

# CELEBRATING VETERANS

IN THE PENNSYLVANIA COURTS 2025



The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania recognizes the contributions of jurists, court staff and their families who have served in the U.S. military and who continue to serve in the Pennsylvania Judiciary.



### JUSTICE DANIEL MCCAFFERY

SERVED 1983-1989

# Justice Daniel McCaffery Supreme Court

- Served on active duty from 1983-1986
- Joined the Army at 18 years old and proudly served with the 1st Cavalry Division
- Selected to attend West Point Prep
- Served in the Army Reserves in the 304th Military Intelligence Unit from 1986-1989



# JUDGE CHRISTOPHER KALACINSKI

SERVED 2008-2016

# Judge Christopher Kalacinski Potter County

- Served as a U.S. Army Military Police Officer and Investigator from 2008-2016
- Stationed at Schofield, Hawaii 2008-2013
- Deployed to Afghanistan from 2012-2013



JUDGE MARK MARTIN

SERVED 1985-2015

# Judge Mark Martin

Cumberland County

- Served in active and reserve duty and retired as a Colonel after 30 years of service
- Served as Infantry Officer during nine years active duty
- Military Police and civil affairs assignments during 21 years reserve time
- Stationed three and one half years in West Germany during the end of the Cold War and was there when the wall came down
- Deployed twice to Iraq and twice to Afghanistan

"My military service and years abroad has significantly shaped and refined my world view, as I have had the opportunity to learn about and interact with people from dozens of cultures throughout the world, from regions such as Central America and Europe, to the Middle East. I believe that my experiences with people from so many diverse groups have helped me to better relate to those from other countries who have business in my court, and hopefully put them at ease while in my court."



PRESIDENT JUDGE WADE KAGARISE

SERVED 1990-1996

# President Judge Wade Kagarise Blair County

- Served as an Army Reserve Infantryman
- Completed basic training and infantry school at Fort Benning, GA

"My military service was the initiation of a lifelong commitment to public service. I urge young adults to consider military service as a way to give back to our country or alternatively to find other ways to serve their communities."



JUDGE CATERIA R. MCCABE SERVED 1986-1994

# Judge Cateria R. McCabe Philadelphia County

- Enlisted in civil affairs units with various military occupational specialties (MOS)
- Served as an officer with the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps

"It was an honor to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve. I obtained some life-long friends and learned valuable lessons. My military experience has enhanced my skills as a jurist in Family Court."



JOHN M. SKOCIK

SERVED 1988-1994

# John M. Skocik

- 72G MOS Telecommunications TSSBI
- Basic FT. Jackson, SC. Squad Leader
- AIT Signal Corps Ft. Gordon, GA
- Combat Support Coordination Team #3 Camp Yongin, South Korea
- U.S. ARMY Criminal Investigation Division Command FT. Holabird, MD



SENIOR JUDGE ROBERT MAZZONI

SERVED 1970-1976

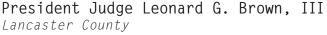
# Senior Judge Robert Mazzoni Lackawanna County

- Served in the U.S. Army National Guard
- Rank: E-4



# PRESIDENT JUDGE LEONARD G. BROWN, III

SERVED 1991-2019



- Retired in 2019 after 28 years of service
- Served during his early years as an Airborne Combat Engineer
- Transitioned to serve as a JAG officer
- Ended career working with the U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany



### LUKE BROWN

U.S. ARMY AVIATION OFFICER

# **Luke Brown** Son of Judge Leonard Brown, Lancaster County

- U.S. Army Aviation Officer
- West Point Class of 2024, majored in mechanical engineering



### JUDGE MATTHEW P. SMITH

SERVED 26 YEARS

Judge Matthew P. Smith Cumberland County

- Colonel-Pennsylvania Army National Guard
- Currently the State Staff Judge Advocate with the Army Reserve
- Served in the military for over 26 years in various positions such as Ammunition Platoon Leader, Intelligence Officer, Instructor, Trial Counsel and Deputy Staff Judge Advocate
- Deployed overseas three times, once each to Nicaragua, Iraq and Kuwait
- Performed temporary duty at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait and interacted with his counterparts in the Kuwaiti, Saudi Arabian and Jordanian militaries
- Awards include the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Combat Action Badge, and Airborne and Air Assault Badges, amongst others



