



11th Division Patch



187th Regiment Patch



**Kenneth Wesley Kramer**  
**Corporal U.S. Army**  
**27 Sep 1948 – 26 May 1952**

Kenneth was born on 20 March 1928 in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He lived and grew up with his family in Chapmans, Pennsylvania, on Wescosville R# 1. He attended grade school in Fogelsville, Pennsylvania, until 1944. After grade school and prior to entering the Army, Kenneth worked as an Explosives Mixer Operator for Trojan Powder Company in South Whitehall Township. He enlisted for three years in the Army as a Private on 27 September 1948 and underwent basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, until 1949, and was then sent to Camp Filipino, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, where he served with the Japan Occupation Forces and received small arms mechanics training. In August 1950 he went to Japan for basic airborne training and was then ordered to Korea where he served with Headquarters, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment (“Rakkasans”), 11th Airborne Division, during the Korean War. Kenneth served at various places in Korea and made two combat jumps in Sukhon-sunchon (20 October 1950) and Munsan-ni (23 March 1951), supplying ammunition to the ground forces in those areas. Besides his Korean Service Medal with 5 bronze stars and his Japan Occupation Ribbon, Kenneth earned the Combat Infantry Badge and Parachute Badge for his service. Kenneth was discharged as a Corporal at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After his discharge, Kenneth returned to Chapmans and went to work as a laborer and truck driver for a number of local companies including Caloric Corporation in Topton, Pennsylvania. He married **Lila M. Bailey** (born 4 April 1931) on 13 February 1954. In 1958 they moved to Mountainville, Pennsylvania, and lived there for eight years prior to settling in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in 1966. Kenneth retired from Caloric Corporation in 1991. He became active in Veteran Affairs and served as Post Commander of Vernon G. Kern VFW Post 8344 in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, during 1999 and 2001. In 2000 Kenneth and Lila visited Korea with a group of local veterans on a trip sponsored by The Korean American Cultural Foundation. Kenneth’s parents were **William O. Kramer** (2 September 1899 – 22 June 1988) and **Rosa M. Brunner** (9 October 1907 – 15 September 1972).

July 10, 2006