



Veterans Day, November 11, 2023

# SALUTING SAN DIEGO PADRES WHO ARE VETERANS

## PROLOGUE

In 1995, the San Diego Padres became the first professional sports team to establish a Military Affairs department. Subsequently, the Padres have become known as the “Team of the Military.” The public is primarily aware of this designation because the team wears military-inspired “camouflaged” jerseys for all Sunday home games.

In April 2022, the Padres and Carlsbad communication company Viasat unveiled the Military Hall of Honor at Petco Park. Navy Captain Johnny Nilsen was appointed Military Affairs Advisor the following year and contacted the Sullivan Family Baseball Research Center at the San Diego Library to request assistance finding previous Padre players with military service.

SABR San Diego Ted Williams Chapter president Tom Larwin and his team of researchers including Bill Swank and Tom Willman discovered 331 former Padres who served in the armed forces. The plan is to add the names of these former PCL and major-league Padres to the Wall of Honor prior to the 2024 season.

—Bill Swank

## INTRODUCTION TO 331 MLB AND PCL PADRES WHO ARE MILITARY VETERANS

As a nation, every November 11 we commemorate Veterans Day. It is the one day of the year where we thank all those who have honorably served in our armed forces.

Coincident with the 2023 Veterans Day, and spurred on by a request from the San Diego Padres, we completed an extensive inquiry to recognize those San Diego Padres players and managers who have served in the military. This effort included both the major-league (MLB) Padres (1969+) and the predecessor Pacific Coast League (PCL) Padres (1936-68).

We found that 331 San Diego Padres—players and managers (and one general manager)—have served in our country’s armed forces. These are men who were inducted or enlisted into one of the armed forces, and at one time played for or managed the Padres. This includes players/managers who were, at some time in their career, in the military (i.e., not necessarily when they were a member of a Padres team).

Veterans Day and this report serve as reminders of the horrors of war. Most of the 331 Padres who served were in the military because of war: World War I, World War II,



Korean War and Vietnam War.\* These Padres represent a small sample of the 35 million men and women<sup>1</sup> who served in these wars. This report puts a small spotlight on the impacts to careers of 331 men who were in the earliest stage of their adult lives. Some were able to return and resume a baseball career. Others chose a different career. Some were disabled and their lives never the same physically or mentally. And one of the 331 paid the ultimate sacrifice with his life.

On pages 3-6 you will find the roster of these 331 men listed in two tables. **Table 1** provides the record of the MLB Padres who served, and **Table 2** has the names of PCL Padres who served.

Below is a summary of key facts resulting from the two tables.

SUMMARY FACTS: SAN DIEGO PADRES WHO SERVED IN THE MILITARY														
<b>MLB PADRES = 51</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Players</th> <th>Managers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>43</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Players	Managers	43	8	<b>PCL PADRES = 285</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Players</th> <th>Managers</th> <th>Gen'l Mgr</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>279</td> <td>7</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Players	Managers	Gen'l Mgr	279	7	1		
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Note: Years shown in parentheses represent those when he was a member of the San Diego Padres.														

On page 7, following the two tables, there are a set of Appendixes that will provide additional information on the MLB and PCL Padres who served in the military.

—Tom Larwin

\* From 1990 and forward, few records were found to identify players who served in the military. One reason was that military service went to an all-volunteer force in 1973, and there were not many players who volunteered.

**Table 1. MAJOR LEAGUE (MLB) PADRES WHO SERVED IN MILITARY**

Name		Service	Padres	Name		Service	Padres
First	Last	Years	Seasons	First	Last	Years	Seasons
<b>PLAYERS</b>							
Robert Wilbur "Bob"	<b>Barton</b>	1963-64	1970-72, 74	Lawrence Robert "Larry"	<b>Bowa</b>	1966-67	1987-88
Glenn Alfred	<b>Beckert</b>	1962-63	1974-75	Gerald Francis "Jerry"	<b>Coleman</b>	ETO (1942-46) Korea (1952-53)	1980
Ollie Lee	<b>Brown</b>	1966-67	1969-72	Roger Lee	<b>Craig</b>	1951-53	1978-79
Alonza Benjamin "Al"	<b>Bumbry</b>	1969-71	1985	Alvin "Al"	<b>Dark</b>	1943-46	1977
Christopher John "Chris"	<b>Cannizzaro</b>	1958-59	1969-71, 74	John Aloysius "Jack"	<b>McKeon</b>	1951-52	1988-90
David	<b>Cash</b>	1967-68, 71	1980	John Francis	<b>McNamara</b>	1953-55	1974-77
Nathan "Nate"	<b>Colbert</b>	1967-69	1969-74	Robert Ralph "Bob"	<b>Skinner</b>	1951-54	1977 (5)
Daniel Bernard "Danny"	<b>Coombs</b>	1963-64, 68-69	1970-71	Richard Hirshfeld "Dick"	<b>Williams</b>	1951	1982-85
Paul Sinnott	<b>Doyle</b>	1962-63	1970	ETO-European Theater of Operations			
Roland Glen "Rollie"	<b>Fingers</b>	1968	1977-80	(5) +PCL Padres 1967-68			
Michael Gary Joseph "Mike"	<b>Fiore</b>	1967	1972				
Richard Nevin "Rick"	<b>Folkers</b>	1969-70	1975-76				
Alan Benton	<b>Foster</b>	1967-71	1975-76				
Daniel Vincent "Danny"	<b>Frisella</b>	1967-69	1975				
Steven Patrick "Steve"	<b>Garvey</b>	1970-71	1983-87				
Garry Arthur	<b>Jestadt</b>	1967-68	1971-72				
Jerry Michael	<b>Johnson</b>	1965-69	1975-76 (1)				
John William "Jay"	<b>Johnstone</b>	1965-66	1979				
Von Everett	<b>Joshua</b>	1969-71	1980				
Theodore Rodger "Ted"	<b>Kubiak</b>	1963-64, 67	1975-76				
William Harry "Bill"	<b>Laxton</b>	1966-67	1971, 74				
Gene	<b>Locklear</b>	1970	1973-76				
Michael Stephen "Mickey"	<b>Lolich</b>	1963-67	1978-79				
William John "Billy"	<b>McCool</b>	1965-69	1969 (2)				
Robert Lane "Bob"	<b>Miller</b>	1958-59	1971, 73				
Isidro Peroza "Sid"	<b>Monge</b>	1971-72	1983-84				
Graig	<b>Nettles</b>	1967	1984-86				
Gerald Smith "Jerry"	<b>Nyman</b>	1969	1970				
Lowell Raymond	<b>Palmer</b>	1967-72	1974 (3)				
John Joseph "Johnny"	<b>Podres</b>	1956-57	1969				
Douglas Lee "Doug"	<b>Rader</b>	1967-68	1976-77				
Frank Beall	<b>Reberger</b>	1968-69	1969				
Alan Joel	<b>Santorini</b>	1966-71	1969-71				
Mark Philip	<b>Schaeffer</b>	1968-69	1972				
Frederick Blair "Fred"	<b>Stanley</b>	1967	1972				
John Junior "Champ"	<b>Summers</b>	1968-69	1984				
Jason Ernest	<b>Szuminski</b>	2004	2004				
Ronald Wesley "Ron"	<b>Taylor</b>	1954	1972				
Derrel Osbon	<b>Thomas</b>	1969-70	1972-74, 78				
Robert "Bobby"	<b>Tolan</b>	1966-69	1974-75, 79				
Bernard	<b>Williams</b>	1968-69	1974				
Earl Lawrence (aka Robert Earl)	<b>Wilson</b>	1957-59	1970				
Richard Charles "Rick"	<b>Wise</b>	1965-69	1972 (4)				

