



# Honoring Our Vietnam War and Vietnam Era Veterans



February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975



Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** BARRICK

CONRAD L.

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 39 WALTERCREST TERRACE

Vietnam Era

Vietnam War Veteran

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP4

**Year Entered:** 1965

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

B BATTERY 3RD MISSILE BATTALION 1ST ARTILLERY

**Medals / Citations:**

Served in War Zone Theater of Operations / Assignment:

**Service Notes:**

Sp4 Conrad Barrick was a driver and mechanic during his service years

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Dix, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established on 16 July 1917 as Camp Dix, named in honor of Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, and a former United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York / Ft. Dix was used for the mobilization, training and demobilization of soldiers from World War I through April 2015 / On 1 October 2009, Fort Dix was consolidated with an adjoining U.S. Air Force and Navy facility to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)

Nike Site PI-37, Herminie, Pa - Air Defense site PI-37 was officially activated in 1957 / PI-37 was part of ARAACOM (Army Anti-Aircraft Command), and its designation was B Battery, 1st AAA Msl Bn / B Battery was one of 12 Nike Air Defense sites defending Pittsburgh / It was armed with the Nike Ajax, the worlds first operational, guided Surface to Air Missile / This missile carried high explosive warheads and had a range of around 30 miles with a ceiling of 70,000 feet / Beginning in 1962, the Improved Nike Hercules System with its greater range and accuracy was introduced to B Battery / On 1 September 1971, the 1st Artillery was renamed 1st Air Defense Artillery / The Herminie Nike site was deactivated in mid 1974.

During its operational years, from 1956 to 1974, the Herminie Nike site was manned by an estimated 1,200 Regular Army personnel.

**Miscellaneous:**

Conrad Barrick graduated from West Seneca West High School prior to military service / After his discharge, Barrick went to work for the Westinghouse Electric Corp in Cheektowaga until 1964 / Conrad Barrick became a



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correction officer at Wende Correctional Facility until his retirement



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Town of West Seneca, New York

**Name:** **BEITER**

**ROGER J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 136 WESTCLIFF DRIVE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORPS.

**Rank:** PFC

**Year Entered:** 1964

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

**Medals / Citations:**

**Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

Private First Class Roger J. Beiter died in the crash of an Air Force Military Transport on 25 June 1965

An Air Force C-135A Stratolifter military jet transport, unaccountably failing to make a scheduled left turn, plunged into a fog-shrouded mountain and exploded after takeoff on 25 June 1965, killing all 84 men aboard -- including 72 Marines bound for Viet Nam. There were no survivors in one of the worst military air disasters in peacetime history. It also was California's worst air disaster. The C135 air transport, military counterpart of the commercial Boeing 707 jetliner, smashed into a mountain 4 1/2 miles directly north of the end of the runway from which it took off moments before

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training.

Camp LeJeune, North Carolina - Constructed in May 1941, Camp LeJeune is a Marine Corps. amphibious assault training facility located in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The camps is also the home of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces in Readiness.

**Miscellaneous:**

Roger Beiter was a graduate of Queen of Heaven School and was enrolled as a Freshman at Canisius College at the time of his enlistment

Private First Class Rodger J. Beiter was 18 years of age at the time of his death.



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The Boeing C-135 Stratolifter is a transport aircraft derived from the prototype Boeing 367-80 jet airliner in the early 1950s. It has a narrower fuselage and is shorter than the commercial 707 airliner / Since the first one was built in August 1956, the C-135 and its variants have been a fixture of the United States Air Force / The C-135A had seating for 126 passengers and powered by four J-57-P-59W engines



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**Name:** **BETZ JR.**

**Hometown:** DEPEW

**JOHN**

**A**

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** ARMY

**Rank:** SP-5

**Year Entered:** 1966

**Year Discharged:** 1969

**Unit / Squadron:**

HIGHER HEADQUARTERS (HHQ) 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION

1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE

2ND ARMORED DIVISION

**Medals / Citations:**

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/SILVER STAR

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

SHARPSHOOTER: RIFLE

DRIVER AND MECHANIC BADGE

**Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

**Base Assignments:**

Ft. Dix, New Jersey - Fort Dix was established on 16 July 1917 as Camp Dix, named in honor of Major General John Adams Dix, a veteran of the War of 1812 and the American Civil War, and a former United States Senator, Secretary of the Treasury and Governor of New York / Ft. Dix was used for the mobilization, training and demobilization of soldiers from World War I through April 2015 / On 1 October 2009, Fort Dix was consolidated with an adjoining U.S. Air Force and Navy facility to become part of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL)

Fort Belvoir, Virginia - The base was founded during World War I as Camp A. A. Humphreys, named for Union Civil War general Andrew A. Humphreys, who was also Chief of Engineers / The post was renamed Fort Belvoir in the 1930s in recognition of the Belvoir plantation that once occupied the site, but the adjacent United States Army Corps of Engineers Humphreys Engineer Center retains part of the original name / Fort Belvoir was initially the home of the Army Engineer School prior to its relocation in the 1980s to Fort Leonard Wood, in Missouri / Fort Belvoir serves as the headquarters for the Defense Logistics Agency, the Defense Acquisition University, the Defense Contract Audit Agency, the Defense Technical Information Center, the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, the United States Army Military Intelligence Readiness Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, all agencies of the United States Department of Defense



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Vũng Tàu, Vietnam - Vũng Tàu is a port city and the capital of Bà Rịa-Vũng Tàu Province, on a peninsula in southern Vietnam / During the Vietnam War, various United States military units were headquartered in Vũng Tàu

Fort George G. Meade, Maryland - Located in Maryland, midway between the cities of Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington, DC, the fort was initially called Camp Annapolis Junction and was opened as "Camp Admiral" in 1917 / The post was called Camp Meade Cantonment and Field Signal School by 1918 / During World War II, Fort Meade was used as a recruit training post and prisoner of war camp / Fort George G. Meade's primary mission is to provide a wide range of services to 95 partner organizations from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as to several federal agencies including the National Security Agency, the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, the Defense Information School, the Defense Courier Service, the U.S. Army Field Band and most recently the U.S. Cyber Command

Fort Hood, Texas - Located in Killeen, Texas, the United States Army post was named after Confederate General John Bell Hood and is the largest military base in the world (by area) with more than 215,000 acres / During the late 1960's, Fort Hood trained and deployed a number of units and individuals for duty in Vietnam / As the United States ended its role in the conflict, thousands of returning soldiers completed their active duty with one of the fort's divisions

## *Miscellaneous:*

John A Betz Jr. graduated from Depew High School prior to his military service / After receiving his Honorable Discharge from the Army, Betz was employed by Erie Community College (ECC) where he spent 50 years in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) field

Originally constituted as the 3907th Signal Service Battalion in 1944, the battalion was designated on 19 July 1951 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 39th Signal Support Battalion, and allotted to the Regular Army / The battalion was later reorganized and designated on 15 June 1954 as Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Signal Battalion / The 39th Signal Battalion received many Army Meritorious Unit Commendations for service in Vietnam

The 1st Signal Brigade was activated on 1 April 1966 in the Republic of Vietnam / The brigade's mission in Vietnam was to originate, install, operate, and maintain a complex communication system that fused tactical and strategic communications in Southeast Asia under a single, unified command / The formation of the brigade brought together three signal groups that were already in South Vietnam / At the peak of the Vietnam War the brigade consisted of more than 21,000 soldiers, in six Signal groups (including the 160th Signal Group), 22 signal battalions and several communications agencies, making the 1st Signal Brigade the largest signal unit in the U.S. Army at the time

The 2nd Armored Division ("Hell on Wheels") was an armored division of the United States Army / The division played an important role during World War II in the invasions of North Africa and Sicily and the liberation of France, Belgium, and the Netherlands and the invasion of Germany / The First Battalion, Fiftieth Infantry; Second Squadron, First Cavalry; First Battalion, Fourteenth Field Artillery; and First Battalion, Ninety-second Field Artillery fought in the war in Vietnam / During the Cold War, the division was primarily based at Fort Hood, Texas, and had a reinforced brigade forward stationed in West Germany / After participation in the Persian Gulf



