



Jacksonville Beach's Fallen Wartime Military Veterans



World War II

Army PFC. Ivan Roy Wellington Jr.
(Top Left)

Marine CPL. Ottis O. Boxx (Top Right)

Army Pvt. Kenjiro Yoshida (Middle Right)

1st Lt. John W. Deam (Second Left)



Vietnam War

Marine GYSGT Benjamin A. Chitko
(Third Left)

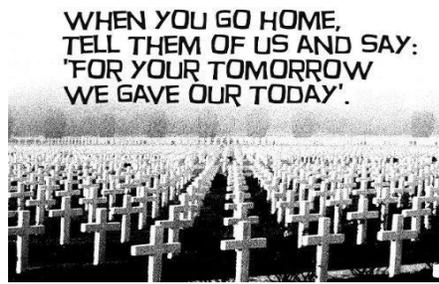
Marine Captain Roger P. Harrell
(Bottom Right)

Marine Corporal Stanley M.
Harrell (Bottom Left)



We ask you to remember each of them because they all called Jacksonville Beach their home. They too worked and played on the streets of Jacksonville Beach, they walked to school with their best friends and shared dreams of what they wanted to do for the summer and in life. Their dreams were endless but none of those dreams were ever fulfilled..... because the course of history altered them.

So on Memorial Day, as we raise our Flags then lower them to half-staff, we are truly honoring and remembering our Jacksonville Beach Heroes; Ivan Wellington Jr., John Deam, Ottis Boxx, Kenjiro Yoshida, Benjamin Chitko, Roger Harrell, Stanley Harrell and all those American Soldiers who died defending our country's freedom!



This information package is for the first seven nominees of Fallen Wartime Veterans/Heroes from Jacksonville Beach. It is our hope that all of Jacksonville Beach's Fallen Wartime Heroes that made the ultimate sacrifice will eventually be honored in the same fashion with a Dedicated Honor Street Sign. This information packet includes a short summary of who they were and the sacrifices they made for our community and country. ~Lenny Jevic, BVMP Historian

World War II



Ivan "Sonny" R. Wellington Jr.

Ivan "Sonny" R. Wellington Jr. lived with his parents Ivan Sr. and Vivia Wellington, sisters, Harriet, Marjorie, and Connie at 121 Ninth Ave N. in Jacksonville Beach. Ivan graduated Fletcher High School in 1942 and was the class valedictorian. Ivan R. Wellington Sr. was a civil engineer and surveyor for the city.

Ivan Jr. was drafted into the United States Army in May of 1943 and served with the Army's 30th Infantry Division, 119th Regiment.

On Feb 25, 1945, Ivan Jr. was killed in action in Germany against hostile forces.

The Wellington Family had received a telegram the month before (Jan 1945) notifying them of the death of Harriet's husband, 1st LT. John W. Deam during combat action. Connie's husband, Navy LT. Leonard Johnson was a bomber pilot who was shot down over Wake Island in May 1944.

The Wellington Family sacrificed more than any other Jacksonville Beach family during World War II.

All three men are honored on the World War II Monument in Jacksonville Beach. Ivan Jr.

Ivan Roy Wellington Jr.'s memorial headstone is located directly in front of his parent's headstones at H. Warren Smith Memorial Cemetery in Jacksonville Beach.