(1) +PCL Padres 1968

(2) +PCL Padres 1961

(3) +PCL Padres 1968

(4) +PCL Padres 1966

Table 2. PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (PCL) PADRES WHO SERVED IN MILITARY (1 of 3)

Name		Service	Padres	Name		Service	Padres
First	Last	Years	Seasons	First	Last	Years	Seasons
<b>PLAYERS (Alexander-Eisenmann)</b>				<b>PLAYERS (Elliot-Jablonski)</b>			
Robert Somerville "Bob"	<b>Alexander</b>	1944-46	1958-59	Lawrence Lee "Larry"	<b>Elliot</b>	1959-60	1965
Harry Walter	<b>Anderson</b>	1954-56	1962	Harry Lewis	<b>Elliott</b>	1943-45	1954, 56
Karl Anthony "Jack"	<b>Angle</b>	WWII	1946	Charles Willard "Red"	<b>Embree</b>	WWII (1945-47)	1950-51
Joseph Henry "Joe"	<b>Astroth</b>	1943-45	1956	Edward Lorenz Sebastian "Eddie"	<b>Erautt</b>	1943-46	1954-57
Richard John "Dick"	<b>Aylward</b>	ETO (1944-45)	1954-56	Louis Denzel "Lou"	<b>Estes</b>	WWII (1944-46)	1943-44, 46
Braxton Richmond	<b>Bailey</b>	1960-61	1963	Joseph "Joe"	<b>Faria</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1942
Lonas Edgar "Ed"	<b>Bailey</b>	1951-53	1955	Alfred "Al"	<b>Federoff</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1953-57
Richard Anthony "Dick"	<b>Barone</b>	1953-55	1961	Donald Hugh "Don"	<b>Ferrarese</b>	Korea (1950-53)	1960
Dimitrios Speros "Jim"	<b>Baxes</b>	1951-53	1960	Anthony Louis "Tony"	<b>Filippo</b>	WWII (1945-47)	1944
Robert "Bo"	<b>Belinsky</b>	1960	1966	Bennett "Ben"	<b>Flowers</b>	1946-48	1952
John Alton "Al"	<b>Benton</b>	WWII (1943-44)	1951-53	Dee Virgil	<b>Fondy</b>	ETO (1943-45)	1959
John "Johnny"	<b>Berardino</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1950	Murray Asher "Moe"	<b>Franklin</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1952-53
Richard George "Dick"	<b>Bertell</b>	1961-62	1967	Arthur Edward "Art"	<b>Garibaldi</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1940-42
Charles Tuller "Charlie"	<b>Bishop</b>	WWII (1942-45)	1955	William Clifford	<b>Garland</b>	WWII (1943-45)	1942
Donald Raymond "Don"	<b>Bollweg</b>	WWII (1942-45)	1955	Joseph J. "Joe"	<b>Gedzius</b>	WWII	1946
Richard Stanley "Dick"	<b>Brodowski</b>	1953-54	1957-58	James Walter "Jim"	<b>Gladd</b>	ETO (1942-46)	1955
Norman Ladelle "Norm"	<b>Brown</b>	WWII (1944-46)	1942	William Vincent "Bill"	<b>Glynn</b>	WWII (1943-45)	1957-58
John George "Johnny"	<b>Bucha</b>	WWII	1960	Joe Madrid "Smokey"	<b>Gonzales</b>	PACIFIC (1943-46)	1937, 39
Michael Joe "Mike"	<b>Budnick</b>	PACIFIC (1942-46)	1948	Herbert Allen "Herb"	<b>Gorman</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1952-53
Alfred Herbert "Al"	<b>Cailteaux</b>	WWII	1943-44	Rodney Blaine "Rod"	<b>Graber</b>	Korea (1951-52)	1958-59
Henry Richard "Hank"	<b>Camelli</b>	WWII (1944-46)	1948	Joseph LaVerne "Joe"	<b>Grace</b>	PACIFIC (1942-45)	1953
John George "Jack"	<b>Carmichael</b>	1951-53	1955-57	Jack Bernard	<b>Graham</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1948, 50-52
Foster Ephraim	<b>Castleman</b>	1951-53	1960	James Timothy "Mudcat"	<b>Grant</b>	1958-62	1957
Clifford Day "Cliff"	<b>Chambers</b>	ETO (1944-46)	1954	John Leonard "Johnny"	<b>Gray</b>	WWII ETO (1945-46)	1955, 57
Anthony R. "Tony"	<b>Chapetta</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1946	Benjamin John "Ben, Bennie"	<b>Guintini</b>	WWII (1942-45)	1946
Hyrum Earl "Earl"	<b>Chapple</b>	WWII (1941-45)	1943, 46	Robert Louis "Bob"	<b>Hall</b>	WWII	1956
Alfred Aloysius "Allie"	<b>Clark</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1949	Darwin Francis "Gus"	<b>Hallbourg</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1941
Leonard Harvey "Len"	<b>Clendenin</b>	1963-64	1966	Robert Lee	<b>Hamilton</b>	WWII	1947
Merrill Russell "Merl"	<b>Combs</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1950	William Edgar "Bud"	<b>Hardin</b>	WWII (1942-45)	1957
Herbert Leroy "Herb"	<b>Conyers</b>	WWII	1950-51	Carroll William	<b>Hardy</b>	1956-58	1958
Howard Oliver	<b>Craghead</b>	WWII (1943-45)	1936-40	Tommy	<b>Harper</b>	1964	1962
David E. "Dave"	<b>Dahle</b>	1945-46	1953	William Womble	<b>Harrington</b>	1953-55	1956
Nicholas Dominic "Dom"	<b>Dallessandro</b>	1945-46	1938-39	Charlie "Bubba"	<b>Harris</b>	WWII	1951
Crawford Lawrence "Larry"	<b>Davidson</b>	1944-46	1957	John Elvin "Jack"	<b>Harshman</b>	1945-46	1945-47, 61
Michael Dan "Mike"	<b>Dejan</b>	ETO (1943-45)	1946	Michael Joseph "Mickey"	<b>Haslin</b>	WWII (1944-46)	1939-41
Eugene Abraham "Gene"	<b>Desautels</b>	1944-45	1936	Jack Lamb	<b>Hatchett</b>	WWII (1943-45)	1946
Vito Joseph	<b>DeVito</b>	WWII	1948	Fred James	<b>Hatfield</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1958-59
Elden R.	<b>Devolder</b>	WWII (1942-43)	1940	Wallace Andrew "Wally"	<b>Hebert</b>	WWII	1936-42
James Edward "Jim"	<b>Dickson</b>	1959-60	1964	Tommy Vann	<b>Helms</b>	Vietnam (1963-64)	1963-65
Rex Orville	<b>Dilbeck</b>	1944	1941-44	Russell Frederick	<b>Heman</b>	1953-55	1959
David Donald "Don"	<b>Dillard</b>	1958-59	1959	Manuel Pilar "Nay"	<b>Hernandez</b>	WWII (1944-45)	1944
Robert Louis Paul "Bob"	<b>DiPietro</b>	1946-47	1957	Rudolph Albert "Rudy"	<b>Hernandez</b>	1955-56	1964
Daniel John "Dan"	<b>Dobbek</b>	1957-59	1962-63	Tomas "Tommy"	<b>Herrera</b>	Korea (1948-52)	1954-56
Lawrence Eugene "Larry"	<b>Doby</b>	PACIFIC (1943-46)	1959	William Joseph "Joe"	<b>Hicks</b>	1955-57	1960
Robert P "Bobby"	<b>Doerr</b>	1944-45	1936	John Clinton (aka Oliver)	<b>Hill</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1942, 46
Arthur Thomas "Art"	<b>Dollaghan</b>	WWII	1952	Edward Russell "Ed"	<b>Hobaugh</b>	1956-59	1960
Walter "Walt"	<b>Dropo</b>	ETO (1942-46)	1951	Arthur Frank	<b>Hoberg</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1943? 46?
John William "Jack"	<b>Dunphy</b>	WWII	1945	Walter Ernest "Ernie"	<b>Holman</b>	WWII	1936-38
Luscious Luke "Luke"	<b>Easter</b>	1942-43	1949, 54	Kenneth Lawrence "Ken"	<b>Hunt</b>	1955-57	1959
Charles Paul	<b>Eisenmann</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1942, 46-47	Raymond Leo "Ray"	<b>Jablonski</b>	WWII (1945-47)	1955

