AHS Gold Star Graduates
Those Who Died in Military Service

World War II Era, Korean War Era, Vietnam War Era

Compiled by Lawrence A. Scherpa AHS '65
Every effort has been made to identify all AHS graduates who have died in military service during the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Eras. Names of the fallen listed at the Agawam Veterans’ Green Memorial have been crossed referenced to the AHS Data Base containing the names of all AHS graduates from 1924 – 2022.

Further research will be undertaken to provide biographical information on all those listed on the Agawam Veterans’ Green Memorial whose stories have yet to be told.

Please email any comments, suggestions or corrections to lscherpa@comcast.net

Lawrence Scherpa
(AHS ’65)

To all Veterans, thank you for your Service!
On Memorial Day we remember and honor all of those who died in military service to their country.

The intention of the following pages is to remember and honor those Agawam High School graduates who died while in military service during the World War II Era, the Korean War Era, and the Vietnam Era.

Though these young men died over 50 years ago, even the most recent of AHS graduates have some common shared experiences with them – walking the same halls, sitting in the same classrooms and auditorium, Graduation Day, The Prom, The Sachem, The Mirror, The Kid Party, “Brownie” Athletics, Drama and Music, Orange and Brown, “Joyous and Ever Loyal…” The West Side Rally, and, of course, the West Side Game.

More than mere forgotten names on a plaque, images and high school data of each remind us of the lives they lived, the loved ones they left behind, and their relative youth when they died.

We must always remember and honor their sacrifice
We thank all veterans for their service.

All information in this compilation is taken from readily available public documents – Agawam High School Yearbooks, The Springfield Daily News, the Springfield Union, the Springfield Republican, the Vietnam Wall Memorial, The Agawam Veterans Memorial, and various Veterans websites.

Section 1 - an Overview
Section 2 - Contemporary Accounts - newspaper articles, Yearbook and other additional information
Section 1
An Overview

Veterans’ Green Memorial Park, Agawam
AHS Graduates / Died in Service During World War II Era

Goss, Frank
Elm Street
AHS Class of 1933

2nd Lt. Frank Goss / United States Army
Evaded capture in Bataan but later captured in Corregidor, Philippines
Prisoner of War of the Japanese from 1942 – 1944
Prisoner transport ship sunk enroute to Japan
KIA WWII – 24 Oct 1944 (30 years old)

Brady, Joseph John, Jr.
Adams Street
AHS Class of 1938

1st Lt. Joseph John Brady, Jr.
United States Army Air Corps
Pilot – awarded Air Medal for Service in North Africa / Italy
Serving as a flight instructor when he was killed in mid-air collision in South Carolina
DNB WWII – 13 Nov 1944 (24 years old)

Goodhue, Elmer Joseph
150 Walnut Street
AHS Class of 1940

Cpl. Elmer J. Goodhue
United States Army
Killed in “Exercise Tiger”, Slapton Sands, England
KIA WWII – 28 April 1944 (22 years old)

Brusseau, Philip Henry
North Street
AHS Class of 1941

1st Lt. Phillip H. Brusseau
United States Army Air Corps
B 17 Co - Pilot – 8th Air Force / England
Just weeks after being promoted to 1st Lt, he died of wounds suffered in an air crash.
DNB WWII – 23 Oct 1944 (21 years old)
Magiera, Julian
106 Moore Street AHS AHS Class of 1943

Cpl. Julian Magiera
United States Army Air Corps

Training as an aerial gunner, died in crash of B-24 Liberator Bomber in Tucson, Arizona

DNB WW II - 30 Nov 1944 (20 years old)

Hackett, Charles
Leonard Street Left Class of ’43 prior to graduation to join the Army

Pfc. Charles Hackett
United States Army

Blainville sur Leau, France
KIA 8 Nov 1944 (19 years old)

Pfc. Hackett was not a graduate because he chose to leave early specifically to join the armed forces. Future research will attempt to identify other servicemen who attended AHS and died in military service.

