



## In Honor of Memorial Day Warrington Township Recognizes

### **Vincent Valinotti, Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)**

Vincent Valinotti received his commission as a Medical Service Corps officer from the University of Delaware Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program on 31 May 1987, and retired on 1 June 2017 after 30 years of commissioned service. He served the majority of his career in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard; served on active duty for over four years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and served in Kosovo for nine months in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

His assignments included being a Medical Platoon Leader in a Light Infantry Battalion; Observer/Controller/Trainer in a Training Support Battalion; Logistics Officer and Operations Officer positions; Division-level Inspector General; and Command of units from 8 to over 1,000 personnel.

COL Valinotti's military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal (5); Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Service Star); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with "M" Device); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Non-Article 5 NATO Medal (Balkans); and the Army Superior Unit Award. COL Valinotti also holds the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Bronze), and earned a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA.



### **Bonnie Kinzel**

Bonnie Busch hailed from Mancos, Colorado and was the youngest of ten children in a large Mormon family. She attended Brigham Young University prior to attending Corwin School of Nursing in Pueblo, Colorado. Upon graduating from Nursing School she worked as a nurse at Corwin General Hospital before entering military service in March 1945. She received one month of military training at Fort Carson, Colorado and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps. Bonnie had received orders for Fort Leonard Wood, MO with further deployment overseas. She had returned briefly to Pueblo and was visiting with some of her

nurse friends when she had a chance meeting with a young Army Aviator from nearby La Junta Army Airfield who had recently returned to the States after serving 18 months in China, Burma and India. They knew each other only a few days, but had fallen in love. Bonnie departed for Fort Leonard Wood and one week later the pilot she had met flew a B 25 Bomber to Fort Leonard Wood and Bonnie Busch became Bonnie Kinzel as they were married in the Fort's Chapel. Her orders were rescinded and she was transferred to Dibble General Hospital in Menlo Park, California which the Army had built in anticipation of large numbers of wounded soldiers returning from the South Pacific. This anticipation was justified, and during her Army career Bonnie cared for many of these returning soldiers. After the war, Bonnie moved to Germantown, PA where her husband Lloyd was from. She continued her nursing carrier at Germantown Hospital and later as a Nursing Supervisor at Abington Memorial Hospital when the Kinzel family relocated to Warrington, PA in 1959. Bonnie and Lloyd E. Kinzel enjoyed their home and friends in Warrington where they raised their three children, Lloyd A. (Butch), Cheryl and Bob. Bonnie had remained faithful to her Church and her musical talents were often displayed at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Doylestown Ward where she had also served as President of the Relief Society.



### **Lloyd E. Kinzel**

Lloyd was born in Germantown, Pa and graduated from Simon Gratz High School after which he gained employment at the Leeds & Northrup Company. He had a love of flying and took flying lessons at the

Hatboro Air Field and gained his pilot's license. He had purchased an old Piper J Model and began building flight hours. When the United States entered WW II, Lloyd joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 and received flight training at several bases in California. Upon graduating from cadet training, Lloyd was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He wanted to be a fighter pilot, but this was not to be as he was

sent to Columbia, South Carolina for training in the B 25 Bomber. When this training was completed, Lloyd and his crew flew their plane to Natal, Brazil, Ascension Island, North Africa and on to their base

in Chakulia, India where they flew missions against Japanese targets in India and Burma as part of the 10th Air Force. Lloyd's crew as well as others were transferred to China as part of the 22nd Bomb Squadron of the 14th Air Force under the command of General Claire Chennault. They flew missions out of Kunming and Yang Kai China. On February 6, 1944 his plane was flying on a weather and reconnaissance mission into French Indo China. Weather Officer Major R.E. Flemming of the 341st Bomb Group was on board and kept insisting that they fly further and further down the Gulf of Tong-king. Their fuel kept draining and they ran out of fuel and bailed out about 140 miles South of their base in Yang Kai. With the aid of Chinese guerillas, they were all able to walk back to their base, a venture that took almost a month. Lloyd flew 48 missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. On orders to return to