GEORGE ALBERT PAGANO, II

**George Albert Pagano, II**First Assistant Administrator
Delaware County

 Sergeant serving in the U.S. Army Reserves



### NATHANIEL JONES, JR.

GRADUATE OF WEST POINT

Nathaniel Jones, Jr. Son of Judge Lucretia Clemons, Philadelphia County

- 2022 Graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point
- Second Lieutenant
- 199th Infantry Division, Calvary, Amour Basic Officer Leadership Course
- Stationed at Fort Benning, GA

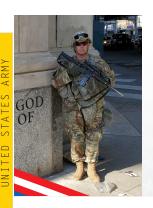


# PRESIDENT JUDGE DANIEL WALLACE

SERVED 1988-1992

# President Judge Daniel Wallace Mercer County

- Graduated from West Point in 1988
- Served from 1988-1992 in an M1A1 Armor Battalion in Garlstedt, West Germany
- Deployed for combat during Operation Desert Storm



### JUDGE MATTHEW WOLF

SERVED 2003-PRESENT

# Judge Matthew Wolf

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- Joined the Army Reserves at age 35 in 2003
- Deployed to Iraq in 2006 and Afghanistan in 2008
- In Afghanistan, he served as the Rule of Law adviser to the sole lawyer overseeing the Afghan National Police
- In Feb. 2020, Judge Wolf transferred from being a Major (0-4) in the U.S. Army Reserve to Alpha Troop, 1st Squadron 104 Cavalry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, and enlisted in that unit as a Specialist (E-4)
- In June of 2020, he served for a period of time on State Active Duty dealing with civil unrest in the City of Philadelphia
- Completed his MOS transition course from 27A to 19D (Cavalry Scout) in Sept. 2020
- Continues to drill monthly and perform Annual Training at Fort Indiantown Gap

"The Army has enriched my life. The first big thing the Army teaches you is about doing things for more than just yourself. You think of others. There's no place for ego. Leadership comes from that. You have the back of your fellow soldiers and they have yours. As a judge, you continue to work as a team with the staff, the parties, attorneys and witnesses to achieve justice. It is a wonderful thing if it works right and just like the Army, justice is not about me being the judge, it is about being a member of a team. A judge is like a highranking officer and that judge has to guide people through a challenge. It is about ensuring a fair process and a fair result."



KIFRA FLANTGAN

CLASS OF 2024 AT WEST POINT

# Kiera Flanigan

Daughter of Judge Chris Flanigan and Pete Flanigan (Court Administration), Westmoreland County

 Member of the Class of 2024 at West Point, majored in Arabic



DANIEL A. DURST SERVED 1989-1993

# Daniel A. Durst Pennsylvania Supreme Court

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules Committee

Medic



SENIOR JUDGE EDWARD REIBMAN

SERVED 1969-1975

# Senior Judge Edward Reibman Lehigh County

• Served in the U.S. Army Reserves as a Drill Sergeant



SENIOR JUDGE ROBERT BURKE

Senior Judge Robert Burke
Delaware County

- Called into active service for the U.S. Army Reserve after college
- Served a 13-month tour in South Korea during the Vietnam era
- Ended his military career having achieved the rank of Captain



SHEYLA STREET
CADET AT WEST POINT

Sheyla Street

Daughter of Judge Sierra Thomas Street, Philadelphia County

- Cadet at West Point, majored in cybersecurity
- Class of 2025 at West Point

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JUDGE RICH KNECHT

SERVED 1974-1977



JUDGE CRAIG STEDMAN

SERVED 1986-1994

Judge Rich Knecht Columbia/Montour Counties

- Served in the Military Police Corp
- Stationed at Fort Ord California with the 7th Military Police Company, attached to the 7th Infantry Division
- · Received advanced training in the guarding of high-ranking personnel and providing security for major troop movements
- Participated in two of the first joint military exercises conducted in the Mojave Desert



ROB GRANZOW SERVED 1988-1997

Rob Granzow AOPC.

