



# Heroes of War

**REMEMBERING ALUMNI AND FACULTY WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE TO OUR NATION**

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**M**emorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, was first proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30 of that year when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Since 1971, Memorial Day has been observed on the last Monday in the month of May. Originally, the observance honored fallen veterans of the Civil War. Subsequently, it was broadened to encompass casualties of any American war or military action.

Memories of war remain etched in the minds of many American veterans, their families, and their friends. We are aware of 33 members of our community who perished in the World War II, Korean, or Vietnam eras. Of these, 26 alumni lost their lives during World War II, four of them among the 36 graduates in the Class of 1941. At that time, Country Day's total enrollment was less than 200, and by 1943, more than 250 of the school's 500 alumni were in the armed forces, suggesting the magnitude of the war's impact on a school so much smaller than it is today. Recognition of all of these sacrifices helps sharpen our understanding of textbook accounts of military actions which now seem long ago and far away.

For today's students of Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School, it is important to remember that a number of those profiled on the following pages saw military action immediately after graduating from our school while still in their teens; others broke off their CDS studies early to join the service. Some walked the very same corridors that we use today. As students, decades ago they too struggled through exams and gazed out the classroom window, anticipating the Burroughs game or what life held for them. These veterans' dreams and aspirations were sacrificed so that members of future generations could be assured of the chance to realize theirs. We recall these heroes today with pride, honor, and respect.

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# MICDS

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*Mary Institute and Saint Louis Country Day School*

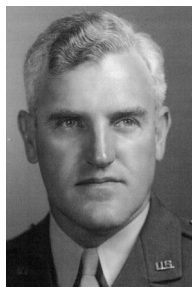
This Memorial Day Assembly program  
was compiled and produced  
by the  
MICDS Development Office  
and the  
St. Louis Country Day School Archives.



**Lieutenant René Auguste Chouteau '39**

*World War II*

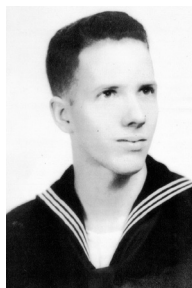
A member of the U.S. Marines Flying Corps, he was killed in an accident at Pensacola, FL on August 6, 1944. He attended Country Day in 1934-35, playing Middle School football, and later he was enrolled in Yale University. His brother, Henri '36, had died in the war a year earlier.



**Colonel John Rison Fordyce, Jr. '23**

*World War II*

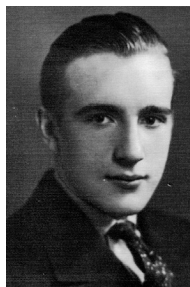
Attended CDS in 1917-18. Died May 23, 1943, when an engine of his B-26 bomber exploded on takeoff in North Africa. A Harvard graduate, he became a Navy pilot, later joining the Air National Guard. He was a second-term Arkansas State Representative when called to active duty in 1941.



**Ensign George B. Gannett, Jr. '37**

*World War II*

U.S. Navy. He attended Country Day School from 1929 to 1933. While at CDS, he was consistently an honor student and was a member of the Glee Club. He died of wounds suffered on a destroyer in the Pacific on December 26, 1943. He is buried in Manila, the Philippines.



**Yeoman 2nd Class John Dwight Bridge '37**

*World War II*

U.S. Navy. He attended Country Day in 1934-35, graduated from Westminster College, and was an accomplished violinist. He was listed as missing on June 4, 1943, when his submarine-chaser ship was torpedoed by an Italian sub in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Bizerte, Tunisia. His military awards included the Purple Heart.



**Corporal Judson B. Conant '42**

*World War II*

A U.S. Marine, he saw action in the campaigns waged for the islands of Saipan and Guam, and was killed in action April 15, 1945. While at Country Day from 1936 to 1940, he played football and baseball, was a member of the school chorus, and was active in Boy Scouts.



**Captain John D. "Sisky" Franciscus '25**

*World War II*

U.S. Army Air Force. He died in an airplane crash in Maine in May 1942. Nicknamed "Sisky," he attended CDS from 1919 to 1922. He was an honor student and a member of some of the school's first interscholastic athletic teams, including football, basketball, tennis, and baseball.



**Lieutenant Edward Chase Garvey '41**

*World War II*

Killed in action over Austria February 7, 1945, after being freed from a German POW camp. He earned the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was a member of the undefeated 1940 Country Day basketball team, where his teammates included Carl Lawton '41 and Don Oonk '40, also war casualties.



**Captain Henri Chouteau, Jr. '36**

*World War II*

Captain and pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force Ferry Command that flew military aircraft from North America to allies in Europe, he died in an aviation accident in the spring of 1943. Attended Country Day 1928-1933 and was an outstanding athlete in football, basketball, and track.



**1st Lieutenant Grant R. "Tubby" Ellis**

*Korea*

CDS faculty member, killed by a sniper September 30, 1950, after being recalled to active duty from the Marine Corps Reserves. He taught English and math in the Lower School starting in 1948, and he served as head football coach under his father-in-law, Robert "Pop" Hughes. Ellis Field is named in his memory.