Pohner , William
North Westfield Street AHS Class of 1943

Captain William Pohner / United States Air Force

Pilot – 18th AF / 428th FBS
Awarded Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal for service during WWII and Korea

F-100 Super Sabre Jet he was piloting crashed on takeoff at Cannon AFB, New Mexico
He was pulled from the wreckage alive, but died of his injuries the next day
DNB – 24 Oct 1957 (33 years old)

Hobbs, Clement B.
95 Carr Avenue AHS Class of 1953

Cpl. Clement B. Hobbs
United States Marine Corps

After serving a year in Korea as a Marine Corps Engineer he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, California where he died in an auto accident

DNB 17 July 1955 (21 years old)
**Gallerani, Lawrence A.**
61 Oak Hill Avenue  
AHS Class of 1955 (SC President)

Lt. Lawrence A. Gallerani (DDS)
United States Naval Reserve / Dental Corps

Days after spending a week at home on leave in Agawam
Dr. Gallerani was killed in the crash of a military transport aircraft
enroute to his new assignment in Manila, Philippines.

_DNB_ 11 May 1964 - Vietnam Era (26 years old)

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**Connelly, Edward W. Jr. “Ned”**
28 Federal Avenue  
AHS Class of 1961

Captain Edward W. Connelly Jr.
United States Marine Corps Aviator
Awarded the Silver Star (posthumously) for bravery trying to save the lives of fellow Marines

On a medivac mission the CH 46 helicopter he was piloting
was downed by enemy ground fire –
he survived the impact but was killed in the ensuing fire fight.

_KIA_ 5 May 1968 – Vietnam (24 years old)

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**Meade, Michael**
252 Silver Street  
AHS Class of 1963

Petty Officer 2C / Corpsman Michael Meade
United States Navy

Awarded Bronze Star and Purple Heart
assisting wounded while under enemy fire
in Vietnam

After tour of duty in Vietnam he was reassigned to the United States --
He was killed in an auto accident in New Hampshire

_DNB_ 27 July 1968 / Vietnam Era (23 years old)
D’Amato, Paul
105 Rowley Street
AHS Class of 1967

Spec 4 Paul J. D’Amato
United States Army / 101st Airborne Division

Killed by “friendly fire” two hours before the start of a scheduled Christmas cease fire

KIA 24 Dec 1970 Vietnam (21 years old)

Moynahan, John J.
140 Autumn Street
AHS Class of 1970

Spec 4 John J. Moynahan
United States Army / 9th Cavalry Division

Gunner aboard a UH 1H helicopter on a troop insertion mission. Helicopter crash killed all aboard

KIA 17 Mar 1972 Vietnam (21 years old)

World War 1, Korean War Era, and Vietnam War Era Plaque

Veterans’ Green Memorial Park, Agawam
Section 2 –

Contemporary Accounts

World War Two Plaque

Veterans’ Green Memorial, Agawam
Frank Goss

Elm St., Agawam

“Friend of all.”
Football 3-4; Orchestra 1-2-3-4; Glee Club 2-3-4; Aviation Club 2-4; Dramatic Club 2-3; Treasurer 3; Agawam Mirror Staff 2-3-4; Circulation Manager 3-4; Operaetta 2-3-4; Scenery Manager for Senior Play; Class Prophet.

Evaded capture in Bataan but later recaptured in Corregidor, Philippines
Prisoner of War of the Japanese from 1942 – 1944

Prisoner transport ship sunk en route to Japan
KIA WWII – 24 Oct 1944 (30 years old)

Goss, Frank
Elm Street
AHS Class of 1933

2nd Lieutenant, Army
228 Signal Ops. Co.

Springfield Republican
April 21, 1942, p. 3

Springfield Republican
August 8, 1942, p. 18
After three years of uncertainty for the Goss Family....

