Me Andrew Color Land C **NOVEMBER 2023** wheel after have a waters Female Pe grantera Ballo al Rospital estant Stary D LET'S EAT: SWEET POTATO PIE PETER GARDNER

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOM HULEDET SAMEACH!

Elaine Albert Hilary Coller Harold Erdley Alan Fein Hannah Ganezer Charley Goldsmith Dennis Gura Veronica Kun Sherrill Kushner Bernard Laufer Manja Lenkin Mayer Margolis Sid Meltzner Nicholas Mitchell Michael Norman Fay Pimstone Anat Shemesh Holly Strom Shelly Vedres Susan Yuré Judy Zucker

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** MAZEL TOV!

Michael Amster & Susan Charette Sam & Regina Cohen Izzy & Marilyn Freeman Joel & Jennifer Glaser Leon & Doreen Lewin Michael & Jessica Sacher 25th anniversary 7th anniversary 40th anniversary 20th anniversary 55th anniversary 41st anniversary

## Sgt. Thomas M. Flanagan, grandfather of Kate Flanagan

HEADQUARTERS 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION APO 26, U. S. Army

10 January 1945

SUBJECT: Award of Bronze Star Medal

To: Technical Sergeant Thomas M. Flanagan,

#### CITATION

Technical Sergeant Thomas M. Flanagan, Infantry, Company C, 101st Infantry Regiment, United States Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy near Bezange la Petite, France, on 22 October 1944. During the attack near Bezange la Petite by our forces, Technical Sergeant Flanagan, Company C platoon sergeant, observed a wounded man lying in a position exposed to enemy fire. Leaving his own protected position, he dashed some eighty yards to the side of his wounded comrade. He had dragged the wounded man only ten yards when sniper fire become intense. Raising the wounded man upon his shoulders, Technical Sergeant Flanagan ran the remaining seventy yards to regain his sheltered position. He then summoned an aid man and left the casualty in his care. The sniper fire had torn through Technical Sergeant Flanagan's clothing and web equipment several times but did not wound him. His courage under fire, his initiative and his commendable solicitude for a wounded comrade reflect the highest credit upon Technical Sergeant Flanagan and the armed forces of the United States.

By command of Major General PAUL:

D. A. O'BRIEN
Major, A.G.D.

Classification cancelled by authority of letter Headquarters 26th Infantry Division AG 311.5 Subject: "Cancellation of Confidential Classification of Citations" dated 16 May 1945 by JOHN G.C. BROWN, Captain, 101st Infantry Personnel Officer. (12 June 1945)

Bronze Star Medal U.S. Army, 1945





# A Veteran's Brief Memoir

by Peter Gardner



By 1967, the draft was looming, and I was nearing graduation from college. The war in Vietnam had become a part of life for people like me. As expected, I received my draft notice and in September, I was inducted into the Army as a "buck private," earning about \$82 monthly. Because of my college degree, I was eligible to attend officer candidate school after basic training. Training was a necessary nuisance; like everyone else, I did what I had to do to get on with my military obligation.

Nearly one year after my induction, I earned a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Transportation Corps and thus began the first of an additional two years of service. I went on for further training and an assignment to a stateside duty station. That first year of commissioned service was unproductive and purposeless, knowing what everyone in my circumstances knew: I was an Army officer whose sole purpose was to serve 12 months in Vietnam. Until then, everything else was prelude and I was just inventory.

Life changed in August 1969: I left Ft. Lewis, Washington and arrived in Danang, Vietnam in the northernmost region of that benighted country. (The only time I ever saw my mother cry was the night I told her I had received orders

for Vietnam.) I was assigned to a transportation company near that city's huge port. The company's mission was to "off-load" ordnance and munitions from large ships, store that cargo temporarily on a pier and then "back-load" it onto smaller vessels for further shipment to combat units in-country.

I never heard anyone discuss the purpose or the value of the war; never. Instead, we did our jobs, focused on serving our time and counting backward from 365! Despite that reality, I felt I was finally doing something significant in uniform because I knew men were getting supplies which they needed to survive and to accomplish their missions.

My roommates were from New Orleans and Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower's hometown. Bill, the Kansan, and I would be close friends until he died in 2017. An important part of my life was lost that day. I had the privilege of delivering one of the two eulogies in his hometown church. He was a fine, mature man, always there for me, and had a great sense of humor (he had my "number"). He and his wife navigated several significant challenges with courage and grace. The last words we said to each other in person in 2016, the day of his wife's funeral, were "I love you." By that time in my life, I had already concluded that I was fortunate to have been drafted; after all, where could a farm belt Catholic and a New York Jew become close friends for nearly 50 years?

