



RASNAKE, WARNER SAMUEL
US COAST GUARD
MSGT US ARMY
WW II

Warner Samuel Rasnake Warner Samuel Rasnake, service #A13231021, was born 23 Nov 1920 in Possum Hollow, 1.5 miles north of Cook's Mill, near Finney, Russell Co., Va. He was a son of Ruby Kernan Rasnake and Zona Estella White. He enlisted as a Seaman Second Class in the United States Coast Guard, 5 Aug 1943 at Honaker, Russell Co., Va. In time of war, the U.S. Coast Guard becomes part of the U.S. Navy. Thus, Warner was shipped out 31 May 1944 for the island of New Caldeonia in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of operations. He served in both the Borneo Invasion and the Philippine Invasion. He headed home to the USA in August 1945. He received an honorable discharge from the Coast Guard in Portsmouth, Va., 20 Oct 1945. He had been awarded the following: Asiatic Pacific Service Ribbon with Two Campaign Stars; Philippine Liberation Ribbon with One Campaign Star; World War II Victory Medal; and the Good Conduct Medal Clasp with One Loop. He also received the Philippine President Unit Citation. In May 1946, Warner enlisted again: this time to serve with Battery C, 70th Field Artillery Battalion of the U.S. Army. He entered as a Liaison Sergeant and was qualified as expert with the 30 caliber carbine. On his enlistment record, he was described as having hazel eyes, brown hair, 5 feet, 7 1/2 inches tall and weighing 165 pounds. This was the beginning of the second phase of his twenty-one year military career. During the ensuing years, he served at foreign bases in Bremerhaven, Germany (1946-1954); Frankfort, Germany (1957-1958 and 1960-1962); Inchon, Korea (1959-1960). Stateside services included assignments at Fort Devens, Mass.; Fort Riley, Kans.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Spartanburg, S.C.; and Fort Bragg, N.C. His rank at retirement in 1965 was Master Sergeant. His leadership is documented in numerous citations and letters of appreciation. The following excerpts are from a 1956 letter of commendation: "M/SGT Rasnake has always kept his battery administration system functioning efficiently and in strict conformance with regulations and policies set forth by higher headquarters . . . A reflection of [his leadership] is the noteworthy performance attained in winning three straight battery tests, two Inspector General Inspections, one Command Maintenance Inspection, and Honor Battery of the Year for 1955 and 1956. . . He personally conducts and participates in physical training and recreation to the maximum extent, commensurate with his other duties, which reflects the high degree of physical fitness the personnel enjoy. Frequent and rigid billet and police area inspections are a part of his everyday routine. His interest in this led to his model alert pack being selected by the 35th Field Artillery Group Commander as standard for the entire group. . . His appearance and military bearing is above reproach and his opinions and ideas have contributed greatly to the success of the unit." He married, first, Helen Elizabeth Roman,

daughter of Richard (Dicky) Roman and Maudie V. Puckett. They had one son, Samuel Lynn Rasnake. In 1948, Warner married, second, Vera Kurotschka, daughter of Lukian Kurotschka and Mary Kiska, in Landshut, West Germany. Because Warner was in the military, they had to have multiple wedding ceremonies: one to satisfy the Army and one to satisfy the local government. Vera was born 15 Jan 1929 in Gitomir, Ukraine, Russia. They had three sons: Sandy Sean (born 19 Jan 1953 in Nurnberg, Germany); Marty Robin (born 17 June 1954 in Fort Lee, Va.) and Luke Blaine (born 22 Mar 1962 at Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, N.C.) -A Tribute to World War II Veterans of Russell County Virginia. Historical Society of Russell Co., Va., 1999.