

Columbia County Honor-A-Veteran Committee

Holly Tanner– Chairwoman

Gary Flaherty*	Salvatore Costanzo*
Ken Wilber*	Vince Grimaldi*
Jack Hallenbeck*	Mark Clarke*
John Neary*	Fred Stark
William Van Alstyne	Wilson Shea
Elizabeth Young	Robert LaPorta
James Haggerty	Joe Dybas
JoAnn Concra, County Veterans Service Rep.	

Honorary Members:

Ben McCaffree Shirley Lewis

Deceased Members:

John Funk	Jerry Benvenuto
Benny Murell	Chester Smith
William M. Armstrong	

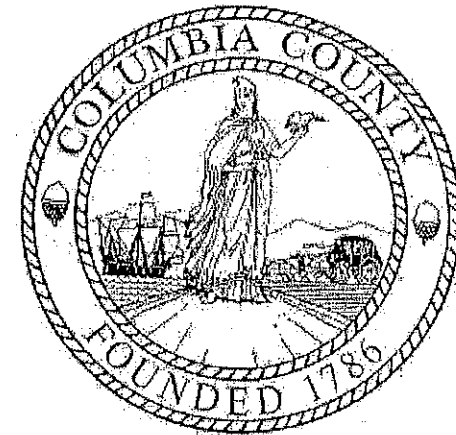
Deceased Honorary Members:

Gerald R. Simons

*Past Chairman

Columbia County Honor-A-Veteran

September 22, 2014



Honoring
Charles R. Nichols

Program

Posting of Colors

Invocation – Jack Hallenbeck

Pledge of Allegiance by Wilson Shea

Presentation of American Flag Donated by
Congressman Chris Gibson

Presenting Proclamation – Clifford “Kippy” Weigelt
Supervisor for the Town of Claverack

Presentation of the New York State Senate Liberty Medal
By New York State Senator Kathleen C. Marchione

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.**

Charles R. Nichols

Charles R. Nichols was born on December 22, 1930 to Dr. Charles L. Nichols and Elizabeth R. Nichols in Philmont, NY. Graduating from Philmont High in 1947, Charles attended Albany Academy and then Champlain College (Plattsburgh, NY), majoring in psychology. Known as “Doc”, he enlisted in the United States Army on February 7, 1951. After basic training at Ft. Devins, Charles was assigned to Co. B, 155th Inf. Reg., 31 Inf. Div. at Fort Jackson, SC. With additional training in leadership and chemicals warfare, he was assigned to Co. A, 14th Inf. Regt, 25th Div. in Korea.

Known as the “Golden Dragons”, the 14th Reg. was in almost continual combat in Korea along the 38th Parallel in defensive positions or offensive patrols in the areas surrounding Heartbreak Ridge, the Punchbowl and Pork Chop Hill. These efforts earned the Regiment five campaign streamers and a Rep. of Korea Presidential Unit Citation for gallantry at Munsan-Ni; while SFC Charles R. Nichols was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. He returned home and honorably discharged on June 12, 1954.

For his service SFC Charles R. Nichols was the following: Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, and Korean Service Medal w/ 2 Bronze Stars, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Charles married Phyllis Young on July 29, 1951 and they raised two boys: Charles and Jonathan Nichols. He worked for Foster Refrigeration, Hudson, NY and Hudson City Saving Institute, where he retired after 30 years in 1992.

Charles remained active in his community. He was a member of: the Philmont Second Reformed Church, Rescue Squad, Health Director, Rod and Gun, and American Legion Post 252; Hudson Masonic Lodge; Claverack Senior Citizens; Columbia County Historical Society, Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Assoc. and Car Club, NYS Sons of the Am. Revolution, and Military Heritage Inst.; as well as Combat Infantrymen’s Assoc., Amateur Trap Shooting Assoc., Comp. of Military Historians and Ye Olde Connecticut Gun Guild. In addition he was on the Town of Claverack and Philmont Planning Boards, and the Columbia Co. Industrial Dev. Agency.

Charles passed away on September 4, 2013 at the age of 82. After donating his body to science, his cremated remains will be interred in Mellenville Union Cemetery.