I've marked July 27, 1970, the day I returned to the US and was discharged, as the best day of my life. I went on to law school and had a good career, but never really thought about my military service until my 50s. By then, however, I had started to embrace a new reality. I'd known by my early 20s that I had many blessings: American citizenship, good health, good parents and others. But a new blessing had earned its way onto that other, longer list—I was fortunate to have served in the United States military.

Every so often, people will say "Thank you for your service;" my reply is always "It was my honor."





## **YAHRZEITS**

#### **November 4**

Ben Bennett, husband of Lolly Bennett
Gladys Rosenberg, aunt of Elaine Behnken
Theresa Behnken, mother of Howard Behnken
Ann Fink, mother of Evelyn Berger
Celia Schwartz, grandmother of Eileen Cohen
Jan Green, father of Jamie Green
Faye Mutal, grandmother of Larry Israel
Bernard Neiman, father-in-law of Gail Neiman
Lee Blumenthal, grandmother of Nancy Pearl
Ofelia O'Reilly, mother of Loana Rosenblatt
Charlotte Singer, mother of Elyse Singer
Anna Baumring, grandmother of Holly Strom
Gladys Rosenberg, sister of Shirley Strom and aunt of
Joel Strom

Ilona Hamburger Racz, mother-in-law of Shelly Vedres

Nathan Wagner, father of Lloyd Wagner

#### November 11

Rozalye Averbukh, mother of Matt Averbukh
Rose Berkin, mother of Larry Berkin
Laurice Palmer, sister-in-law of Prissi Cohen
John Mooney, grandfather of Kate Flanagan
Jack Kern, father of Harvey Kern
Marvin (Nick) Resnick, father of Joanne Klein
Meta Katz, sister of Gail Neiman
Milton Eidelberg, uncle of Lori Papernik
Frances Urwitz, mother of Suzanne Schweitzer
Morton Sabath, uncle of David Packer
Ruth Turetsky, mother of Carol Turetsky
John Kovacs, rembered by Shelly Vedres
Henry Chernoff, father of Judy Zucker

#### November 18

May Charette, mother of Susan Charette
Ella Stern, mother of Yehudit Coutin
Max Eisen, father of Glenn Eisen
Thomas Flanagan, grandfather of Kate Flanagan

Rose Goldbenberg, sister of Celeste Erdley and aunt of Alyssa Ganezer

Gerald Hayman, father of Ann Hayman

Sharlene Lauretz, remembered by the KM Congregation

Alvin Matzer, father of Simone Matzer

Alex Lowenthal, brother-in-law of Shirley Strom, uncle of Elaine Behnken and Joel Strom

Elsa Gottesman Neiman, mother-in-law of Gail Neiman

Carol Goldstein, cousin of Ellis Rosenblatt and Sanford Rosenblatt

Rena Epstein, mother of Shirley Strom and grandmother of Elaine Behnken and Joel Strom

Harvey Lincoff, cousin of Sarah Weber

Adolf Wilzig, father of David Wilzig

Akhtar Aframian-Yadegar, mother of Joseph Yadegar Sandy Ziegler, mother of Randy Ziegler

#### November 25

George Louis, father of Carol Abrams

Baby Krantz, daughter of Judy Baker

Fred Sack, grandfather of Eileen Cohen

Jeanette DeHovitz, grandmother of Dan DeHovitz

Kenneth Ganezer, brother of David Ganezer

Eugene Gotlieb, husband of Dorita Gotlieb and father of Rabbi Michael Gotlieb

Ruth Ducker, mother of Gaylen Grody

Al Israel, father of Larry Israel

Leo Kirschenbaum, father of Ellis Kirschenbaum and grandfather of Joshua Kirschenbaum