ETO-European Theater of Operations

Table 2 (cont'd). PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (PCL) PADRES WHO SERVED IN MILITARY (2 of 3)

Name		Service	Padres	Name		Service	Padres
First	Last	Years	Seasons	First	Last	Years	Seasons
<b>PLAYERS (Jacobs-Mesa)</b>				<b>PLAYERS (Messerly-Rodemoyer)</b>			
Eugene Robert "Gene"	Jacobs	1952-54	1952	Jerry Bruce	Messerly	1964-65	1966-68
Jeffrey Lynn "Jeff"	James	1963-64	1966-67	John Anthony "Ox"	Miller	1944-45	1945
Gregory Joseph "Greg"	Jancich	1958	1962-63	Joseph Patrick	Monahan	WWII	1936
William Lee "Bill"	Jennings	WWII (1944-46)	1951	Donald Wayne "Don"	Money	1965-66, 69-71	1968
John Henry "Johnny"	Jensen	WWII (1943-46)	1939-43, 46-49	Zackary Charles "Zach"	Monroe	1952-55	1962
Deron Roger	Johnson	1961-62	1963	Dee C. "Dee"	Moore	PACIFIC (1943-46)	1949-51
Jerry Michael	Johnson	1969	1968 (1)	William Nelson "Billy"	Moran	1955-57	1957-59
Allen Dawson	Jones	1951-55	1956-59	George David	Morgan	WWII	1943-44
Grover William "Deacon"	Jones	1957-59	1960	John Lester "Les"	Moss	1943-46	1960
Samuel "Sad Sam"	Jones	WWII (1943-46)	1951	Frank Ernest	Murray	1948-49	1953-54
Kirby William	Jordan	WWII (1942-46)	1941, 46	Harold Richard "Hal"	Naragon	Korea (1951-52)	1951, 58
Alvin Joseph "Al"	Jurisch	1942-44	1948-51	Dolan Levon "Nick"	Nichols	1949-52	1957
Edward Terrance "Eddie"	Kazak	ETO (1942-45)	1955-58	Milton Robert "Milt"	Nielsen	WWII PACIFIC	1950-51
Frank William "Billy"	Kerr	WWII	1947, 49-52	Alfred Joseph "Al"	Niemiec	1941-46	1938-39
Ellis Raymond "Old Folks"	Kinder	WWII (1945-46)	1957	Leonard Joseph "Len"	Okrie	WWII 1943-46)	1952
Louis Frank "Lou"	Klein	1943-45	1952	Dell Walter	Oliver	WWII	1941-42
Bruno Bruce "Bruce"	Konopka	PACIFIC (1943-46)	1946	Albert Wilson "Al"	Olsen	WWII (1943-46)	1939-43, 46-48, 50-52
John William "Jack"	Kraus	1944-45	1950	James Melvin	Olsen	WWII (1943-47)	1942, 47
Kenneth J. "Ken"	Kraynak	1954-56	1959	James Philip "Jim"	Owens	1957-58	1963
Earl Leonard	Kuper	WWII	1948	Lowell Raymond	Palmer	1967-72	1968 (3)
Robert Leroy "Bob"	Kuzava	CBI, 1943-46	1960	Donald "Don"	Pavletich	1957-59	1963-64
Frank James	Lamanske	WWII (1945)	1943	Stanley Walter "Stan"	Pawloski	Korea (1952-54)	1957
Alfred D. "Fred"	Laniferro	WWII (1942-46)	1941, 46	Leslie Earl "Les"	Peden	ETO	1963
Remy Joseph	LeBlanc	WWII	1953	James "Jim"	Peete	1951-55	1956
Eugene Harold "Gene"	Leek	1961-62	1959	Edward Charles "Eddie"	Pellagrini	PACIFIC (1942-45)	1941
Robert Granville "Bob"	Lemon	PACIFIC (1943-45)	1958	Raymond Lawrence "Ray"	Perry	WWII	1952
Robert Albert "Bob"	Lennon	Korea (1951)	1957	Carl Francis "Buddy"	Peterson	1942-1945	1952-55
Barry Lee	Lersch	1966-67	1968	Kent Franklin	Peterson	WWII	1956
William Beverly "Bill"	Lillard	WWII	1948	William Peyton "Bill"	Pinckard	1953-55	1957
Lyman Gilbert	Linde	WWII	1949	James Peter "Jim"	Pisoni	Korea (1951-52)	1962
Lawrence Donald "Bobby"	Locke	1956-59	1959	Stanley	Pitula	1952-54	1959
Stuart Carlton "Stu"	Locklin	1952-54	1951, 57-59	Clarence Anthony "Bud"	Podbielan	WWII (1943-46)	1958-60
Jack Wayne "Lucky"	Lohrke	WWII (1943-46)	1942, 46	Cletus Elwood "Boots"	Poffenberger	PACIFIC (1943-45)	1942, 46
Victor Alvin "Vic"	Lombardi	WWII (1943-45)	1956-58	David "Dave"	Pope	WWII (1944-45)	1957-58
Walter Allanson	Low	WWII (1945-46)	1943-44	Lawrence Milton "Larry"	Powell	WWII (1941-46)	1941
Albert Harold "Al"	Lyons	PACIFIC (1944-46)	1954-55	Larwence Glenn "Larry"	Raines	Korea (1953+)	1958
Clarence James	Maddern	ETO (1943-46)	1951, 55	Earl Wellington	Rapp	ETO (1942-45)	1953-57
Robert Edward "Bobby"	Malkmus	Korea (1952-54)	1966	James Herman "Jimmie"	Reese*	(1942-43)	1937-38
Robert Paul "Bob"	Malloy	WWII	1951-53	Rudolph Valentino "Rudy"	Regalado	Korea (1950-52)	1957-59
Harry William	Malmberg	WWII	1951	William Benedetto	Renna	WWII (1942-45)	1959
Willie Edward "Red"	Mathis	WWII	1953-54	Kenneth Leo "Ken"	Retzer	1956-58	1959, 61
Michael Roy "Mickey"	Mattiace	1962-63	1963	Vernon Leroy "Vern"	Reynolds	WWII	1944-45
James "Jim"	McAnany	1961-62	1960	Woodrow Earl "Woody"	Rich	WWII	1941
William John "Billy"	McCool	1965-69	1963 (2)	Allen Gordon "Al"	Richter	ETO (1945-47)	1952
George Thomas	McDonald	WWII	1936-44, 46-47	Ray	Rippelmeyer	1955-56	1962-65
Calvin C. J. C. T. "Cal"	McLish	ETO (1944-46)	1955	Robert Lee "Bobby"	Risenhoover	1959-60	1962-63
Warren Budd "Bud"	Merkle	WWII	1943-44	John Franklin	Ritchey	WWII (1943-45)	1948-49
John Warren "Jack"	Merson	1944-45	1953-56	Floyd Andrew	Robinson	1958-60	1954-57, 60
Gerald Bauer "Jerry"	Merz	1962-63	1965	Paul William	Robinson	1955-57	1960
Richard Peter "Pete"	Mesa	1953-55	1956-57	Howard Clifton	Rodemoyer	1948-49	1957

