Power Memorial Academy

Gold Star Alumni



When His Eminence, Francis Joseph Spellman, Cardinal, Archbishop of New York, blessed Power Memorial Academy's Gold Star Gymnasium on March 27, 1954, it was dedicated to the memory of 41 alumni of the school who gave their lives in service to their country during World War II. The modern, two-story structure could hold up to 1,400 spectators and had all the amenities one would expect of the era. At the time, the gym represented a lasting tribute to honor the 41 and along with the high school, was believed to be a part of the midtown landscape for generations to come. Sadly, the school and its monument to those who served their country so heroically, are now only a fond memory. Even the names of all 41 alumni are, at least for now, hidden from our view by the passage of time.

The spirit of the school and its Gold Star Gymnasium, however, lives on in the hearts of its alumni and in their stories shared with family and friends. With assistance from the Power yearbooks and a little research, 27 of the 41 alumni from the original dedication have been identified. They are listed on the following pages. When available, school and service photos were added next to their names along with a brief profile of our own American heroes.

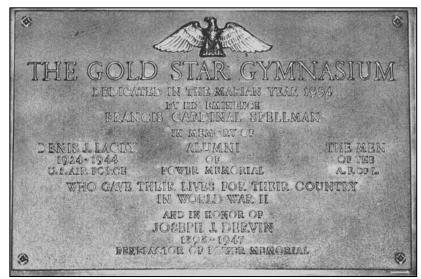
Unforeseen at the original dedication were the subsequent conflicts where Power Memorial Academy alumni made the ultimate sacrifice. As best as possible, names of alumni who died while serving this country in the Vietnam War, Korean War, and the events of 9/11, have been added to the list honoring our Gold Star Alumni. The physical structures of our

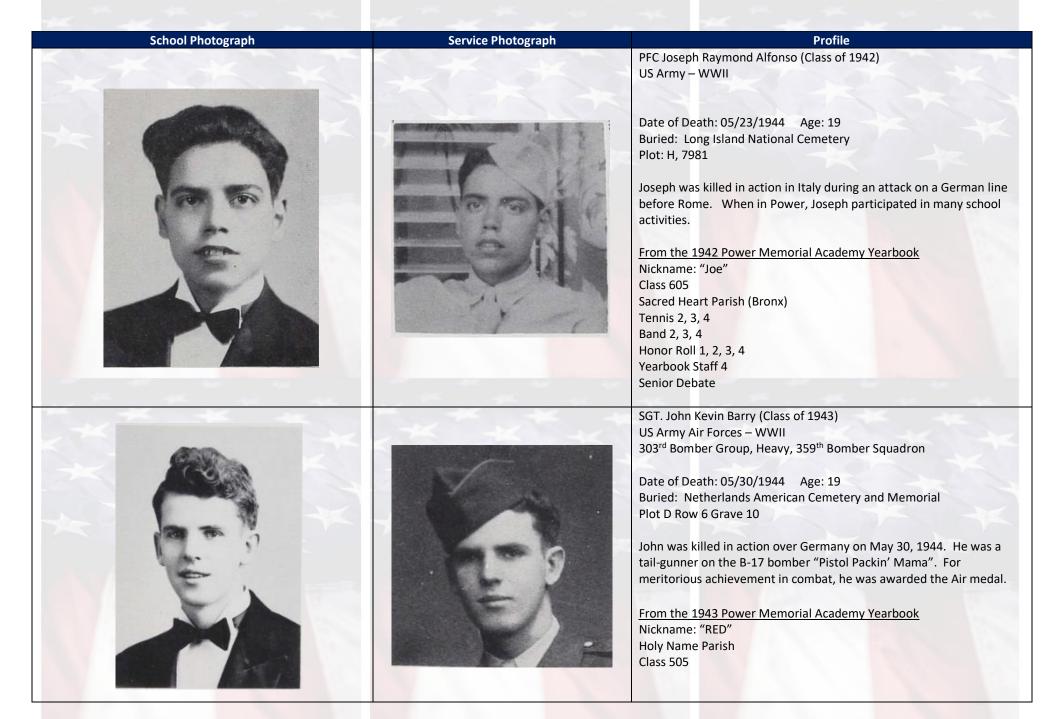
school and gym did not last forever. In all

likelihood the internet won't last forever either. However, posting this list of Power Memorial's Gold Star Alumni is an attempt to proudly remember and honor our fallen heroes in perpetuity. We also respectfully remember and honor Dennis J. Lacey and the workers of the American Federation of Labor who gave their lives for their country in WWII. Please take a moment to reflect on each name, the value of their lives and perhaps say a prayer for them.

