



WREATH LAYING TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

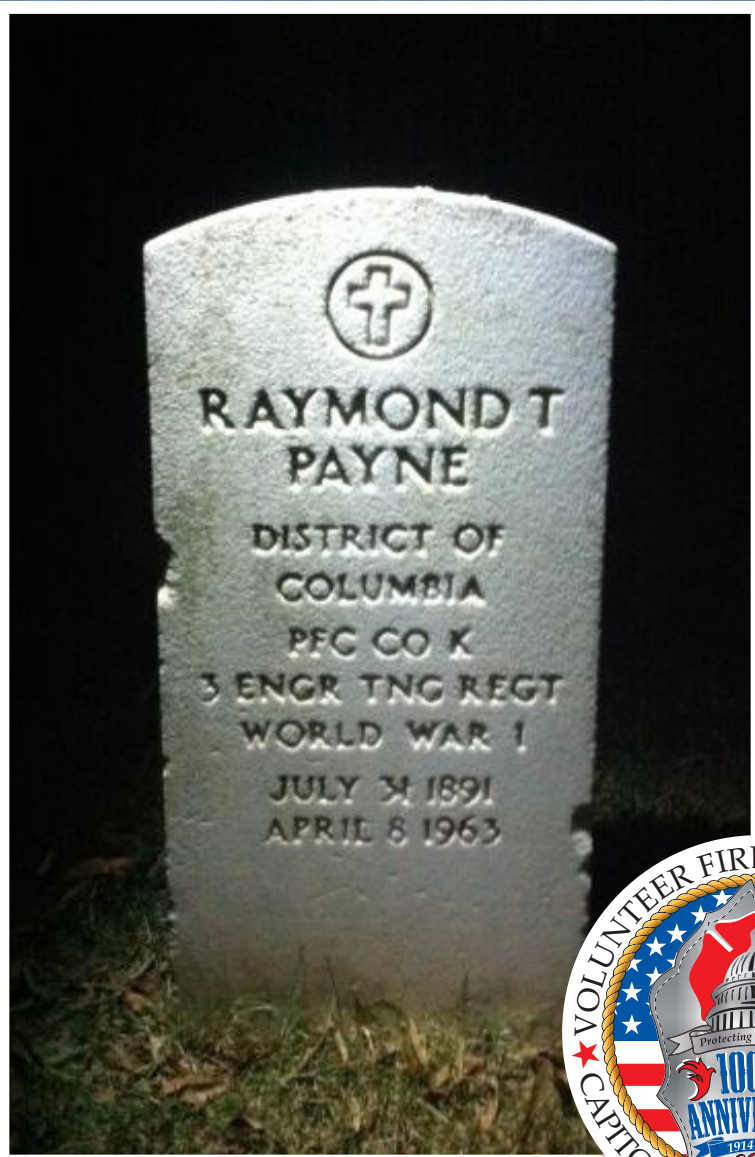
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
AUGUST 31, 2013

Seventy years ago, on September 2, 1933, members of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department were part of a delegation from the National Firemen's Association that presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery to honor those who have sacrificed all for our freedom.

In 2013, kicking off our 100th Anniversary celebration, the members of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department will gather once again to honor those all who have faithfully served our country and in special tribute to those who never returned home.



Raymond Thornton Payne



Raymond T. Payne was a charter member of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department. His brother Walter Benjamin Payne was also a charter member of the department.

Private 1st Class Payne served in the 3rd Engineer Battalion Training Regiment, Company K during World War I.



Hersal B. Cralle



Hersal B. Cralle was a member of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department who served as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He was assigned to 339th Bomber Squadron, 96th Bomber Group (Heavy). He was the Ball Turret Operator on a B-17 bomber named "Ain't Misbehavin'." His squadron was on a bombing mission to take out targets inside Germany, when the plane was hit by enemy fire over Lindhorst, Germany, about 200 miles west of Berlin. Staff Sergeant Hersal B. Cralle was killed in action on May 8, 1944. According to the lone survivor of the crew, who was able to parachute out in time, the plane blew up in mid air.

