

# Mahwah Museum Veterans Project

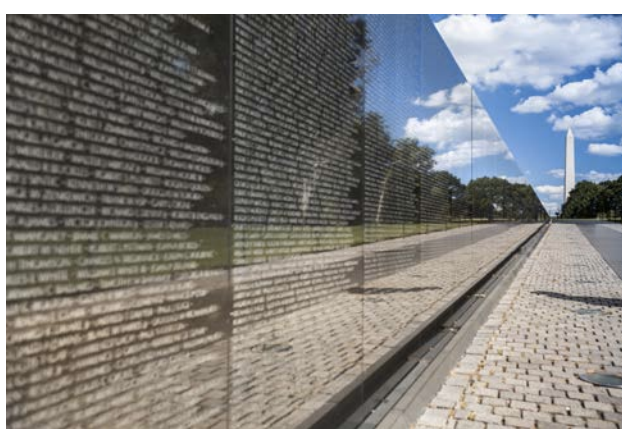
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**ABSTRACT-** Many communities find unity in honoring their veterans. The Mahwah Museum Veterans Project was created to honor the many veterans from Mahwah who served over the years. The project compiles information on veterans who served as far back as the American Revolution to present-day conflicts and in peacetime. The goal of the Mahwah Museum Veterans Project is to create a publicly accessible resource about the lives and service of Mahwah's veterans. Through genealogy resources, newspaper resources, and contact with families of veterans, the profiles are created. For this process, I use Ancestry Library for public resources like birth records, death records, addresses, and military information such as enlistment records. I also use Newspapers.com, a website that provides access to newspapers that have previously been published. Contact with families as well as veterans themselves also provides a multitude of information. When interviewed, families often provide military and personal information. The family members include children of veterans, siblings, and other relatives. I conduct these interviews by phone or through online correspondence. Veterans are also able to complete and mail in a questionnaire. These interviews give insight as to who these veterans were as people. Contacting families also expands the database as they can provide information about family members who were not previously included. These resources give access to images, information, and stories that are compiled in a profile. A typical profile contains biographical information such as when and where they were born, their occupation, and their family. It also provides military information such as the start and end date of their service, their serial number, and unit. The compiled research is supported by a bibliography. As a result, the residents of Mahwah as well as other people who have an interest in history can learn more about Mahwah and the people who have lived in the city and served their country.



Memorial for the crew of U.S. Army Air Force plane, "I'll Be Seeing You," located in Poland. Myron Merrill, a native of Mahwah, NJ, was one of the men killed in action when the plane was shot down in 1944.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington DC. The name of Patrick Brems, a Bergen County native killed in action in Vietnam, is located on Panel 6E, Line 70.

## Mahwah Museum

The Mahwah Museum, which was founded in 2001, is located on 201 Franklin Turnpike in Mahwah, NJ. The Mahwah Museum Veterans Project was started in 2020. Since its start, volunteers have input the names of over four hundred veterans in the project. This project is led by museum vice president Dr. Cathy Moran Hajo and board trustee Diane Mateo.

## Ancestry Library

Ancestry Library is used for a multitude of indexes and other resources. These include records such as: US Census, birth, marriage, death, draft, enlistment, service, casualties, city directories and more. The draft card (third picture from top), and the picture of the gravestone (bottom) were found through Ancestry Library. The birth date, birthplace, death date, burial place, unit, rank, serial number, service start date were all entries that were able to be completed with this site.

## Newspapers.com

Newspapers.com is another resource that provides information that may not be found through Ancestry Library. Obituaries, a veteran's involvement in their community, and information about their time in service can be found.