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War, the division was deactivated in 1995 / Its units were later transferred to the 4th Infantry Division



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**Name:** **BEYER**

**FREDERICK J.**

**Hometown:** MARYSVILLE, PA

**Address:**

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** E-3

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** 1965

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9)

**Medals / Citations:**

GOLDEN SHELLBACK

**Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

Hospitalman Frederick J. Beyer attended Operating Room School at Bethesda Naval Hospital and was enrolled in the Hospital Corpsman School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois

**Base Assignments:**

Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois - Home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy

Bethesda Naval Hospital, Maryland - The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), formerly known as the National Naval Medical Center and referred to as the Bethesda Naval Hospital Bethesda, Walter Reed, or Navy Med, is a tri-service military medical center located in the community of Bethesda, Maryland, near the headquarters of the National Institutes of Health / It is one of the most prominent U.S. military medical centers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and the United States, having served numerous U.S. presidents since the 20th century / In 1938, the United States Congress appropriated funds for the acquisition of land for the construction of a new Naval medical center, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt selected the present site in Bethesda, Maryland, on 5 July 1938 / In 2011, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC), named after yellow fever researcher Walter Reed, was combined with the National Naval Medical Center to form the tri-service Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

**Miscellaneous:**

Prior to his enlistment in the Navy, Frederick Beyer graduated from Susquenita High School in Duncannon, Pennsylvania / After his Honorable Discharge from the Navy, Beyer attended and graduated with a Bachelors of





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Arts Degree from Manahath Bible College in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania / Beyer continued his education enrolled at the Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Virginia where he received his Master of Divinity (M. Div.) degree and the Grace Theological Seminary, located in Winona Lake, Indiana, where Beyer earned his Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) degree (religious equivalent of the Ph.D.).

After completing his education, Frederick Beyer started his career as a Chaplain serving his community and performing his duties at Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital, Children's Hospital of Buffalo and also at Hospice Buffalo

The Golden Shellback - The ceremony of Crossing the Line is an initiation rite in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Marine Corps that commemorates a sailor's first crossing of the Equator / The ceremony observes a mariner's transformation from a slimy Pollywog (a seaman who hasn't crossed the equator), to a trusted Shellback (also called a Son or Daughter of Neptune) / It was a way for sailors to be tested for their seaworthiness / The tradition may have originated with ceremonies to ensure a ship's newest mates were capable of handling long rough times at sea

The USS Long Beach (CLGN-160/CGN-160/CGN-9) was a nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser in the United States Navy / She was the only ship of her class and the third Navy ship named after the city of Long Beach, California and was the first nuclear-power surface warship in history / The Long Beach was commissioned on 9 September 1961 / The Long Beach served with the 6th Fleet in the early 1960's providing peacekeeping in the Mediterranean and in the later 1960's was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin to support naval operations during the Vietnam War / The Long Beach was again deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in the 1990's, serving as an escort for the USS Missouri task force and providing aircraft carrier escort support after the Gulf War / The USS Long Beach was decommissioned on 1 May 1995 and sold as scrap in July 2012





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John Bialkowski was a graduate of West Seneca Senior High School and attended the Erie County technical Institute before joining the Navy in December 1965

John Bialkowski was 21 years of age at the time of his death. John is buried at the Holy Cross Cemetery

A Seabee is a member of the United States Naval Construction Forces (NCF) / The word "Seabee" comes from the initials "CB", which in turn comes from the term "Construction Battalion" / The Seabees have a history of building bases, bulldozing and paving thousands of miles of roadway and airstrips, and accomplishing countless other construction projects in a wide variety of military theaters dating back to World War II



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**Name:** **BOERSCHIG**

**GARY L.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 884 MILL ROAD

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** PO-2

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** 1971

**Unit / Squadron:**

USS INDEPENDENCE (CV/CVA-62)

