



JOHN T. PARIZA - U.S. Army PFC

John Pariza was born in East Liverpool in 1932 and at the age of 2 went with his family to visit relatives in Romania and was unable to leave due to the start of World War II. As U.S. citizens, the family was finally able to return to the United States in 1946.

John started his military career at the age of 16 with the Ohio National Guard 37th Division and then joined the regular Army where he served in Korea from 1950 - 1951 with the 5th Regimental Combat Team. In November of 1950 and again in March 1951 he was wounded in the line of duty in Korea. He spent weeks in the hospital for treatment of the battle wounds, malaria and frost bite. Mr. Pariza was then returned to Camp Polk, Louisiana and honorably discharged in August 1953.

PFC Pariza received 2 Purple Hearts, a good conduct medal, combat infantry badge, U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Service medal with four bronze stars, United Nations Korean Service medal, ROK War Service medal, Korean Defense Medal and the Combat Service Medal.

John is a member and past commander of the Korean War Veterans Post 137, past commander and member of Mercer County War Memorial group, a member of the United Veterans Council, American Legion Post 301, and a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and Purple Heart 5th RCT Association. Since his retirement in 1994, John founded the Korean War Veterans Memorial in West Middlesex and helped establish the Korean War Veterans' Memorial in Austintown, OH. Further, he worked with Ohio State Representatives and Senators to rename State Route 680 to "The Korean War Veterans' Memorial Highway". He is active in visiting schools in the tri-county area to speak with students about veterans, the armed forces and the Korean War through the "Tell-America" program.

In 1954 John married Shirley Gibbs who died in 2001. During their 48 years together, they raised 3 daughters, Janice, Teri Lyn and Jill. He has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. In 2009 John married Beverly Poidmore with whom he presently resides in Boardman, OH.