

Program

Posting of Colors

Invocation - William Van Alstyne

Pledge of Allegiance by Wilson Shea

Presentation of American Flag Donated by
Congressman Chris Gibson

Presenting Proclamation – Patrick Grattan
Chairman - Columbia Co. Bd. Of Supervisors

Retiring of the Colors

Flag Ceremony

Rifle Squad

Taps - played by Fred Stark

Closing Prayer

**Please take a moment to look at the plaque across the hall outside
The Board of Supervisors chamber which lists the names of the
other Veteran's honored by this Committee since 2000.**

Donald G. Bertram

Donald G. Bertram was born on March 4, 1925 to George and Mary (Lauster) Bertram in Stuyvesant, New York. As the eldest son of six children, Donald completed farm chores (feeding chickens and milking cows) before attending school at Claverack, East Chatham and then Greenport. He completed his education while serving in the Army.

Donald was drafted in the United States Army on July 5, 1943. After completing training (basic at Fort Dix), he was assigned to the Pacific Theater of Operation as an ammunition handler with 103rd Infantry. He participated in combat operations in New Guinea and the Philippines, where he contracted malaria. Arriving back in the United States, Private First Class Bertram was discharged on January 27, 1946.

Three months later Donald re-enlisted and served in Italy with Headquarter Company, 3rd Infantry Division as a rifleman. Corporal Donald Bertram subsequently met and married his wife Pasqualina Rosalia Aiello on August 27, 1948 in Trieste, Italy.

For the next two decades Staff Sergeant Donald Bertram served overseas and stateside. In the course of his military career he was stationed in: Cuba, Panama, New Caledonia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Philippines, Japan, Italy, Germany and numerous posts across the United States. Although he suffered bouts of malaria and significant hearing loss, several certificates of proficiency, rigorous training and appointment as temporary Sergeant First Class attests to his military abilities and acumen. After twenty years of service to his country, he was honorably discharged on January 1, 1964.

Staff Sergeant Donald G. Bertram was awarded the following: Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal w/Bronze Service Arrowhead, Philippines Liberation Ribbon, WWII Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Occupation Medal, and the American Theater Ribbon.

As a civilian Donald worked for the railroad, Chatham Police, Paramount Fuel and Valley Oil as well as the Hudson School District. He was a member of Ghent VFW Post #5933 and enjoyed bowling, golf, country music, ballgames and scrabble.

On January 12, 2010 Donald passed away and was buried in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Colonie, NY. He left behind a wife, Lee, three children: Doris, Linda and David, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren as well as dear friend and companion Margaret DeLong. He was 84 years old