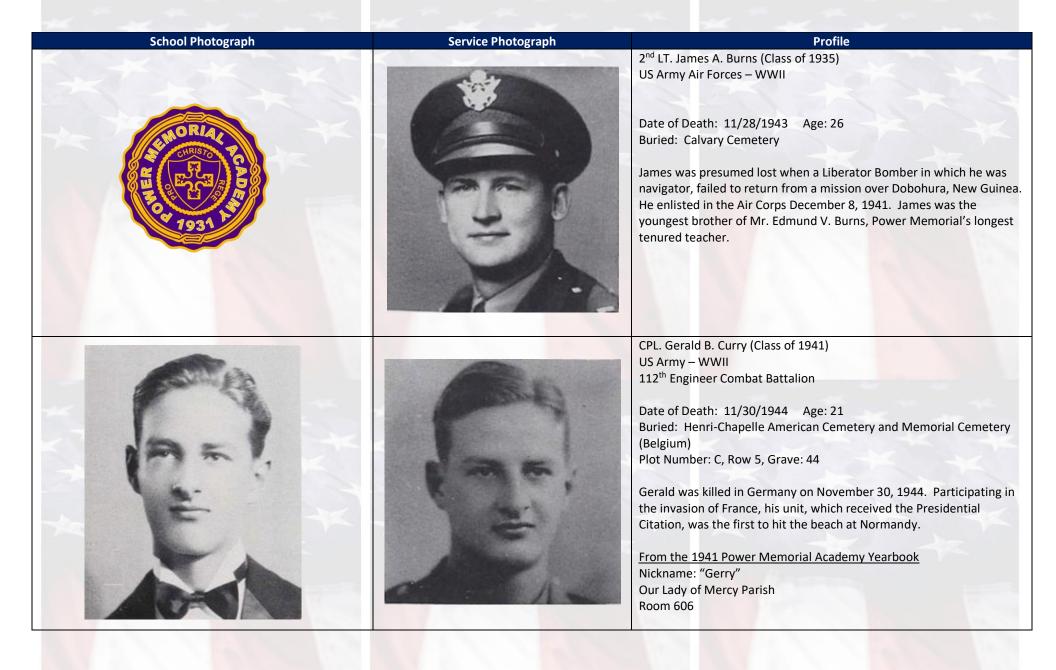
This list of Gold Star alumni is incomplete. Please send updates and corrections to pmatrack@yahoo.com.

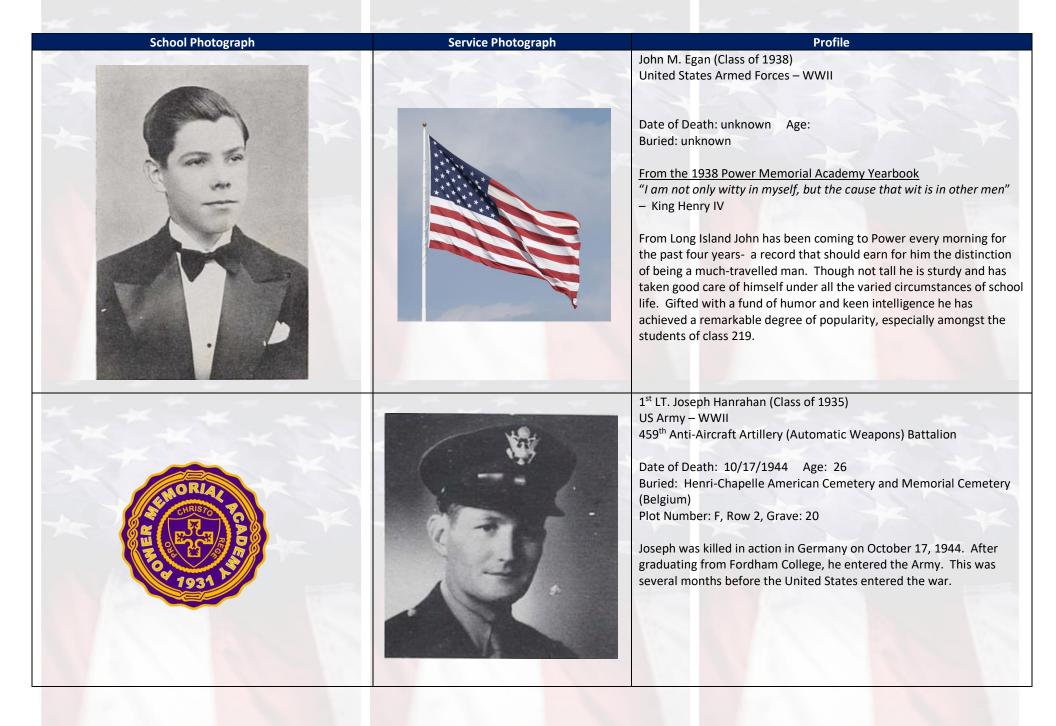
Note: A note of recognition and gratitude to the following people, without their efforts there may never have been a Gold Star Gym: Joseph J. Dervin, Thomas J. Shanahan, Martin T. Lacey, Brother James H. Vaughan as well as Power Memorial Academy's students and families who, beginning in 1946, held various fundraising activities to help finance the gym. At the time, the gym cost an estimated \$500,000 to build, which equates to about \$6.8 million in 2023.













School Photograph	Service Photograph	Profile
(Intentionally Blank)	(Intentionally Blank)	(Intentionally Blank)
		2 nd LT. Thomas Kirk (Class of 1939) US Army Air Forces – WWII 885 th Bomber Squadron, 450 th Bomber Group, Heavy Date of Death: 12/23/1944 Age: 23 Buried: Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial (Nettuno, Italy) Plot Number: J, Row 7, Grave: 72 Thomas, a bombardier navigator in the Army Air Force, was killed in action in a flight over Yugoslavia on December 23, 1944. He flew on a B-24 Liberator nicknamed Lady Mary (Aircraft 44-49336).







