

*Defending Liberty and Freedom*

# VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

11.11.19



CHELSEA DISTRICT LIBRARY



*Defending Liberty and Freedom*

# VETERANS DAY

EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
AND FREE OF CHARGE

**TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN | 1:00 PM**

**VETERANS PARK | CORNER OF M-52 & SIBLEY RD.**

Veterans and the public are invited to attend a ceremony paying tribute to all who served and sacrificed in war. Join Chelsea Mayor Melissa Johnson, Chief Warrant Officer Tom Zatkovich, and local veterans for a tribute to the fallen. Veterans are encouraged to wear uniforms.

**1:00PM – Posting of Colors | Welcome**

**Posting performed by American Legion Post 31**

***She's a Grand Old Flag* performance**

**by Ms. Myers, Ms. Schertzing, and Mrs. Spisich's students**

**1:15PM – Opening remarks, Chelsea Mayor Melissa Johnson  
and Chief Warrant Officer Tom Zatkovich**

**1:45PM – Retiring of Colors**

**Transfer to Chelsea Village Conference Center**

Immediately following the Tribute to the Fallen, participants are invited to reconvene at the Chelsea Village Conference Center for refreshments and Veterans Ceremony.

**VETERANS CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION | 2:00PM**

**CHELSEA VILLAGE CONFERENCE CENTER**

**1645 COMMERCE PARK DR.**

Join us to hear from members of the 60th Assault Helicopter Company: Pilot Jim Alford, Crew Chief John Highfill, Pilot CJ Percle, and Barbara Oliver Bagnall, sister of a fallen veteran who fought during the Vietnam War. Learn about the use of helicopters in American wars and listen as each member shares a story about a fateful helicopter rescue mission in 1972. How did they make the decision to accept the mission? Who would fly the aircraft and who would crew the aircraft? What was it like to be at home waiting and not knowing the status of your loved one? Don't miss this first-hand account of helicopters in the Vietnam War.

**2:00PM – Arrival of guests | Light fare and refreshments served**

**2:15PM – Opening remarks | Chelsea Mayor Melissa Johnson  
Helicopter War in Vietnam Presentation**

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## TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN VETERANS PARK 1:00PM

Join Chief Warrant Officer Tom Zatkovich,  
Mayor Johnson, and local veterans

Tom Zatkovich was born in June 1947 in Dearborn Heights. He enlisted into the U.S. Army in January of 1967 at 20 years old. He received his basic training, helicopter training, technical and tactical training, ultimately qualifying to fly Huey helicopters, and graduated in September 1967.

He was appointed as a medevac pilot and in January 1968, a year after enlisting, was on his way to Vietnam. "I'll never forget the night missions. Watching the tracers light up the dark, then back to darkness in a moment. The eeriness of the situation was something," recalls Zatkovich. He ended up flying 390 missions and evacuating about 760 soldiers, civilians, and even children to medical care.

In October 1968, Zatkovich would fly his last mission. His crew was sent out to evacuate three wounded GI's in the area of Dong Tam. When they got to the landing zone in an open rice patty, they took fire. The crew's medic was shot and as Zatkovich was turning to pilot out, he was also shot. A bullet came through the helicopter and tore through his wrist and hand. The Huey lost its hydraulics, but Zatkovich and his copilot were able to maneuver back to a hospital before crash landing. He regrets not being able to evacuate those original three soldiers. He would not be able to pilot again, and was discharged from the U.S. Army in October of 1969. Awards for his service include the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

*From book, Chelsea 175 Anniversary, 1834-2009, published by Sheridan Books, Chelsea, MI*

# CDL Honors Its Local Service Men and Women

Below are just a few ways CDL honors our local active military and veterans who have served to defend our country's freedom.

CDL is pleased to offer a special library card to active military and veterans. This card allows the holder to borrow materials without incurring overdue fees and provides \$10/year towards printing costs.



To apply for a CDL military library card, you must live within the Chelsea District Library service area and provide one of the following forms of military identification: VA card, VA designation on driver's license or state ID, active military ID, or discharge papers—DD-214.



Stories of Chelsea, an online collection created by CDL, helps to preserve the rich history of Chelsea, MI. It chronicles the unique stories and experiences of Chelsea-area residents through documentaries, photographs, and individuals' stories.

Included in this collection are three documentaries, which convey the stories of local veterans who served in the WWII, Korean, and Vietnam wars. It also contains *World War I: Strong Foundations, New Possibilities*, a digital project, which includes WWI era photographs, letters, stories, and artifacts collected from local Chelsea families.

Visit [storiesofchelsea.org](http://storiesofchelsea.org) to explore the Chelsea area's rich military history. Documentaries are also available on DVD at CDL.