



**THIS MEMORIAL IS
ERECTED TO THE
MEMORY OF THE
SONS AND DAUGHTERS
OF PARKMAN TOWNSHIP
WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY**



Parkman Paragraphs

Memorial Day 2024



Honoring our Parkman Veterans

Kenneth J. Baptie - Navy Veteran
Kaarlo Pollari - Army Veteran
Donald E. Villers— Navy Reserves Veteran

Community Website: www.ParkmanOhio.com
Newsletter E-mail: ParkmanOhio@gmail.com



2024 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 2024 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:

Gaucha County Sheriff Department
Middlefield VFW Post 9678

Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team
Cardinal Marching Band and Cardinal School Supporters
Parkman Congregational Church & Rev. William Coley
SS Edward Lucy Catholic Parish & Rev. Jacob Bearer

and the various participants who helped to make our
2024 Parkman Memorial Day Celebration a success:

Baptie Family - (thanks for the photos and info about Kenneth Baptie)
Pollari Family - (thanks for the photos and info about Kaarlo Pollari)
Villers Family - (thanks for the photos and info about Donald Villers)

Jeff Gardner - Commander - V.F.W. Post 9678
Mike Komandt - Chief, Parkman Volunteer Fire Department
Tim Florjancic, Director - Cardinal High School Marching Band
Dale Komandt - Parkman Historical Society & Parkman Cemetery Sexton
Roger and Kathy Anderson - Parkman Veterans Memorial Park Gardeners

Scouts of America Burton Troop #197 and
Burton Troop #197 Scout Leaders - Rick Warner and Jason Jercheff

Joyce Peters - Parkman Trustee
Henry Duchscherer - Parkman Trustee
Lance Portman - Parkman Trustee
Denise Villers - Parkman Fiscal Officer

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

Past Parkman Honorees

- 2001 John R. Ferry, WWII
- 2002 Robert F. Barnett, WWII
- 2003 Glenn A. Thompson, WWII
- 2004 Richard Stanchak (Stanley), WWII
- 2005 Richard Giles, WWII
- 2006 Richard O. Polari, WWII
- 2007 Stanley Smith, WWII
- 2008 Dennis Testa, Vietnam
- 2009 Gotham Brothers: John, Carlisle "Kelly", Glen, Neil, Leland, WWII
- 2010 Albert Wilson, WWII
- 2011 Harold Blackford, WWII
- 2012 Carl B. Wilson, WWII
- 2013 Carl 'Ed' Wilson, Vietnam
- 2014 Bill Snyder, WWII
- 2015 Richard 'Dutch' Komandt, WWII
- 2016 Wayne Komandt, Vietnam
- 2017 Steve G. Soltis, Korean
- 2018 Leonard Hickox, Korean
- 2019 Oliver 'Big O' Graves Jr., Vietnam
- 2020 Jeannette Elizabeth Smith Loomis, WWII
- 2021 Ralph C Butt, WWII
- 2022 Forrest Rollin Bidlack, WWII
- 2022 Elwood (Elly) Leonard Evans, WWII
- 2022 Glenwood Harold Ferry, WWII
- 2022 John E. Larmi, WWII
- 2022 Herbert Bruce Olmstead, WWII
- 2022 James (Joe) Soltis, Korean
- 2023 Frank Benyo, WWII
- 2023 Joseph Klima, WWII

You can find all of their profiles on our Parkman Website Honor Roll.

Parkman is thankful to Kenneth J. Baptie, Kaarlo Pollari and, Donald E. Villers for their service to both country and community.

May they find well deserved rest in peace.

Kenneth J. Baptie, Kaarlo Pollari and, Donald E. Villers have been recently added to our Parkman Veteran Honor Roll on the Parkman website. If you notice a Parkman Veteran that should be added to the Honor Roll - let us know!

On The Back Cover = a photo of Parkman's Veteran Memorial located on the south west corner of Rt 422 and Rt 88 / Rt 528. This Memorial was donated by the Parkman Mothers Club in the early 1950's to honor all of Parkman's Veterans.

The ORIGINAL wooden Parkman Veterans Memorial located in the same spot was also donated by the Parkman Mothers Club in the early 1940's. The memorial had an honor roll of the WWII veterans on this version. Today our veterans names are honored on our website.



**Thanks to all who serve both
our country and community!**

Scenes from the 2023 Parkman Memorial day celebration below.



Kenneth J. Baptie

**Petty Officer Third Class (E-4), US Navy, WWII 1945-1946
September 1, 1927 - September 2, 1984**



Kenneth John Baptie, better known as Kenny to his family and friends, took his Boy Scout oath at the age of 14, an event that meant a lot to him. As the values of the oath state, he was kind, trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent. These values are all attributes of "The Scout Law" that he took to heart his whole life.

At the young age of 17 during WWII, Kenneth enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was sent to the U.S. Naval Training Center in Sampson, NY and graduated from there on June 28, 1945, as a member of the Company 420 class. He was then deployed to the Asia-Pacific where he was assigned the job of Meteorologist on the USS Norton Sound. These specialists analyzed weather and ocean conditions and were crucial in ensuring the safety and success of Naval operations. He was sailing the Asia-Pacific during historic events including Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945.

Kenny married Berniece Soltis on February 15, 1947, at St Edward's Church in Parkman. They settled in Parkman and had four daughters: Diana, Bonita, Deborah and Cynthia. He was a wonderful, caring Father who in his short life was able to pass the Scout virtues on to his four daughters.

