

## MEMORIAL DAY MAY 28, 2018



### **Remembrance 1**

Good Morning!

Each year, we conclude our Memorial Day service of remembrance with a solemn reading of the names of those young Glen Ridge men who gave their lives fighting for our country in both World Wars, Korea and Vietnam. As I hear their names read aloud year after year, I find myself wondering who were these men, what were their lives like, what had they accomplished in their brief lives, and what might they have accomplished had they not been taken so young. So today, I would like to briefly speak to you about 3 of these young men, all lifelong residents of Glen Ridge, in the hope that the substance of the men behind the names will come alive for each of us, so that we may better understand the sacrifice they and their families made and what their tragic deaths cost us as a community and nation.

### **Stephen H. Grant**

Stephen was born in New York City on July 10, 1921. He was the only child of Henry and Claire Grant who resided at 68 Sunset Ave. in Glen Ridge. Stephen graduated from Glen Ridge High School as salutatorian of the class of 1937 when he was just 15 years of age. During his high school years, his

extracurricular activities included the Dramatic Club, Latin Club, International Relations Club, Athletic Committee, Tennis Manager, Pegasus Business Manager and Pegasus Plays. Upon Graduation from Glen Ridge High School, he matriculated at Harvard University when he was barely 16 years of age, and subsequently graduated cum laude with the class of 1941, with a magna thesis now in the Harvard Library. After graduation he studied at the Harvard Law school for a year earning a high rating and thereafter spent the summer and fall of 1942 doing defense construction work in Wyoming, Colorado and Idaho.

In August, 1942 he enlisted in the Army Air Force as an aviation cadet and subsequently was called to active-duty on February 15, 1943, commencing his preflight training at Maxwell Field, Alabama. His ensuing flight training took him successively to Army Air Force schools at Greenville, Mississippi, Fort Myers, Florida, and Monroe, Louisiana. On May 20, 1944 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and received his navigator's wings. After further training in Lincoln, Nebraska and Pyote, Texas, he was sent to the Italian theatre of operation.

On September 15, 1944 Stephen was assigned to the 15th Army Air Force in Italy as a Flying Fortress navigator in a heavy bombardment group. Two months later he was promoted to First Lieutenant. In between sorties, Stephen taught law, history, economics and mathematics and was cited by Major General Henry "Hap" Arnold, Chief of the United States Army Air Forces, for his fine academic record and leadership.

Stephen was killed on December 2, 1944, over the Adriatic Sea on his 16th mission, returning to Foggia, Italy from a mission over Germany. According to eyewitness accounts, his plane lost its number two engine and as a result began losing altitude eventually going into a spin and exploding upon contact with the water. Stephen, in attempting to bail out, was struck by the plane and killed. He is buried in Bloomfield Cemetery.

For his service, Stephen received the Air Medal, two Oakleaf Clusters and a Purple Heart.

### **James N. Dorland**

Jim was born in Glen Ridge on October 19, 1928 and was a life-long resident of the borough. He resided at 74 Douglas Road with his parents Raymond and Alice Dorland and his two sisters Dorothy and Jeanette and brother John. He attended Central school and graduated from Glen Ridge High School with the class of 1946. He is remembered in his yearbook for his "clear thinking, sparkling sense of humor and magnetic personality". During high school, he combined his sports ability in both varsity football and track with an outstanding academic record. Additionally, while in high school he served as President of his class in his junior year. He was also a member of the Student Council for two years and President of such Council for one year as well as President of Junior Achievement. He was active in the Boy Scouts and earned an Eagle badge. Finally, he was a very involved member of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church and served as President of its Young People's Society. The Windows in the chapel of the Church were given in Jim's memory, by his parents, after his death.

The following fall after high school, Jim matriculated at Williams College subsequently graduating with the class of 1950. While at Williams, among his many extracurricular activities, he was President of his fraternity Theta Delta Chi, President of the Outing Club, served on the Undergraduate Council, was a member of the Spring Conference Committee, Winter Carnival Chairman, and participated in track. After his death, the Outing Club hut on Mount Greylock, MA was named in his honor.