**1st Lieutenant James Everett Fraser '35**

*World War II*

Member of the 15th Air Force of the U.S. Army, killed in action when his bomber exploded over Austria May 29, 1944. At CDS, he was circulation manager of the student newspaper and a member of the Masque drama organization. He also earned varsity letters in soccer and baseball.



**Captain Michael P. Getlin '57**

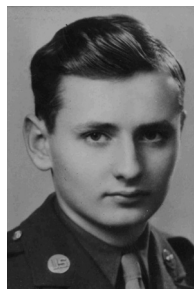
*Vietnam*

Killed March 30, 1967, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. Already wounded, he died retrieving two enemy grenades while moving his men to safer ground. Posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism on a hill known afterward as "Getlin's Corner."



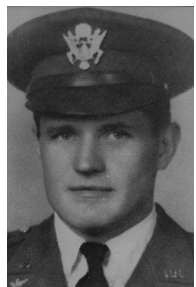
**Cadet Scott Pope Hawkins '28**  
*World War II*

On January 6, 1938, as war drew near, U.S. Naval Aviator Hawkins died when the seaplane he piloted took a sudden dive during a search off San Diego, CA for a missing Navy bomber crew. During his three years at CDS starting in 1922, his activities included football, soccer, and basketball.



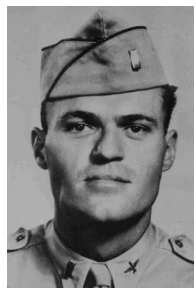
**Corporal Waldo Clark Jackman, Jr. '41**  
*World War II*

Died in a collision at sea March 13, 1945, when his transport was rammed and sunk by a French aircraft carrier. At CDS, he was one of the school's best science students. As part of his military service, he had been sent to various engineering schools, including Carnegie Institute of Technology, before going overseas.



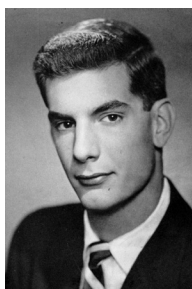
**2nd Lieutenant Stratford Lee Morton, Jr. '31**  
*World War II*

Died June 21, 1941, when the Army A-20 bomber he piloted crashed near LaGrange, Georgia, in a violent storm after bombing practice at Ft. Benning. At CDS, he starred in football, soccer, wrestling, and track. He was also on Yale's 1934 "iron man" football team, playing in five entire consecutive games without relief.



**Lieutenant Walter Lewis Pfeffer, Jr. '35**  
*World War II*

Serving in the U.S. Army, he died on July 7, 1944, when his heavy bomber crashed near Lorraine, KS. During his five years at CDS, he worked on the business staff of the newspaper and as a yearbook writer. His athletic awards included letters in football, wrestling, and track.



**Private 1st Class John Francis Hennessey III '53**  
*Korea*

Killed in an auto accident near Clarksville, TN while returning to his Marine Corps base after 1954 Thanksgiving leave. At CDS, he won the Harvard Cup for excellence in athletics, was All-ABC League in football two years and baseball one year, also played basketball, and was in Troubadours and Glee Club.



**Corporal Carl S. Lawton, Jr. '41**  
*World War II*

Killed in action in France on September 23, 1944. Served as a Technical Corporal in a U.S. Army Ranger battalion. At CDS, he earned 13 varsity letters, including five in one year, and he was on the undefeated 1940 basketball team. He also was twice class president and on the student council.



**Lieutenant Edward T. Noland, Jr. '36**  
*World War II*

Killed when shot down over Italy on November 18, 1944. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement as B-25 bombardier in a September 1944 attack and an Air Medal with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster for precision bombing during six July-August 1944 attacks. At CDS, he earned football, soccer, baseball, and track letters.



**Pvt. 1st Class Christopher Podmaniczky '64**  
*Vietnam*

Killed by small arms fire on April 21, 1967, with 38 other Marines in an ambush by a dug-in Viet Cong force in the village of Bihn Son, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. He was 20 years old. A Country Day School student 1956-60, his activities included playing on the "B" tennis team.



**Lieutenant Alfred H. Herman II '40**  
*Korea*

Attended CDS 1935-40. A West Point graduate, he was killed in action May 18, 1951. Three months earlier, he led a Ranger unit that routed two Chinese Communist regiments in Korea. Previously served with the 11th Airborne Division in Japan before commanding the Rangers.



**Staff Sergeant Donald C. McCord, Jr. '31**  
*World War II*

Killed in action in the Pacific on August 7, 1942. In 1941, he nearly died when his bomber crashed in the Pacific. He floated three days in a raft with his crew, their only food an albatross he shot with his pistol. Earned the Air Medal for valor. At CDS, he was a soccer player and fenced.



