



November 2023
Stratford Veterans Museum
VETERANS OF THE MONTH

Goetz Family

Samuel



Richard



Robert



Timothy



Military service in the Goetz family goes back to WW1 with Edward Morrison Jr serving in the US Navy and Charles Goetz serving in the Army in France. Multiple uncles followed in naval service in WW2 and Vietnam.

Samuel L Goetz was born in Hagerstown, MD in 1923. His initial attempt to enlist was stalled by not meeting the minimum weight requirement. After a suggestion of eating bananas and drinking plenty of water he returned the following day and was accepted into the US Army Air Corps. Basic training June 1943 in Greensboro NC and various flight training throughout the states. He served as a 1st Lt in the 331st Bomb Group, 20th Air Force Guam as a B-29 bombardier. The one mission he spoke of was dropping food and medical supplies to a POW camp in Osaka Japan where a high school buddy who had survived the Bataan Death March was a POW. He completed 10 missions over Japan before being discharged in April 1946.

Richard Goetz Bunnell HS graduate class of 1975 and enlisted in the Navy as a cook. He earned his dolphins and served aboard the USS Greenling SSN 614 based in Groton, CT completing multiple Mediterranean cruises. During an extended mission in the North Sea his submarine was forced to surface when he was med-evaced via helicopter in the middle of the night with an appendicitis. After his discharge, he continued his love of cooking as a chef in Fairfield county restaurants/corporate kitchens.

Robert Goetz graduated from Stratford HS in 1984 and enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in May 1985 as a motor vehicle operator. Upon completion of basic training in Parris Island, SC he reported to 6th Motor Transport Bn in New Haven, CT. Attained the rank of Corporal before accepting his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and proceeded to the Basic School and flight training to become a CH-46E helicopter pilot. He completed two Mediterranean cruises, deployments to Haiti and Iraq and billets at the Pentagon, with FEMA and 1st Marine Corps District. He retired as a Colonel with 34 years of active and reserve duty.

Timothy Goetz graduated from Stratford HS in 2012 and enlisted in the Marine Corps. After completing basic training in Parris Island, SC and the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, NC he trained at Fort Benning, GA as a tank mechanic. He spent his enlistment with 2nd Tank Bn at Camp Lejeune where he attained the rank of Sergeant while surfing Onslow Beach in his spare time. Upon discharge he used the GI Bill, graduating from University of Bridgeport with an BS in Nursing and is currently a Registered Nurse working at the VA hospital in West Haven.