

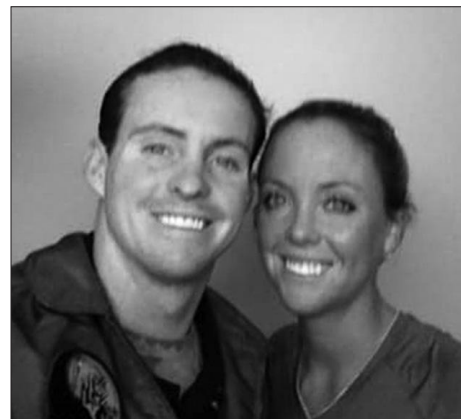
Howard Oregon Van Cleave

Pvt. Howard Oregon Van Cleave, farmer and son of Stephen A. Van Cleave who, in 1901, was at El Reno with the crowd to file at the land office when the territory was opened and was fortunate to get the quarter-section of land south of Mountain Park, OK, and on which the family farmed through three generations. H.O. served in WWI. All of H.O.'s brothers served in WWI as well: Neil, Ross, and Harvey. The picture below is of H.O. and his sweetheart-soon-to-be wife, Jonnie Lee Coker.

From H.O.'s and Jonnie Lee's family, their son, John Stephen Van Cleave, served in the Army during WWII. He was a private in the Army Air Force. Their daughter, my late mother-in-law, Louise Van Cleave Dahl, served



as a Rosie, the Riveter, working on the wing line for Boeing in Wichita, KS, from December, 1942, to August, 1945.



Jack And Kelly Keilty

Jack attended Jarman Junior High School, Mount St Mary High School, NEO, Rose State College and Virginia Military Institute. He is a Navy Fighter Pilot and presently is deployed on the USS Nimitz Aircraft Carrier. Kelly attended Jarman Junior High, Midwest City High School, Oklahoma State University And Oklahoma City University. She is a Combat Medic in the Navy presently deployed to Africa with Coastal Riverine Group Ten.



Jose Martinez

Jose Martinez is a Purple Heart, combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Martinez exemplifies what a Marine represents. After finishing his contract with the Marines, he came back to Oklahoma and has called Midwest City home ever since. Jose grew up east of Midwest City in Nicoma Park. Jose served in the Marines for 5 years and did a tour of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom and ultimately took a bullet in the forehead for his country. He is humble when it comes to his duty in combat and his service to his country that most of the time people new to his life don't even know about his service. Jose now spends his spare time taking beautiful photos of our lovely state.



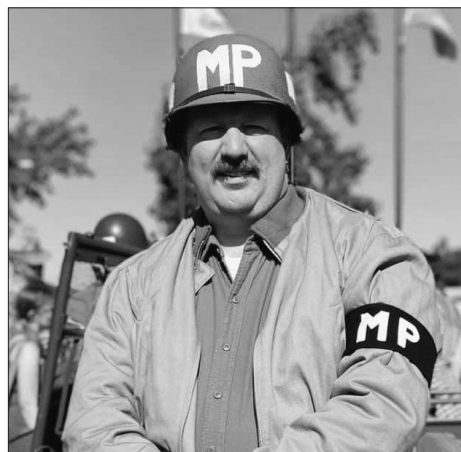
Nicholas Durfey

Nicholas Durfey was born and raised in West Valley, Utah. He has been serving our country since 2006. He is a Master Sergeant for the U.S. Air Force. He and his wife Alexandra got married and started their military life at Hill AFB Utah. From there they went to Tyndall AFB Panama City, Florida and Oklahoma for the last 7 years. They have lived in Mustang for about 5 years. The couple has been married for 14 years and have three wonderful children Keilani, Mikylah and Malachi. Nicholas will be going Al Dhafra Air Base- Abu Dahabi serving his tour for 9 months in 6 weeks (July 20). He will truly be missed in at home.



Samuel Wilson

Samuel Wilson is veteran of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He served nine years including two overseas deployments. He was an aircraft mechanic crew chief working on the KC-135 and a vehicle mechanic in the Guard. He currently works for Pratt and Whitney on Tinker Air Force Base. Wilson was born and raised in Midwest City and graduated from Midwest City High School in 2009. He and his wife have been married for 7 years and have two children. He is a wonderful father, hard worker and loved every second serving his country.



R.K. Winters, Jr.

Robert K. Winters Jr. served in the U.S. Air Force as Senoir Airman with Security Forces, and the in Army National Guard as a Specialist with military police. He is a veteran of Iraqi Freedom (era) and Enduring Freedom. His career highlight includes helping fellow Oklahomans after the 2013 Moore tornado and meeting the President. Winters is currently a living history enthusiast, portraying soldiers from WWII to Vietnam at patriotic parades/related ceremonies and administrator of Midwest City Veterans Memorial page on Facebook.

A Great Big
THANK YOU
To our local Hometown Heroes