Pennsylvania Army National Guard

• June 1995 - Nov. 1997: Military Police "95B"

U.S. Naval Reserve

- Jan. 1988 Feb. 1994: Corpsman, USMC-FMF, (8404)
- HM2: Operation Desert Storm



- Captain
- Served in the U.S. Army Reserves as a military intelligence officer



JUDGE FRANK A. RUGGIERO

SERVED 1988-1995

# Judge Frank J. Ruggiero Lackawanna County

- Served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard
- Co. B. 1/109th Inf. (M) 28th Infantry Division
- Motivated to enlist through the service of his father and brother
- Honorable discharge

"I often credit my decision to enter the military at 17 years of age as one of the most important decisions of my life. From this decision and my involvement in the military at a young age, I came to understand the concepts of teamwork, dependability and accountability. Lessons I keep with me and continue using every day on the bench. Joining and being a part of the U.S. Military has made me a better person."



SENIOR JUDGE JOHN PESOTA

SERVED 1971-1998



### JUDGE JOSEPH FALCONE

SERVED 1985-1996

# Senior Judge John Pesota Lackawanna County

- Commissioned Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Military Intelligence, 1971
- Additional branch qualifications: Infantry, Civil Affairs
- Served in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Units from 1975-1998
- Equal Opportunity Adviser at 79th Army Reserve Command
- Retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel



JUDGE MICHAEL TOOMEY

SERVED 1991-2004

# Judge Michael Toomey Northumberland County

- Retired from active Army and Army Reserve duty in 2004
- Military Police Corps
- Rank: Master Sergeant
- Deployed to Iraq for 12 months
- Served in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2003-2004

# Judge Joseph Falcone Bucks County

- Served for 30 years
- Captain, U.S. Army, JAG, 1985-1988
- Reentered active duty as a Major in the U.S. Army Active Guard Reserve, 1993-1996
- Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve (Ret.) Completed 30 years of active duty and reserve military service
- Military assignments include service in the Government Appellate Division, 157th Separate Infantry Brigade, 78th Division, 153rd Legal Support Organization, 1215th Garrison Support Unit and the 80th Training Command

"Going into the Army was the best thing I ever did."



SFC NICHOLAS A. RANGOS

# SFC Nicholas A. Rangos

Son of Judge Jill Rangos, Allegheny County

- Served in the Army Special Forces
- Finished with rank of Sqt 1st Class



### JAKE PRESLEY

SERVED 2004-2010



SAM DUNKIF

### Jake Presley AOPC

- Operation Iraqi Freedom -Dec. 2004-Nov. 2005
- Operation Iraqi Freedom -March 2007-May 2008
- Operation Enduring Freedom -Nov. 2009-Nov. 2010



JUDGE LEAH WILLIAMS DUNCAN SERVED 1985-1996

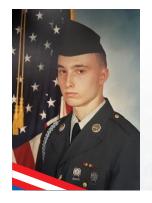
# Judge Leah Williams Duncan Allegheny County

- Served in the U.S. Army Reserves
- Commissioned as a Lieutenant in Jan. 1988
- Administrative Officer for the 318th Light Equipment Maintenance Company in State College, PA

# Sam Dunkle Blair County DCA

- Retired Lieutenant Colonel having served 23 years in U.S. Army.
- A combat and disabled Veteran of Desert Storm, Bosnia Conflict, and the Global War on Terrorism.
- Assignments included: the CIA, the U.S. Special Operations Command Special Mission Unit, the National Security Agency, the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, the Special Operations Command-Central. the U.S. Army Berlin Brigade, and the 3rd Infantry Division. Significant Awards include the Legion of Merit, Soldier's Medal, and Bronze Star Medal.

"It was my duty and honor to serve in the U.S. Army. It was a great experience providing me with life-long memories and friendships. Isaiah 6:8, "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am, Send me!"



