



About the Exhibition



These images were made during the inaugural Sawtooth School for Visual Art Veterans Outreach class. This initiative is made possible by generous funding from The Greer Family Foundation supporting Sawtooth's Art + Wellness Program.

Participants were encouraged to think about their homes, lives, and experiences in Winston-Salem and represent these ideas through the lens of their point-and-shoot cameras. Led by Sawtooth's Director of Photography, C. Stephen Hurst, the class gathered weekly to share their photos and the stories behind them, learning a lot about one another in the process. The pictures on the wall are only a handful of what they captured.

Sawtooth is proud to be a founding partner of the Intergenerational Center for Arts and Wellness. Our two dedicated mixed-media and ceramics studios act as an extension of our downtown campus, with classes, workshops, and drop-in activities scheduled regularly throughout the year. To sign up for additional Veterans programming, please contact Betsy Messick, Director of Art + Wellness, (336)723-7395.



Kenny Springs



I was born and raised right here in Winston-Salem. I have seen a lot of change. There is a lot of history that we don't see. Some of it is right before our eyes, but some of it is gone. And if we don't take photographs, others will never see it. My wife is the one who originally got me started with taking pictures. She had an eye! And so does my daughter. She taught me to take pictures inside and out - how to move to change perspectives. I was in the military, the Army. Most of my time was in Ft. Bragg. I retired from the City of Winston-Salem. Really, this was about my Mom - she encouraged me to learn things that I wasn't really interested in learning. And I have always been enriched by that. There is always something to learn. The heritage that we have, it won't live forever. It will end up in the ground. That's me - growing up, living here.



Robert "Bob" Cowie



Robert "Bob" Cowie grew up in Los Angeles, California. He served as a Navy Hospital Corpsman during the Vietnam War, beginning in 1966. For 13 months, he was stationed at a hospital in Da Nang, which he describes as life-changing. "That 13 months was extremely stressful, but it was a valuable learning experience," he remarked. Afterward, he was able to work at the VA in the Sawtelle neighborhood of LA where he grew up. Later, when working at a Johnson City, Tennessee hospital, he met his wife, who was a nurse. Together, they have one daughter. Bob has lived in Winston-Salem since the early 2000s and taught anatomy in the physical therapy program at Winston-Salem State University. Now retired, he regularly takes photos, documenting his life and the various things he does. Bob was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1969 and later joined the Marines, from which he was also honorably discharged in 1984.



Yveline Buford



Yveline "Midge" Buford served in the Navy as a jet mechanic. She met her husband while working on an engine in California, humorously saying, "He breaks them, I fix them!" Yveline left active duty when the Navy tried to send her to Hawaii while her husband was assigned to Japan, especially since they were expecting their first child at the time. She continued to serve in the Navy Reserve while in Japan. Currently, Yveline works as an Activities Director with Senior Services, where she coordinates a lunch and programming for seniors held three days a week at the Generations Center. She is still married to her Pilot-turned-Pastor husband, Curvy.



Lanny Lanford



Lanny grew up as a “military brat,” he says. “My father was sent to Japan, where I followed along and was able to collect a variety of cameras.” Lanny was 25 when he went into service, serving in Vietnam from 1969-70. He was drafted but then enlisted in Officer Candidate School - the hardest part of his tour! “I stayed in Asia for a long time after the war. I received a student visa in Taiwan and studied Chinese. After returning to the US, I began teaching and then received a call to ministry. The smartest thing I ever did was marry an engineer!” Reflecting on photography, he said “my first camera was a brownie hawkkey, which I think I still have. My mother sent all of her children a super 8 camera to record her grandchildren.” Lanny is proud to be a father to three children and a grandfather to nine grandchildren.