(1) +MLB Padres 1975-76

(2) +MLB Padres 1969

CBI-China Burma India Theater

ETO-European Theater of Operations

\*Player (1937-38), Manager, 1961

(3) MLB Padres, 1974

Table 2 (cont'd). PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (PCL) PADRES WHO SERVED IN MILITARY (3 of 3)

Name		Service	Padres	Name		Service	Padres
First	Last	Years	Seasons	First	Last	Years	Seasons
<b>PLAYERS (Roig-Vitalich)</b>				<b>PLAYERS (Wade-Zuverink)</b>			
Anton Ambrose "Tony"	<b>Roig</b>	Korea (1951-53)	1961	Benjamin Styron "Ben"	<b>Wade</b>	1942-46	1960-61
	John <b>Romonosky</b>	Korea (1951-52)	1954	Philip Gordon "Gordon"	<b>Walden</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1948
Albert Leonard "Al"	<b>Rosen</b>	PACIFIC (1943-46)	1949	Kenneth Rogers "Ken"	<b>Walters</b>	1954-56	1962, 64-65
Clifford David "Cliff"	<b>Ross</b>	1951-52	1956	Preston Meyer	<b>Ward</b>	1951-53	1957
Lynwood Thomas "Schoolboy"	<b>Rowe</b>	PACIFIC (1944-45)	1950	Michael Denis "Mike"	<b>Wegener</b>	1966-70	1968
Joseph Waverly "Joe"	<b>Rowell</b>	WWII	1951	Leo Donald	<b>Wells</b>	WWII (1942-44)	1948
Frederick Donald "Don"	<b>Rudolph</b>	1952-54	1965	Roy Horace	<b>Welmaker</b>	WWII (1943)	1950-51
Robert Frank	<b>Sadowski</b>	1958-59	1960	Charles William "Butch"	<b>Wensloff</b>	1945-47	1945
Robert Matthew	<b>Sagers</b>	1956-58	1961	William George "Bill"	<b>Werle</b>	WWII (1945)	1957-60
Harold H. "Hal"	<b>Saltzman</b>	1943-45; Korea (1951-52)	1950	Max Edward	<b>West</b>	PACIFIC (1943-46)	1947, 49-50
John Theodore "Jack"	<b>Salveson</b>	WWII (1944)	1952-53	Leroy William (Lee)	<b>Wheat</b>	Korea (1951-53)	1951
Manuel "Manny"	<b>Salvo</b>	WWII (1945-46)	1936-38, 46-48	Jack Loren	<b>Whipple</b>	1944-46	1942-44
John Robert "Bob"	<b>Savage</b>	ETO (1943-45)	1949-50	William Robert "Bill"	<b>Wight</b>	1943-46	1954
Andrea Henry "Hank"	<b>Sciarra</b>	1946-47	1944-45	Don Fred	<b>Williams</b>	1953-56	1961
Lane Eugene	<b>Shanks</b>	1943-46	1942	John Milo	<b>Williams</b>	WWII	1938-40
Frank Victor	<b>Shellenback*</b>	WWI (1918)	1936-37	Theodore Samuel "Ted"	<b>Williams</b>	1942-46, 52-53	1936-37
Vincent William	<b>Shupe</b>	WWII	1947-49	Thomas Richard "Dick"	<b>Willis</b>	1945-47	1945
Ernesto E.	<b>Sierra</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1942	Robert Monroe "Bobby"	<b>Wilson</b>	WWII	1949-51
Harry Leon "Suitcase"	<b>Simpson</b>	WWII (1941-45)	1950, 60-61	Milton "Mickey"	<b>Winters</b>	WWII, Pacific	1947
Charles Adam	<b>Sipple</b>	WWII	1951	Richard Charles "Rick"	<b>Wise</b>	1965-69	1966 (4)
David Michael "Dave"	<b>Sisler</b>	1954-56	1963	Peter Paul	<b>Wojey</b>	WWII	1958-60
Richard Allan "Dick"	<b>Sisler</b>	1943-46	1954-56	Gerald Allen "Jerry"	<b>Womack</b>	WWII	1945
Melvin Thomas	<b>Skelley</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1937	Joe Frank	<b>Wood</b>	WWII	1944
Jack Clair	<b>Skinner</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1943	Harold Joseph "Hal"	<b>Woodeshick</b>	Korea (1953-55)	1958
Alphonse Eugene "Al"	<b>Smith</b>	1950-51	1950-51	John Robert	<b>Wortham</b>	1953-54	1955
Leverette Fiske	<b>Spencer</b>	1948-49	1956	Anthony Batton "Tony"	<b>York</b>	1944-45	1951
Edward Joseph "Ebba"	<b>St Claire</b>	WWII (1942-44)	1956	Frank Thomas "Frankie"	<b>Zak</b>	WWII	1949
Edward Perry "Bud"	<b>Stewart</b>	WWII (1945-64)	1937-40	Allen Lee "Al"	<b>Zarilla</b>	1944-46	1955
Richard Lewis "Dick"	<b>Stigman</b>	1958-59	1958-59	George	<b>Zuverink</b>	PACIFIC (1942-46)	1950
Frank Henry	<b>Stinson</b>	WWII (1943-45)	1940, 42	<b>MANAGERS</b>			
Harvey Andrew	<b>Storey</b>	WWII	1949-52	Delam David "Del"	<b>Baker</b>	WWI	1950-51
Wilbur Scott "Jake"	<b>Striker</b>	1956-58	1959-61	James David "Dave"	<b>Bristol</b>	1953-55	1964
Louis Bernard "Lou"	<b>Stringer</b>	1942-45	1952-53	Frank Joseph	<b>Lucchesi</b>	WWII	1966
Lonnie	<b>Summers</b>	WWII (1943)	1952-53	Frank Joseph "Lefty"	<b>O'Doul</b>	1918-19	1952-54
Nicholas Joseph	<b>Sunseri</b>	WWII (1943-46)	1942, 46	James Herman "Jimmie"	<b>Reese</b>	1942-43	1961
Henry Leon "Goose"	<b>Sweeney</b>	1945-46	1945	Frank Victor	<b>Shellenback</b>	WWI (1918)	1936-38
James Reubin "Jim"	<b>Tabor</b>	WWII (1944-45)	1951	Robert Ralph "Bob"	<b>Skinner</b>	1951-54	1967-68 (5)
Samuel Douglas "Sammy"	<b>Taylor</b>	1951-55	1964	<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b>			
Ronald James	<b>Teunis</b>	1957-58	1961	Ralph McPherran	<b>Kiner</b>	1943-46	1956-60
Eugene Earl "Gene" "Junior"	<b>Thompson</b>	1944-45	1948-49	(4) +MLB Padres 1972			
John Patrick "Jackie"	<b>Tobin</b>	WWII (1942-45)	1951-52	(5) +MLB Padres 1977			
William Raymond "Ray"	<b>Tran</b>	1942-45	1947-48				
Albert Reinhardt "Al"	<b>Treichel</b>	WWII	1946-47				
Victor T	<b>Trusky</b>	WWII (1942-46)	1946				
John Phillip	<b>Tsitouris</b>	1958-59	1962, 67				
Thurman Lowell	<b>Tucker</b>	1944-46	1951-52				
Robert Royce "Bob"	<b>Usher</b>	PACIFIC (1943-45)	1955-56				
Joseph Claudio "Joe"	<b>Valenzuela</b>	WWII	1944-45				
Angelo	<b>Venturelli</b>	1943-46	1948				
Edward John	<b>Vitalich</b>	1942-45	1942, 46-47				