ELECTRONIC ATTACK SQUADRON 133 (VAQ-133)

**Medals / Citations:**

AIRCREWMAN WINGS

GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON

SQUADRON UNIT CITATION

**Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:**

**Service Notes:**

Petty Officer Gary L. Boerschig was assigned to the flight crew aboard a Grumman HU-16 Albatross as a radioman and flew rescue and goodwill missions to the Marianna and Marshall Island chains / Boerschig also flew Air-Sea Rescue missions while stationed at NAS Agana / As an Aviation Electronics Technician (AT-2), Petty Officer Boerschig perform maintenance on aviation electronics systems, which included: communications, radar, navigation, antisubmarine warfare sensors, electronic warfare, data link, fire control and tactical displays

**Base Assignments:**

Naval Air Station (N.A.S.) Agana, Guam - Former Japanese Military Field recaptured by American forces in 1944 and renamed Agana Airfield / After being repaired in October 1944, the United States Army Air Forces Seventh Air Force used the airfield as a base for the 11th Bombardment Group, which flew B-24 Liberator bombers from the station / In 1947, the USAAF turned over the airfield to the United States Navy / Naval Air Station Agana was closed in 1993

Naval Air Station Alameda, California - Naval air station facilities were constructed in 1940 for two carrier air wings, five seaplane squadrons and two utility squadrons / In April 1942, the USS Hornet (CV-8) loaded at Alameda the 16 B-25 aircraft that would take part in the Doolittle Raid on Japan / The base was the focus for northern California United States Navy Reserve drill after 1961 / Runways were lengthened for jet aircraft, and the airport was renamed Nimitz Field in 1967 following the death of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz / Nuclear powered aircraft carriers were home ported at Alameda into the 1990s / NAS Alameda was closed on 25 April 1997



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## *Miscellaneous:*

Gary Boerschig was a graduate of West Seneca West Senior High School / Prior to military service, Boerschig attended Roberts Wesleyan College for three years and worked at Hanna Furnace during the summer breaks / After an honorable discharge, Gary Boerschig went to work at Allied Chemical as a Chemical Operator and Welder until his retirement in 1982 / Gary retrained and received his Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree as an Electrical Engineer Technician from Erie Community College

The fifth USS Independence (CV/CVA-62) was an aircraft carrier of the United States Navy and entered service in 1959 as the fourth and final member of the Forrestal class of conventionally powered supercarriers / Independence made a single tour off the coast of Vietnam in 1965 during the Vietnam War, and also carried out airstrikes against Syrian forces during the Lebanese Civil War and operations over Iraq during Operation Southern Watch, the enforcement of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq / The USS Independence was decommissioned in 1998 after 39 years of active service.

Electronic Attack Squadron 133 (VAQ-133) was established 4 March 1969 at Naval Air Station Alameda, California. The squadron originally flew the EKA-3B Skywarrior / Following the 2012-2013 deployment of Carrier Air Wing 9 onboard USS John C. Stennis, VAQ-133 was reassigned to Carrier Air Wing Eight based aboard USS George H.W. Bush

The Aircrewman Badge, commonly known as Wings, is a qualification badge of the United States military that is awarded by all five branches of armed services to personnel who serve as crew members on board military aircraft / The badge is intended to recognize the training and qualifications required by aircrew of military aircraft / In order to qualify as an aircrew member and receive the Aircrew Badge, such personnel typically undergo advanced training in aircraft in-flight support roles

The Grumman HU-16 Albatross is a large twin-radial engine amphibious flying boat that was used by the United States Air Force (USAF), the U.S. Navy (USN) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), primarily as a search and rescue aircraft / It was also employed as an operational support aircraft worldwide and for missions from the former NAS Agana, Guam during the Vietnam War / Goodwill flights were also common to the surrounding Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the early 1970s.