Private First-Class Ivan R. Wellington's Commendations

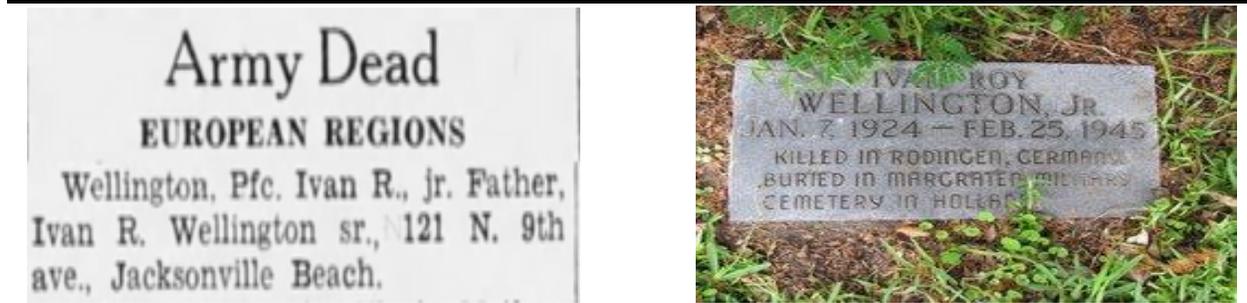
Purple Heart

World War II Campaign Medal

Combat Action Ribbon

Combat Infantry Badge

He is honored on the World War II Monument in Jacksonville Beach.



Refs: Beaches Leader Article, dated Jun 13, 2003 by Johnny Woodhouse, titled "Flag Day Ceremony";

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/76628821/ivan-roy-wellington>;

Sign Sponsor: The Deam Family (John W. Deam Jr.)



Corporal Ottis O. Boxx

Ottis Oliver Boxx was born in Clay County, Florida, on 28 April 1922. His parents, Edith and William Francis “Frank” Boxx, were both Clay County natives, and raised their family in William’s hometown –Doctors Inlet, a tiny community south of Jacksonville. The Boxxs’ owned several tracts of land near Doctors Inlet; William supported the family through farming and carpentry work, while the kids – Ottis, Vera (born 1925) and Olive (born 1927) played along the shores of Doctors Lake, helped Edith keep house, and attended the local schools.

In the late 1930s, Frank took a construction job and moved the family to Jacksonville Beach. The Boxxs’ lived in the 200 block of 1st Ave S. Ottis entered Duncan U. Fletcher High School in nearby Neptune Beach, and in 1937 tried out for the school’s inaugural football team, although only in eighth grade, he made the squad. He would be one of 11 team members who eventually went on to military service during World War II. In 1939, his sophomore year, Ottis joined the varsity squad. He played fullback and halfback, earning a reputation as a “hard-driving line plunger” adept at defense and breakaway touchdowns.

Ottis only added to his reputation during his senior year. “Boxx can do most things in football well,” said a contemporary paper. “This lad deserves more praise than he has ever received.” He ended his season with a game-winning score in front of two thousand football fans at Schuler Field. Football was not his only interest; Ottis also served as the vice president of his class.

The Boxx Family moved closer to NAS Jacksonville as both his mother and his father took jobs on base just prior to Ottis’ senior year. After moving, Ottis rode the public bus every day from Blanding Blvd to complete his senior year at Fletcher High School. He was determined to graduate as a Fletcher Senator.

By the time Ottis graduated in 1942, the United States was at war. He worked for a while at Lovett's Grocery Store, but like many young men he aspired to join the service – particularly the Air Corps. Both of his parents were now working at Naval Air Station Jacksonville; Edith disapproved, saying the Air Corps was too dangerous. Instead, Ottis joined the Marine Corps.

“He was a handsome boy, but not self-centered,” said one family member. “He was sort of shy, but he wanted to achieve. He would not have selected the Marine Corps if he wasn't an achiever.”

Corporal Ottis O. Boxx was assigned as a machine gunner for 1st Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment. He had already received a purple heart when he was wounded during the Battle of Tinian and was recommended for a Bronze Star, however the latter was never awarded. He was killed in action on March 1, 1945 during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Ottis along with a fellow soldier were attempting to toss a makeshift rope of cloth ammunition belts to injured fellow Marines who were out in the open. The first toss failed and as he was attempting a second toss a mortar round landed nearby killing him and five others.

A recent conversation with Ottis's high school sweetheart, Lucy Strickland recalled Ottis as a wonderful guy who would do anything for anyone. She shared several pictures of Ottis playing football at Fletcher.