\*Player/Manager, 1936-37; Manager, 1939

## ❧ APPENDIXES ❧

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“Back to their posts on the diamond is the dream of most players in the service after demobilization and their return will bring many changes in club rosters.”

October 26, 1944, *The Sporting News*, p.9



“Lookie, gang, a baseball outfit -- now all we gotta do is clear ourselves a diamond and we'll show those Marines how the national game is played.”

April 20, 1944, *The Sporting News*, p.9



April 13, 1944, *The Sporting News*, p.1

## APPENDIX A

### MANUEL “NAY” HERNANDEZ A Padre Who Paid the Ultimate Sacrifice

April 8, 1944, Opening Day, Hernandez is San Diego’s Left Fielder

March 22, 1945, Hernandez is killed near Ludwigshafen, Germany

There was one Padre who paid the ultimate sacrifice and was killed in action, **Manuel “Nay” Hernandez**. The day he died in March 1945 was almost a year to the day that he played in his first professional minor-league game with the Padres.

Hernandez had earned a reputation as an outstanding hitter at San Diego High School and in local semipro leagues, and was invited to the Padres’ 1944 spring training camp. As Opening Day approached it was reported that the former Hilltopper had “proved to be a hard-hitting rookie” and might be in the Opening Day lineup.<sup>2</sup>

Opening Day arrived on April 8 at Lane Field and Hernandez did play in left field. He went 1-for-2 in an 8-5 victory over Oakland.

He went on to play in 30 games and batted .207 for the 1944 Padres but was released by the team in mid-June. Not long after that, in early August, Hernandez received a call-up from the U.S. Army. By January 1945 he was in western Europe in the middle of intensive fighting. Two months later, in March, his life was cut short when he died in combat in Germany.

In 2010, nearly 65 years after Hernandez’s sacrifice, the team honored his memory.<sup>3</sup> There is now a special tribute to Hernandez located in the Padres Military Hall of Honor in the Field level under Petco Park’s right-field stands.

[A biography of Hernandez](#) is contained in Gary Bedingfield’s website that includes tributes to those professional baseball players who have made “Baseball’s Greatest Sacrifice.” Other local stories about Hernandez can be found in *San Diego Union-Tribune* archives.<sup>4, 5, 6</sup>



Left: Hernandez as a San Diego Padre in 1944. Center: As a U.S. Army private in 1944-45. Right: His memorial in Petco Park as part of the Padres Military Hall of Honor.



## APPENDIX B

### JASON SZUMINSKI

#### The Most Recent Padre Who Served

The most recent of Padres' players who served in the military was **Jason Szuminski**, a pitcher with the 2004 Padres and a Major in the Air Force Reserve (2004-2012).

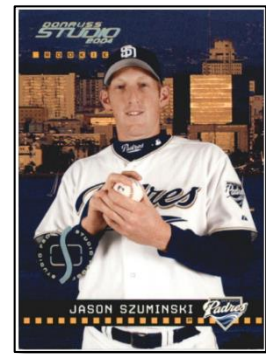
As a Padre, on April 15, 2004, Szuminski caught the first pitch as part of that season's Annual Military Opening Night.<sup>7</sup> At the time he was assigned to the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base, California.<sup>8</sup> There was a bit of "red tape" involved in Szuminski actually making a big-league roster. The Air Force allowed him to go to spring training in 2004 as a result of Szuminski trading one year of active duty for three years in the Reserve.

Szuminski was with the Padres in April-May 2004 and pitched 10 innings in relief in seven games. His first game was on April 11, 2004, in front of 41,491 fans in Petco Park's first-ever opening series. The opposition was the San Francisco Giants. Padres manager, Bruce Bochy, called upon Szuminski to provide relief in the eighth inning with the Padres behind, 5-3. In his debut, the third batter he faced was Barry Bonds, the Giants' left fielder, who came to bat with a career total of 659 home runs. The result was a fly ball out. He ended up allowing one unearned run in an eventual Padres loss, 6-3.

He would go on to pitch in relief for another six games before being released back to the Chicago Cubs on May 11. That would be the end to Szuminski's major-league career. He finished with a record of 0-0, and an earned run average of 7.20 in 10 innings pitched.

Szuminski had received a degree in Aeronautical and Astronomical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2001, and then went on to earn a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from Stanford in 2010. Of note, he was the first graduate of MIT to play in the majors.

He currently lives in the Bay Area and works in commercial real estate.



#### Jason Ernest Szuminski

Born: December 11, 1978, San Diego, CA

B:R T:R Hgt:6:05 Wgt:220

Year	Team	League	W	L	W-L%	ERA	G	GS	GF	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	IBB	SO	HBP	BK	WP	WHIP
2000	2 Teams		5	2	.714	2.76	14	8	0	0	0	0	62	58	23	19	0	23	0	38	4	1	3	1.306
2000	Lansing	Midwest League	3	1	.750	3.38	4	4	0	0	0	0	21.1	19	8	8	0	10	0	7	1	1	1	1.359
2000	Cubs	Arizona League	2	1	.667	2.43	10	4	0	0	0	0	40.2	39	15	11	0	13	0	31	3	0	2	1.279
2001	Lansing	Midwest League	4	3	.571	6.44	14	4	2	0	0	0	36.1	56	27	26	2	17	0	22	2	0	2	2.009
2002	Daytona	Florida State League	5	2	.714	5.12	39	7	7	0	0	1	91.1	95	61	52	7	41	0	53	6	0	12	1.489
2003	3 Teams		9	5	.643	2.78	45	5	13	0	0	2	97	91	36	30	1	29	3	73	4	0	1	1.237
2003	Iowa	Pacific Coast League	0	0		3.55	3	2	0	0	0	0	12.2	11	5	5	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0.947
2003	West Tenn	Southern League	7	4	.636	2.26	29	3	8	0	0	2	59.2	51	19	15	1	19	2	45	3	0	1	1.173
2003	Daytona	Florida State League	2	1	.667	3.65	13	0	5	0	0	0	24.2	29	12	10	0	9	1	23	1	0	0	1.541
2004	Iowa	Pacific Coast League	3	2	.600	4.94	41	2	24	0	0	8	51	57	40	28	6	35	5	31	3	0	1	1.804
2004	San Diego	National League	0	0		7.20	7	0	2	0	0	0	10	12	9	8	3	11	2	5	2	0	0	2.300
		Majors (1 season)	0	0		7.20	7	0	2	0	0	0	10	12	9	8	3	11	2	5	2	0	0	2.300
		Minors (5 seasons)	26	14	.650	4.13	153	26	46	0	0	11	337	357	187	155	16	145	8	217	19	1	19	1.487