Profile

1st LT. Joseph A. Lanner (Class of 1937) US Army – WWII Infantry

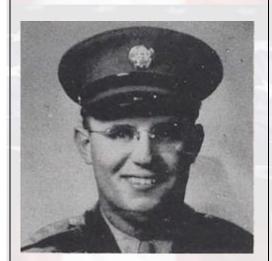
Date of Death: 02/25/1945 Age: 26 Buried: Long Island National Cemetery

Plot Number: H, Site 9901

From the 1937 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook

"Be thou familiar, but by no means vulgar" - Hamlet
For his size, he is sturdy, and this physical quality is the best indication
of his mind. Of a pleasant disposition he has always succeeded in
making himself an agreeable companion, while his loyalty to the
school and its ideals are worthy of imitation. He ought to be able to
hold his own with any of the competitors he shall have to face in the
grim struggle of life.





PVT. George Paul Lastousky (Class of 1941) US Army – WWII

Date of Death: 06/30/1944 Age: 20 Buried: Long Island National Cemetery

Section J, Site 16343

George was killed in action in Italy on June 30, 1944. When a student at Power, George participated in many activities, including basketball, track, and dramatics.

From the 1941 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook

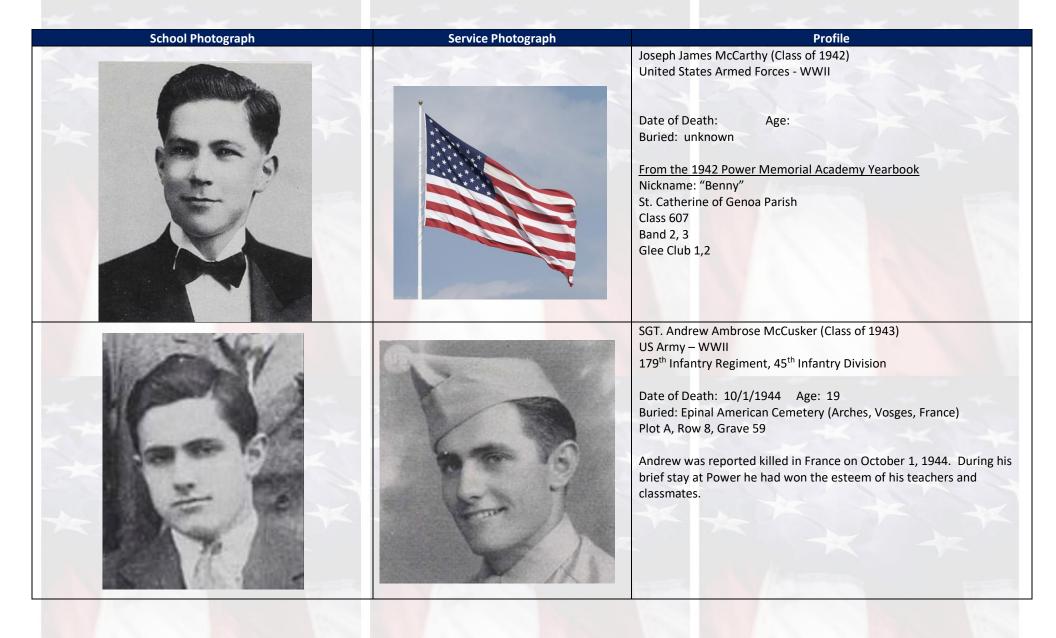
Nickname: "Georgie"