Corporal Ottis O. Boxx's commendation

Purple Heart with Gold Star

World War II Campaign Medal

Combat Action Ribbon

Ottis O. Boxx is memorialized and honored on the World War II Monument in Jacksonville Beach.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER: **13176** GOLDEN NUMBER: **13176**

1. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial): **Ottis Oliver Boxx**

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Full): **411 1/2 Sunderland Rd. Jacksonville, Duval Co., Fla.**

3. MAILING ADDRESS: **Same**

4. TELEPHONE: **2-4**

5. AGE IN YEARS: **16** 6. PLACE OF BIRTH: **Clay, Fla.**

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KEEP YOUR RECORD: **Mr. Mon W. Boxx, 411 1/2 Sunderland Rd., Jacksonville, Fla.**

8. REGISTERED MAIL AND ADDRESS: **Harold Parker, 10 59 1/2 Attaborough, Jacksonville, Fla.**

9. PLACE OF RESIDENCE ON REVISION: **Tonetta Grocery Co., Town Pointe, Jacksonville, Fla.**

10. I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE: **Ottis Oliver Boxx**

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL:

RACE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	COMPLEXION
White	5' 10"	170 lbs	Fair
HAIR	EYES	TEETH	SCARS
Dark	Blue	Good	None
HAIR	EYES	TEETH	SCARS
Dark	Blue	Good	None
HAIR	EYES	TEETH	SCARS
Dark	Blue	Good	None

Other details (Physical Characteristics) not set in identification: **None**

I certify that I have reviewed the data herein reported to read and that it is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I am not aware of any other person who is known to me as being the same person as the individual named herein.

Signature: **W. H. ...**

LOCAL BOARD NO. **8**
 DUVAL COUNTY
 87 WEST MOORE STREET
 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Refs:
 ~Geoff Roecker, Founder & Lead Researcher for 1-24thmarines.com and missingmarines.com; <https://1-24thmarines.com/personnel/ottis-oliver-boxx/>
 ~Beaches Leader article dated Oct. 20, 2006 by Johnny Woodhouse, titled, "Fletcher grad died a hero on Iwo Jima"

Sign Sponsor: The Boxx Family and Lucy Strickland, Melissa Outten and Toosie Williamson

Fletcher High School's inaugural football team of 1937 – A team full of heroes!



Fletcher High's inaugural football team of 1937 included 11 eventual World War II veterans, including paratrooper Robert David, seated third from left, and Army pilot Jack Ahern, back row far right, a team manager.

Ottis Boxx #16 (Back Row, 3rd from the left)



1st Lt. John W. Deam

John W. Deam graduated Landon High School, he as a two-time state wrestling champion and an alternate on the 1932 U.S. Olympic wrestling team. He was a fierce competitor. He attended the University of Florida and was commissioned as an Army 2nd LT through their ROTC program in 1934.

John W. Deam became a brother-in-law to Ivan R. Wellington Jr., marrying Ivan's sister, Harriet. John and Harriet had 2 children, (John W. Deam Jr. (6) Harriet (3) and Harriet was pregnant (Connie) when John went overseas, serving as a company commander during World War II as a 1st LT in the United States Army with the 513th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division. The Deam's lived at 1171 3rd Ave N.

On January 4, 1945, an attack launched by Deam's battalion near Mande-St. Etienne, Belgium, was halted by intense enemy fire short of its objective. 1st Lt. Deam boldly led his reserve company in a bayonet assault up an open, snow-covered slope and succeeded in reaching the edge of a woods. There, when his company was pinned down by machine gun fire, he advanced alone and destroyed a machine gun nest, killing the crew with hand grenades. He charged a second gun nest but was killed by enemy fire. First Lieutenant Deam's heroic action lives on as an inspiration to his men.

He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second highest award for bravery.