JOEL MANKOSKI

SFRVFD 1991-1999

Joel Mankoski AOPC

• 11B MOS - Mechanized Infantry



JUDGE JEFF CONRAD SERVED 1985-1990



• Rank: First Lieutenant

"Serving my country as a U.S. Marine Corps Officer was a dream come true. As a child, I met an uncle of mine who was a Marine and his walk, talk and bearing was different; he moved with confidence and took life in stride. The training I received as a Marine helped me to realize that the human body is made to do so much more than we think and that groups of hard-charging Americans infused with esprit de corps, and God's blessing, can conquer any enemy. Civilian world translation: there is no problem too big to handle."



LEO ZUVICH

SERVED 1984-1990

### Leo Zuvich

Judicial Conduct Board

- Served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
- Corporal
- Company "E" 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division

"Demonstrate to the world that there is 'No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy' than a U.S. Marine."

"Semper Fi!"



JUDGE RAYMOND ZYDONIK

SERVED 1989-1992

# Raymond Zydonik Warren County

• Served during the Persian Gulf War



JUDGE DAVID HOWELLS

SERVED 1977-1983

# Judge David Howells Lehigh County

- Non-Commission Officer
- First Marine Corps Division
- Infantry 0341 Mortarman
- Marine Barracks 8th & I Washington D.C.
- Presidential Security Marine for President Carter stationed at Presidential Retreat, Camp David, MD



### JUDGE JAMES T. ANTHONY

SERVED 1981-2009



### JEFFERY LANG

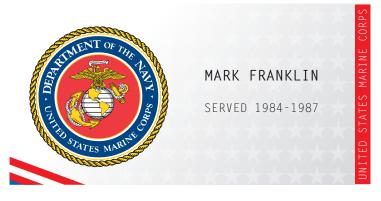
SERVED 2006-2010

# Judge James T. Anthony Lehigh County

- Commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve through the PLC program in Aug. 1981 after graduating from OCS in Quantico, VA
- Designated an Unrestricted Officer in June 1984 after graduating from the Basic Officer Course at the Basic School in Quantico, VA
- Served on active duty from 1984-1987, including a one-year deployment to Okinawa
- Joined the Selected Marine Corps Reserve in Jan. 1988
- Returned to active duty from June 2004-June 2005, and from Sept. 2006-Sept. 2007, with two deployments to Iraq and temporary duty in Afghanistan
- Awarded the Bronze Star Medal in 2005 for service in Iraq
- Served in support, combat arms and staff billets during career
- Retired at the rank of Colonel in March 2009
- Father of an active-duty Army officer and an active-duty Navy officer veterans of the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq, respectively

# Jeffery Lang

• Deployed to Iraq



Mark Franklin



# Kevin J. Gallick AOPC Finance Department

- Sergeant
- Ground Support Equipment with VMFA-531 "Grey Ghosts" (1985-1989)
- Armorer (small arms repairer) with India Battery, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division (1993-1997)



JUDGE LEE GRIMES

SERVED 2005-2010



JUDGE MICHAEL THATCHER

SERVED 2006-PRESENT

# Judge Lee Grimes Delaware County

• Specialty: Infantry

• Deployment: Iraq



JAMES MUNDY

# Judge Michael Thatcher Allegheny County

- Graduated from the Naval Academy in 2006
- U.S. Marine Corps Infantry Officer
- Deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 and 2010 in Helmand Province with 1st Battalion 6th Marine Regiment
- Served as Company Commander for Kilo Company 3rd Battalion 25th Marine Regiment, a reserve unit based in Pittsburgh



- First Lieutenant
- Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines



JUDGE DANIEL DAVIS



# Judge Daniel Davis Mercer County

• Served in the Navy Reserves for 24 years



JUDGE BARRY BROWN

# Judge Barry Brown Cameron County

- Nuclear Electrician
- Attended Bootcamp in Orlando, Fl., and attended "Prototype" at the S3G Reactor Site in Ballston Spa, NY
- Final duty station was Grotton, Ct.
- Served on the USS Grotton 694 a "Fast Attack" nuclear-powered submarine