Source: Baseball-Reference.com

# APPENDIX C

## SAN DIEGO PADRES’ “SALUTE TO OUR MILITARY”



San Diego has long had a reputation as a military community with its various military facilities and ship building industry, and the many veterans who had made the town their residence. Given the close ties between San Diego and the military, it follows that this would extend to our baseball team as well.

The official ties from the San Diego Padres to the U.S. military began in November 1995, with the Padres’ Military Affairs Department’s establishment.<sup>9</sup> This was the first such tie in professional sports. Since 1995 the Padres have had a staff member who provided liaison with the military communities. In 2023, they have a “Community Relations and Military Affairs” department headed by a Senior Vice President in which Johnny Nilsen functions as the Padres Military Affairs Advisor.

Other notable Padres–military connections that the Padres have undertaken include:

- Flying the POW/MIA flag at all home games
- Hosting various Military Appreciation events
- Introducing “Camo” uniforms
- Creating a Military Hall of Honor

Examples of these are described in the following paragraphs.

**Military Sundays.** The Padres host Military Salutes at every Sunday home game and recognize and honor each branch of service, the men and women who serve our country, and military milestones. Active-duty service members, veterans, and their families receive special ticket price discounts on Sundays,

Since 1995, on most Sundays, Marine recruits from the nearby Marine Corps Recruit Depot visit games and fill a section of the upper deck. At these games, in the fourth inning the Marine Hymn is played while the crowd typically stands at attention with recruits.

In 2023, each Sunday had a dedicated Salute, recognizing different branches, milestones, and military history throughout the season. Below is the list for the 2023 season.



2023 PADRES MILITARY SUNDAYS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+Military Opening Day</li> <li>+Military Salute – Honoring POW/MIA</li> <li>+Military Salute to Military Athletes</li> <li>+Military Salute to San Diego Military Charities</li> <li>+Military Salute to Military Families</li> <li>+Military Salute to the U.S. Army and Army National Guard</li> <li>+Welcome Home Makin Island ARG and 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+Military Salute to Veterans</li> <li>+Military Salute to the U.S. Marine Corps</li> <li>+Military Salute to the U.S. Coast Guard</li> <li>+Military Salute to the U.S. Air Force, Space Force &amp; Air National Guard</li> <li>+Military Salute to U.S. Navy</li> <li>+Military Salute – Honoring 100 Years of Training Recruits at MCRD</li> <li>+Military Salute to Gold Star Families</li> </ul>

**“Camo” Uniforms.** The Padres introduced camouflage uniforms on April 13, 2000.<sup>10</sup> Since then the “camo” design has gone through some design variations:

2000–2005—Woodland Design or “jungle camo”

2006–2010—Navy Seals “Desert Version”

2008—began wearing at all Sunday home games plus home games on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day

2011—went to a Marine Pattern camo... a portion of the sales from each fan purchase of these camo jerseys is donated to the Marine Corp. Assistance Program

2016—the camo design was based on the U.S. Navy’s “blueberries”

2017—a new Navy look appeared called the NWU Type uniform

2019—switched to Marine



**Padres Military Hall Of Honor.** The Viasat Military Hall of Honor inside Petco Park celebrates San Diego Padres and other Major League Baseball players around the league who served in the military. The Hall of Honor opened on April 24, 2022, and is located near Section 133, under the right-field stands in the main concourse.



## APPENDIX D

### MILITARY SERVICE RESEARCH RESOURCES

This project started out with a simple e-mail request from Johnny Nilsen (San Diego Padres Military Affairs Advisor) to Pete Miesner (San Diego Public Library) on July 18, 2023. It read as follows: "...the Padres are trying to identify all former players and coaches (of the PCL or MLB Padres), and, all current or former MLB players who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces."

**Baseball Registers, Baseball-Reference.com, Gary Bedingfield's website.** The research process began with use of several basic resources: the annual *Baseball Registers*, [Baseball-Reference.com](http://Baseball-Reference.com), and Gary Bedingfield's website "[Baseball in Wartime](http://Baseball in Wartime)."

In addition to the normal player records that are found within Baseball-Reference.com, there are also special sections available within the site for [Korean War veterans](#) and [Vietnam War veterans](#).

Bedingfield's site is thorough and deals primarily with World War II. The site includes lists of professional baseball players who served (major league and minors), biographies of some of the players, and a list those men who died (which can be searched by major league, minors, Negro League, semi-pro, amateur, college, and Hall of Famers).

Of the Padres' 285 minor leaguers who served, Bedingfield had 108 in his list, plus 25 biographies.

**The Sporting News (TSN) Baseball Contract Cards.** The [TSN Cards](#) are available via SABR's research collection. The information contained on each card include personal information (e.g., full name, birth date) plus list a chronological listing of contracts and trades.

For purposes of military research these cards were valuable since they also listed military interruptions. An example of a TSN card is one for Jerry Coleman, shown below. Coleman's departure in February 1943 during World War II is noted, as is his time served in the Korean War that began in February 1952. Note the term "National Defense Service List." Additional discussion of the National Defense Service (NDS) list is provided later in this Appendix.

French-Irish (Jerry)			
Name	Position	Bats	Throws
Coleman, Gerald Francis Jr., Inf		R	R
Born-Place	Date	Married	
San Jose, Calif.	9/14/24	yes	
Address	Height	Weight	
546 Lynn Street Ridgewood, New Jersey	6'	170	
Teams Played With			
Kansas City 1/42-Opt. to Wellsville 7/42-rec. by			
Kansas City 9/42-43-In service 2/43-Rein. from			
service list Jan. 19, 1946-Opt. to Binghamton 5/46-			
rec. by Kansas City 8/46-47-rel. to New York AL			
10/4/47-48-Opt. to Newark, N.J. 4/19/48-rec. by New			
York AL 5/24/48 (remain with Newark until later)-			
res. by New York AL for 49- res. for 50- res. for 51-			
RES. FOR 1952-			
National Defense Service List 4/30/52- 53-			
Reins. 9/1/53-RES. FOR 54-RES. FOR 55- Disabled list 4/22/			

Jerry Coleman's TSN Card (it is number one of his two cards)

Noteworthy as a resource, TSN cards were found for nearly 100 percent of the 331 men, 49 of the 51 MLB individuals, and 280 of the 285 minor leaguers.