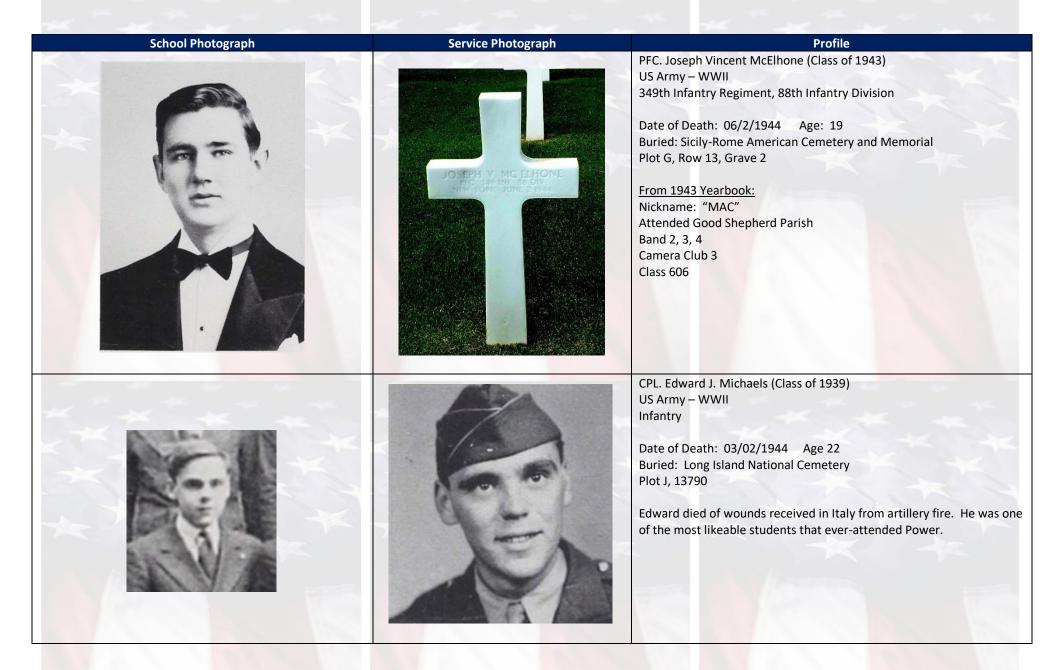
Room 705

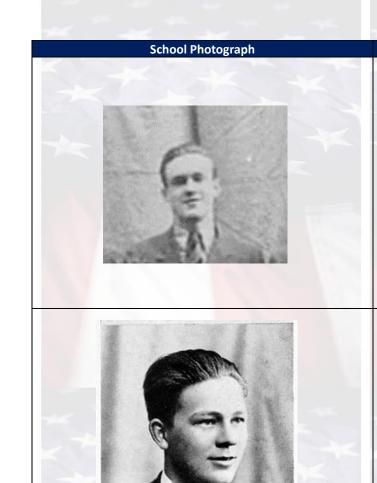
St. Catherine of Genoa Parish

Basketball 2 Track 4 Dramatics 4











Service Photograph



Joseph Moran (Class of 1939) United States Armed Forces - WWII

Date of Death: unknown Age:

Buried: unknown

Joseph Moran was declared a casualty of World War II. He served with honor in the United States Armed Forces. He is remembered by the people of New York and the alumni of Power Memorial Academy. May his positive example inspire us - working together towards peace, mutual respect, and equality for all.



2nd LT. William V. O'Connell (Class of 1937)
US Army – WWII
305th Infantry Regiment
77th Infantry Division (Statue of Liberty Division)