Springfield Republican
June 22, 1945
p. 2

GOSS, RABINOVITZ
REPORTED KILLED

Listed by Japs Among Men
Lost When Transport Sunk
at Sea

Lieut Frank M. Goss, son of Mr
and Mrs Frank Goss of Agawam and
Staff Sgt Harold J. Rabinovitz, son
of Dr and Mrs Bernard Rabinovitz
of Sumner avenue, were lost last Oc-
tober 24 when a transport on which
they were being taken from the Phi-
ippines to Japan was sunk by sub-
marine action in the South China Sea.
Both servicemen had been prisoners
of the Japanese since the fall of Cor-
gerador.

Parents of both young men were
notified yesterday that their names
appeared on a list provided by the
Japanese government to the Interna-
tional Red Cross, of American soldiers
lost in the sinking of the transport.
Lieut Goss entered service in Au-
gust, 1939, and at the outbreak of the
war was stationed at Fort McKinley
in Manila.

Sergt Rabinovitz entered service in
June, 1941, and after a brief stay at
Westover Field was shipped to the
Philippines.

2nd Lieutenant Frank Goss is listed in the Manilla American Cemetery as MIA
Pilot – awarded Air Medal for Service in North Africa / Italy

Serving as a flight instructor when he was killed in mid-air collision in South Carolina

DNB WWII – 13 Nov 1944 (24 years old)

Springfield Republican
October 17, 1944 p. 3

SIX DEAD IN CRASH
FATAL TO BRADY.

Son of Agawam Postmaster
One of Two Officers and
Four Enlisted Men in Collision of Bombers.

Son of Agawam Postmaster
One of Two Officers and
Four Enlisted Men in Collision of Bombers.

JOSEPH J. BRADY
Brady Village, originally a Veterans’ housing project in Agawam, named in his honor.
Though not stated in the newspaper article at the time for security reasons, Elmer Goodhue was one of 749 American soldiers and sailors killed in “Exercise Tiger”, a large scale, live fire training exercise which took place at Slapton Sands, Devon, England on April 27 and 28, 1944 in preparation for the upcoming D Day landings. Command and control breakdowns among Allied forces led to friendly fire incidents and unexpected attacks by German torpedo boats led to the high number of casualties for a training exercise. Lessons learned during “Exercise Tiger” contributed to the success of the D Day landings on June 6, 1944.

Elmer Goodhue’s name is commemorated on the “Exercise Tiger” Memorial at Torcross, England. He is buried at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Coton, England.
Brusseau, Philip Henry  
North Street  
AHS Class of 1941

1st Lieutenant  
8th Air Force  
303 Bomb Squadron

B 17 Co-Pilot – 8th Air Force / England  
Just weeks after being promoted to 1st Lt.  
he died of wounds suffered in an air crash

DNB WW II – 23 Oct 1944  (21 years old)

Springfield Republican  
November 7, 1944 p.2

Springfield Republican  
November 18, 1944 p.4

His body was returned from England in 1949 for internment at the Woodlawn National Cemetery at Elmira, N.Y.
Magiera, Julian

While training to be an aerial gunner he died in crash of Liberator Bomber in Tucson, Arizona

DNB WW II - 30 Nov 1944 (20 years old)

Springfield Daily News
December 1, 1944 p. 1, 16

North Agawam Flier
Killed in Ariz. Crash

For many years after his death, the Julian Magiera award given to the outstanding Member of Student Council at AHS.
Hackett, Charles

Photo taken from 1944 AHS Yearbook honoring
The 18 servicemen who left AHS prior to graduation
to serve in the armed forces after December of 1942

*This document highlights graduates of Agawam High School who died in military service.

Pfc. Hackett was not a graduate because he chose to leave early to join the armed forces. Future research will attempt to identify other servicemen who attended AHS and died in military service.

KIA 8 Nov 1944
Blainville sur Leau, France (age 19 years old)

Springfield Daily News
December 5, 1944 p.13

Springfield Republican
March 26, 1944 p.18

Springfield Daily News
December 22, 1944 p.2
Entered the Army Air Force on July 1, 1943 following graduation from Agawam High School. Successfully completed 7 months cadet training before graduating as a navigator.