the States, Lloyd was instead transferred back to India to train Chinese pilots. In a letter to his parents, Lloyd wrote, My students can't speak any English and I know about as much Chinese, so we have no arguments. When they do something wrong I just wait until we land and grab an interpreter to do the explaining. Upon returning to the states in late 1944 Lloyd received Instrument Instructor training and continued to train Chinese pilots at bases in Colorado, Arizona and California until the wars end. Lloyd resumed his career at Leeds & Northrup and rearing a family with his wife, Bonnie. Lloyd did continue flying as a member of the PA National Guard flying out of Northeast Airport and Willow Grove. With the advent of the Korean War, Captain Lloyd E. Kinzel was called to active duty. The Kinzel family, hence moved to Langley Field in Virginia where Lloyd served as Flight Safety Officer as well as training B 26 pilots. Lloyd was a resident of Warrington from 1959 until his death.



### **Lloyd A. Kinzel**

Lloyd (Butch) moved to Warrington from Germantown when he was 12 years old. He graduated from Central Bucks High School in 1965 and attended Doane College in Crete, Nebraska. In 1966 Lloyd enlisted in the Army. He received his commission as a Second Lieutenant after completing Artillery OCS at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Lloyd then went on to helicopter flight training, but while in flight school had a bad accident on a motorcycle in which he had a broken neck, femur and internal injuries. He was not allowed to continue with his dream of flying due to the neck injury and could have taken a medical discharge. Instead he completed Jungle Survival at Fort Sherman in the Canal Zone of Panama with a rod in his femur. The rod was removed and he departed for Vietnam where he served with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta. Lloyd served as an Officer with 3/34th Artillery, a barge artillery that could travel on the Mekong river and its tributaries to provide artillery support. He also served as a Forward Observer with 3/60th Infantry and as a Division Artillery Air Observer. Captain Lloyd A. Kinzel was awarded two Bronze Star Medals, one with "V" device, an Air Medal with "V" device and a Purple Heart. Upon leaving military service Lloyd embarked on another dream of a sailing venture which began when Lloyd read about Robin Lee Graham circumnavigating the world in his sailboat the Dove. Lloyd rebuilt an old 41-foot gaff rigged yawl building new masts out of sitka spruce, sister ribbing the entire boat and replacing the sails as well as the auxiliary engine. Lloyd never accomplished the feats of Robin Lee Graham, but he did sail from Philadelphia to the Caribbean with his brother Bob and two friends. Sailing and being close to nature was great therapy, but after over a year of living on his boat, the Venture, it was time to move on. Lloyd attended Delaware Valley College as a full time student while working second shift as a welder for Pullman Trail mobile and occasionally the Winding Brook Dairy Farm in Warrington. Lloyd also built a house in Horsham and after graduating with a B.S. degree in agronomy he went to work for the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. During much of his FDA career he served as a Regional Milk Specialist and was active with the Dairy Practices Council. Lloyd had

met his wife, Iris when he took a trip with his lifelong friend, Gunther Jaster to Toronto, Canada. Lloyd and Iris initially lived in Horsham, but moved back to Warrington when Lloyd's mother died. Their three sons Kris, Greg and Derek played baseball and football at Igoe Porter Welling Memorial Field (formerly Barnes Field) where Lloyd had played ball as a boy and attended Central Bucks West where they were members of State Championship Football Teams. This was a feat Lloyd never achieved. Lloyd knew Billy Igoe as they were members of Warrington Boy Scout Troop 58 together and played on the same Babe Ruth baseball team and he remains saddened by Billy's loss in Vietnam. Lloyd and Iris still spend most of their time in Warrington, but anticipate moving to their home in Osprey, FL in the near future. Their son Kris and his wife Sheila are both school teachers in North Port, FL, Greg is an Oncology Nurse at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Derek works for Anduril Industries in Irving, CA.