Staff Sergeant Cralle is buried at the Ardennes American Cemetery in Neupre, Belgium. Hersal was awarded the Purple Heart, Air medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and other Army awards.

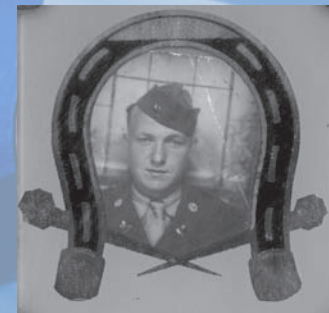


Ernest "Ernie" Moreland



Sergeant Ernest Moreland served with the 106th Infantry Division which saw plenty of action in Europe. Sergeant Moreland and over 6,000 of his fellow infantrymen were captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Sergeant Moreland was held as a Prisoner of War (POW) for several months at Stalag 9B in Bad Orb, Germany, just outside Frankfurt until their liberation by allied forces. According to historical documents, Stalag 9B was noted for its brutal treatment of prisoners.

Ernest Moreland joined the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department in 1936. He served as the President and is recognized as the Treasurer Emeritus after serving as the company's treasurer for more than 25 years. Engine 52 was dedicated to Ernie for his faithful service to the department. Ernie was our last surviving World War II veteran member.



Dennis Patrick Quill



Dennis P. Quill served in the U.S. Navy as a Fireman First Class aboard the U.S.S. Dixie during the Spanish American War with other members of the Maryland Naval Militia. The U.S.S. Dixie was part of the North Atlantic Fleet, which cruised the West Indies, transporting Army troops while on blockade duty. Members of the U.S.S. Dixie also participated in the capture of Ponce, Puerto Rico in 1898.

Dennis was a Charter Member of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department and served as the department's first Quartermaster.

His his wife, Dora, who is buried with him, was a Charter Member of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department's Ladies Auxiliary. Legend has it that their disagreement about how much time he was spending at the firehouse started a group that would be the first organized fire department ladies auxiliary in the United States and the world.



William "Bill" Francis Williamson



William F. Williamson was an early member of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department. He served as a Musician in A Company of the 4th Artillery during the Spanish American War.

Upon returning to the United States, the 4th Artillery Band played as thousands gathered for the interment of 336 Spanish American War soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery on April 7, 1899.