JUDGE MICHAEL MCCARTHY

SERVED IN VIETNAM



JENNIFER A. EICHENLAUB

SERVED 1995-1997

# Judge Michael McCarthy Allegheny County

- Served as a Combat Engineer with the Navy Seabees
- Received the Navy Combat Badge and a Bronze Star
- Deployed to Vietnam from 1970-1971

# Jennifer A. Eichenlaub

- Served as a Personnelman at the Career Counselor Office from 1995-1997
- Stationed at Naval Auxiliary Landing Field San Clemente Island, CA
- Recipient of the National Defense Service Medal



JUDGE WAYNE VLASIC

SERVED 1988-2013



SERVED 2001-2010

# Judge Wayne Vlasic Westmoreland County

- Activated in 2003 Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Bethesda Naval Hospital
- Fleet Hospital, Fort Dix, NJ
- Comm. Naval Forces Europe/Comm. Sixth Fleet Naples, Italy
- Maritime Partnership Program served at the embassy in: Mozambique, Morocco, Tanzania and Mauritania

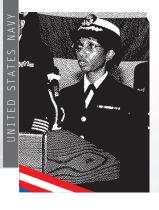


Kaitlyn O'Connor Sommer Superior Court of Pennsylvania, Chambers of the Hon. Megan King

- Commissioned U.S. Naval Academy in 2005
- Served onboard USS HUE CITY (CG 66) as an electrical officer and fire control officer
- Deployed overseas twice in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Honorably discharged as Lieutenant in 2010



JUDGE MILES BIXLER
SERVED 1976-1981



SENIOR JUDGE CHERYL AUSTIN

SERVED 24 YEARS

# Judge Miles Bixler Lancaster County

- Rank: Hull Technician 1st Class
- Made four deployments aboard the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga to the Mediterranean Sea



STEPHEN LIBHART SERVED 1993-2001

# Stephen Libhart Dauphin County Court Administration

- U.S. Navy 1993-2001
- Served onboard USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS 36), attached to Dive Locker
- Naval Air Technical Training Center graduate 1996 (Air Traffic Control) and 1999 (Carrier-Based Air Traffic Control)
- Air Traffic Control Facility Watch Supervisor and Operations Duty Officer at NAS CECIL FIELD
- Completed 6-month Operation Southern Watch deployment in 2000 and responded to NYC on 9/11 as Air Traffic Control Center Supervisor onboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)

# Senior Judge Cheryl Austin Montgomery County

- Retired as a Captain
- Served for 24 years seven active duty and 17 in Reserves
- Entered the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps in its first class of women while she was an undergraduate student at Northwestern University



AARON FRANCISCO
SERVED 2019-PRESENT

### Aaron Francisco Son of Angela Butler, AOPC

- Air controlman Petty Office Second Class
- Enlisted in the Navy in 2019 and graduated boot camp in Feb. 2020
- Graduated A-School approx. Oct. 2020
- Meritorious Mast Nov. 4. 2021
- Deployed on amphibious assault ship, USS Tripoli (LHA-7) - 2022
- Deployed on amphibious assault ship, USS America (LHA-6) - 2023
- Currently in active service



### SENIOR JUDGE ANTHONY CEOFFE

SERVED 1979-1985



# JUDGE TIM KRIEGER

SERVED 1985-1991

# Senior Judge Anthony Ceoffe Allegheny County

- Petty Officer Second Class (Communications)
- Served aboard the USNS Marias an oiler that refueled ships destined for an attempt to rescue the hostages held in Iran
- Later served aboard the USS Charleston - an amphibian cargo and assault ship that participated in the Granada Campaign
- Traveled to over 32 countries on three different continents



### STEVE SONDHEIMER

SERVED 1980-1987

# Steve Sondheimer AOPC

- U.S. Navy Data Systems Technician 3rd Class
- Served aboard USS America (CV-66)
- Stationed at Submarine Base, New London, CT

# Judge Tim Krieger Westmoreland County

- Served active duty USN 1985-1989, USNR 1989-1991
- Served as a Surface Warfare Officer on the USS Penscola (LSD-38)
- Deployed to Mediterranean twice as part of Marine Amphibious Ready Group (MARG)
- Spent four months at Guantanamo, Cuba
- Distinguished Graduate of the Naval Officer Candidate School

"The responsibilities entrusted to me as a young naval officer shaped me in some profound ways. I draw upon those experiences every day as a judge."