The courage he displayed, his fearless determination and supreme devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Eight months after being notified of the death of their daughter Connie's husband, Navy LT. Leonard Johnson, the Wellington Family received the second telegram in Jan of 1945, notifying them of the death of Harriet's husband, 1st LT John W. Deam. The Wellington's son, Ivan R. Wellington Jr.'s telegram was received the following month.

Connie's husband, Navy LT. Leonard Johnson was a bomber pilot who was shot down over Wake Island in May 1944.

All three men are honored on the World War II Monument in Jacksonville Beach.

Deam's commendations

Distinguished Service Cross

Purple Heart

Combat Action Ribbon

World War II Campaign Medal

Refs: Beaches Leader Article, dated Jun 13, 2003 by Johnny Woodhouse, titled "Flag Day Ceremony".

<https://www.honorstates.org/index.php?id=446062>

<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/40282675/john-w-deam-memorial/>

Sign Sponsor: The Deam Family (John W. Deam Jr.)

.....



Army Private Kenjiro Yoshida

Kenjiro Yoshida graduated Fletcher High School, Class of 1943 and soon after he enlisted in the United States Army in July 1943. His older brother, Jun was already serving in the US Army. Prior to enlisting in the United States Army, Jun and Kenjiro lived with their parents, Gengoro G. and Jean Yoshida at 121 Pablo Ave.

After completing basic training at Camp Blanding, Private Kenjiro Yoshida was assigned to Company L of the 3rd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was made up of almost entirely of Japanese descent. This infantry regiment was awarded more medals for fighting in Europe than any other American Unit of similar size. General George C. Marshall spoke of them, "They were superb! That word correctly describes it: superb! They took terrific casualties. They showed rare courage and tremendous fighting spirit. Not too much can be said of the performance of those battalions in Europe, and everybody wanted them...."

On July 8, 1944, Kenjiro (Age 19) was killed in action in Italy against enemy forces.

Classmates of Kenjiro remembered him as a good athlete and student. There were four boys he hung around around with: Bo Brantley, Red Gates, Skeeter Dickson, and Fred Ahern. They were all members of Boy Scout Troop 40. Fred Ahern once recalled when they all hung out near the boardwalk, sailors would recognize that Ken was Japanese and tried to pick on him. "We all stood up for Kenjiro. He was one of us."

Private Kenjiro Yoshida's Commendations

Purple Heart

World War II Campaign Medal

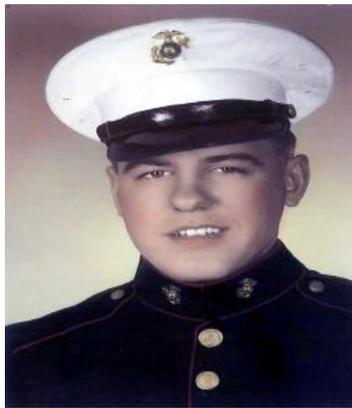
Combat Action Ribbon

Private Kenjiro Yoshida is honored on the World War II Monument in Jacksonville Beach.

Refs: Beaches Leader Article, dated May 25, 2007, by Johnny Woodhouse, titled;
"Fletcher High's Yoshida 'was one of us.'"

Sign Sponsor: American Legion Posts 316 & 129, VFW 3270, American Legion Auxiliary Units 316 & 129.

Vietnam War



Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin A. Chitko

Benjamin A. Chitko enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1951, during the height of the Korean War. Chitko was in his 15th year of military service when he left for Vietnam, he was a Gunnery Sergeant and Infantry Unit Leader and was assigned to the 3rd Marine Division, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, D Company.

In the summer of 1965 when he received orders to deploy to Vietnam, Ben and his wife, Maddy decided to make Jacksonville Beach their home and bought a house in the 700 block of 8th Ave N. They had 4 children, Joey, Peter, Kathy and Sally.

Chitko arrived in Vietnam as a staff sergeant but was quickly elevated to gunnery sergeant. "Gunny" sergeants are father figures who lead by example and hold fast to the traditions of the Corps.

