

I try to continue each week with the alphabetical listing of Korean Veterans but sometimes I have other important projects come up, so I have to work on them too.

I hope anyone connected to Manning and especially who is a Veteran went through Dan Peters' write-up.

It will give Veterans a good idea of what I'm looking for to use in the Manning Veterans' book.

While Dan's feature has more pictures than we can use in the Veterans' book, we want as many pictures and as much information as we can get for each Veteran. Once I start laying out the book, I'll have to decide at the time how many extra pictures can be used.

The amount of available space will be determined by how many Veterans come forward, how many do not come forward, and how many pictures the Veterans provide who do come forward.

So if you are a Manning connected Veteran or a family member of a deceased Veteran and you don't come forward with your military pictures and information - your space in the book will be filled up with extra pictures and information from those Veterans who do submit their histories.

Please let your family members know that you did not submit your information and did not want to be in the book...so that once the book is published, I don't start getting angry messages from your family as to why you are not featured in the book.

Having published two previous Manning history books - this has come up many times after those books were published where a family member complained when they didn't find their family pictures & history featured in the book.

Once I tell them that no one from their family came forward with pictures and information, so what do they expect from me - they go silent.

I also have to remind them that I'm volunteering and make no money from these books and these history book projects actually cost me thousands of dollars.

So to avoid any future misunderstanding - if you are a Manning connected Veteran or family member of a deceased Veteran - please contact me ASAP so we can start working with your pictures and information for the Veterans' book.

#70 Donald D. Pfankuch (1 picture, basic write-up)



Airman First Class Donald Pfankuch was inducted into the U.S. Air Force on April 21, 1952. He took basic training at Parks Air Force Base in Pleasanton, California, and training at Lowry AFB, Colorado, as Munitions Specialist.

Don's most significant duty assignment was with the 809th Supply Squadron, 809th Air Base Group (SAC). He received the National Defense Service Medal. He was a member of the "Brotherhood of Desert Rats," serving over a year at Sidi Slimane Air Base in French Morocco.

He was discharged on April 21, 1956, from MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, and was on inactive reserve until March 31, 1960.

#71 Gilbert Phillips (no pictures or information)

#72 John Austin Pratt (several pictures, basic write-up)



John Pratt graduated from Manning High School, class of 1950, and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force on June 16 of that year. The Korean War began during his 2nd week of Basic Training in Texas. After receiving some training in diesel engine maintenance and repair during the fall of 1950, he was shipped to the Far East. There he served 23 months as a diesel generator operator at Aircraft Control and Warning sites on Okinawa and Kume Island. These sites, under the command of the 529th AC & W Wing, 20th Air Force, provided radar and radio support to the bomb wings operating out of Okinawa against enemy forces in Korea. For his overseas service he was awarded the Korean and United Nations Service medals.

After returning to the U.S. in December, 1952, he was stationed at Biggs Air Force Base, El Paso, Texas. He was assigned to the 97th Bomb Wing as an Auxiliary Power Unit repairman for the B-50 Aircraft located there at that time. Pratt received an Honorable Discharge on August 29, 1953. He held the permanent rank of A/1C.

In June of 1953, John was married to Joann Wilhelm, a 1951 graduate of MHS. They have four daughters and seven grandchildren.

An interesting anecdote: While stationed at the radar site on Kume Island, a remote "dot" in the China Sea, during mid 1951 to mid 1952, he was assigned to unloading supplies (food, fuel, spare parts, "refreshments," etc.) from the boat which delivered them monthly.

As a couple of crates of fresh eggs were being unloaded, he noticed they were marked, "Priebe & Sons, Manning, Iowa." How about that?... fresh eggs from my home town! (This was written up in the Monitor at the time).

Family military connections:

John's brother, Raymond, served during WWII.

#73 Donald A. Puck (no pictures or information)

#74 Virgil Reid (no military pictures, just brief obituary information)



1970-71 American Legion Commander

Virgil Louis, son of Virgil and Tina (Olsen) Reid, was born in Council Bluffs on May 27, 1926. He lived with his family in Council Bluffs and the Manilla and Irwin areas, and attended school in Harlan.

Virgil worked for Pottawattamie County before entering the United States Marine Corps in 1952. Virgil attained the rank of Corporal and served for two years at Camp Pendleton as a shooting range instructor and prison guard.

On September 9, 1962, Virgil was united in marriage with Shirley Ohrt at the First Presbyterian Church in Manning.

For this next Veteran (Mel Renze) I recently sat down with him to get a more detailed story about his service, and also scan more of his pictures. At this time I won't be showing them because I need to keep this alphabetical listing moving forward.

I continue to have more Veterans ask me how long it will be before the book gets published. Sadly I can't tell them any specific time-frame because I have hundreds of Veterans to get information about - assuming they are willing. If you want your story told and documented and I have not visited with you before, please contact me right away. That way we can set up a time and work out the details.