**Lieutenant Donald Alfred Oonk '40**  
*World War II*

A member of the U.S. Army Air Corps killed when his damaged bomber crashed in Yugoslavia on December 2, 1944. At CDS, he played football and was a starter on the undefeated 1940 basketball team. The MICDS Oonk Awards honor Lower School achievements in football, basketball, and baseball.



**2nd Lieutenant James A. Sevin '45**  
*Korea*

Killed when his malfunctioning jet fighter crashed north of Anchorage, AK on March 31, 1953. Radar observer in a two-man crew, he apparently ejected too close to the ground. He was on the yearbook staff at CDS, where he played football and baseball. He went on to graduate from Harvard in 1949.





**Corporal Willard B. Shelp, III '42**

*World War II*

A radio operator on a U.S. Army Air Ferrying Command plane, he was accidentally killed in the line of duty in Egypt on September 16, 1944. After four years at Country Day

School, he went almost immediately into the Army. At CDS, he earned a varsity football letter and two numerals in soccer and track.

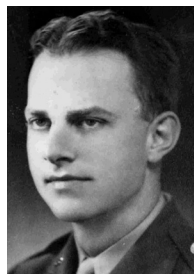


**Lieutenant Howard V. Stephens, Jr. '34**

*World War II*

Killed in Belgium in the Battle of the Bulge on December 17, 1944, while serving with the First Army. The day he died, he had received the Bronze Star for gallantry defending

a crossroads against German forces. At CDS, he was state singles and doubles tennis champ, and played football and basketball.

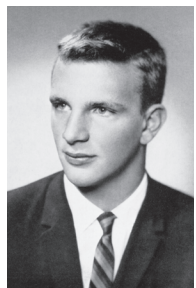


**Lieutenant Stanard T. Wheaton '32**

*World War II*

Killed in U.S. Army action in Belgium on December 26, 1944. He attended officers' training at Ft. Sill, OK, becoming a 1st Lieutenant in a tank destroyer battalion before

going overseas. In three years at CDS, he wrote for the newspaper and yearbook, and was Troubadours vice-president.



**1st Lieutenant James Schenler Wood '61**

*Vietnam*

Serving in the Army, he was killed by hostile fire on June 6, 1968. He attended CDS for eight years. He was active in the Troubadours, Masque, and Glee Club, and played

varsity baseball. The James Schenler Wood Humanitarian Award is presented annually to students who have made sacrifices in the service of others.



**Corporal David R. Small '32**

*World War II*

U.S. Army Air Force. He died on October 29, 1943, on the Island of Trinidad. Entering Country Day in Class 6 (7th grade), he left school in 1931, just before his senior year. While at

CDS, he was active in drama organizations. He graduated from Princeton University in 1937, attended University of Michigan Law School, and was married in 1942.



**Lieutenant George S. Tiffany, Jr. '25**

*World War II*

Killed January 7, 1944, while on U.S. Navy convoy duty off Cape May, NJ. His gunboat *St. Augustine* collided with the merchant tanker *Camas Meadows* late at night when both were

running without navigation lights. The gunboat sank within five minutes, and 115 of 145 crew members were lost. At CDS, he was senior class president.



**Captain Elmer C. Wirtz, Jr. '32**

*World War II*

A Captain in the Field Artillery, he was reported missing in action on Corregidor in the Philippines in May 1942. Attending Country Day School for three years,

1926-1929, he took part in the Troubadours' dramatic productions. He later attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Washington University.



**1st Lieutenant Edwin T. Stanard, Jr. '38**

*World War II*

Killed in action with the First Army in Germany on February 3, 1945, while serving in an advance artillery observation post. He had been awarded the Bronze Star and

Presidential Unit Citation. At Country Day, he lettered in football and soccer. He also wrote for the *News* and was a member of the Masque drama organization.



**Private 1st Class Harry G. Wells '30**

*World War II*

U. S. Army Air Force. He died on February 1, 1945, in a Waxahachie, TX hospital after an auto accident while headed home on furlough from Waco Air Field. He

attended Country Day 1922-1925 and was a founding member of the school's Boy Scout troop. Married, he was employed by Otis Elevator Co. before enlisting.



**Lieutenant David P. Wohl, Jr. '41**

*World War II*

Killed in action over Europe on March 3, 1944, in the first daylight U.S. attack on Berlin. A bombardier on the Flying Fortress *Paper Doll*, he was on his 14th mission.

He was awarded the Air Medal for courage and skill, an Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. At CDS, he was active in the Masque and Troubadours.

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Every effort has been made to mention and suitably honor all fallen military veterans associated with St. Louis Country Day School, Mary Institute, or MICDS. Information has been obtained from the *Country Day News*, internet resources, the CDS Archives, and relatives of the deceased. If you know of anyone who should be included in future Memorial Day programs or if you can provide additional information/photographs for the veterans listed here, please contact the MICDS Development Office at 314-995-7312, or send an email to [ljones@micds.org](mailto:ljones@micds.org).

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