

We Honor Veterans Newsletter



July 2022 Edition

Alvin Goldman - An Engineer Soldier's Tales

Alvin "Al" Goldman retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1980. He then went into government service until 1996. Al was in the Army for 20 years, including two tours in Vietnam.

Al studied aeronautical engineering and participated in ROTC when in college. Upon graduation, Al joined the Army and was assigned to an engineer company. Al liked to describe the mission of the combat engineer being to build or destroy fortifications, bridging and river crossings, engineer reconnaissance, road construction and maintenance, obstacle clearing, demolition, mine warfare, and simple construction with native materials.

Al was a lifetime member of both the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He always said when you meet another vet, "You are immediately friends regardless of service or rank."

Al wrote a book that includes his stories focusing on what he learned from 20 years in the Army. The book is rightly titled *An Engineer Soldier's Tales: What I Learned from 20 Years with My Uncle Sam*.

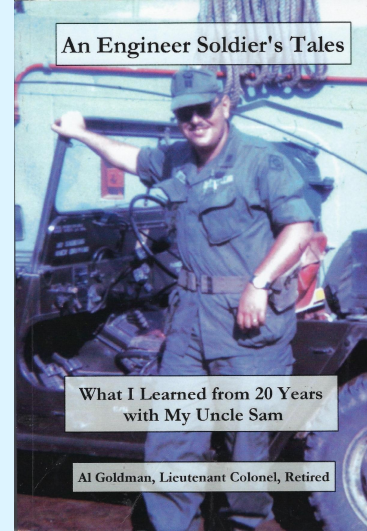
Al married Monika and they had two children Donna and Mark.

Al 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, presentation of the We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, and presentation of a certificate from Gilchrist recognizing Al's service to our country. Al was also presented with a handmade patriotic lap blanket in the colors of the Vietnam Service Ribbon honoring his two tours during the war.

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.



Alvin Goldman Salute to Service Tribute



An Engineer Soldier's Tales

What I Learned from 20 Years
with My Uncle Sam

Al Goldman, Lieutenant Colonel, Retired

An Engineer Soldier's Tales

WWII Army Veteran Millie Bailey

Vivian "Millie" Bailey was born February 3, 1918, and was an American World War II veteran, civil servant, and volunteer. She was a fundraiser for education, health, and military service personnel. Millie was one of the first African American officers in the Women's Army Corps and served as a commander of the Women's Colored Detachment. After leaving the military, Millie was a division director in the Social Security Administration.

Millie was one of only two black women to earn superior rank at her officer's course. She received her commission as a first lieutenant in Fort Des Moines Provisional Army Officer Training School and served in the Women's Army Corps from 1943 to 1946. She became second in command of the Women's Colored Detachment at Fort McClellan and later served as a commander of the all-female detachment before being selected to attend the Adjutant General School Officers' Administration Course. As one of only two Black women in the class, she graduated with outstanding marks and went on to serve for the first time with an unsegregated unit. During her military service, Millie earned the Women's Army Corps Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After leaving the U.S. Army, Millie moved to Chicago and worked for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration. In 1970, she transferred to the Social Security office in Baltimore as a division director and retired in 1975.

Millie was an active community volunteer and fundraiser for education, health, and the military. Since 1966, she collected, packed, and shipped CARE packages for U.S. Military service members. From 1982 to 1993, she served on the Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission and was involved with the approval of the first magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and CT scanners in the state. She left the commission to join the Howard County General Hospital board of trustees where she served for 23 years before stepping down in 2015.

Millie was a member of the Howard County Police Citizens Advisory Council. Beginning in 1999, she advocated and fundraised for Running Brook Elementary School and often raised over \$10,000 annually for the students.

On October 22, 2020, the Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey Neighborhood Square on Lake Kittamaquundi was dedicated in her honor.

Millie met her future husband, William Bailey, on April 10, 1943, the same day she was commissioned. They married after leaving the U.S. Army. In 1970, they moved to Columbia, Maryland. Millie enjoyed traveling and visited fifty countries as of 2013. For her 100th birthday wish, she expressed a desire for true equality for future generations. In 2020, she went skydiving at the age of 102.