Date of Death: June 23, 1945 Age: 25

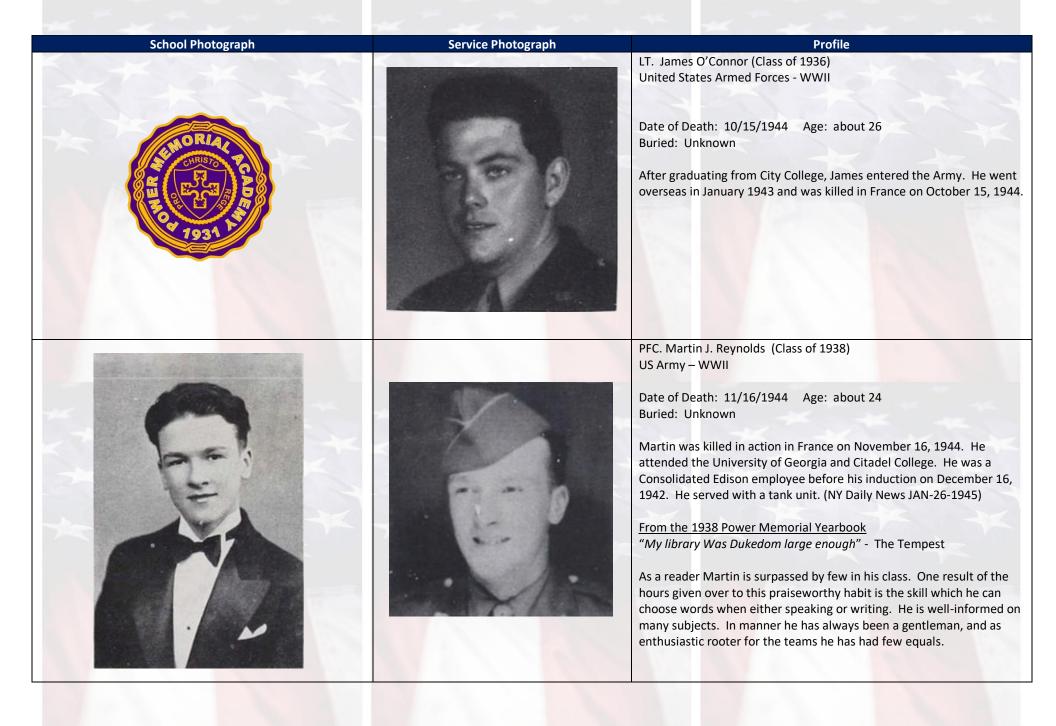
Location: Okinawa, Japan

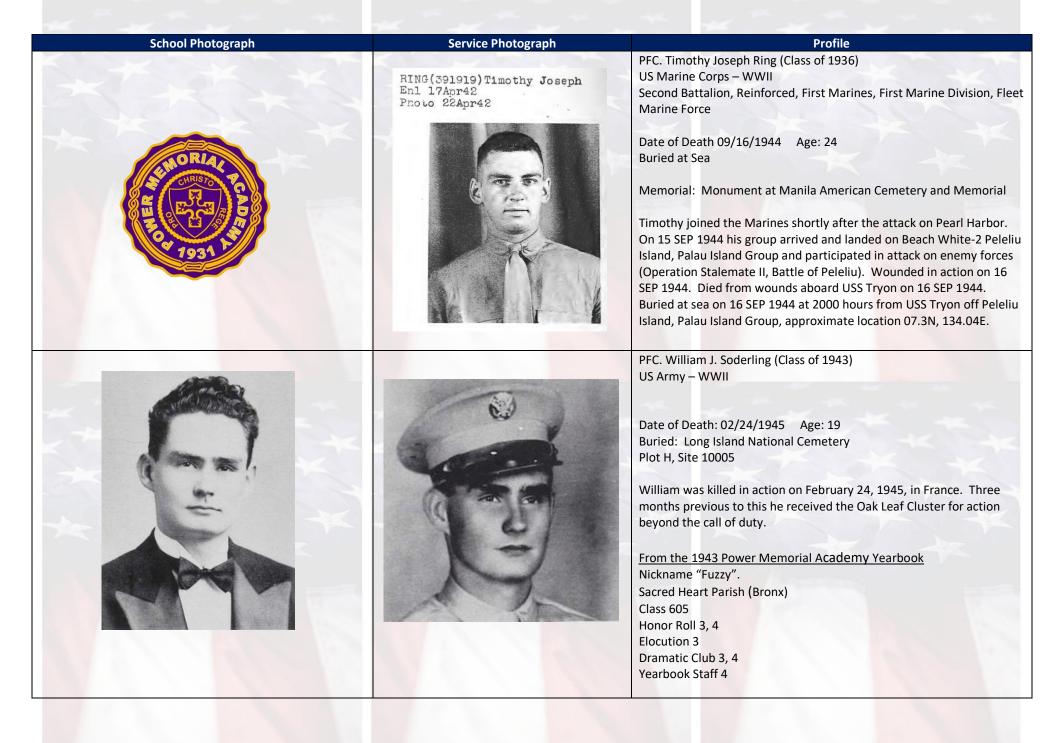
Buried: Calvary Cemetery (Woodside, Queens, NY)



"...If I lose my honor, I lose myself" – Anthony & Cleopatra
To know Bill is most assuredly to like him. Once cannot appreciate his straightforwardness, good humor, and manly character if he cannot appreciate this worthy member of the senior class. If there is one thing for which he is most remarkable than for his all-around athletic ability, it is his abiding interest in varying fortunes of all the school athletic teams. To none did he yield in his unselfish use of his lung power in urging them on in their efforts to attain success or in his spirited cheering when they had achieved it.















Profile

PFC. Charles Thomas Walsh (Class of 1942) US Army – WWII

Date of Death: 12/15/1944 Age: 20

Buried: Unknown

Charles was killed in action in Germany on December 15, 1944 by an artillery shell blast. He entered the army in June 1943 one year after graduation from Power. He was a member of our yearbook staff.

From the 1942 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook

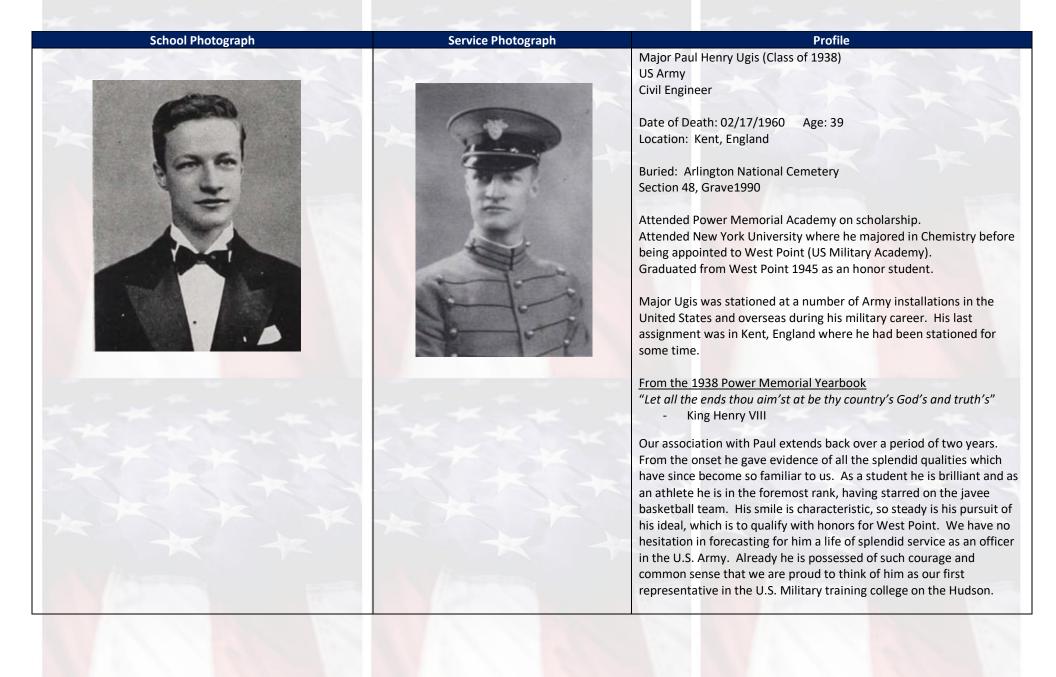
Nickname "Charlie" St. Veronica's Parish Class 605 Honor Roll 2, 3, 4 Yearbook Staff 4 Mission Activities 4

