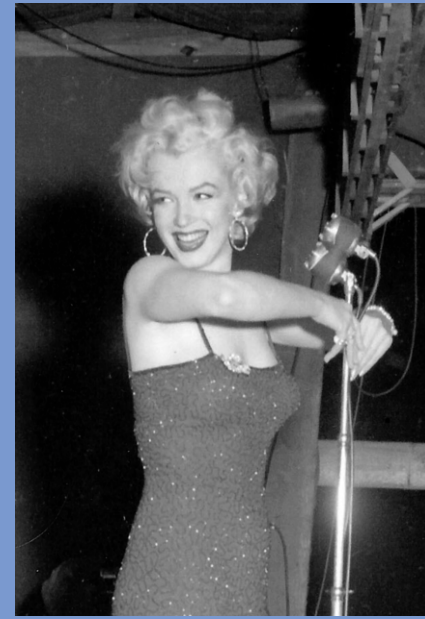
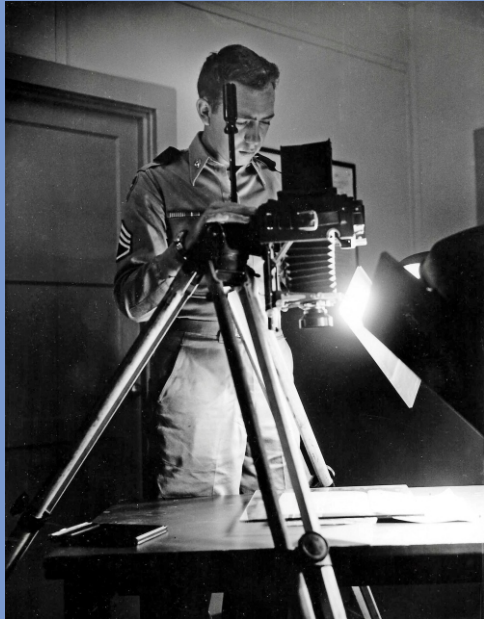




December 2022 Stratford Veterans Museum VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HOWARD BAKER



Howie Baker was born March 9, 1933. He lived on Park Street, Bridgeport, CT. He attended Barnum School and then Harding High School where he graduated in 1951.

He worked as a photographer in Mulson Photo Lab in Bridgeport until 1953. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was sent to basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, then to Fort Monmouth where he was assigned to the Army Signal Corp - Photography Division, where he trained in aerial photography.

He was deployed to Korea April 1953 where he flew in a Helicopter taking pictures mainly of landscapes. He would also go out on night flights, to take pictures of enemy gun flashes for artillery spotters. Howie would develop his pictures which would be picked up by an officer in intelligence. The pictures were essential for mapping purposes.

He was to attain the rank of staff Sgt. in the 25th Infantry Division. One of Howie's favorite assignments was to take pictures of Marilyn Monroe who was in Korea to entertain the troops. "She was absolutely great" said Howie. "The guys went wild, she was a sensation".

"Winters were very cold. In our tent we had a pot belly stove that was helpful but it was still plenty cold, so cold that ice would form on the inside of our tent from our breath".

October 1954, Howie packed his bags and shipped out of Korea. He was sent to Long Island to make training films. He was discharged from the service July 1956.

Upon his return to Bridgeport he attained work at Yankee Photo. In 1956 he met the love of his life, Pat Macey. They were married in October 1957 and has 4 children, Jane, Mark, Paul and Bruce.

Howie was hired by Budweiser where he became the number one salesman in New England. Over the years he won a pickup truck, a car and fifty thousand dollars.

He has been an active member of the VFW Post 9460. He is also a member of the Baldwin Men's Club, the Stratford Oldtimers and the American Legion.