



1st Army

William Walter Bandura Sr.
Staff Sergeant U.S. Army
26 April 1948 – 26 April 1952

William was born on 1 December 1929 in the Village of Minesite in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He attended grade school at Hartzell's School in Minesite from 1934 to 1942. He then attended Allentown High School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for three years, and in 1946 went to work for Quaker Packing Company at 109 Union Street in Allentown until enlisting in the Army. He enlisted in Allentown as a Private on 26 April 1948, and received basic training and advanced training as an Automobile Mechanic at Fort Dix, New Jersey. While at Fort Dix, he also earned his high school equivalency diploma through the General Educational Development Testing (GED) Program. William left Fort Dix in January 1949 for Fort Jay on Governor's Island, New York, where he was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Army, in the Print Shop of the Adjutant General's Section, where he processed both classified and unclassified documents. While on leave from Fort Jay, William married **Ellen Marie Deppen** (14 February 1932 – 23 December 1982) on 17 February 1952 in Hokendauqua, Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania. On 26 April 1952, William was discharged from the Army at Fort Jay as a Staff Sergeant. He and Ellen then settled in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. William returned to work for Quaker Packing Company for a short time after which he went to work for Bethlehem Steel Corporation in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as a Structural Steel Inspector in 1952. In 1963, he left Bethlehem Steel for three years while he worked at R.C. Can Company in East Greenville, Pennsylvania. In 1966, he returned to Bethlehem Steel for another 26 years, retiring from there in 1992. William and Ellen had six children: **Denise Ann; Joan Mary; Jayne Marie; Barbara Ellen; William Walter Jr.,** and **Paul Stephen**. William married **Stella Julia Gemmel** (born 26 November 1932) on 17 January 1986, in Hokendauqua. William's parents were **Harry Bandura** (1 Feb 1892 – Feb 1976), who was born in and emigrated from Jaroslaw, Poland, and **Mary Licholat** (31 Jan 1892 – Dec 1975). William's two sons served on active duty, William Jr. in the Army, and Paul Stephen in the Air Force. William's two brothers, **Paul Bandura** and **Stephen Bandura**, served in the Army during World War II. His nephew, **Stephen Bandura Jr.**, served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. All six of them became active members of Jones-Quigg American Legion Post 739 in Hokendauqua, where William Sr. served five times as Commander. He also served the Lehigh County American Legion as Commander for one year and Adjutant for 13 years, and served as Deputy Commander of the American Legion 14th District for 16 years.



Fort Jay, Governor's Island,
New York