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**Name:** **BORYSZEWSKI**

**STEPHEN J.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 51 TINDLE

**Vietnam Era**

**Vietnam War Veteran**

**Service Branch:** MARINE CORP.

**Rank:** LCPL

**Year Entered:** 1968

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

H CO, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST FIRST MARINE DIVISION (MARDIV), III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCES (MAF)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART

VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

**Served in War Zone** **Theater of Operations / Assignment:** VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Lance Corporal Stephen J. Boryszewski was Killed in Action on 10 April 1969 while on duty with the First Marine Division near Da Nang, South Vietnam / Corporal Boryszewski died of fragmentation wounds when an enemy land mine exploded

**Base Assignments:**

Parris Island, South Carolina - Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a Marine Corps. military installation located within Port Royal, South Carolina. MCRD Parris Island was established on 1 November 1915 and designated for the training of enlisted Marines. Male recruits living east of the Mississippi River and female recruits from all over the United States report to Parris Island to receive their initial training.

**Miscellaneous:**

Stephen Boryszewski was a 1967 graduate of South Park High School and enlisted into the Marine Corps in May 1968

Lance Corporal Stephen J. Boryszewski was 19 years of age at the time of his death



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**Name:** **BOSSMAN**

**PETER R.**

**Hometown:** WEST SENECA

**Address:** 84 BRIANWOOD

- Vietnam Era*
- Vietnam War Veteran*

**Service Branch:** NAVY

**Rank:** HM3

**Year Entered:** 1963

**Year Discharged:** KIA

**Unit / Squadron:**

NAVY MEDICAL SCHOOL - GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS  
 MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 363, MARINE AIR GROUP 13 (MAG-13)  
 1ST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (MAW), MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 265 (HMM-265)

**Medals / Citations:**

PURPLE HEART	VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL	NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE RIBBON

- Served in War Zone*    *Theater of Operations / Assignment:* VIETNAM

**Service Notes:**

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Peter R. Bossman was Killed in Action on 25 September 1966 aboard a Marine Corps helicopter when the aircraft was shot down / HM3 Bossman was on an evacuation mission when shot down near Dong Ha Quang Tri Province.

On 25 September 1966 a UH-34D (BuNo 148776) belonging to HMM-161 launched on a night medical evacuation mission in support of a Marine unit that had suffered casualties and was engaged in heavy combat along Highway 9 in the jungle covered mountains during Operation Prairie. The weather was good with a very bright full moon. Four Marine aircrewmen from HMM-161 and a Navy Corpsman (HM3 Peter Bossman) assigned to HMM-265 were aboard the aircraft. HM3 Bossman's UH-34 helicopter was hit in flight by an artillery shell, broke up, and crashed in flames. The incident was witnessed by crewmen in the escorting gunships from a distance of about 75 yards. Ground troops were able to reach the aircraft wreckage and were able to recover two badly burned bodies but no other remains. Although assault, medevac, and gunship helicopters regularly flew in areas being subjected to friendly artillery fire, this incident is the only documented case of a Marine helicopter being struck in flight by friendly fire.

**Base Assignments:**

Great Lakes Training Center - home of the United States Navy's only boot camp, located near North Chicago, in Lake County, Illinois / Naval Station Great Lakes is the second largest military installation in Illinois and the



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largest training station in the Navy

## *Miscellaneous:*

Peter Bossman graduated from the West Seneca Central High School in 1962 and enlisted in the Navy in 1963

Hospitalman Third Class Peter R. Bossman was 21 years of age at the time of his death

One of the earliest helicopters employed in Southeast Asia, and the primary Marine Corps helicopter used during the early years of the war, was the Sikorsky UH34D Seahorse. This aircraft was already quite old when they arrived in the battle zone. However, both the US and South Vietnamese military found them to be extremely effective throughout the war

Highway 9 was a primary east-west road that ran from the South Vietnamese/Laos border nearly to the coastline where it intersected Highway 1, the primary north-south road that paralleled the coastline nearly the entire length of Vietnam. Highway 9 became a major part of the North Vietnamese infiltration route once they crossed into South Vietnam from the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail

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