

We Honor Veterans Newsletter



January 2024 Edition

2024 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 2024 event will be held on Sunday, April 7th beginning at 11:30 AM at Martin's West in Baltimore.

Special guest speakers include Vietnam Veteran and Medal of Honor Recipient Sammy Davis and his wife Dixie Davis.

Mark your calendar and watch the Gilchrist website for more information:

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

WWII Marine Robert Dubel

Robert Dubel enlisted in the Marine Corps at the age of 17 in 1943. After completing boot camp at Parris Island, Robert was assigned to the USS New Jersey. When asked why he chose the Marine Corps, Robert says he spent summers at Quantico with his uncle Bernard Dubel who was a Colonel in the Marines and that he always wanted to be a Marine.

Robert arrived on the USS New Jersey before the commissioning ceremony. On May 23, 1943, the USS New Jersey was commissioned into the United State Navy at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The New Jersey is the longest, fastest, most decorated battleship in U.S. history. The only ship to have served in World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Persian Gulf War.

Robert worked as a 20 mm anti-aircraft gunner and remembers the attacks by the Japanese kamikaze planes. The USS New Jersey was near the USS Bunker Hill when it was struck by two Japanese kamikaze planes. The attack resulted in severe damage to

the aircraft carrier, with casualties exceeding 600—in addition to the many wounded, 346 were confirmed dead and an additional 43 sailors were missing. Robert describes listening to taps when the casualties were buried at sea as one of the most solemn days of his life.

Robert and his fellow Marines participated in a number of battles including the Battle of the Philippine Sea (Great Marianas Turkey Shoot), the Leyte Gulf and Okinawa.

The crew of the USS New Jersey survived Typhoon Cobra, also known as the Typhoon of 1944 or Halsey's Typhoon (named after Admiral William Halsey Jr.), which was a powerful tropical cyclone that struck the United States Pacific Fleet in December 1944. The storm sank three destroyers, killed 790 sailors, damaged 9 other warships, and swept dozens of aircraft overboard off their aircraft carriers.

When not operating the anti-aircraft guns, Robert and other Marines ran messages from the communications center to Admiral Halsey's cabin. Robert was in the cabin with Admiral Halsey several times and invited the Admiral to join the enlisted men for Thanksgiving. To their surprise, Admiral Halsey showed up for dinner and sat at the table with Robert and others.

Robert left the USS New Jersey in 1945 and was sent to the Charleston Navy Yard. He was there when the war ended in 1945 and headed back to Baltimore.

Robert's mother enrolled him in Western Maryland College. His first day on campus he met a beautiful young woman and in 1948 Robert Dubel married Helen Miles. They would have five children: James, Jeanne, Jeffrey, Kenneth, and Rebecca. Robert and Helen loved to travel, visiting 74 countries and 7 continents.

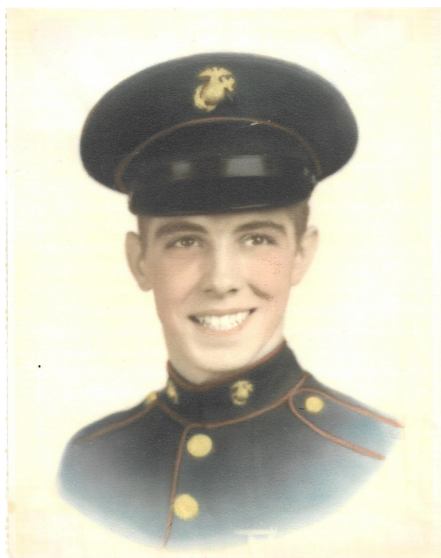
Robert taught English and after completing his graduate degrees, eventually became the Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools. Dr. Robert Dubel retired in 1992.

When asked about the impact of serving in the Marines, Robert responded "My military experience gave me self-confidence, discipline, and a strong patriotic focus."

Dr. Robert Dubel was recently honored by Gilchrist with a Salute to Service Tribute. The tribute was conducted by Gilchrist military veteran volunteers and included an opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert was presented with a certificate from Gilchrist, a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a patriotic blanket made by a Gilchrist volunteer, and a handmade thank you card from a Cub Scout. The tribute concluded with an honor salute and a prayer.

To learn more about Robert Dubel's military service, watch his Veterans History Project video in the national Archives:

[Robert Young Dubel Collection | Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](https://www.loc.gov/rr/vets/youngdubel.html)





Robert Dubel (front right) and fellow Marines in their gun turret on the USS New Jersey



Proud Marine Robert Dubel with Gilchrist Veteran Volunteers

Lt Colonel Sallie Smith

Lieutenant Colonel Sallie Smith retired from the United States Air Force following 25 years of service throughout the world. Born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland she earned her nursing degree in New York City where she worked as a midwife before joining the service. Sallie served in the Air Force Medical Corps. She retired from Shaw Airforce Base in South Carolina and eventually moved home to Baltimore.

Lt Colonel Smith was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute by Gilchrist military veteran volunteers. Sallie was presented with a certificate from Gilchrist, a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a handmade patriotic blanket, a handmade thank-you card from a school student, and a door plaque for her room letting anyone entering the room know that a proud veteran lives there. At the conclusion of the tribute, the military veterans presented Lieutenant Colonel Sallie Smith an honor salute

to thank her for her service to our country.

Salie Smith in Uniform



Gilchrist veteran volunteers Virgil Wright, John Gonella and Ed Kaplan Saluting Lt Col Smith

WWII Marine Stuart Bailey

Stuart Bailey joined the Marine Corps and following boot camp was trained in communications. Stuart's outfit was deployed to the South Pacific in WWII and was responsible for maintaining the air strip on the Island of Tinian.

