

## We Honor Veterans Newsletter



February 2023 Edition

Special Edition

This is a special edition of the Gilchrist We Honor Veterans Newsletter. The end of 2022 was very busy, and we wanted to share stories about some special veterans we have been honoring.

### 2023 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration

Gilchrist's Fifth 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. Gilchrist is a nationally recognized nonprofit that provides care and support for people with serious illness through the end of life, through elder medical care, counseling and support, and hospice care. Many of the people we care for at Gilchrist are veterans, and many of them served during the Vietnam era.

One of the most painful chapters in our nation's history was the treatment of our Vietnam veterans and Vietnam-era veterans when they returned home. Gilchrist is committed to making things right and giving a long overdue and joyous welcome home to Vietnam veterans everywhere. On **March 25, 2023, at Martin's West** in Baltimore we will come together as a grateful community to honor, thank and celebrate the veterans in our care as well as all of the veterans who served during the Vietnam War and their loved ones. This celebration is one of the many ways Gilchrist recognizes the unique needs of these veterans and thanks them for their sacrifice and service to our country.

Gilchrist is excited to announce that our keynote speaker is Rocky Bleier, four-time Superbowl Champion and Vietnam Veteran. For more information about Rocky, visit his website at [Rocky Bleier](#)

#### Event Details:

- 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.: Resource Fair
- 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.: Buffet Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: Program

Register Now!

## Safeway Foundation Supports Veterans

The Safeway Foundation is a part of the national Albertsons Companies Foundation. Their mission is dedicated to bettering the lives of people in local neighborhoods. The Safeway Foundation recently announced a grant to support Gilchrist's We Honor Veterans Program. This program provides year round services for veterans including Salute to Service tributes for veterans under hospice care, Vet Cafes at residential care centers, Vet-to-Vet Volunteers, the annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration, and many others.

We salute the Safeway Foundation for their support of veterans.



## Navy Vice Admiral James A. Sagerholm

James Sagerholm was born in December 1927, in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. The family moved to Maryland and James completed his secondary education at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute. Sagerholm was eager to join the Navy and unsuccessfully applied for the Naval Academy straight out of high school in 1946. Sagerholm then opted to enlist into the Navy and completed his training at Lake Hurst, New Jersey. He trained as a meteorologist and went to Naval Air Station Miami to track hurricanes. One year into his enlistment, Sagerholm reapplied to the Naval Academy and joined the Academy's class of 1952.

After graduating as class president, Sagerholm deployed to the Korean War aboard the heavy cruiser USS Rochester as a navigation officer. When recalling his Korean deployment in a Library of Congress interview, Sagerholm remembered the Blockade of Wonsan most vividly. During the blockade, USS Rochester was bracketed by explosions, and shrapnel tore apart the map that Sagerholm was plotting courses on. Without hesitation, Sagerholm simply grabbed a new map and placed it over the remains of the old one. He remarked, "[In combat] you don't think about the danger involved, you just think about the job you're doing."

After the end of the Korean War, Sagerholm returned to the U.S. and served as an officer on three smaller vessels, culminating to his appointment as executive officer aboard the destroyer USS Sproston. Just as Sagerholm finished his time on USS Sproston, the Navy dramatically expanded its submarine fleet. The Navy selected him to become a submarine officer. After completing his training on USS Seadragon, Sagerholm deployed with USS Seadragon into the Pacific.

Sagerholm led a successful career in the submarine service and eventually received command of the brand-new ballistic missile submarine USS Kamehameha. After six patrols aboard the USS Kamehameha, Sagerholm went to Suitland, Maryland, where he took command of the Naval Intelligence Support Center. While in Maryland, Sagerholm promoted to rear admiral. He became the first deputy director of Naval Intelligence and then the commander of the South Atlantic Fleet.

