

Korean War Veterans feature

In 2016, Greg Schurer sent me this information below about a Joens/Jones who lived in Manning and served during both WWII and in the Korean War.

As you'll read, he was a prisoner of war during WWII and then was KIA during the Korean War. This man really paid the ultimate price for defending our freedoms!

I do not have his name in my database and sure would like to get pictures and information about him to include in the Manning Veterans' history book.

It would be inexcusable to not honor him in Manning's book.

Don, Edna & Keith Joens/Jones

I've been wondering if you have anything in your database about a Don Jones (or Joens) that only lived in Manning for a short time in 1949?

He and his wife (I think it was Edna) were partners with my parents in running the Sportsman's Club at the Great Western Park that year.

Don had been a P.O.W. in Germany in WWII but at the time of North Korea invading South Korea in 1950, he immediately got back in the Army (I think it was Army).

It wasn't very long until he was K.I.A. His wife then moved to Des Moines if they didn't move before he went back in the service. They had a little boy by the name of Keith.

Some people probably wonder why I would bother trying to find this person's history since there is no official information about them in Manning and they only lived here for a short time.

It isn't what they did here or the length of time they lived here - it's the fact that Don served our country and then paid the ultimate price - this is why I think it is important.

So if anyone remembers this family and may have a clue as to the location of his wife/children or other family members, please e-mail me.

#44 Donald Joens or Jones (no pictures or information)

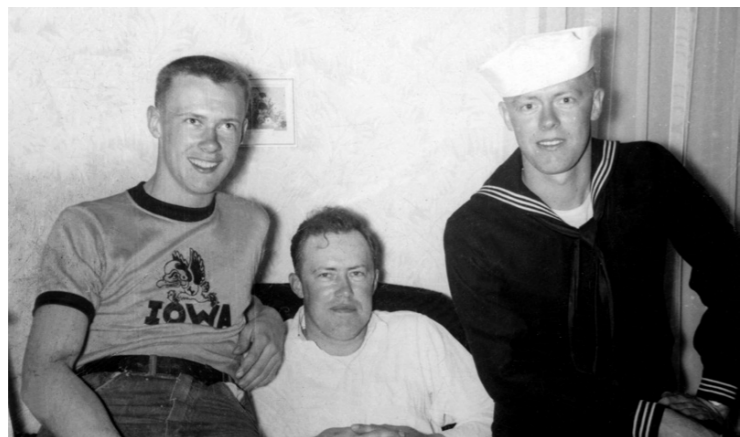
#45 Lester Joens (2 pictures, short write-up)



Lester joined the U.S. Navy at Des Moines, Iowa, and was inducted October 5, 1950. He was sent to Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Chicago, Illinois, and trained for thirteen weeks. Then he entered the Combat Information Center (CIC) Radar School at Norfolk, Virginia, and trained for six months. Lester was assigned to the fleet on the U.S.S. Blackwood Destroyer Escort 219 where they trained for anti-submarine warfare. They sailed from Newfoundland to the Caribbean and the southern portion of South America. They were based out of Norfolk, Virginia; Key West, Florida; and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and provided escort for the "Bermuda Yacht Race" from Rhode Island to Bermuda.

Lester was discharged on July 24, 1954, as a Petty Officer First Class in Key West, Florida, and received the Good Conduct Medal.

Lester's brother, Ivan, served during WWII and his younger brother, Allan, served sometime after the Korean War.



Allan, Ivan, and Lester Joens

#46 Lyle Joens (2 pictures, very basic write-up)



Lyle at boot camp

Lyle the son of Henry and Louisa (Lohmeier) Joens, was born February 11, 1930, in Manning. On November 15, 1952, Lyle was united in marriage with Judy Gehlsen at Westside.

They made their home in Manning. Two sons, Brian and Brad, were born to this union. Lyle passed away on May 25, 2010.

In 1951 Lyle enlisted in the United States Navy and served during the Korean Conflict. He took his training at the United States Naval Training Center in San Diego, California. Lyle served as a drill instructor until he developed Osteochondritis Dissecans of the left knee. He received a medical honorable discharge in 1952 with the rank of HSSR.

Lyle was a Fifty-year member of American Legion Post 22 in Manning. Judy was also a Fifty-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary first in Westside and then in Manning.



Lyle Joens

#47 Bobbie Dale Johnson (several pictures, no write-up)

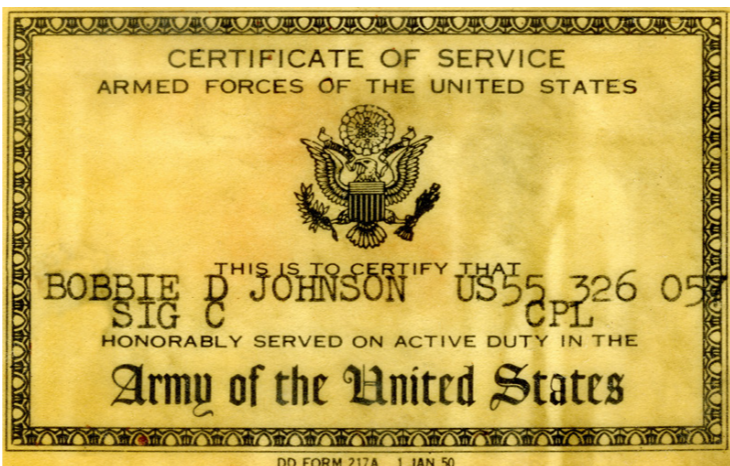


Corporal Bobbie Johnson served in the Army from December 1, 1952 to November 3, 1954

At this point in time I have no discharge papers or military information about Bobbie's service but will visit with his wife, Virginia to see if she can find more information about his service.

Bobbie was an official photographer for the Army and Virginia let me borrow his scrapbook to scan, and the pictures give some insight into his service.

This continues to show the urgency in getting a Veteran's information before they pass away, and leaving us with nothing left to remember their service or only bits and pieces that we can use in the preservation of their history.



Bobbie at his desk



Classroom instruction in Japan - photo by Bobbie



Ships docked in the harbor - photo by Bobbie



Possibly the US base in Japan - photo by Bobbie



Bobbie back left - note camera on right might be what Bobbie used. Bobbie took pictures of a security nature for the military and also repaired cameras for the other military photographers.



Photo Bobbie took on an aircraft carrier



The photo lab gang eating sukiyaki at Bob's Sayonara party in Sasebo, Japan - 1954



Friend of Everett, Bobbie Johnson, Everett Olson - Everett was Bobbie's uncle. Bobbie had just arrived back stateside in Denver.



Bobbie, front row 4th from left, at Camp Crowder

Korean Veteran feature continues next week