Chitko was already awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor during his first 11 months in combat. He was a highly decorated career Marine. On September 16, 1966, his reconnaissance unit was ambushed just south of the DMZ (demilitarized zone). The enemy outnumbered his unit three to one and during heavy fighting, Gunnery Sergeant Chitko along with several others were killed in action. His death came six weeks before his 13-month Vietnam tour was to end.

The overwhelming love and support Maddy and her children received from the Beaches Community upon notification of Ben's death made her realize that the decision to call Jacksonville Beach home.....was meant to be.

Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin A. Chitko is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Wall, Panel 10e, Line 100.

GYSGT Benjamin A. Chitko's commendations

Bronze Star with Valor

Purple Heart with Gold Star

Vietnam Service Medal

Korean War Service Medal

Combat Action Ribbon

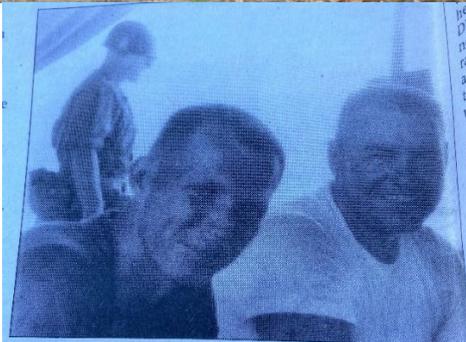


photo courtesy of MADDY CHITKO
Marine Gunnery Sgt. Ben Chitko, right, inside a tent with an unidentified Marine in 1966.

Ref: Beaches Leader Article, dated May 28, 2010, by Johnny Woodhouse, titled, "Gunny" Chitko was held in high esteem"

<https://www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces/8976/BENJAMIN-A-CHITKO/>

<http://www.coffeltdatabase.org/index.php>

Sign Sponsor: The Chitko Family (Gunnery Sergeant Chitko's children: Kathy, Sally, Peter and Joe)



Captain Roger P. Harrell

Roger P. Harrell was the first trumpet in the Fletcher High School Marching Band and played all the solos. He was often requested to play taps at funerals for Beaches Veterans. Roger was an honor student, an American Red Cross volunteer lifeguard, and an officer in the Fletcher band. After graduation, he attended Stetson College where he enrolled in ROTC and graduated with honors from the Marine Corps Academy in Pensacola. He married his high school sweetheart, June Adkins, a 1959 Fletcher graduate and had 2 children, Roger Jr. and Deidre Susan

He was already a skilled aviator, both in helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, when his orders to Vietnam came in the mid 1960's. Roger was now a Captain in the United States Marine Corps, a highly decorated and skilled aviator flying helicopters and performing daring rescues extracting soldiers during the Vietnam War, his unit logged over 400 missions. He was attached to the III Marine Amphibious Force, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Group 16, Marine Light Attack Squadron 167. "He was one of the bravest and best pilots in the squadron," recalled retired Marine Col. MacDonald Tweed, who skippered the squadron Roger was assigned to, known as "Tweed's Tigers". Roger earned a majority of his 26 air medals during an eight-month span with "Tweed's Tigers".

Roger was recognized by earning the Silver Star, the nation's 4th highest citation for bravery on Oct 31, 1966. He extracted a platoon of Marines stranded on a hilltop and surrounded by enemy fire. Just 3 months earlier he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for another daring rescue of wounded Marines.

In April of 1965, Roger's younger brother, Stanley M. Moore who idolized him and followed him by enlisting in the USMC.

Stanley Harrell had attained the rank of Corporal and was a squad leader. He was a rifleman with the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, H Company. Stanley was killed in action during a firefight with enemy forces in the Quang Nam Province in the Republic of Vietnam on November 1, 1968. Roger escorted Stanley's body home.

After Stanley died, Roger thought to leave the Marines, however, he felt he was still needed in Vietnam to help save the lives of other young marines. Roger returned to a tour in Vietnam. 10 months after Roger escorted Stanley's body home, he was killed when his helicopter crashed in Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam, South China Sea.