Stanley Krantz, father of Evan Krantz

Selma Greenberg, grandmother of Sharon Krischer

Chic Lippman, mother of Bill Lippman, Tamara Bernstein, and Andrew Lippman

Shirley Shuman, sister of Sid Meltzner

Scott Mitchel Olken, son of Sherwin & Elaine Olken

Nissan Pardo, husband of Carmella Pardo

Bertha Solomon, mother-in-law of Patricia Solomon

Paul King Tamaroff, brother of Tammy Steinsapir

Anny Cronheim, grandmother of Linda Zwang-Weissman

## **CONTRIBUTIONS & TRIBUTES**

#### **GENERAL FUND**

#### In honor of

Ann Harris' birthday, by Shirley Strom

The High Holidays, by Sanford Kaplan, Ruth Rennenberg

#### A speedy recovery to

Joe Levy from his surgery, by Marla Rubin & David Shapendonk

#### In memory of

Sari Joyce Bennett, daughter of Lolly Bennett, by Lolly Bennett

Richard Blake, father of Mitchell Blake, by Judy and Mitch Blake

Jacques Elmaleh, father of Philippe Elmaleh, by Philippe Elmaleh

Chris Falone, husband of Kate Flanagan, by Richard & Debra Silverman

Musya Gelman, mother of Boris Gelman, by Yefim Khodorovsky & Anna Slutskaya

Estelle Gray, mother of Beverly Bienstock, by Bernard & Beverly Bienstock

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Charlotte Hoffman, mother of Gail Rosenfeld, by Gail Rosenfeld

Meta Katz, sister of Gail Neiman, by Gail Neiman

Alex Landsberry, husband of Frances Landsberry, by Frances Landsberry

Faye Mutal, grandmother of Larry Israel, by Larry & Kim Israel

Bernard Neiman, father-in-law of Gail Neiman, by Gail Neiman

Elsa Gottesman Neiman, mother-in-law of Gail Neiman, by Gail Neiman

David, Dennis and all our family members that have passed away, by Deedy Oberman & Maurice Meyers

Gladys Rosenberg, sister of Shirley Strom, by Shirley Strom

Irv Rosenfeld, husband of Gail Rosenfeld, by Gail Rosenfeld

Bella Smith, mother of Barry Smith, by Lauren & Barry Smith

Sally Segal Spilberg, mother of Lolly Bennett, by Lolly Bennett

Hosea Soltz, father-in-law of Michael Wyte and grandfather of Yael & Tamar Wyte, by Michael Wyte

Avraham Stern, father of Yehudit Coutin, by Israel & Yehudit Coutin

Alan Ace Tamaroff, brother of Tammy Steinsapir, by Tammy Steinsapir

Jack Topal, husband of Linda Topal, by Judy & Manny Baker

Frances Urwitz, mother of Suzanne Schweitzer, by Suzanne Schweitzer

Jeanette Wagner, mother of Lloyd Wagner, by Lloyd Wagner & Simone Matzer

Nathan Wagner, father of Lloyd Wagner, by Lloyd Wagner & Simone Matzer

Daniel Zwitman, husband of Julia Weinberg Zwitman, by Julia Weinberg Zwitman

#### THE JACK TOPAL KIDDUSH FUND

#### In honor of

Ann Harris' birthday, by Linda Topal

Michael Norman's birthday, by Michael Norman & Susan Greenberg Norman

#### In memory of

Jack Topal, by Linda Topal

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### In memory of

Sharon Krischer, wife of Gordon Krischer, by Gordon Krischer

#### In appreciation of

Learning with Rabbi Gotlieb, by Oren Friedman & Louisa Lenander

Rabbi Gotlieb, by Susie Karpel

Rabbi Gotlieb, by Richard & Debra Silverman

#### **CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

#### In appreciation

From our Havurah, by Beverly & Bernard Bienstock

Thanks for adding music to our Knishes Havurah get together, by Susan & Bernie Bronstein

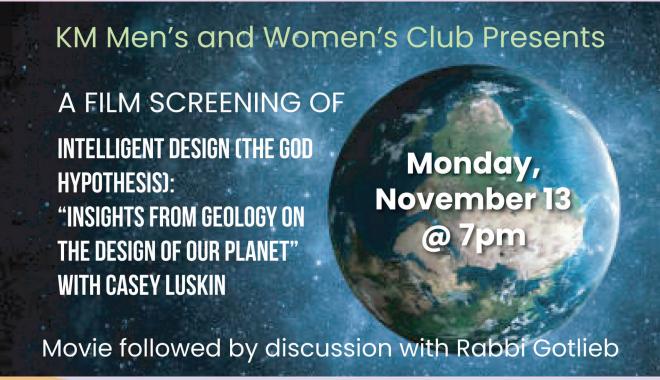
Thank you for being with the Knishes Havurah, by Richard & Debra Silverman

Thanks for your beautiful musical contribution to our Havurah, by Dorine Kramer & Nicholas Mitchell

In honor of Cantor Malachi Kanfer's congeniality and wonderful performance at the Knishes' Havurah brunch, by Marla Rubin & David Shapendonk

## Join us! RSVP for these and other events on our website.





## להלת מערב THE WESTSIDE CONGREGATION MA'ARAV

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