**Flew 25 combat missions with the 8th Air Force on B24 aircraft, 15 as group lead navigator and 2 as wing lead navigator.**

F-100 Super Sabre Jet he was piloting crashed on takeoff at Cannon AFB, New Mexico.
He was pulled from the wreckage alive, but died of his injuries the next day.

**DNB – 24 Oct 1957 (33 years old)**
After serving a year in Korea as a Marine Corps Engineer, he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, California, where he died in an auto accident.

DNB 17 July 1955  (21 years old)

For many years after his death, the Clement Hobbs Award presented to outstanding AHS football lineman.
Days after spending a week at home on leave in Agawam
Dr. Gallerani was killed in the crash of a military transport aircraft enroute to his new assignment in Manila, Philippines.

DNB 11 May 1964 - Vietnam Era (26 years old)
Gallerani, Lawrence A.  61 Oak Hill Avenue  AHS Class of 1955 (SC President)

**Springfield Daily News**

May 13, 1964  p.4

**Confirm Deaths Of Local Men**

Navy Telegram Received by Lt. Gallerani's Family

The U.S. Navy last night confirmed that Lt. Lawrence Gallerani of Agawam was killed Monday in the crash of a U.S. military jet at Clark Air Force Base in Manila, in the Philippines.

Lt. Gallerani, 26, a native of Agawam, was one of the 82 servicemen aboard the military air transport service plane 331 on route from Travis Air Force Base, Calif., to Manila and that he was one of the 71 killed in that crash. The telegram said that positive individual identification of the crash victims was not possible.

The telegram added that a letter from the commanding officer would follow with details of the circumstances surrounding the crash of Lt. Gallerani.

Holyoke Captain

Also killed in the crash was Capt. Frederick W. Meyer, husband of Mrs. Caroline Meyer of 43 Nickerson St., Struecker section of Springfield, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Meyer of 20 Longwood St., Holyoke. Capt. Meyer, a native of Holyoke, had been in the Air Force for 33 years.

Lt. Gallerani was flying to a new post in Manila from Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he had served as a dental surgeon in the Navy Dental Corps. He had been home for five days between assignments and had left Agawam last Wednesday.

Besides his parents and sister, Lt. Gallerani leaves four brothers, Vincent, Alfred, Arthur and Edward, all of Agawam.

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**Springfield Daily News**

May 16, 1964  p.3

**Lt. Gallerani’s Body To Return Home Soon**

AGAWAM—The body of Lt. Lawrence Gallerani, killed in the crash of a jet at Clark Field, Manila, has been recovered and identified, the Navy Department has notified members of his family. The body will be sent to Agawam in the near future and the Dalton funeral home will be in charge of the services, details of which will be announced.

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**Springfield Daily News**

May 19, 1964  p.16

**LT. GALLERANI’S RITES THURSDAY**

Navy Lt. Lawrence A. Gallerani, 26, a native of Agawam, was killed in the Philippines on the 11th in the crash of a military air transport plane.

He was born in Agawam, Aug. 23, 1937, son of Arsenio and Emeline (Belboni) Gallerani, and had been a lifelong resident of Agawam.

Dr. Gallerani was commissioned a lieutenant senior grade in the Navy Dental Corps in July 1963.

He was a graduate of Agawam High School and American International College. He received his doctor of dental surgery degree from the dental school of the University of Maryland in 1962. Lt. Gallerani interned at the Grace New Haven Hospital, part of the Yale Medical Center. At AIC, he was a member of the Phi Delta Mu fraternity and the student government. He was president of the dental fraternity Xi Psi Phi, University of Maryland.

Besides his parents, he leaves a sister, Mrs. Lorraine Lahun and four brothers, Vincent J., Alfred, Arthur W. and Edward, all of Agawam.