#75 Melvin Renze (1 picture, brief write-up as of right now)



Melvin was inducted into the Army February 1, 1951, at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, and took basic training at the Atlanta General Depot and Fort Benning, Georgia.

He served with the Army of Occupation at Tokyo, Yokohama and Yokosuka, Japan. His specialty service was with the Ordnance Corps 3905 M.O.S. Pfc. Renze was discharged January 26, 1953.

#76 Hugo E. Ress, Jr. (no pictures, brief write-up)

Hugo was the last man from Manning to have paid the ultimate price serving his country. Manning had lots of other boys serve during Korea, Vietnam, and other later wars of combat but we have been fortunate, so far, to not having lost any more.

I have no military pictures of Hugo, a basic write-up and a few bits and pieces about this service. Hopefully a family member will come forward and provide more information and pictures.

One of the special tributes I want to have for the 25 Manning men who died serving our country is to put a thumbnail image of them on the front cover of the Veterans' book.

Unfortunately, besides Hugo, there are a few other Veterans who lost their lives during war that I don't have any pictures of.

It is sad that so much of our history has been lost or taken out of Manning, that I can't find even one picture for these men.

I will continue to write these articles and promote the history of Manning and the Veterans' book with the hopes that more family members will come forward with pictures and history they have so I can add it to the Manning historical database.

Hugo E. Ress was born October 9, 1930, in Lincoln Township, Audubon County, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Ress, Sr. The family moved to Manning when he was three years old, and he was educated in the Manning schools. He played on the football team, receiving many letters before his graduation in 1949.

Hugo enlisted in the army July 28, 1949, and took his training at Fort Reilly, Kansas; Camp Carson, Colorado; and Camp Stoneman, California, where he was placed in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment replacement company. He left the United States for Okinawa in May 1950, going from there to Korea.

Pvt. Ress was a member of a motor pool and his company was among the first to arrive in Korea after hostilities began. He was killed in combat near Hadong July 27, 1950, four days after arriving at the front lines. He lacked one day of being in service a full year when he met death, and was the first Carroll County resident killed in the Korean War. His parents, operators of a Manning cafe, hold with honor his decorations and citations, which include the Purple Heart with three gold stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense service medal, the Army of Occupation with Japan clasp, the Korea service medal with one bronze star, the United Nations Marksmanship badge, and the infantryman badge.

#77 Benjamin Ress, Sr. (no pictures, only brief obituary information)

Benjamin Ress was a brother of Hugo. I have no pictures of Ben and only what is written in his obituary about his service.

Ben graduated with the MHS class of 1951. He was a Qualified Control Engineer. He had worked for several branches of Lechner Engineering Company from 1951-1954. He served his country with the U.S. Army from 1954-1956, then returned to work for Lechner.

As I continue to work my way through the alphabetical listing for the Korean era Manning Veterans, it almost becomes depressing at how little information and pictures I have for this era of Manning Veterans.

I have pictures for several Manning Civil War Veterans and some information about most of them, but that I can't dig up even one picture and some information for so many of the post-WWII era Veterans is very sad.

I had always hoped and assumed that having the Manning Veterans' database on my web pages since 1996 would help me get pictures and information...but for the most part, unless I reach out and directly contact a Veteran or their family, very little information comes forward.

#78 Donald P. Rix (no pictures or information)



Rix family 1937: Delores, Donald, Alfred, Allen, Elsie

Like most Veterans of the Korean War and before, they grew up in humble beginnings, worked hard for their parents, and then went on to serve our country; making Manning a great community to live in.

This is the only picture I have of Donald which was taken on the Rix farm.

#79 William Roberts (no pictures, only brief obituary information)

William Roberts, the son of Earl and Clethus (Jordan) Roberts, was born on March 31, 1930, in Coon Rapids. He graduated from Manning High School in 1948 and received his B.A. from Drake University in 1952. Bill served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He was united in marriage with Madonna Steen on August 26, 1950, in Manning.

#80 Eugene Rohe (several pictures, brief write-up)



Eugene Rohe US55077759 entered the army at Omaha, Nebraska, on February 2, 1951, and served at the Atlanta General Depot, Atlanta, Georgia. He was with the 9140 TSU Depot #2 Military Police and was discharged there on January 31, 1953 as a Private E-1.

Gene's two older brothers, Glen and Norbert also served in the military.

Gene was born October 22, 1925, in the Templeton area where he grew up and attended school. He was the son of Walter and Ella (Sibbel) Rohe. He married Leona Meislahn.

They farmed east of Gray after their marriage in 1953 until 1962 when they moved to their farm four miles east and two miles south of Manning; formerly the Hugo Brus farm.

Korean War Veterans continue next week.