

National Defense

Service Medal



Artillery Branch Insignia

William Floyd Duchodni Sergeant (T) U.S. Army 12 December 1952 – 11 December 1954

William was born on 28 December 1931 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1-8 at Washington School in Salisbury Township, Pennsylvania, from 1938 to 1946. In 1950, William went to work as a Heeler Machine Operator for Quaker Shoe Corporation in Allentown for two years until he was drafted into the Army. He was inducted into the Army as a Private during the Korean War on 12 December 1952 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was assigned to the Artillery Branch in Battery A, 89th Anti-aircraft Artillery (AAA) Gun Battalion, at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. The Battery was a part of numerous defensive Artillery Batteries set up in the Washington D.C. area. William served there until he was released from active duty as a Sergeant (T) on 11 December 1954, and was then assigned to the Army Reserves until 11 January 1961. After release from active duty, William returned home and went to work driving a tanker truck for Lehigh Valley Oil Company in Allentown. William married Miriam Elaine Hirschel (born 23 October 1933) on 27 October 1951 in Dubbs Memorial Evangelical & Reformed Church in Allentown. William and Miriam went to live in New Tripoli, Pennsylvania. They had two children, Keith William, and Deborah Ann. In 1964, William left Lehigh Valley Oil to drive a tanker truck for Texaco, delivering gasoline from the Buckeye Pipeline Tank Farm in Lower Macungie Township to service stations in the area until he retired in 1991. William and Miriam were divorced in 1981, and William moved to Allentown. On 1 September 1982, William married Catharine Bandura (born 16 January 1923), who had a son, Jerry Terfinko, and a daughter, Janet Terfinko, by a previous marriage. They were married in the West Swamp Mennonite Church in Quakertown, Pennsylvania, and went to live on Hidden Valley Road in Lower Macungie Township, where they settled. William died on 22 October 2002, and is buried at Cedar Hill Memorial Park in Allentown. He was a member of Zion Lehigh Lutheran Church in Lower Macungie Township; the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9264 in Macungie; American Legion Post 739 in Hokendauqua, Pennsylvania; the Mercantile Club in Emmaus, Pennsylvania; and Mystic Chain Park Association in Vera Cruz, Pennsylvania. William served as President of Wescosville Fire Company No. 1 from 1999 until his death. William's parents were Joseph **Duchodni** (c.1909 – ?), who emigrated from Austria on 8 September 1913 along with his mother and his siblings, and Margaret May (Ehrig) Dunbar (13 October 1913 - 5 April 1985). William's half brother, **Robert Dunbar**, served in the Army during 1957 and 1958.