

Jersey Shore Fallen Heroes Researched by William J. Duffy

Duffy is actively researching additional fallen heroes from the Jersey Shore and continues to add to this list.

examine the Elizabeth Daily Journal's microfilm archives while learning from headstone inscriptions and asking families for shoeboxes.

"World War II mothers and wives were known to have a shoebox filled with letters home, telegrams from the War Department, medals, and more," Duffy explained. "I interviewed families after getting details off headstones and asked for those shoeboxes."

Duffy's grit and resolve fueled his research, but while patrolling Clark, he noticed that only a handful of streets were dedicated to the town's fallen heroes. He approached the Clark Town Council in 1995 with

an idea to name all new streets after the town's fallen heroes, and they approved his request. "To date, nineteen out of twenty-one heroes have had streets named after them," Duffy said.

Following his 2000 retirement from the Clark Police Department as Captain of Detectives with twenty-eight years of service, Duffy spent ten years in the Megan's Law unit of the Union County Prosecutor's Office. He continued researching and educating about the Clark Fallen Heroes by creating displays and presentations for schools and community groups from his accumulated volumes of research and press clippings.

Duffy joined the Brick Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter upon moving to Brick Township in 2012. While participating in his first service as an Honor Guard member in front of the Brick Township Town Hall building

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BAY HEAD:

World War I: Edward C. Bonnell, Charles Crane

World War II: Chester A. Forsyth

Vietnam: Jeremiah M. Hayes, Jr.

BRICK TOWNSHIP:

Civil War: John Curtis, Aaron Elmer, Joel Gant, Henry C. Havens, Joel Hulse, Peter Layton

World War I: Joseph J. Clifton (also listed under Point Pleasant Boro; records show he lived in the West Point Pleasant Section of Brick Twp. and was included on the 1956 Brick War Memorial), Charles Miller

World War II: Robert H. Folsom

Vietnam: Robert Crouter, Raymond Dege, Don R. Harger, Carl Lamberson, Jr., James Lospinuso, Donald Marshall, James Nash, Cornelius Ram, Thomas Yohn

Operation Iraqi Freedom:

Ryan Christensen, Christopher Duffy, Luigi Marciante

LAVALLETTE:

World War I: Adolph Kurmin

World War II: Harry S. Bloom, Isaac J. Osborn

Korea: Martin J. Gavio

Vietnam: George J. Pollin, Donald A. Skinner

MANTOLOKING:

World War II: Hugh W. Hill

NEPTUNE:

World War II: John E. Comer

POINT PLEASANT BEACH:

World War I: Reginald S. Newbury, Maitland B. Petrie

World War II: Robert Cafarelli, Frank D. Feimster, William L. Fleming, Max T. Henriksen, William A. Hey, Norman H. Kieb, Jr., Joseph O'Connor, Charles Solomon, John H. Townley

Korea: William H. Berg

Vietnam: Richard A. Nichols, Robert H. Wood

POINT PLEASANT BORO:

World War I: Joseph J. Clifton (also listed on the Brick War Memorial, see above)

World War II: Brothers John P. Beecroft and Lawrence W. Beecroft, John R. Carleton, Joseph F. Greubel, Percy C. Hankins, Charles R. Miller, Robert W. Morris, Jr.

Vietnam: Clifford A. McKennan



courtesy of William J. Duffy



Jill Ocone

Earlier this year, Duffy researched his eightieth fallen hero, Sgt. John E. Comer, and restored his gravestone at St. Catharine's Cemetery in Sea Girt.