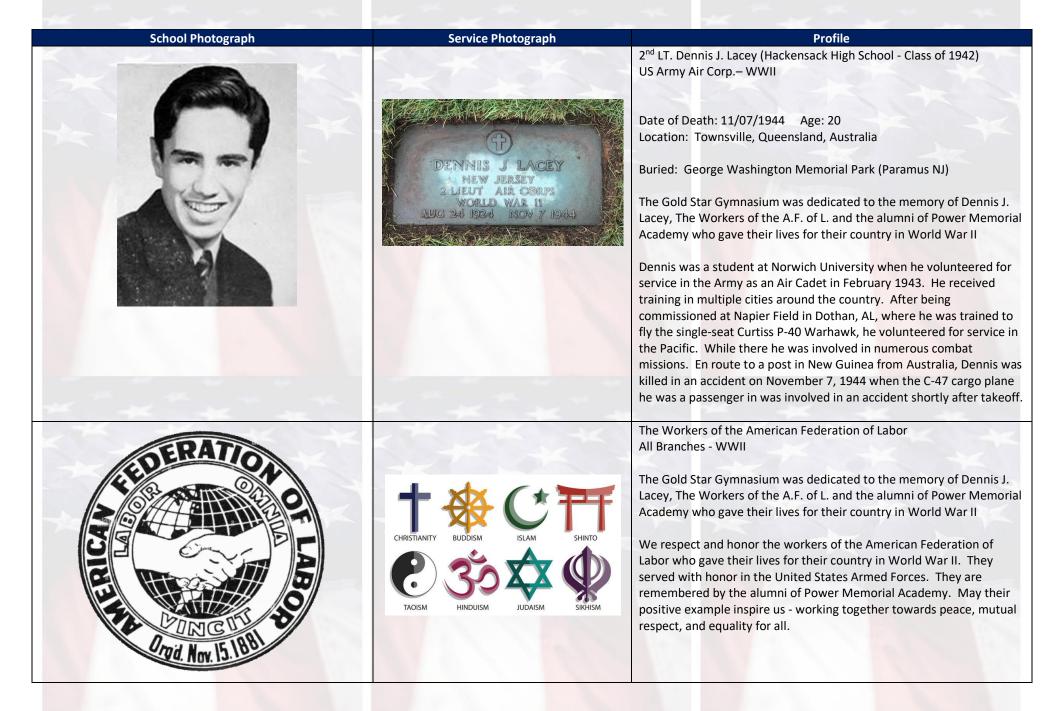


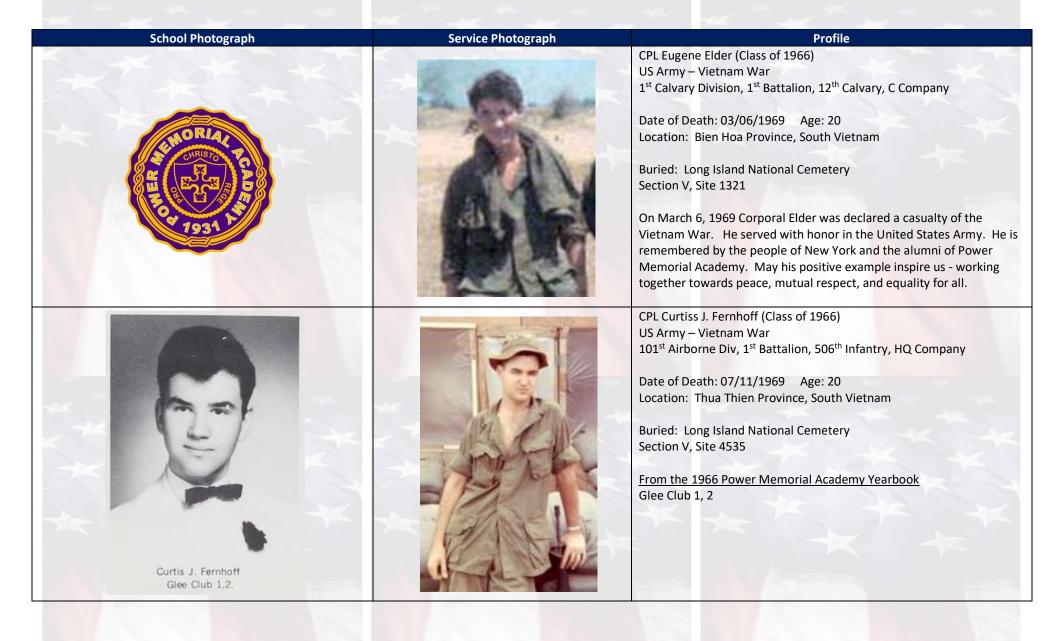
PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA - B-17 Flying Fortress (Aircraft 42-31213) (GH) Delivered Denver 10-04-1943; Grand Island 10-19-1943; Romulus 10-26-1943; Assigned 359BS/303BG [BN-Z] Molesworth 11-18-1943;

Missing in Action Dessau 05-30-1944; flak KO'd #2, dropped behind and crashed Rennau, six miles NW of Helmstedt, Ger; Missing Air Crew Report 5341.