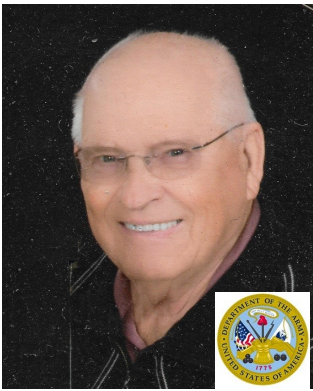
Kenny was brave. At the age of 42, he was one of the first Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery patients at the Cleveland Clinic. The surgery was a success. Unfortunately, after his second Bypass surgery 17 years later his fight for life ended after a stroke.

He was loyal to many including his employer, The Stalwart Rubber Company where he worked for 30 years.

He was a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9678 of Middlefield and served the church as Councilman at St. Edwards for countless years. His dedication to his community was shown as he served as Chairman of the Parkman Zoning Board and then continued as a member for 25 years.

Every year through 1983, he was extremely proud to put on his Navy uniform and march in the Honor Guard in the Parkman Memorial Day parade. He was always pleased to see that his uniform still fit. Each year prior to the holiday, his daughters would insist that he model his uniform, as they waited on the living room couch. He would do a ballerina spin and the girls would clap. It was a proud day for him..





Kaarlo Pollari

Sergeant, US Army, 1953-1955
December 9th, 1931 - February 5, 2021

Kaarlo Pollari's father immigrated from Finland to the US around 1917. His mother's parents immigrated to the US around 1900 and eventually settled in Middlefield. Shortly after his birth, Kaarlo and his family moved to a farm on Bundysburg Rd in Parkman. Hence, Kaarlo was nicknamed Bundy by his friends.



Kaarlo was part of the 1949 graduation class of five students at Parkman High. He earned his BA Mathematics at Hiram

College in 1953. He also attended graduate school at The Ohio State University.

Kaarlo was a Sergeant in the US Army from 1953-1955, stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington. His duties included Office Administration, and war maneuvers. He was also selected for sniper school due to the shooting skills he learned growing up on a farm and hunting in Parkman.

Kaarlo and his entire family were proud of his service and the USA. It is inspiring that these recent immigrants demonstrated such strong patriotism for their new country. Kaarlo's older brother, Curly, was shot down and died in WWII after "re-upping" for a 2nd term though he had qualified to return to the USA

Kaarlo and his beloved wife of 61 years, Karen were married at Grace Lutheran Church in Thompson, Ohio, where Kaarlo served as trustee and sang in the choir. Together they had a daughter Katrine, and sons Kevin and Kermit.

He was dedicated to teaching mathematics for 37 years at Cardinal High School. He also coached golf and basketball and served 14 years for the Board of Education. He took considerable pride in the diverse accomplishments of his students and loved sharing their stories.

Kaarlo was passionate about Cleveland and Ohio State sports and attended the 1948 World Series with high school buddies when the Indians last won. Other hobbies included hunting, fishing and golf. He even mastered riding a bicycle backwards after seeing it performed at the circus.

Throughout his life he spoke English to his Mom and Finnish to his Dad. He was a proud Finn full of "Sisu" – that is, a combination of grit, courage and perseverance.



Donald E. Villers

Navy Reserves, 1951-1954
June 28, 1933 - March 17, 2018

Donald Edward Villers was born in 1933 in Warren Ohio. Don and his parents moved to Southington during his middle school years. He graduated from Southington High School where he met Kathryn Moss, whom he would marry several years later in 1953.

Don and Kay would move to Parkman in 1955, where they lived in the Moss Beach house at the lake which is now known as Shangri-la. They would eventually purchase the property across the street and it was there that they raised their 3 boys; Scott, Guy, and Jeff.

From 1951 to 1954, Don joined and served in the Navy Reserves. While Donald did not often speak specifically about his time in the Navy Reserves, he was a strong patriot. He loved his country and was proud to have done his part in service to it. He showed his patriotism by supporting various veterans' organizations, particularly after Sept. 11, 2001, and by serving the community in which he lived.

Don retired from Copperweld Steel in Warren in 1986 after 30 years. Shortly following his retirement Don would lose his first wife Kay to breast cancer. In 1987, Don met and married Hermine Lanesky, who is better known as Cherie. Don and Cherie built a new home on Vernon Dr. where they lived until he passed away in 2018.

Don was an avid boater and fisherman and he enjoyed taking trips to Canada for these activities. He also enjoyed four wheeling trips with family to West Virginia. When he was not traveling, he greatly enjoyed the peace he found while mowing his lawn.

Don was a Parkman Trustee from 1984 to 2004. He truly enjoyed being a trustee and enjoyed the details of his position as well as watching the fruit of his labor in progress made for the township. Don enjoyed being involved in the planning and maintenance of the Parkman Gazebo and Overlook Park. He also enjoyed planning for road maintenance and the Route 528 buggy lane to keep our Amish friends and neighbors safe on the roads in Parkman. In 2013, there was a vacancy on the Parkman Board of Trustees and Don was re-appointed to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Don volunteered with the Chamber of Commerce and Annual Pancake breakfast for several decades. He was also heavily involved in the Parkman Congregational Church and became a director of the Middlefield Bank where he served for nearly 20 years. He loved to greet his neighbors and participate fully in all aspects of community life.

Don viewed Parkman as his true home. He loved being involved in all things Parkman....After 60 years in Parkman.... Parkman was in his blood. Donald is buried here in the town he loved, up on the hill, in Overlook Cemetery.



American Legion - Burton Post 459

<https://www.facebook.com/AL.Post459>
Burton.Middlefield.Post459@proton.me or (440) 834-8621

Veterans Of Foreign Wars - Middlefield Post 9678

Facebook = <https://www.facebook.com/vfwpost9678/>
middlefieldvfw9678@gmail.com or (440) 632-1257

Thanks to all who support!