The Harrell Family lived on Ninth Ave South in Jacksonville Beach, four of their sons served our country during the Vietnam War era, only two of the four returned home safely.

Roger is forever memorialized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Panel 20w, Line 70.

He is buried at Greenlawn Cemetery, Jacksonville, FL.

Captain Roger P. Harrell commendations

Silver Star

Distinguished Flying Cross

Air Medal

Combat Action Ribbon

United States Aviator Badge

National Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Campaign Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam Gallantry Cross



Refs: Beaches Leader Article, dated November 9, 2001, by Johnny Woodhouse, titled, "Brothers In Arms"

<http://www.coffeltdatabase.org/index.php>

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/21488/ROGER-P-HARRELL/>

Sign Sponsor: The Harrell Family (Thomas Harrell)



Corporal Stanley M. Harrell

Stanley Harrell idolized his older brother, Roger and followed him into the United States Marine Corps. Stanley's dream came true when he graduated Marine Boot Camp at Parris Island in June of 1965. He earned the title, United States Marine.

Harrell had attained the rank of Corporal and was a squad leader. He was a rifleman with the 1st Marine Division, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, H Company. Stanley M. Moore began his tour in Vietnam on September 28, 1968. Although new to his platoon, Stanley quickly made an impression, even winning a battlefield promotion to buck sergeant just prior to his death.

Stanley was killed in action during a firefight with enemy forces in the Quang Nam Province in the Republic of Vietnam on November 1, 1968. He was courageously trying to move his men to a better position after they came under attack.

"His eagerness to help and devotion to duty won for him the respect of all who knew him," said his commanding officer in a letter of condolence sent to Stanley's parents.

His older brother United States Marine Corps Captain Roger P. Harrell escorted Stanley's body home.

The Harrell Family lived at 407 Ninth Ave South in Jacksonville Beach, four of their sons served our country during the Vietnam War era, only two of the four returned home safely.

Corporal Stanley Harrell's Commendations

Purple Heart

Combat Action Ribbon

Marksmanship Badge

National Defense Service Medal

Vietnam Campaign Medal

Vietnam Service Medal

Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam Gallantry Cross

Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal

Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal

Refs: Beaches Leader Article, dated November 9, 2001, by Johnny Woodhouse, titled, "Brothers In Arms"

<http://www.coffeltdatabase.org/index.php>

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/21492/STANLEY-M-HARRELL/>

Sign Sponsor: The Harrell Family (Thomas Harrell-brother)

Note: Commendation listings are not all inclusive.

Special Thanks

~Many thanks to Johnny Woodhouse for his sharing his amazing stories he wrote for us all in the Beaches Leader and for keeping the memories of our local veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice alive and never to be forgotten. Johnny's stories helped inspire me to undertake this project!

~Many thanks to Geoff Roecker, Founder & Lead Researcher for the 1-24thmarines.com and missingmarines.com. Geoff helped me track down family members of Ottis Boxx and has maintained a wonderful historical account of Marine Corporal Ottis O. Boxx on his websites!

~Many thanks to Lucy Strickland (High School sweetheart of Ottis Boxx) along with her daughters, for sharing some memories and photos of Ottis.

~Thanks to the many Gold Star family members of these heroes, including John W. Deam Jr., Thomas Harrell, Kathy Chitko Naugle, Sally Chitko Doherty, Donald Landess, and Raina Boxx for the sacrifices their families have made and for their strong support of this program.

~Thanks for the City of Jacksonville Beach's Molly Alleger and Jason Philtides for their dedication and support of this project.

~Thanks for the strong support from the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park committee, American Legion Posts 316 & 129, American Legion Auxiliary Units 316 & 129, VFW 3270 & Vetcare.

~Thanks to Operations Manager, John Graham, and his creative team of professionals at Florida TransCor for partnering with me to develop these beautiful honor street signs.