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org](mailto:wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org).

## We Want Your Input

If you have suggestions for content you would like to see in future issues of the Gilchrist We Honor Veterans Newsletter, please contact us at [wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org](mailto:wehonorveterans@gilchristcares.org).