In 1977, after two years as the commander of the Navy's South Atlantic Fleet, Sagerholm was given command of a special fleet bound for West Africa. The fleet was part of a major American diplomatic push in the continent to counter Soviet influence, and Sagerholm met with multiple African leaders as part of his duties. Following his diplomatic tour, Sagerholm briefly reported directly to President Reagan as part of the President's Foreign Advisory Board.

Sagerholm's last assignment was Chief of Naval Education and training at Naval Air Station Pensacola. For three years, Sagerholm worked diligently to reform the department and revitalize the Naval Reserve Officer's Training Program (NROTC). Sagerholm retired from the Navy in November 1985 after a long, successful career.

James and his wife, the former Margaret Ann Herrlich, had four children: Lisa, Denise, Jeannine and Mark.

Vice Admiral James A. Sagerholm, USN (Ret.), was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute conducted by Gilchrist military veteran volunteers. The tribute included the Pledge of Allegiance and the presentation of the We Honor Veterans Pin from the Veterans Administration. Sagerholm also received a certificate from Gilchrist, a thank you card made by an elementary student, and a special handmade patriotic blanket. The Vice Admiral was given a formal salute by veterans in uniform. One of the military volunteers commented that it was an honor to salute a great man who served his country well.

**To hear James Sagerholm talk about his military service, here is the link to his collection in the Library of Congress:**

[James Alvin Sagerholm Collection | Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](https://www.loc.gov/rr/congress/collections/sagerholm/)



James A. Sagerholm



Vice Admiral James A. Sagerholm



Salute to Service Tribute for Vice Admiral James A. Sagerholm

## Army Veteran Eli Nash



Eli Nash served in the United States Army as an infantryman in the mid-1950s and was stationed in Germany.

Eli was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute. Conducted by Gilchrist military veteran volunteers Ed Kaplan, Art Grau and Don Kyle. The 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, a handmade patriotic lap blanket, and presentation of a certificate from Gilchrist recognizing Eli's service to our country.

Making this tribute special was that a number of family members and veteran buddies were in attendance to share this special honor for Army Veteran Eli Nash.

## Korean War Veteran Jerry Koop

A large family gathered for the Salute-to-Service Tribute to Air Force Veteran, Jerry Koop. Air Force Colonel (RET) Barry Meuse presented the "We Honor Veterans" commemorative pin to Mr. Koop.



## Army and Korean War Veteran Charles Earl

On his 89th birthday, Sunday, November 27, 2022, Army Korean War combat veteran, Mr. Charles Earl was honored with a Salute-to-Service Tribute surrounded by a large loving family in the room with some on Zoom from the West Coast.

The tribute, conducted by Gilchrist veteran volunteers, included the Pledge of Allegiance and the presentation of the We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration. Charles also received a certificate from Gilchrist, a thank you card made by an elementary student, and a special handmade patriotic blanket.



# Welcome Home 50th at the Vietnam Memorial

The United States of American Vietnam War Commemoration announces a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event to honor Vietnam veterans. Held **May 11-13, 2023 in Washington, D.C.**, this three-day event will feature ceremonies on the National Mall that will inspire Americans to embrace the sacred responsibility to honor our Vietnam veterans and their families.

An Outdoor Multimedia Celebration will portray the story of our Vietnam veterans and the enduring legacy of their service. It will highlight the sacrifices of their families, and the contributions of individual citizens, as well as our allies.

For more information, go to:

[WelcomeHome | Welcome Home! | Vietnam War Commemoration \(vietnamwar50th.com\)](#)



## Emergency Care for Veterans in Suicidal Crisis

**Starting January 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost** – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

For more information, click on the link below:

[Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in suicidal crisis can go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for free emergency health care](#)

## Uniform Smiles

The reason the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines bicker amongst themselves is that they don't speak the same language. For instance, Take the simple phrase "secure the building." The Army will post guards around the place. The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors. The Marines will capture everybody inside and set up a headquarters. The Air Force will take out a 5-year lease with an option to buy.

## 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).



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