Stuart liked to tell the story of seeing a plane parked at the air strip in 1945. No one seemed to know why it was there. The plane had a unique name – the Enola Gay. The Enola Gay was a modified Boeing B-29 Superfortress that would drop the first atomic bomb used in warfare, called "Little Boy," on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. Another atomic attack on Nagasaki followed three days later. Stuart would later realize he had been a witness to history.

Stuart Bailey was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute by a team of Gilchrist military veteran volunteers. The tribute included an opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and the presentation of a certificate from Gilchrist. Stuart was also given a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a patriotic blanket made by a Gilchrist volunteer, and a thank-you card made by a Cub Scout. Stuart's sons, Jim and Richard were also given Proud Family Member of a Veteran pins. The tribute concluded with a closing prayer.

As part of the tribute, the veterans presented Stuart with an honor salute. At 97-years old, Stuart proudly returned the salute.



Enola Gay at Tinian in 1945



Stuart Bailey Tribute



Marine Stuart Bailey Saluting Brother Veterans

Dr. Malcolm Joseph III

Malcolm Joseph grew up in the Bronx. After graduating from high school, he went to the College of the Holy Cross. Malcolm graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a B.A. degree in Biology and Sociology and accepted a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Commission into the United States Air Force (USAF).

He earned his M.D. from Boston University School of Medicine and then completed his internship at Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base and a residency in Occupational Medicine at The Johns Hopkins University. He earned his MPH degree

from The Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Malcolm Joseph served the country with distinction for more than two decades as an Air Force chief flight surgeon, traveling the world providing medical staffing for three presidential administrations on Air Force One. He also served as Vice President Walter Mondale's personal physician.

Dr. Joseph retired from active military duty with the rank of Colonel. In 1998, he was named medical director for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland. In that leadership role, he served as a tireless advocate for equitable access to healthcare. He worked within the Baltimore community assisting with public and private healthcare issues for the uninsured, the homeless and the marginalized.

For over 40 years, Dr. Malcolm Joseph the III served as a compassionate healer, a tireless advocate for greater access to healthcare, and a powerful voice in the dialogue on diversity, wellness, and disease prevention.

Malcolm met Pamela Mattie when they were both stationed at Andrews Air Force Base. Pamela was an Air Force Major and a flight nurse. They were married in 1983 and had four children: Natalie, Malcolm, Margaret, and Elizabeth.

Dr. Malcolm Joseph was recently honored with a salute to service tribute by a team of Gilchrist military veteran volunteers. The tribute included an opening prayer, singing of the National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Joseph was presented with a certificate from Gilchrist, a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a handmade patriotic blanket, and a thank you card made by an elementary school student. The tribute concluded with an honor salute, which Malcolm Joseph proudly returned.



Dr. Malcolm Joseph Saluting Fellow Veterans

WWII Army Veteran Wilbert Shannon

Wilbert Shannon (goes by "Shannon") was drafted into the United States Army 80 years ago at the height of World War II in the Fall of 1943, and was sent into combat in France. Shannon served in harrowing conditions until the War's end in May of 1945.

Originally from West Virginia, Shannon relocated to Maryland following the war. He used

the GI Bill and graduated from Howard University and then went on to complete his Master's Degree from Catholic University. Shannon was employed with the Washington, D.C. government in social work for over 40 years.

Wilbert Shannon was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute conducted by a team of Gilchrist military veteran volunteers. The tribute included an opening prayer, singing of the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Shannon was presented with a certificate from Gilchrist, a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a patriotic blanket made by a Gilchrist volunteer, and a thank you card from a school student. The tribute concluded with an honor salute and the singing of God Bless America.

Wilbert Shannon with Gilchrist Veteran Volunteers



Army Veteran Thomas Fair

Thomas Fair served in the Army during the Korean War from 1951-1953. Thomas was recently honored with a Salute to Service Tribute by Gilchrist military veteran volunteers. Thomas was presented with a certificate from Gilchrist, a We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration, a handmade patriotic blanket, a handmade thank-you card from a school student, and a door plaque for his room letting anyone entering the room know that a proud veteran lives there.

At the conclusion of the tribute, the military veterans presented Army veteran Thomas Fair with an honor salute to thank him for his service to our country.





Gilchrist Veteran Volunteers Honoring Thomas Fair



Gilchrist volunteer and Army Veteran Ed Kaplan with the We Honor Veterans pin from the Veterans Administration

2024 – ‘Year for Military Families’ in Maryland

Governor Wes Moore recently declared 2024 as the ‘Year for Military Families’ in Maryland and announced a package of legislation that will support and empower Maryland’s servicemembers, military spouses, and caregivers. This is the first legislation announced by the Moore-Miller Administration for the upcoming 2024 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly.

“Our military families sacrifice everything so their loved ones can serve. They are just as much a part of the American story as those in the armed forces,” said Gov. Moore. “States have a duty to answer the service and sacrifice of our military families with strong support. That’s why we’re advocating for this package of legislation in the coming session.”

For more information, go to:

[Governor Moore Announces First Items in 2024 Legislative Agenda to Support and Empower Maryland Military Families - Press Releases - News - Office of Governor Wes Moore](#)

Uniform Smiles

During my time in the Army, I often found myself stuck with KP duty. One day, convinced I could improve things, I told the head cook, “If you give me a paring knife, I could peel these potatoes faster.” The cook turned slowly to me and said, “Son, you’re in the Army. You have plenty of time.”

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 kmcdonnell@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 kmcdonnell@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 kmcdonnell@gilchristcares.org.

The logo for Gilchrist features the word "gilchrist" in a green, lowercase, sans-serif font. A small green leaf icon is positioned above the letter "i".

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