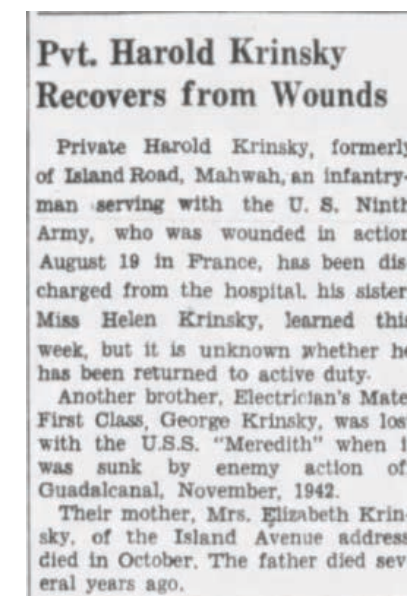
## Family Interviews and Questionnaires

Family interviews and questionnaires are other ways of gaining information about a veteran. Questionnaires can be completed by the veteran themselves or family. In addition to information, family often provides personal pictures and effects.



1910 US Census for Ramapo, NY

1910 US Census for Ramapo, NY



### Maleszewski, Chester J.

**Title**  
Maleszewski, Chester J.

**Creator**  
Michelle Kukan

**Birth Date**  
1920-07-03

**Birthplace**  
Ramapo, NY

**Death Date**  
2003-04-13

**Burial Place**  
Beel Memorial Cemetery, Fort Walton Beach, FL

**Occupation**  
Employee (Chrysler Corp.)  
Business Owner (Chuck and Eddie's)  
Employee (Wright Aeronautical Corporation)  
Caddie (Hoventown Country Club)

**Conflict**  
World War II

**Military Branch**  
Army

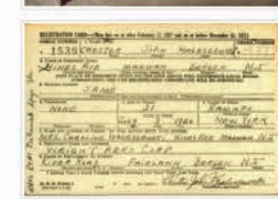
**Unit**  
3501st Army Air Force Base Unit

**Rank**  
Sergeant

**Serial Number**  
3246167

**Service Start Date**  
1942-08-15

**Service End Date**  
1946-02-22



**Honors**  
American Campaign Medal (ATO Medal)  
World War II Victory Medal

**Military Service Description**  
Chester Maleszewski was drafted and enlisted into the U.S. Army Air Force 1942-08-15. He left 1942-08-29 for his induction at Fort Dix, NJ. Maleszewski and his brother Francis received their first phase of pilot training from the Nashville Army Air Center in TN. They were then transferred to Maxwell Field, AL for the Army Air Forces Pilot Flight School for Pilots in May of 1943 as their second phase of training. Maleszewski was then transferred to Keesler Air Force Base in Hattiesburg, MS to continue his training. While Maleszewski was training to be a pilot, Francis and Joseph got shot down in 1944, only three months apart. Maleszewski was assigned to the 3501st Army Air Force Base Unit. He was responsible for Radar Mech/Navigation and pilot training. He was assigned to various Air Force Bases, including Maxwell Air Force Base (AL), Boca Raton Army Air Field (FL), and Southern Field (GA). He was discharged at Camp Blanding, FL on 1946-02-22.

**Biographical Text**  
Chester John "Chuck" Maleszewski, was born to John Sr. and Caroline Maleszewski on 1920-07-03. The Maleszewski's were devout Catholics. Chester was the second oldest child, and eldest son of the Maleszewski's. His older sister's name was Teresa. He had seven younger siblings: Francis, Joseph, Stephen, John Jr., Edward, Sophia and Thomas. Maleszewski, Francis (KIA), Joseph (KIA), Stephen, John Jr., and Edward were known as the "Fighting Maleszewski's." The Maleszewski family lived on Hines Avenue in Mahwah, NJ. Prior to the war, Maleszewski worked as a golf caddy at the Hoventown Country Club. His daughter Angela recalls the stories he told about caddying for Babe Ruth. Maleszewski himself had a love of golf. Maleszewski also worked for Wright Aeronautical Corporation. He graduated from Ramsay High School in 1939. Maleszewski was drafted and enlisted in 1942. After the war, the Maleszewski family moved to Florida. Maleszewski, with his brother Edward, ran a nightclub near Chieley, FL called "Chuck and Eddie's." Their nightclub soon became a popular destination for the area of Chieley. Maleszewski met and married Gunda "Nene" Hajo. The couple was married for 47+ years. The two moved to Warren, Michigan and had two daughters, Carolyn and Angela. Maleszewski worked for Chrysler Corp. while the family lived in Michigan. Upon his retirement, Maleszewski returned to Florida and lived near his family until his death on 2003-04-13. He was 82. Maleszewski has three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. His daughter, Angela Boganski, describes him as, "... a kind, strong, loving man and cherished by all who knew him."