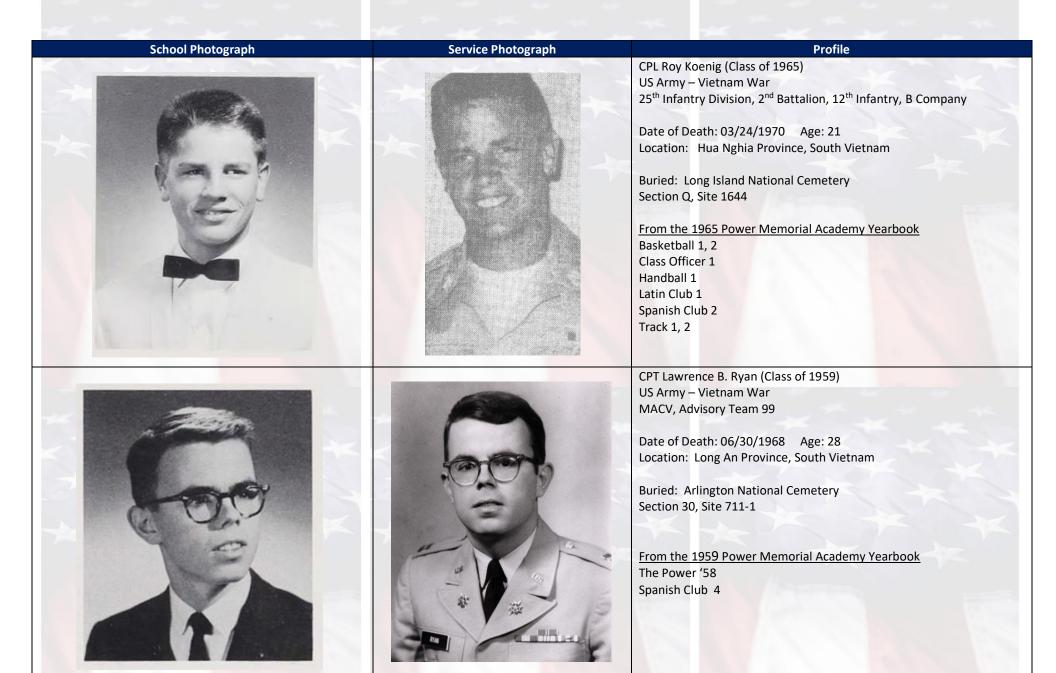
Tail Gunner: SGT. John Kevin Barry (Power Memorial Academy - Class of 1943)

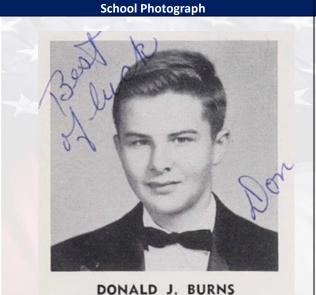
















Service Photograph

Profile

Donald J. Burns (Class of 1957) Assistant Chief, NYFD

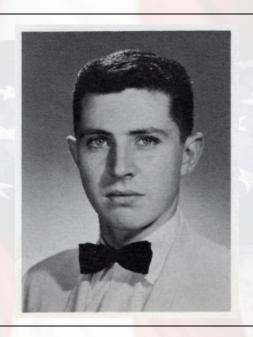
Date of Death: 09/11/2001 Age: 61 Location: World Trade Center

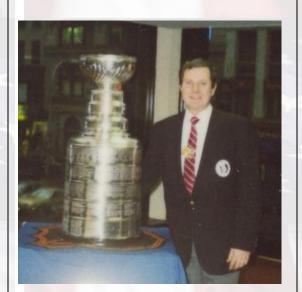
National 9/11 Memorial Panel S-18

From the 1957 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook Glee Club 1 Bowling 2, 3

Don has mainly been impressed by Brother Offer and the History course offered here. He is undecided concerning college.

https://www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighter/donald-j-burns/





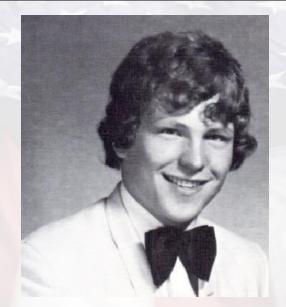
Richard P. Fitzsimmons (Class of 1961) Fire & Safety Director, OCS Security, World Trade Center

Date of Death: 09/11/2001 Age: 57 Location: World Trade Center

National 9/11 Memorial Panel S-23

From the 1961 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook Edmundian League 4 Dance Committee 1, 2 French Club 3 Basketball Intramurals 3, 4 Track 2

https://obits.gazette.com/us/obituaries/gazette/name/richardfitzsimons-obituary?pid=114923



School Photograph





Profile

William D. Lake (Class of 1974) Rescue Squad 1

Date of Death: 09/11/2001 Age: 44 Location: World Trade Center

National 9/11 Memorial Panel S-16

From the 1974 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook

Intramurals: Basketball 1 Football 2 Softball 2

https://www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighter/william-d-lake/





LT. Joseph G. Leavey (Class of 1973) Ladder Company 15

Date of Death: 09/11/2001 Age: 45 Location: World Trade Center

National 9/11 Memorial

Panel S-21

From the 1973 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook

Color Guard 3, 4 National Honor Society 3, 4
Samaritans 3, 4 Cross Country 1, 2, 3, 4
Indoors 1, 2, 3, 4
Outdoors, 1, 2, 3, 4

https://www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighter/joseph-g-leavey/

School Photograph





Profile

LT. Philip Petti (Class of 1976) Ladder 12, Battalion 7

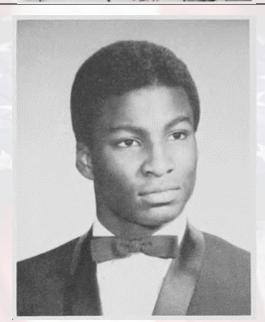
Date of Death: 09/11/2001 Age: 43 Location: World Trade Center