**National Association Minor League Contract Cards.** These cards contain chronological records of the contractual transactions between all minor-league players and their clubs, from approximately 1902 to 1982. The index cards were kept at the National Association offices and used to track player movement, and as a record of contract status, for when disputes among clubs over players came up. This is a microfilm collection that was donated to our chapter by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and is available in the San Diego Central Library's Baseball Research Center.

A sample of one of these contract cards is shown below. It is one of Ted Williams' five contract cards (3 of 5). This card shows his contractual record between April 1951 and February 1957. However, highlighted on the card is the period between May 12, 1952, and July 28, 1953, when it is noted that he was added to the "N.D.S. List." During that period, he was in the Marines and active in the Korean War. His last game played in 1952 was on April 30 (in which he hit a home run), and his first game on his return was on August 6, 1953 (his first home run in 1953 was on August 9).\*

CONTRACT		RELEASED		SUSPENDED		VOL. RETIRED		APPLICATIONS		ASSIGNMENTS		RESERVED		C. P. 23	
TERMS ACCEPTED								CLAIM		RENEWAL		EXCHANGED			
BULLETIN	N.A.	C.	DATE	INELIGIBLE	CLAIM	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL	RENEWAL
	7	APR	10 '51	X											
	26	NOV	30 '51												
	8	APR	7 '52	X											
	12	MAY	14 '52												
	27	NOV	20 '52												
	16	JUL	30 '53												
	27	NOV	27 '53	X											
	24	DEC	3 '54												
	26	NOV	29 '54												
	12	MAY	19 '55												
	13	JUN	7 '55												
	13	JUN	7 '55	X											
	24	NOV	30 '55												
	6	APR	9 '56	X											
	22	NOV	20 '56												
	4	FEB	19 '57	X											
NAME WILLIAMS THEODORE S. #2 (OVER)															

Ted Williams Contract Card (it is number 3 of his 5 cards)

**NDS List.** At the December 1940 MLB Winter meetings, organized baseball voted on the creation of a "National Defense Service list."<sup>11</sup> Created to deal with the looming war and the many professional baseball players who were being drafted or voluntarily moving to defense work, it was generally described as follows:

*"Any player accepted in any branch of the armed forces of the United States shall automatically be placed on the national security defense list, until released from such national defensive service, and will not count in the player limit of the club."<sup>12</sup>*

The NDS list had three major purposes:

1. It prevented players from losing service time due to military service.

\* Ed. Note: This report is not about Ted Williams, but the magnificence of his career, interrupted twice by wars during his prime playing ages, bears repeating. Williams was 33 when he was called back to active duty with the Marines in May 1952. He lost almost all of the 1952 season and then returned to play for the last seven weeks of the 1953 season. Here are some of Williams' statistics from August 1953 through the end of his career in 1960 (eight seasons, ages 34-41): 3,341 plate appearances (34.1% of his career total), 197 home runs (37.8%), .340 batting average (career=.344), and an OPS of 1.112 (1.116)!

2. It prevented those players from counting against roster limits, thereby allowing clubs to not subject them to waivers or other mechanisms where the player could be signed or drafted by other clubs.
3. It guaranteed that returning players would have a job upon returning, although clubs could immediately release them after reinstating them, per normal baseball rules.<sup>13</sup>



NATIONAL DEFENSE LIST	
Brought Forward .....	4460
Bulletin No. 5 .....	17
	4477

Report of National Association Players Retired from and Restored to Active List for Period			
October 1, 1940 to October 1, 1946			
NATIONAL DEFENSE LIST		REINSTATED FROM NAT. DEFENSE LIST	
Brought Forward .....	4460	Brought Forward .....	3033
Bulletin No. 5 .....	17	Bulletin No. 5 .....	170
	4477		3203
MILITARY LIST		REINSTATED FROM MILITARY LIST	
Brought Forward .....	141	Brought Forward .....	1
Bulletin No. 5 .....	2	Bulletin No. 5 .....	1
	143		2
GOVERNMENT LIST		REINSTATED FROM GOVERNMENT LIST	
Brought Forward .....	12	Brought Forward .....	0
Bulletin No. 5 .....	9	Bulletin No. 5 .....	2
	21		2
VOLUNTARILY RETIRED LIST		REINSTATED FROM VOL. RETIRED LIST	
Brought Forward .....	1508	Brought Forward .....	811
Bulletin No. 5 .....	89	Bulletin No. 5 .....	29
	1597		840
INELIGIBLE LIST		REINSTATED FROM INELIGIBLE LIST	
Brought Forward .....	477	Brought Forward .....	319
Bulletin No. 5 .....	138	Bulletin No. 5 .....	19
	615		338
	6853		4385
SUMMARY			
Total on NDS, Military, Government, VR, and Incl. Lists .....		6853	
Total reinstated from above lists .....		4385	
		2468	

October 1, 1946, National Association Official Bulletin No.5, p.133

By November 1941 the NDS list totaled 286 players.<sup>14</sup> On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked, and by September 1942 the NDS list had grown to 1,147 minor-league players. By October 1946 the number had reached 4,477.<sup>15</sup>

**SABR Baseball Biography Project.** Biographies available on SABR's [BioProject](#) offered another useful reference. For this research 130 biographies were found, which is more than one-third of the Padres military veterans.

**Bill Weiss Player Questionnaires.** These questionnaires are familiar to our chapter through the donation received from Bill Weiss 10 years ago. They are now available at [Ancestry.com](#). (however, our chapter has a digital file of nearly 25,000 of the questionnaires, organized by last name). Of the 331 total Padres veterans, questionnaires were located for 220.

These questionnaires provided an extra source of information and offered details not available elsewhere. Excerpts are below from questionnaires completed by four Padres' veterans: Ralph Kiner, Ray Tran, Johnny Ritchey, and Al Rosen.

**Ralph Kiner...dated December 20, 1945...Navy Air (1943-46)...Padres General Manager (1956-60)**

IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE ARMED FORCES, PLEASE STATE BRANCH AND LENGTH OF SERVICE.....

*2 yrs - U.S. Naval Air Corps... (a pilot of a PBM.)*

WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR MOST INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE WHILE IN THE SERVICE ?

*Cre. this my only injury in the war... while playing football... a fractured cheek bone... to a month in the hospital.*

**Ray Tran...dated December 26, 1945...U.S. Army 1942-45...Padres 1951-52**

IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE ARMED FORCES, PLEASE STATE BRANCH AND LENGTH OF SERVICE.....  
*U.S. ARMY... 4 YEARS... 1 YEAR IN PACIFIC, 2 YEARS IN EUROPE, 1 YR IN U.S.*  
 WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR MOST INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE WHILE IN THE SERVICE ? *INUADING NORMANDY.....*

**Johnny Ritchey...dated March 8, 1948...in World War II (1943-45)...Padres 1948-49**

IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE ARMED FORCES, PLEASE STATE BRANCH AND LENGTH OF SERVICE. *A.R.M.Y*  
*E.N. 9. 12 REFS..... 3. 3 MONTHS..... 22. OVER SEAS.*  
 WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR MOST INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE WHILE IN THE SERVICE ? *most interesting was touring Europe, learning the different languages. I almost had German language mastered (over..)*

*The most unusual experience I encountered during war was the ugly way in which American prisoners of war were treated upon liberation. That is a part I will never understand. They were treated like enemys rather then freed Americans. Of course this only includes which I actually witnessed in Hildesheim, Germany (1944).*

**Al Rosen...dated May 20, 1946...U.S. Navy, World War II, Pacific (1943-46)...Padres 1949**

IF YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE ARMED FORCES, PLEASE STATE BRANCH AND LENGTH OF SERVICE.....  
*3 yrs. US Navy.....*  
 WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER YOUR MOST INTERESTING OR UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE WHILE IN THE SERVICE ? *Kaw. Kaze (Jap. suicide), alone missing ship by 100 yds.....*

**Padres Game Programs.** Excerpts from Padres' 1943 and 1945 game programs were found to provide two different types of salutes to players who served (see the next page).



