



## **Parkman Paragraphs** **Memorial Day 2019 Edition**

### **Salute to Oliver Madison Graves Jr.**

## **2019 Memorial Day Special Edition** **Parkman Paragraphs**

Created by Cory Anderson

Parkman Paragraphs is published in Spring and Fall of each year.

This limited edition issue is printed specifically for the 2019 Memorial Day Parade.

We wish to thank all of our Active Duty and Veterans throughout all eras of our country's existence for all of the sacrifices that they have made to give us our freedoms and continue to make our country a safe place to live. May our future generations understand these sacrifices from our Veterans and appreciate the quality of life created for them.

**On behalf of the Parkman Trustees  
and the Parkman Chamber of Commerce**

**Special Thanks** for the continued support of the:

**Geauga County Sheriff Department**

**Middlefield VFW Post 9678**

**Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team**

**Parkman Congregational Church**

**SS Edward Lucy Catholic Parish**

**Middlefield Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops #3141**

**Cardinal Marching Band**

and the various participants who helped to make our  
2019 Parkman Memorial Day Celebration a success.

**Margaret Graves and the Graves Family**

(thanks for the photos and story of Oliver Madison Graves Jr.)

**Father John Burkley, St. Edward Church.**

**Jeff Gardner, Commander, V.F.W. Post 9678**

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**Tim Florjancic, Director, Cardinal High School Marching Band**

**Len Hall and Monique Hornsby, Middlefield Boy and Cub Scouts Liaison's**

**Best wishes to everyone for a fun and safe summer and don't forget to  
give THANKS to a Veteran.**



Community Website: <http://www.ParkmanOhio.com>

Newsletter E-mail: [ParkmanOhio@gmail.com](mailto:ParkmanOhio@gmail.com)





## OLIVER MADISON GRAVES JR.

Oliver was born November 11, 1936 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the oldest of five born to Dorothy and Oliver Sr. He was an inquisitive and energetic child. He loved mathematics and reading. Trips to the library on his bicycle were a normal part of his life.

He left home at seventeen years old to join the Army. He didn't even know how to drive. During basic training the first vehicle he ever drove was a big truck. He accomplished that and was a skilled driver until he died.

Oliver's "tour of duty" (deployment) included Korea, Viet Nam twice, Germany twice, Italy and various places in the States. He received a Bronze Star Medal June 2, 1970 while serving in Viet Nam. He also received many awards and certificates for both duty performance and athletic competitions.



While stationed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area he met a young lady named Margaret Walker. They were married October 9, 1960. They have two sons, Oliver 3<sup>rd</sup> and Michael. One of his greatest joys was when he and his sons were together. He retired from the Army in 1977 having twenty-three and a half years of service.



After the Army, Oliver began working for United Parcel Service. He started as a driver, quickly became a supervisor then on to center manager. After fourteen years there he took early retirement to become caregiver for his mother who had been diagnosed with bone cancer.

Oliver was skilled in many things. He had a drive and a determination that was a little more than ordinary. He loved the competition of sports and life. All or nothing; but he did not like cheating. He did not like cheaters.



Oliver also had a bowling "career". He participated in many tournaments for singles, doubles and team events. He received many awards, trophies and patches. His ability earned him four rings and many certificates for perfect games sanctioned by ABC. He would get his awards, stuff them some place and go on to the next thing.

Another area of his life that surprised many was his love of "top 40" music and dancing every Friday night. He'd take off his "bibbes" and put on a fancy shirt and enjoy.

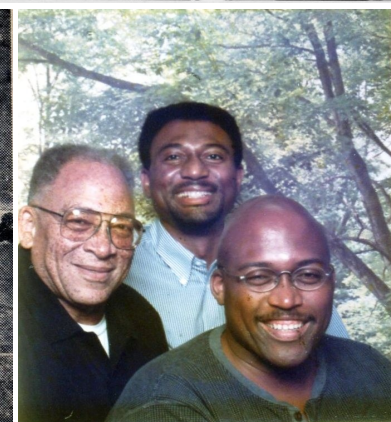


Oliver liked action rather than words. He would be a little upset with the spotlight on him today. He always gave others credit for the things they accomplished. Many other servicemen have worked hard and many are still working hard to protect our beloved country. Honor is due to them today also.

He would say he was doing his motto:  
"DO WHAT IS RIGHT".

The photo to the right is of Oliver receiving his Bronze Star Medal. The Bronze Star Medal is a United States decoration awarded to members of the US Armed Forces for either heroic achievement, heroic service, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service in a combat zone.

Oliver joins a growing list of Parkman Veterans who served their country and their community and have been honored during our Memorial Day Celebration. THANKS!



## Past Parkman Honorees

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2001 | J. R. Ferry  |
| 2002 | Robert Barnett   |
| 2003 | Glenn Thompson   |
| 2004 | Robert Stanchak (Stanley)                                      |
| 2005 | Richard Giles  |
| 2006 | R. O. Polari   |
| 2007 | Stanley Smith  |
| 2008 | Dennis Testa   |
| 2009 | Gotham Brothers: John, Carlisle "Kelly" Glen, Neil, and Leland |
| 2010 | Albert Wilson  |
| 2011 | Harold Blackford   |
| 2012 | Earl Wilson  |
| 2013 | Ed Wilson  |
| 2014 | Bill Snyder  |
| 2015 | Richard "Dutch" Komandt  |
| 2016 | Wayne Komandt  |
| 2017 | Steve G. Soltis  |
| 2018 | Leonard Wilcox   |
| 2019 | Oliver "Big O" Graves Jr.                                      |