**Family Members**  
Father: John Maleszewski Sr.  
Mother: Karolina Maleszewski (née Kowalski)

**Siblings:**  
Teresa Maleszewski  
Francis Maleszewski  
Joseph Maleszewski  
Stephen Maleszewski  
John Maleszewski Jr.  
Edward Maleszewski  
Sophia Burnett (née Maleszewski)  
Thomas Maleszewski

**Wife:** Gunda "Nene" Maleszewski (née Hajo)

**Children:**  
Carolyn Hanna  
Angela Boganski

**Bibliography**  
"Mendels Draft Board Sends Large Group for Examination." *The News*, August 6, 1942, p. 18.  
"Big Group Leaves Today For US Army Induction." *The Morning Call*, August 29, 1942, p. 7.  
"Chester J. Maleszewski." 2006. Findagrave.com, March 27, 2006.  
"Chester J. Maleszewski." *memorial*. 12/3/2003. [chester-j-maleszewski.com](http://chester-j-maleszewski.com).  
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"Chester John Maleszewski in the U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947." n.d. Ancestry Library.  
Maleszewski, Matthew Joseph. *The Six Fighting Maleszewski's*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2015.  
"Mahwah Pays Tribute to a Fighting Family." *The Record*, August 3, 1963, p. 79.  
"Mahwah Pilot is Reported Missing On Italian Front." *Ramapo Valley Independent*, November 30, 1944, p. 5.  
"With The Colors." *The Morning Call*, May 18, 1943, p. 7.

**Photo Captions**  
Photo 1: Maleszewski in his uniform, place and date unknown. (Angela Boganski).  
Photo 2: Maleszewski's diploma from Ramsay High School, 1939 (Angela Boganski).  
Photo 3: Maleszewski's draft card compiled 1942-02-15, in Ramapo, NJ (Ancestry Library).  
Photo 4: Maleszewski posing in his uniform in front of the Maleszewski home on Hines Ave, Mahwah, NJ, date unknown (Angela Boganski).  
Photo 5: Brothers Chester Maleszewski (left) and Francis Maleszewski (right) posing in their uniforms, place and date unknown (Angela Boganski).  
Photo 6: Maleszewski's individual student flight record while he was stationed at Southern Field, Americas, GA, date unknown (Angela Boganski).  
Photo 7: The front and back of a postcard Maleszewski sent to his parents while in flight school. The front depicts the type of plane Maleszewski was to fly, Southern Field, GA, date unknown (Angela Boganski).  
Photo 8: Entrance to "Chuck and Eddie's," a night club run by brothers Chester and Edward Maleszewski near Chieley, FL, date of photo unknown (Angela Boganski).  
Photo 9: Maleszewski's headstone in Beel Memorial Cemetery, Fort Walton Beach, FL, date of photo unknown (Findagrave.com).

**Notes**  
The name of Maleszewski's older sister has also been listed as Theresa, Agnes, and Stella.

**Collection**  
Veterans

**Citation**  
Michelle Kukan, "Maleszewski, Chester J.," Mahwah Veterans Project, accessed March 29, 2022, <https://mahwahmuseum.net/mahwah-hosting/669/malesewskij.html>.

The first two pages of the project's five page questionnaire that would be completed by a veteran