Julius Michael & Margaret Irene Vajda

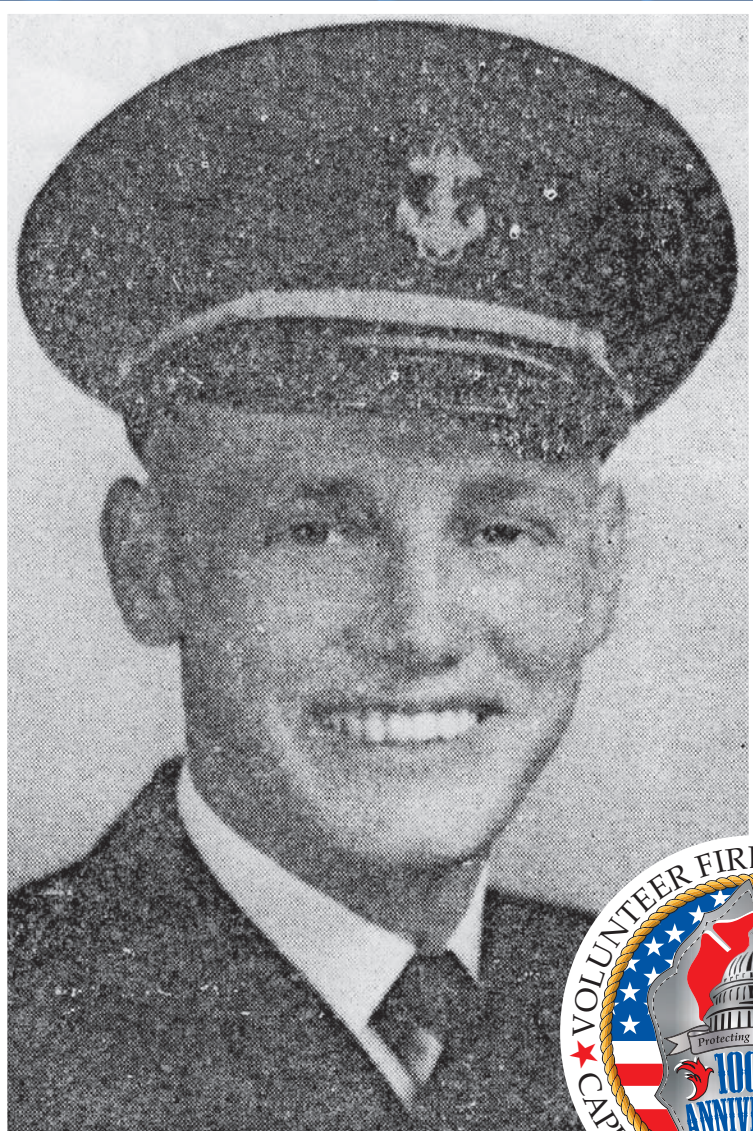


Private First Class Julius M. Vajda served with the 30th Infantry Division, 119th Infantry Regiment in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. After landing in Normandy on July 10, 1944, his unit was active in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. He received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Julius came from a family that served others; his sister Rose was an Army nurse and sister Margaret was a WAVE. The Vajda family paid a heavy price during World War II, losing two children within a year. Margaret, who served as a Pharmacist Mate in the Navy, was killed in a plane crash in Kansas on February 26, 1944. Less than a year later, Julius was killed in Belgium around the time of the battle of St. Vith at the Battle of the Bulge on January 14, 1945. He was originally buried at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Belgium but was returned to the U.S. in 1948 for burial with honors at Arlington National Cemetery.



Michael Henry Korn



Ensign Michael Henry Korn served in the U.S. Navy Reserves stateside during World War II. He was an apprentice at the Navy Yard and enlisted in the Navy in September 1942. Michael was the pilot of the plane that crashed during a routine training flight on January 27, 1944 near Jacksonville, Florida.

Michael Korn was a member of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department. He also worked at the Capitol Heights post office before his enlistment.



George Robert Tudge



Private George R. Tudge was a charter member of the Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department.

George served in the 5th Regiment of the U.S. Cavalry Casual Detachment during the Spanish-American War.

Private Tudge served both in Cuba and Puerto Rico. At some point in the war, the 5th Regiment was combined with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders. The photo on the left shows Private Tudge at San Juan Hill in Cuba.

George's son Arthur also became a member of department and his grandson Arthur, Jr. is a retired District of Columbia Firefighter.





Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department Veteran Members

Albert Adams
Charles L. Baldi
Grafton Boswell
Malcolm Bowling
David S. Breeden, Jr.
Frank Briguglio
Earl Burdette, Jr.
Earl Burdette, Sr.
Harry E. Burns
Tyrone Clary
Hersal B. Cralle
Lewis Crosby
Ramon L. Davis
John Day
John "Jack" Devine
George Dove

George Dowe
Harvey Ennis
Otto Fankhouser
Robert Fowler
Robert W. Fralin II
Dwayne Frost
Brian Graham
William Gibbs
Frank Greer
Howard Harrison
William Hawkins, Jr.
Charles Humes
Albert D. Johnson
Sol Kans
Daniel Korn
Jacob Korn

Michael Henry Korn
Walter "Boots" Kreuter
Alfred Laughery
Lyman J. Laughton
William Lehew, Sr.
Richard Maxwell
Francis McCormick
Henry Messineo
Arthur Miller
Charles Miller
Fred Miller
Herbert Miller
Paul Mockabee
Ernest Moreland
Benjamin Mullitz
John Nairn

Raymond T. Payne
Dennis P. Quill
Maurice Rackey
Herdon "Bobbie" Rudasill
Robert Russell
Henry J. Schaefer
Richard Shirley
John Simmons
Roland Thompson
George R. Tudge
Melvin Tyler
Julius M. Vajda
William F. Williamson
Thomas Yowell

Thank You for Your Service