Vivian "Millie" Bailey was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute conducted by Gilchrist veteran volunteers. The tribute included an opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, patriotic readings, and a closing prayer. Millie received the

We Honor Veterans pin, a certificate, and a handmade patriotic blanket.

Millie Bailey led an incredible life. Here are two news reports focusing on Millie.

[103-year-old World War II veteran continues service by helping others - YouTube](#)

[Meet a 102-year-old veteran who went skydiving - YouTube](#)



Lieutenant Vivian Bailey



Millie Bailey with President Obama

Marine Daniel Bradley

Originally from Jamaica, Queens, New York, Daniel Bradley served in the United States Marine Corps from 1954-56. Daniel served in Korea after the cease fire and also in Japan. He was a cook and also performed a variety of administrative jobs during his time in the Marines.

Daniel married Muriel just 19 days before his first deployment. After leaving the Marines, Daniel and Muriel settled in Laurel, Maryland where they built a home. Daniel worked in the printing industry as a journeyman printer.

Daniel Bradley was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute conducted by Gilchrist veteran volunteers. The tribute included an opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, patriotic readings, and a closing prayer. Mr. Bradley received the We Honor Veterans pin, a certificate, and a handmade patriotic blanket.



Gilchrist Veteran Volunteers Saluting Marine Daniel Bradley



Illustration of Korean War Veteran Daniel Bradley saluting his grandson Captain Jacob Geist at West Point Military Academy on the occasion of his commissioning May 15, 2016

Jungle Combat: A Combat Pilot's Tape-Recorded Transcripts from Vietnam 1968-1969

John Astle was born in Charles Town, West Virginia and grew up in Barboursville. He graduated in 1966 from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia and attended the Catholic University of America.

He joined the United States Marine Corps Reserve in 1961 and received a commission as an officer in the Marine Corps through its Platoon Leaders Class program upon graduation from Marshall. He was a Naval Aviator flying helicopters and left active duty with the rank of captain. He also flew the presidential helicopter for three and a half years.

He retired from the Marine Corps Reserves as a colonel after 30 years of service. He saw combat in Vietnam, earning 34 Air Medals and 2 Purple Hearts. He was recalled to active duty for Desert Storm.

Astle was originally elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 1982. He was elected to the State Senate in 1994 and was Vice-Chair of the Senate Finance Committee from 2003 to 2019. He served four terms in the Maryland State Senate and three terms in the Maryland House of Delegates representing Maryland's District 30 in Anne Arundel County.

In 2015, Senator Astle introduced legislation to make March 30 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Maryland and was the first bill signed into law by Gov. Larry Hogan. The intent of the law was to celebrate and acknowledge every Vietnam Veteran and give them the warm welcome and gratitude they deserved five decades ago.

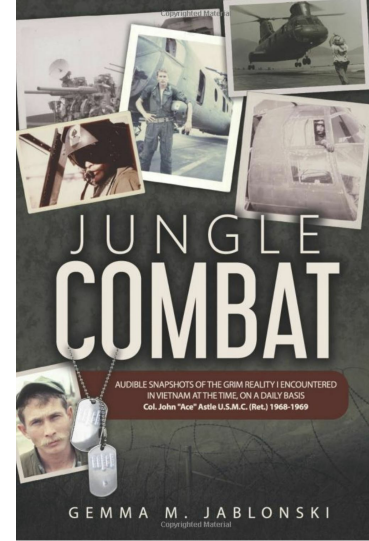
Gemma M. Jablonski is an author who met John Astle many years ago and they became friends. Gemma worked with John to write *Jungle Combat*. According to John, "Many autobiographical books have been written about the Vietnam experience, most of them years after the fact based upon imperfect memory. By contrast, the contents of this book reflect immediate reactions to the grim reality I encountered in Vietnam at the time on a daily basis."

Astle says that committing this story to paper helped him come to terms with the war, and to put it in focus. According to Astle, it has become commonplace to describe the conflict in Vietnam as a defeat but says that those who took part in it have difficulty with that. Astle says that we were never bested on the battlefield and that every time the enemy stood up to challenge us, we took the worst he had to offer and returned it with interest.

John Astle served as the master of Ceremonies for Gilchrist's 4th Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration.



