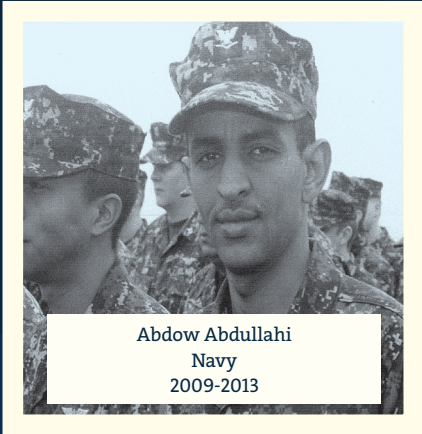


A GRATEFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR VETERANS

The veterans' photo wall honors those who have served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force and Space Force. Hundreds of photos line the wall, each one a testament to the bravery and dedication of our local veterans. The display will be up in the lobby at Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, from Tuesday, October 29 to Friday, November 15. The City continues to accept photo submissions of veterans. Submit your own and visit the digital album at blm.mn/veterans.



Abdow Abdullahi
Navy
2009-2013



Mary Baruth
US Army Air Force
1944 - 1946



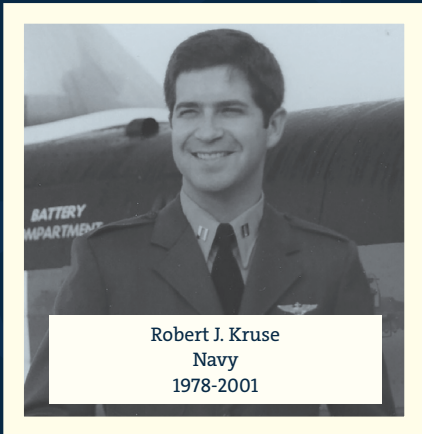
Genevieve Chapman
US Army Nurse Corp
1944-1946



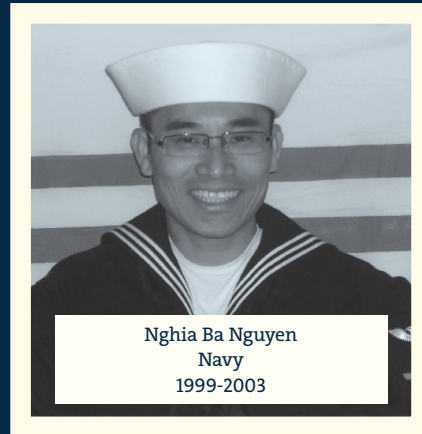
Bill Kain
Army
1943-1945



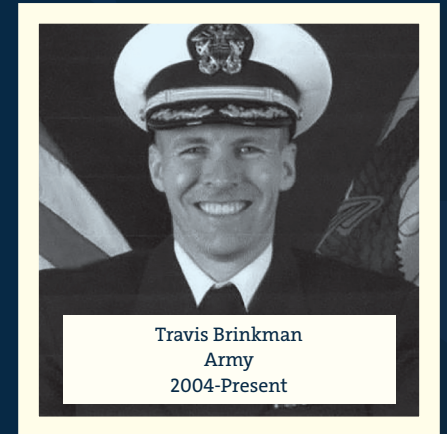
Raymond F. Dutrieuille
Marines
1988-1992



Robert J. Kruse
Navy
1978-2001



Nghia Ba Nguyen
Navy
1999-2003



Travis Brinkman
Army
2004-Present



NOTABLE NEIGHBOR LES FORDAHL: A VIETNAM WAR COMBAT ARTIST

Veteran Les Fordahl is a war hero though he never drew a weapon. "I drew the war," Fordahl said. "I sketched or took photos at several fire bases, on the streets, on the rivers. Wherever I was, I documented daily life during the war."

A Bloomington resident since 1960, Les started sketching at eight years old, graduated from high school in 1964 then Normandale College in 1980. He entered the army and served in Washington D.C., Germany and Vietnam from 1967-1971, first as a draftsman, and then a combat artist.

Les returned from Vietnam with 131 sketches, but only 85 survived after a confrontation with protestors upon return to the States. Still, Les' work can be found in many places, including the Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, the National Vietnam Museum of Art in Chicago, the Minnesota State Capital, Bloomington Civic Plaza, the Federal Building and more.

Though he continued to sketch and take photos, he worked a day job for the U.S. Postal Service for many years. Now, he's back to sketching daily and has offered art classes and talks at local universities and Jefferson High School. He has volunteered at the VA Hospital for the past 15 years and, in 2018, was inducted by the Minnesota Center for Humanities for a Lifetime Achievement award.

Lately, a focus for Les has been raising money for the Bloomington Veterans Memorial.

"I am proud of the work that I have done," Les said. "I am honored to have served."



HONORING OUR POWs AND MIAs: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FALLEN COMRADE TABLE

As part of the City's Veterans Appreciation Lunch, the tradition of honoring our fallen, missing and imprisoned service members with the Fallen Comrade Table will be continued. Each item on the table carries deep symbolism, reminding us of the brave service members who have not returned home. The lemon symbolizes the bitter fate of the missing. The salt symbolizes the tears of the missing and their families. This tradition serves as a strong reminder that these heroes are not forgotten. Additionally, the POW/MIA flag will be flown November 8-15 at Civic Plaza and Public Works as a tribute to their sacrifice.