The funeral will be held at the Dalton funeral home, Agawam, Thursday morning with a solemn requiem high mass in St. Anthony’s of Padua Church, North Agawam. Burial will be in St. Michael’s Cemetery. Visiting hours are from 7 to 9 and Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

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**Do To The Death Of Lt. Lawrence A. Gallerani**

United States Navy

Both

The Edward’s Drug Store

and

Arthur Drug Center

of Agawam

Will Be Closed Thursday Until 1 P.M.
Connelly, Edward W. Jr. “Ned”  

28 Federal Avenue  

AHS Class of 1961

United States Marine Corps Aviator
Awarded the Silver Star (posthumously)
for bravery trying to save the lives of fellow Marines

On a medivac mission the CH 46 helicopter he was piloting

was downed by enemy ground fire –
he survived the impact but was killed in the ensuing fire fight.

KIA 5 May 1968 – Vietnam (24 years old)

Captain Edward “Ned” Connelly Memorial
at the entrance to Agawam High School
honoring all who served in Vietnam.
Captain Connelly’s Silver Star citation reads in part ...

“As the section leader of a flight of two CH-46 Helicopters assigned an emergency medical evacuation mission in support of a friendly unit... Captain Connelly was advised that two groups of Marines had been pinned down for fifteen hours within 150 meters of enemy positions and had sustained casualties.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Captain Connelly unhesitatingly commenced his approach to the fire swept landing zone and immediately came under a heavy volume of accurate fire. With complete disregard for his own safety, he skillfully landed his aircraft in the hazardous area and expeditiously embarked several Marines.

Although his helicopter was under intense hostile fire, he fearlessly elected to extract the second group.

Upon making his approach the aircraft sustained serious damage from enemy fire and crashed in a rice paddy. Rapidly exiting the burning helicopter, he maneuvered to a nearby position where he was mortally wounded while awaiting a rescue helicopter.

His bold initiative and sense of concern for the welfare of his comrades inspired all who served with him.

By his courage, superior airmanship, and selfless devotion to duty Captain Connelly upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps...

He gallantly gave his life for his country.”
Michael A. Meade

Can always be seen in the shops . . .
carefree and sleepy . . .
animal calls . . .
3 A.M. walks . . .
Storrowtown waiter . . .
English IV . . .
on the scene . . .
future social walker . . .
Mike

Awards Bronze Star and Purple Heart
assisting wounded while under enemy fire
in Vietnam

After tour of duty in Vietnam he was reassigned to the United States --
He was killed in an auto accident in New Hampshire.

DNB 27 July 1968 / Vietnam Era (age 23)

Springfield Daily News July 2, 1968 p. 5
Springfield Union July 27, 1968 p. 74

Navy Hospital Corpsman Decorated for Heroism

For heroism while under fire in Vietnam, Navy Hospital Corpsman 2d Class Michael A. Meade of Agawam was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal.

His citation reads that Meade, a member of Company M, Third Battalion, 26th Marines, was engaged in active combat in the northwestern area of Quang Tri Province when his unit was ambushed by a superior force of North Vietnamese regulars southwest of Quang Tri. Observing a seriously wounded Marine lying in an area dangerously exposed to enemy fire, Meade immediately ran toward the man.

While crossing the fire-raked terrain, Meade was thrown to the ground on two occasions by the force of exploding mortars and mortar rounds. Although painfully wounded by fragments from the enemy fire, he regained his feet and resolutely continued to move across the hazardous area until he reached the side of his injured comrade and moved him to a relatively safer landing zone and placed him aboard a medical evacuation aircraft.

Refusing medical evacuation for himself he remained in the area to assist the wounded and supervise their evacuation.

Navy Hospital Corpsman Michael A. Meade of Agawam has been awarded the Bronze Star for heroism under fire while in Vietnam. Congratulating him in his command post at the Naval Training Center in Portsmouth, N.H. was AHS Class of 1963

Corpsman 2nd Class
United States Navy

Crash Kills Hero
Of Vietnam War,
Michael A. Meade

An Agawam man, who less than three weeks ago was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for heroism under fire, died Saturday when the car he was driving hit a tree in Hampton, N.H.

