

## **Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project**

**The Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project  
is a 501c(3) organization.**

The LVVHP is committed to preserving, understanding, and  
disseminating the history of all  
U.S. Wars and Conflicts.

The primary mission is to work with the Library of Congress  
Veterans History Project to collect and archive the personal  
stories of veterans of all  
U.S. Wars and Conflicts.

### **Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project Board of Directors**

**Founder/Chairman/Historian/Interviewer:** Mike Sowards

**Secretary/Historian/Interviewer:** Dr. David Babb

**Historian/Interviewer/Photographer:** Stephen Savage

**Military Advisor:** Maj. Gen. Gerald Still, USAF-Ret.

**Chaplain:** Rev. Dr. Harry F. Wood

**Membership Administrator:** Ed Root

**Website Administrator:** Deb Kaczmar

[www.LVVeteransHistory.org](http://www.LVVeteransHistory.org)

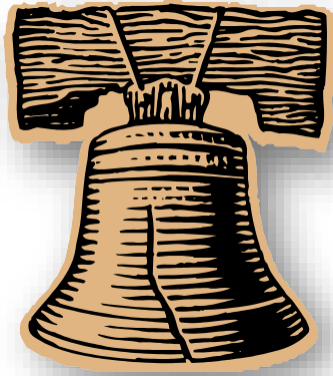


## ***Lehigh Valley Veterans History Project Roundtable***

Lehigh Active Life Center  
1633 Elm St., Allentown, PA  
Thursday, August 28, 2025  
7:00 P.M. (1900 hours)

**William Balabanow  
U.S. Merchant Marine  
World War II Veteran**

Bill Balabanow joined the U.S. Merchant Marine in 1944. After completion of his training, his first assignment took him to France, where he witnessed the extensive destruction of the conflict. His ship transported essential military supplies to Allied forces. He also participated in voyages through the Panama Canal to the Philippines contributing to the Pacific theatre efforts. His services extended through the Korean and Vietnam Wars and the Cold War. After discharge from WWII, Bill reenlisted and made a career of sailing until 1979 (33 years of sea duty). In 1988 the Merchant Marine was recognized as Veterans of WWII. In 2022 the WWII Mainers were awarded the "Congressional Gold Medal". Bill was a proud recipient. He was invited to the White House several times to meet with the President and Mrs. Biden. Bill Balabanow received numerous awards and certificates. You don't want to miss this opportunity to meet an honored Veteran and hear his amazing stories of service to our nation.



**Tonight's Program is dedicated to the service and sacrifice of all veterans who fought bravely for the freedom of our country.**

**Invocation:** Rev. Dr. Harry F. Wood

**National Anthem:** Major General Gerald Still, USAF-Ret.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Mike Sowards

**Taps:** Presented by Richard Shankweiler in honor of those who died in service to America

**Welcoming Remarks:** Mike Sowards

**Speaker:** William Balabanow

**Q&A:** Audience invited to ask questions

**Closing Remarks:** Mike Sowards

**Refreshments**

## **Next Meeting**

Thursday, September 25, 2025  
7:00 P.M. (1900 hours)  
Lehigh Active Life Center  
1633 Elm St., Allentown, PA

Please visit our website  
[www.LVVeteransHistory.org](http://www.LVVeteransHistory.org)

## **Library of Congress, Veterans History Project**

The LVVHP is actively seeking veterans of all U.S. Wars and Conflicts to record their personal stories and experiences during the war. This includes taping their interview and compiling copies of any documentation that a veteran wishes to provide.

The veteran can either do a public presentation during a Roundtable Meeting, or a private interview can be arranged.

We can also help compile records for the Project for deceased veterans.

The Project also desires a record from those who served on the "home-front". If you know anyone, please contact us.

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Guest speakers are scheduled in the best of faith by all parties. Unfortunately, last minute health issues and personal circumstances may prevent their eventual appearance. Thank you in advance for your understanding.