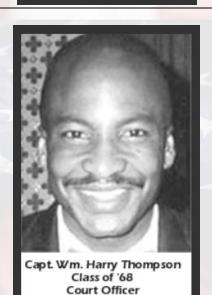
National 9/11 Memorial Panel S-16

From the 1976 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook

Intramurals: Football 1, 2 Softball 1

https://www.firehero.org/fallen-firefighter/philip-s-petti/





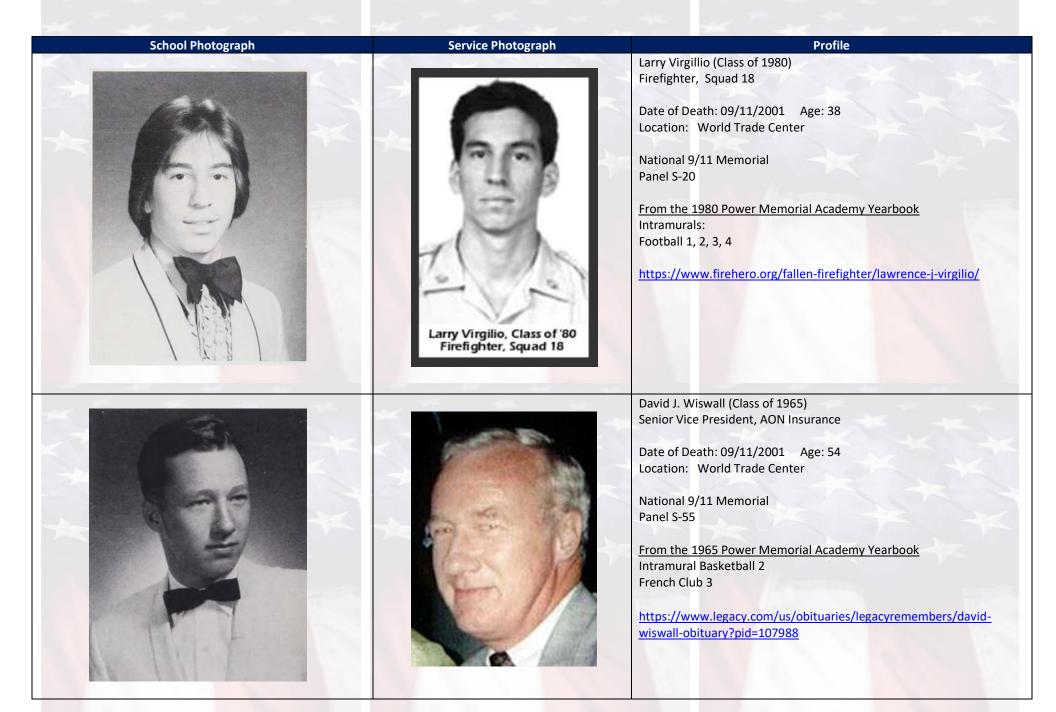
CPT. William Harry Thompson (Class of 1968)
Court Officer

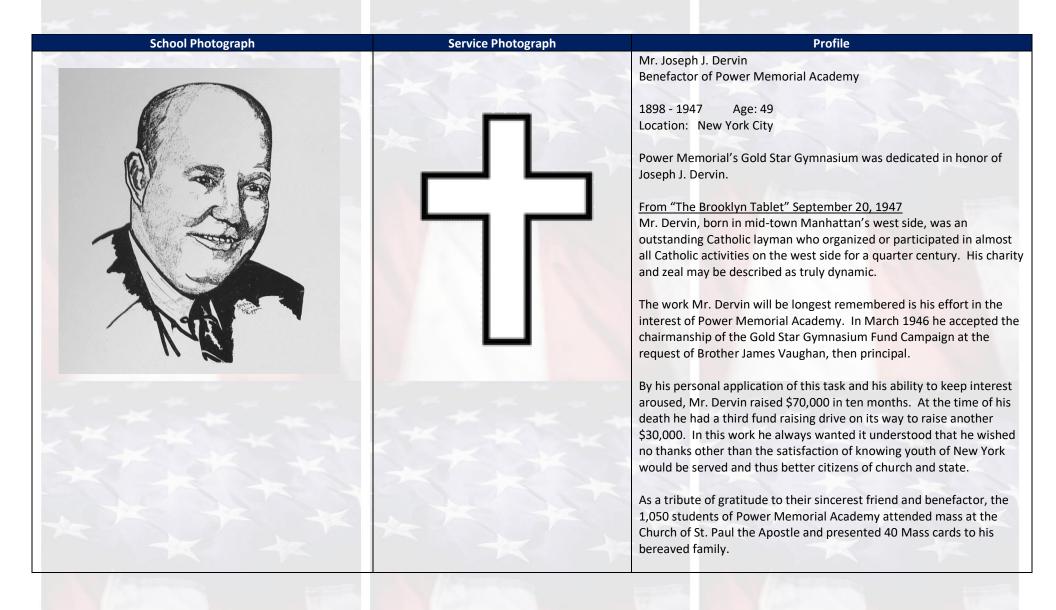
Date of Death: 09/11/2001 Age: 51 Location: World Trade Center

National 9/11 Memorial Panel S-26

From the 1968 Power Memorial Academy Yearbook Basketball 3

https://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/playground-174/pressrelease/22000





Time will not dim the glory of their deeds.

- General John J. Pershing

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