Michael A. Meade, 23, of 252 Silver St., Agawam, was pronounced dead on arrival 12:34 a.m. Saturday at Exeter General Hospital, N.H.

Meade was rounding a curve on Main Street, according to Hampton police, when the 1967 Plymouth Barracuda he was driving hit a tree. Death was due to shock and hemorrhage, according to Rockingham County Medical Examiner, Dr. Wendell P. Clark.

Son of Mrs. June M. (Crover) Meade and the late Francis J. Meade who died in March, Meade was a Navy Hospital Corpsman 2d class. He received the bronze star this month at the Naval Training Center in Portsmouth, Md., where he was stationed.
Paul John D’Amato Jr. was born on January 11, 1949 and a resident of Agawam, MA. He was serving with the 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. On December 24, 1970, just 1.75 hours before cease fire was to go into effect, he was holding a night defensive position in Thua Thien Province.

He was killed by a friendly artillery shell. (age 21)
Moynahan, John J.  140 Autumn Street  AHS Class of 1970

Corrections to articles below

John J. Moynahan is listed in the 1970 AHS Yearbook.
He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Haydenville, MA

SP 4
F Troop, 9th Cavalry
1st Cavalry Division

Gunner aboard a UH 1H helicopter on a troop insertion mission.
Helicopter crashed into Dong Nai River killing all aboard.

KIA  17 Mar 1972  Vietnam  (21 years old)

Springfield Daily News
March 20, 1972  p. 6

Viet Helicopter Crashes, Kills Agawam GI

Spec. 4 John J. Moynahan, 20, son of former Chicopee Alderman Patrick T. Moynahan and Mrs. Helen F. (Ryan) Moynahan, of 140 Autumn St., Agawam, died Thursday after his helicopter crashed near the Dong Nai River, Vietnam.

Born in Chicopee July 27, 1951, he was a resident of Agawam for the past five years. He attended Williamsburg Elementary School and Cardinal Cushing Academy in Newbury. He graduated from Agawam High School in 1969.

He played football and was a member of the drama club at Cardinal Cushing Academy.

Springfield Union
March 20, 1972  p. 19

Sp. 4 J. J. Moynahan
Killed in Action


He played football and was a member of the drama club at Cardinal Cushing Academy.

He entered the service Feb. 22, 1971 and was stationed at Fort Rucker, Ala. and Fort Lewis, in Seattle, Washington, before going to Vietnam in August, 1971.

Besides his parents he leaves two brothers, Joseph T. of West Springfield and Patrick T. Jr. of Goshen and three sisters, Major Patricia M. Moynahan of the Air Force stationed in Thailand, Miss Kathleen T. and Miss Maureen F., both at home.

The funeral will be at the Corridan funeral home, Chicopee with a liturgy of Christian burial at St. John the Evangelist Church, Agawam. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Chicopee. The times are incomplete.
Other AHS related works by the Author

AHS Gold Star Graduates / Those Who Died in Military Service During the World War 2, Korean War, and Vietnam War Eras

“Joyous and Ever Loyal...” / A Data Base and Anecdotal History of AHS Graduates 1924 – 1922
The First Hundred Years

“Sent to the Office” / A Data Base and Anecdotal History of AHS Principals and Superintendents
The First Hundred Years 1924 - 2022

“The Case for the Class of 1924” / Evidence confirming the first class at AHS, --the Class of 1924
The First 100 Classes / 1924 – 2023

Coming Soon

A Data Base and Anecdotal History of the AHS Faculty 1924 – 2023
The First 100 classes – the First 101 years

A History of the Agawam – West Springfield Football Game
1924 – present

All are available in hard copy at the Agawam Public Library -- now also available on the Library Website!
Email lscherpa@comcast.com with comments, questions, suggestions and or corrections.