### JUDGE DAVID PLUM

SERVED 1983-1989

# Judge David Plum Franklin County

- Electronic Technician (E-5)
- Stationed at Naval Special Warfare Command. Little Creek. VA
- Deployed to Bahrain, Operation Desert Shield, as well as Honduras, Panama, Scotland, Denmark and Germany



### LT. HOBART KING KISTLER



- Attended the U.S. Naval Academy
- Graduated in 2013
- Served his country on the USS Louisville submarine and the carrier USS JF Kennedy
- Killed on April 30, 2021. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery



JENNIFER LOVE

SERVED 1999-2001

# Jennifer Love Court Administrator/Clerk of Courts for Court of Judicial Discipline

- Stationed in Los Angeles, CA
- Served as a Medical Assistant



### JUDGE DANIEL TREXLER

SERVED 1987-1990

# Judge Daniel Trexler Lehigh County

 Aerospace ground equipment mechanic, Macdill AFB Tampa, FL



JUDGE ANTHONY VERWEY

SERVED 1979-1982

# Judge Anthony Verwey Chester County

 Security Police (Law Enforcement Specialist)



BRIAN DARBROW

SERVED 1992-1999

# Brian Darbrow

- Computer Technician, 37 CS/SCST
- LAN Technician, HQ USCINCPAC



### JUDGE GREGORY SCHEER



### SENIOR JUDGE MARTIN KANE

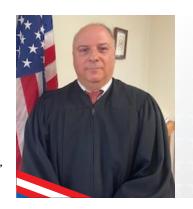
SERVED 1967-1971

# Judge Gregory Scheer Susquehanna County

- Retired USAF Lt. Col., pilot (KC-135, C-12. U-2)
- Attended Basic Training immediately following high school
- Served eight years enlisted (Staff Sqt.) as an Armament Systems Technician (Arkansas and West Germany)
- Attended OTS and Undergraduate Pilot Training without a break in service
- Military aircraft flown: T-41, T-37, T-38, KC-135A/R/T, C-12J, U-2S
- Instructor Pilot for KC-135, C-12J, U-2S; and Evaluator Pilot for KC-135
- Deployed/Stationed overseas 13 years. with over 4 years for OIF/OEF
- Service areas included Germany, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, South America druginterdiction, Korea, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, UAE, Iraq and Afghanistan
- Commanded Special Operations Air Refueling missions on initial "Hit-Night," and subsequent night-time missions following the 9/11 attacks
- Combat aviator with 123 aerial combat missions, and over 120 aerial combat support missions
- Retired as a Lieutenant Colonel (0-5)

"My military career shaped me into the adult I am, and is very useful on the bench. Nothing is impossible with the right attitude and mindset. I had an awesome career with unique assignments afforded to me. Despite my countless career highlights, two rise to the top: I served as UNCMAC's Joint Duty Officer in Korea's DMZ, fostering critical communications with North Korea; and finishing my USAF flying career as a U-2 Mission Pilot, flying mission-critical recon missions above 70,000 feet."

### Senior Judge Martin Kane Luzerne County



JUDGE JOSEPH DEMARCHIS SERVED 1973-1977

# Judge Joseph DeMarchis Westmoreland County

- Security Police (Law Enforcement Specialist)
- Served two years overseas, Republic of Korea



JENNIFER MOUNTS SERVED 1996-2000

### Jennifer Mounts AOPC.

- Stationed at Kadena AB, Okinawa Japan and Dyess AFB, TX
- Air Transportation Journeyman



AOPC/COMMUNICATIONS THANKS THE JUDGES, STAFF AND FAMILY FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE FOR RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR MILITARY SERVICE.

JUDGES AND STAFF NOT FEATURED IN THE NEWSLETTER WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY SHOULD CONTACT THE <u>COMMUNICATIONSOFFICE@</u>
PACOURTS.US TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE ISSUES.