Article inside the 1943 Padres "Official Score Card" written by a 19-year-old Bluejacket by the name of Charles E. Long

**"Shall Professional Baseball Be Continued During the War's Duration?"**

*By Charles E. Long  
(19-year-old Bluejacket)*

All of us realize that we must make many sacrifices in order to preserve the American way of life. We all know that in the future these sacrifices must increase, not diminish, until peace is won. Today, we Americans are being asked whether we should sacrifice a great American sport, baseball, for the duration of this conflict. To do so would be a hard blow, indeed, not only to national tradition, but also, to the winning of the war itself. For baseball is America. It grew up with America; suffered with it; gloried with it. It was invented by Abner Doubleday in the United States over a century ago, and grew to its present popularity as our national sport.

It is a wholesome, skillful game, a sport that typifies democracy in its true sense. It is a sport "elected" by overwhelming popularity, guided by a stable "constitution" or rules, yet individual skill and initiative are encouraged. Like America, baseball is the "melting pot" of sports, for its supporters come from all nationalities, all classes, all religious faiths.

I grew up playing baseball. So did my father, my brother, my next-door buddy. So did the Mayor who sits in my home town's city hall, the policeman in my home town's shopping center. So did our President grow up in an atmosphere of baseball. He has thrown out many baseballs to open many baseball seasons.

To cut out an important vein of American life, its national sport, a vein that supplies millions with enjoyment, and renewed mental vigor in time of war, is catastrophic.


Let us sacrifice, yes—to our limit. But what is sacrifice until we ultimately gain? In baseball, a sacrifice is the act permitting the batter voluntarily to bunt out so that a runner on base can gain.

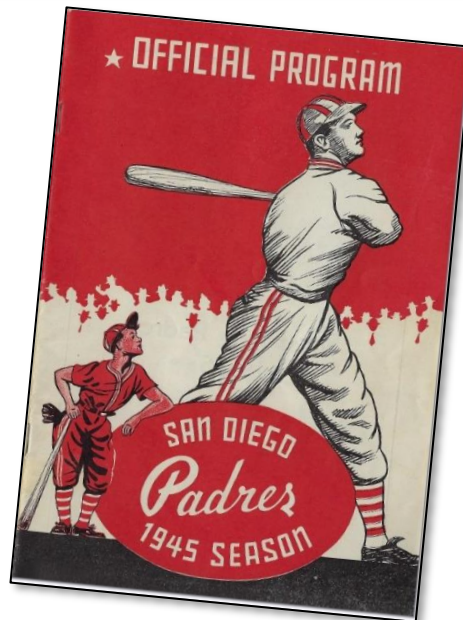
By sacrificing baseball for the duration will we gain from the terrific loss? We will have a few hundred men to take their places in military duty, and a few hundred to take their places in unskilled industry.

Is the sacrifice worth the price? America will have lost the talent that makes baseball a great sport to watch, to read about, lost an American tradition, lost a great morale builder at a time when we need it most.

Baseball is a diversion for the war worker, businessman and housewife, as well. It is also a weapon, for it is morale that makes a nation want to fight. Baseball's popularity and tradition constitute a great stabilizer of American life in time of war. It is, indeed, a great morale builder. The home front needs baseball. It will make America work harder. The armed forces need it. Our nation grew up on baseball. Baseball will help pull this nation through. It's got to go. *Baseball and America are just that way.*

Page from within a 1945 Padres "Official Program"

PADRES SERVICE HONOR ROLL	
ANGLE, Jack, SS	U. S. Navy
CHAPETTA, Anthony R., P.	Army
DEVOLDER, Eden R., P.	Army
ESTES, Louis, 3B	Army
FILIPPO, Tony, OF	Army
FARIA, Joe, P.	Army
GARIBALDI, Arthur E., 3B	Coast Guard
GARLAND, William C., P.	Army
HALLBOURG, Darwin, P.	Navy
HATCHETT, Jack L., C.	Army
HILL, John C., 3B	Army
	
HOBURG, Arthur L., 1B	Army
JENSEN, John H., OF	Army
JORDAN, Kirby, OF	Navy
LANTIFERO, Fred, IF	Army
LOIRKKE, Jack, IF	Army
LOWE, Walter, 1B	Army
OLSEN, Albert W., P	Army
OLSEN, James M., P.	Navy
POFFENBERGER, Cletus E., P.	U. S. Marines
SHANKS, Lane E., OF	Army
SIERRA, Ernesto, IF	Army
SKELLEY, Melvin T., IF	Navy
SKINNER, Jack C., IF	Army
STINSON, Frank, 1B	Seabees
SUNSERI, Nicholas J., P	Army
TRAN, Ray, SS	Army
TRUSKY, Victor, OF	Army
VENTURELLI, Angelo, P.	Army
VITALICH, Edward J., P.	Army





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## FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Department of Veteran Affairs, “America’s Wars,” November 2023.
- <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, “Coast Circuit Lifts Curtain Today,” *San Diego Union*, April 8, 1944: 11.
- <sup>3</sup> Bill Center, “Padres will honor player killed in combat in World War II,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*: March 5, 2010: D6.
- <sup>4</sup> Kevin Kernan, “Padre helps her connect - Dad, daughter reunited through family link with player who died in WWII,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, May 27, 1996:1A.
- <sup>5</sup> Chris Jenkins, “In World War II, Padres’ Hernandez Went From Ballfield to Battle,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, May 25, 2014: D14.
- <sup>6</sup> Bill Swank, “In 1945, a former San Diego Padre was killed in World War II. It was decades before his teammates found out.” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, May 28, 2023: web edition.
- <sup>7</sup> Bill Center, “Dodgers (5-3) at Padres (4-4),” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April 15, 2004: D6.
- <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, “[Air Force reservist pitches for San Diego Padres](#),” *Air Force News Release*, May 10, 2004.
- <sup>9</sup> Michael J. Clark, “Military Appreciation Sunday and the Padres Legendary Camo Uniforms,” *East Village Times*, circa 2020.
- <sup>10</sup> Jeff Sanders, “Padres History (April 13): Honoring a Military Town,” *San Diego Union-Tribune*, April 13, 2020.
- <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, *The Sporting News*, December 19, 1940: 5.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>13</sup> Baseball-Reference.com, BR Bullpen, “National Defense list.”
- <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, “U.S. Defense Halts Increase After Six Consecutive Years,” *The Sporting News*, November 27, 1941: 12.
- <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, “Official Bulletin No. 5,” National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, October 2, 1946: 133.