During each of his summer vacations, while in college, he and his dog drove across country in his old car. On these trips, he earned his own way through a diversity of effort and hard work. One summer he worked in the mines, another he drove a harvester and yet in another he packed fruit. Jim's mother sent him a Christmas message in 1952, a month after arriving in Korea, in which she wrote him a long poem

reminiscing about his school and college years. The first verse went as follows:

" There is a log of black oak on our fire tonight  
And the flames from its hearth give a warm rosy light,  
As we think of you, Jim, the sights you have seen  
The friends you have made and the places you've been  
With your old sleeping bag, your dog and your Ford,  
How you washed all those dishes on route for your board".

In the spring of 1951, Jim enlisted in the army, took his basic training at Fort Dix and then entered Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he received his commission as Second Lieutenant in April 1952. He was then sent to Camp Carson in Colorado with the mountain troops and while there was sent to Alaska for a month for an Arctic indoctrination course. In November 1952, he was sent to Korea as a member of the 92nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion which was stationed near the central front. It should be noted that this battalion was never in reserve in Korea and saw over 1,000 days of continuous action. At the outset, Jim was the fire direction officer in a forward observation post but was subsequently assigned as the observer in a Cessna single engine L-19 Observation Plane. On March 26, 1953, his plane was shot down and both he and the pilot bailed out. While the pilot survived and was taken prisoner, Jim was shot and killed, by enemy ground fire, as he floated to earth by parachute.

### **Robert John Stewart**

Robert Stewart, also known as Jack, was born August 25, 1918 in Glen Ridge New Jersey. He, his parents Robert and Emma Stewart, sister Jane and brother David lived at 20 Hillside Ave.

Jack attended the Linden Avenue School where his mother was a teacher for many years and graduated from Glen Ridge High School with the class of 1936. During his high school years, he was an honor student and an exceptional athlete starring in baseball, football, basketball and track. Additionally, he was President of his sophomore, junior and senior classes and was active in Glee Club, Pegasus plays and served as President of the Varsity Club. During the summers, he was a counselor at Camp Kiamesha for the Newark, New Jersey YMCA working with underprivileged boys.

After high school graduation, Jack matriculated at Princeton University where he majored in art and archaeology and excelled in sports, playing varsity basketball and lacrosse. Most notably, he was a member of the All-American lacrosse team his senior year. Although Jack was accepted by the Harvard Graduate School to study art history and coach basketball, due to his imminent draft into the armed services, he went instead to work at the Fire Association Insurance Company in Philadelphia.

Jack entered the Army as a private in October 1941 and was sent to North Carolina for basic training. Three months later, he was recommended for Officers Candidate School. In June 1944, he was sent overseas as a first Lieutenant and first saw combat, as commander of a mechanized reconnaissance squadron, at Metz with General George Patton's Third Army. Later that year, Jack was awarded the Silver Star, in Holland, for bravery while withstanding an enemy counterattack in collaboration with Canadian forces. Three days after he received that award he was promoted to Captain. While in Europe, in addition to the Silver Star, Jack was awarded two Purple Hearts. On December 20, 1944, Jack was killed in action in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He left behind his wife Mary, and two sons, Robert and John, both under two years of age. Jack is buried with his men at Henri Chapelle Cemetery in Liege, Belgium.

Finally, I would like to close with what I believe is a fitting and evocative quote from Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. in a Civil War Memorial Day Speech delivered on May 30, 1884 in Keene, New Hampshire:

But grief is not the end of all. I seem to hear the funeral march become a paean. I see beyond the forest the moving banners of a hidden column. Our dead brothers still live for us, and bid us think of life, not death---of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil our trumpets sound once more a note of daring, hope and will.

Thank You.  
Mayor Stuart Patrick