John Astle at the Gilchrist Welcome Home Event



Jungle Combat

Navy Corpsman Loren Hellickson

With the memory, enthusiasm and energy of a much younger man, 98-year-old veteran, Navy Corpsman Loren Hellickson easily recalls his more than 20 years of active service.

Loren was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute conducted by Gilchrist veteran volunteers. The tribute included the singing of the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, presentation of the We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, and presentation of a certificate from Gilchrist recognizing Loren's service to our country. Loren was also presented with a handmade patriotic lap blanket

During the tribute, Loren spoke of the many heroic battles fought in the Pacific during WWII, including Iwo Jima, Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. He knows a lot about them. He was there.

(L-R) Marine Veteran Jim Sandoz, Army Veteran Art Grau, Loren Hellickson, Navy Veteran John Gonnella and Army Veteran Ed Kaplan



MDVA Cemetery and Memorial Program

The State of Maryland and the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) are honored to offer our veterans and their eligible dependents a final resting place at one of five state veterans cemeteries located throughout Maryland. The MDVA Cemetery Program is the largest of its kind in the nation. In addition, the Maryland Department of

Veterans Affairs manages three veteran memorials. The Maryland World War II Memorial is in Annapolis, and the Vietnam War and Korean War Memorials are in Baltimore. Additionally, the Department shares joint responsibility with the City of Baltimore for the War Memorial Building in Baltimore. For more information, go to:

[Cemetery and Memorial Program \(maryland.gov\)](http://maryland.gov)

Vietnam Veterans Memorial 40th Anniversary

On March 29, Americans came together to commemorate the service and sacrifices made by the nearly 3 million service members who served in Vietnam. This year, in honor of the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the Wall, the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund gathered on the East Knoll of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors service members of the U.S. armed forces who fought in the Vietnam War. The 2-acre site is dominated by a black granite wall engraved with the names of those service members who died as a result of their service in Vietnam and Southeast Asia during the war. The wall, completed in 1982, has since been supplemented with the statue *The Three Soldiers* and the Vietnam Women's Memorial.

In 2012, President Barack Obama signed a presidential proclamation, designating March 29 as the annual observance of Vietnam War Veterans Day. The signing of the proclamation marked the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last American troops from Vietnam — March 29, 1973.

The link below will take you to a video of the 2022 National Vietnam Veterans Day Observance.

[Vietnam War Veterans Day 2022 | Vietnam Veterans of America \(vva.org\)](http://vva.org)



Gilchrist Volunteers and Vietnam Veterans (L-R) Mike Lachance, Tim Price, Paul Sullivan and Rick Sullivan attending the 40th anniversary

2023 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration

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.

The 2022 Welcome Home event was very successful. Here are comments from several of those who attended this special event:

- Welcoming us Vets home has been a great thing to do for us. Some of the stories helped my wife to understand more of what I/we experienced.
- The excitement just seeing my fellow Vietnam Veterans again.
- Thank you for remembering our Vietnam Vets. So many of us are suffering from war related illnesses and this event lets those veterans know that they are not forgotten.

The 2023 event will be held on Saturday, March 25th. Mark your calendar and watch the Gilchrist website (link below) for more information. Go to "Events" and you will see the link to the "Welcome Home celebration."

[Providing care at every stage of serious illness - Gilchrist Cares](#)

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 \(gilchristcares.org\)](#)

Veterans Can Now File Appeals Online

Veterans can now file their request to appeal to the Board online. If you disagree with a decision VA made on your claim, you can log into VA.gov and electronically file an appeal with the Board of Veteran's Appeals.

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board, BVA) continues to modernize to meet Veterans' needs. The Board recently updated and improved its website to make sure all the information you need is available and easy to understand. It also includes what the Board does and what to expect during an appeal.

For more information, go to:

[Veterans can now file an appeal online with the Board of Veterans' Appeals - Vantage Point](#)

Uniform Smiles

As A.J. and his platoon of recruits were marching, their sergeant slipped and tumbled down a ravine. The irate sergeant scrambled back up amid guffaws and barked, "Those who laughed, get down and give me 20!" A.J. and some others fell to the ground quickly and did their push-ups. Meanwhile, the sergeant glared at the others. "As for the rest of you, get down and give me 40 for lying!"

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.

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.

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.



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